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## Letter: Developing Carleton Island would destroy fragile environment

Jan 24, 2024



A Cape Vincent Zoning Board of Appeals hearing on plans for the land around the historic Carleton Villa has been postponed. Alec Johnson/Watertown Daily Times

My husband's family has owned property on the head of Carleton Island since 1916. That ownership has now grown to 7 siblings, their spouses, children and grandchildren. "The Island" is a special place for all of us and our children. Our families have grown up swimming, fishing, and hiking around Carleton Island. They love it.

The town of Cape Vincent's Planning and Zoning Board is currently considering a proposal from a developer to change the environment of the neck of the island with a commercial enterprise (i.e. campground/glampground. There are no services (i.e. health, fire, food, transportation, or police) on the island – everything that is there we brought there on our own boats. We have become a community that knows and respects our neighbors and their properties. In addition, we have worked with The Thousand Island Land Trust (TILT) to lessen the spread of invasive plant species, and to respect the nests of eagles and herons that inhabit this beautiful land.

Granting this special use permit will definitely destroy the environment of a fragile section of the island. The neck experienced massive flooding in 2017 and 2019 in both the north and south bays that wrap around this neck. The clearance of this area of trees and vegetation will only exacerbate land erosion from future flooding. In addition, the neck of the island most certainly

contains artifacts from Fort Haldimand since it contains the main access “road” to the Fort from the water.

We trust that the Cape Vincent Zoning Board will investigate and consider ALL ASPECTS of the developer’s request before granting him a Special Use Permit and Zoning Variance Permit.

Catherine B. Kernan

Clinton