

**From:** [pastcommodore@highlandyachtclub.com](mailto:pastcommodore@highlandyachtclub.com)  
**To:** [Budget Committee](#); [Councillor Crawford](#)  
**Subject:** Requesting Budget Increase for Dredging of Bluffers Park Basin Entrance  
**Date:** January 13, 2023 12:46:52 PM

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2023 City of Toronto Budget Submission

Bluffers Park Boating Federation  
5 Brimley Road South, Scarborough ON

January 13, 2023

I'm writing as Chair of the Bluffers Park Boating Federation (BPBF), which represents the common interests of the four not-for-profit boating clubs located in Bluffer's Park, Scarborough.

The BPBF asks that the annual city of Toronto budget allocation for the dredging of the eastern harbour entrance to the Bluffers Park be increased, in recognition of the rising costs charged by the dredging contractors for fulfilling the tender.

It is our understanding that the annual cost of dredging the harbour entrance has increased dramatically year-over-year (an 80% increase between 2017 and 2021) while the dredging budget envelope has remained static. The increases have been for both the fixed cost for mobilizing /demobilizing dredging equipment onsite, and the costs per cubic meter of material removed. This has therefore resulted in a reduction in the quantity of dredging.

The current BPBF boat club leases guarantee a channel depth of 1.8 meters below chart datum. To accommodate the depth requirement within the available budget means the width of the channel is significantly reduced. This narrowing of the navigable channel greatly increases the potential for vessel collisions and/or groundings and personal injury, especially during periods of bad weather or the increasing volumes of boating traffic in good weather.

Bluffers park basin is home to over 600 BPBF member boats, two commercial restaurants, as well as the Bluffers Park Marina enterprise: a full-service marina providing permanent and transient docking, fuel and repair services.

BPBF member clubs have for over 40 years been careful stewards of the basin and its water lots, allowing generations of Scarborough residents to join-in and enjoy boating and water-based activities as well as annually contributing market rents and taxes to the city while undertaking substantial lease-hold improvements on our buildings and property.

Increasing the 2023 budget to meet the substantially higher costs of dredging the eastern harbour entrance is essential to supporting this continued recreational activity and community.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Winsor  
Chair, Bluffers Park Boating Federation.  
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