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Blue Herons at Monarch Point at sunset. PHOTO BY PHIL NORTON.

To the Point

Council calls on province to permit traditional recreational uses at Monarch Point

JASON Parks Colloquially known as "the Park," "the Bombing Range," "the Point," or just plain "Point Petre," for several decades locals have enjoyed unfettered access to crown land blocks along Lake Ontario's south shore. From Army

Reserve Road at Point Petre to Charwell Point, four-wheel drive trucks, ATVs and snowmobiles are common, whether headed to a summertime swim and picnic, or for the massive drifts begging to be climbed in winter.

Last week council passed a motion asking Ontario's Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks, David Piccini, to ensure legacy recreation activities remain a staple

at the new 4,000 acre Monarch Point Conservation Reserve.

The resolution notes the Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act allows for "ecologically sustainable land uses including traditional outdoor heritage activities." It asks for terms of reference that "recognize, honour, safeguard and guarantee cultural and locally significant activities," including "motorized trail usage to the extent such activities do not negatively affect the ecological values of the Conservation Reserve."

The motion urges no road or trail closure or change of public use take place without public consultation.

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