

# Mayatan residents gather to discuss implications of proposal

By Séamus Smyth  
Staff Writer

Residents of Mayatan Lake and the surrounding area gathered this past Saturday at the Mink Lake community hall to discuss the possibility of an RV park being placed in the Mayatan area.

"They are talking about destroying our country value. What the hell is the point? It's a little bit foolish that we have to go through this," said Floyd Young, a resident of Star Lake Estates whose property is on the road that would lead directly to the proposed venue.

John McNab brought the concept to the forefront in late November, when he gave a preliminary rundown on what would be a 200 unit RV lot spread out over 70 acres in the Mayatan region. McNab said that he intends on going

through every necessary step to ensure that he abides by all regulations in hopes that his proposal comes to fruition. However, his plan has been met with the discontent of some in the area, even pushing a group of residents to begin forming an association to better represent the needs and desires of residents of Mayatan Lake.

Pete Marshall, who lives on the east end of the lake and will be involved with the association, hosted the discussion by going over some of the key points that struck him as noteworthy including the idea that there would be no servicing (food store) on site.

"It's not possible to control the drinking on a campground. You don't make the money camping; you make it off the store. Don't get me started on the pollution. I also warn about the trouble it will bring," said Frank McCollom,

who is associated with the Mink Lake camping grounds. McCollom stressed how simple issues such as noise complaints may take as long as three to four hours to control due to the distance it takes to make it out to the remote location as well as where it falls on the priority list for the authorities.

The issue of water transportation was discussed due to the fact that many in attendance interpreted McNab's solution to providing water was to haul fresh water in and to truck waste water out.

"To truck in water like that; I'm not buying it. That's an exorbitant amount of water," said Patty Helten, who voiced her discontent on the project throughout the meeting.

Denis Paul, a representative from the Paul Band First Nation arrived halfway through the discussion

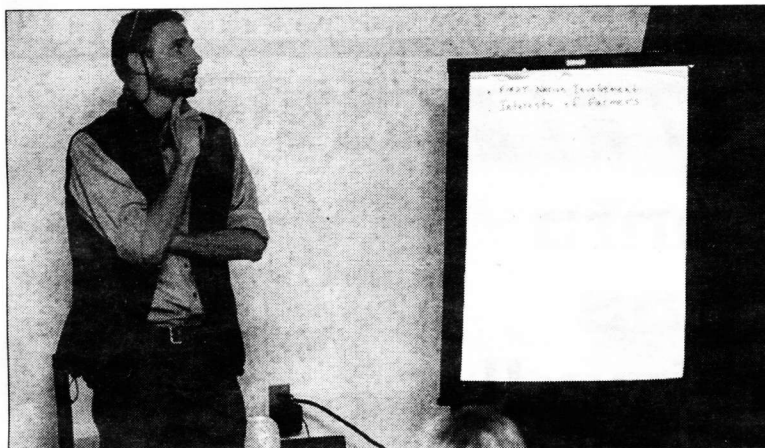
to provide feedback from the local reserve.

"I am going to be sending a stern letter. I really don't like it when activities like this are planned without our input," said Paul, who stressed that nothing should be proceeded with until certain laws were dealt with appropriately.

One of the most heated issues was in regard to the roads, which local farmer, Wayne Lutz, said need plenty of work. This raised safety issues as well.

"We used to drive herds of cattle up and down these roads. Now we can barely drive farm equipment down these roads. It's dangerous these days and it's not fair. How much can we take?" asked Lutz.

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Pete Marshall leads a presentation discussing certain factors that did not sit well with locals this past Saturday at the Mink Lake Community Hall.

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