



County planning new parking lot for Sunbreaker boat launch

By STEVE DILLS
SYLVAN LAKE NEWS

Parking problems near the boat launch at Sunbreaker Cove should be remedied with the creation of a five acre parking lot just north of the summer village.

Lacombe County purchased a five acre parcel of land from Gary Russell to create a parking lot which could accommodate up to 150 trucks and trailers, said Commissioner Terry Hager. Subdivision of the parcel has been approved and surveying work is underway. "We're hoping to get at least part of the work done this year," he said. Plans are to do the project when the county's construction crew isn't busy building roads. Completion of the project is expected in 2013.

"We see this as solving the long term parking issue with Sunbreaker Cove," Hager said. In the future they may also look as a small day use area or public green space at the site. A stormwater retention and settlement area will be designed as part of the project. "We'll start with a gravel (parking) lot," said Hager. By the time they're finished, he estimated total cost of the parking lot will be about \$400,000.

"This is positive for everybody. It's a really good addition there."

In past years trucks and trailers have been parking along the steep shoulder of the road on busy summer weekends.

Funding for the project is coming from public access levies collected from various developers around the north end of Sylvan Lake.

Lacombe County spent \$336,359 in 2010 on improvements including work to double the width of the boat launch pad and add docks to both sides.

Prior to that, in 2008, they paved the parking area and overlaid the road to the boat launch, created a tie down and overflow parking areas and installed picnic tables, trees, garbage receptacles and parking curbs. Cost of these improvements was \$250,185.

Once work is completed on the parking lot, the county will have invested close to \$1 million on upgrades related to the boat launch, according to figures supplied by Phil Lodermeier, the county's manager of operations.

The county took over the licence of occupation for the boat launch several years ago and has been upgrading the area since.

