

**Hecla/Grindstone Provincial Park**  
**Development of Hecla Oasis Resort**  
**Summary of Public Comment**  
**Information Sessions - October 25, 26 and 28, 2006**

The following summary is a record of the written comments received by November 11, 2006 on comment sheets either obtained at the information sessions or down loaded from the website. Approximately 100 people attended the information sessions. The department appreciates receiving these comments and information from the sessions and will consider this information during the detailed site planning stage for the development to optimize user satisfaction and environmental protection.

## HECLA/GRINDSTONE PROVINCIAL PARK

### REDEVELOPMENT OF HECLA OASIS RESORT

OCTOBER 2006

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#### *SUMMARY SHEET OF COMMENTS FROM INFORMATION SESSIONS*

**Please provide your comments on how the redevelopment of the resort may either enhance or impact your experience in the park.**

1. We anticipate the redevelopment will improve our experience and increase the value of our property. More activities for friends and family to engage in, as well as more employment opportunities for both students and adults.
2. The resort looks great, but take care – don't make prices unachievable.
3. More things to do – providing the extra activities do not cost too much.
4. I hope that your spa facility will be a separate room. The spa is supposed to be a relaxing and enjoyable time. I feel that with it open to the water slide and pool, it could become very noisy. Maybe having it closed in so that relaxing music and such would be more tranquil. I feel it should be a more private area.
5. As a frequent camper at Hecla Provincial Park and frequent stayer at the resort anything will be better than what was there. I just hope you don't overprice so the medium income family can enjoy some quality time at your hotel.

I'm not sure if your spa is going to be similar to the Clarion on Portage, but I personally think that the spa/mineral pool should be in a totally separate room. You don't want to hear people splashing and playing when this should be a tranquil setting, i.e. Elkhorn's spa. I usually think the idea of a water slide over mineral pool is totally bad idea. I certainly would not pay for mineral spa if that is how it will be designed. I definitely will travel the extra hour and go to the Elkhorn.

6. Please hurry  
Allow North Point to remain as a cross-country ski trail  
Continue to develop toboggan slope groom trails

7. This type of development is sorely needed.

The past Hecla Resort with orange paint, cedar wood work “smacked” of the 1980’s giving the impression of a badly out-of-date resource which would no longer attract clientele

The leased type/leased-privately owned cottages are a good idea – pricing in the \$125,000 - \$175,000 range would make them affordable to the greater number of people

The Icelandic park should be incorporated simultaneously as winter events are needed to entertain people during the winter months

A larger indoor pool/spa area is mandatory for the 4-6 weeks of  $-20^{\circ}$  -  $-30^{\circ}$  winter we generally experience

8. I believe the new Hecla Oasis Resort will be a beautiful addition to our provincial park! Since I am a 66 year old pensioner, I only hope the resort caters to our 55+ population and keep our vacation expenditures inside our province!!!

9. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment on the redevelopment of Hecla Island Park. We have always enjoyed the parks in Manitoba immensely. Hecla is special. If the parks (Provincial Government) do not invest proportionately with the Paletta Group then millions of dollars and fantastic dreams will all be wasted. It is not an option! I realize that many people would like to keep things as natural and possible. For those individuals I recommend they enjoy some of our other parks, but Hecla should be one place where luxury and style, comfort and class reveal the prosperity of the province. For example – a paved walkway to the light house instead of struggling over nature’s roughness while pushing the baby carriage. Why not let the skate boarder enjoy the light house too! One should be able to enjoy the walk without hiking boots!

A bike trail that loops around the park instead of just going there and back. Why can’t the mountain biker not enjoy the winter cross country ski trails, or why would you not have a paved bike trail covering both shore lines around the north point?

Develop the Harbour ‘big time’. Think American! They would have built Disneyland there by now.

Please pave the camping ground parking lots and make them more wheel friendly. These campers are ‘soft touch campers’, they didn’t come here to rough it, they came to golf and enjoy the scenery.

You cannot preserve the island for a natural resort because the island is too small for that. We have parks that are developed for that purpose. This park is unique. If you drive two hours and don’t say “Wow” when you get there, then all has been in vain.

10. I attended the Hecla Oasis Resort Open House in Gimli on Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2006. Unfortunately the Hecla Oasis Resort spokesperson did not have a clue as to how “environmentally green” the resort will be. I am upset the resort has waited so long as to the public input. In all probability the supplies and operations are being put into place. The Hecla Oasis Resort would have a stellar and unique opportunity to promote how “environmentally friendly” the resort is – even before its grand opening. How much recycling of the chlorine used in the spa pools will take place? Will the resort use phosphate free cleaning and laundry products? Gull Harbour Resort was exceptionally clean, rooms were cleaned with vinegar and water. I would expect a resort of such caliber to promote environmental awareness and be itself environmentally friendly in such a gorgeous Manitoba park!!!  
Let’s make it a park that will be an attraction that will be known all over the world. Where dignitaries can meet for peace talks, etc. Why not, it is the safest place in North American and I don’t think of a more peaceful place then that.  
The idea of creating a ski hill is absolutely fantastic. Hecla gets a lot of snow and even that little hill that is there now is being used all winter. You could add stables for sleigh rides that could also serve as horse back riding in summer.

**Please provide specific comments on the development of the resort bungalows and the winter park.**

1. Not sure if the bungalows can work. Please don’t impact the golf course or the path up to the lighthouse point.
2. Terrific idea. Should bring a lot of patrons in with this idea. Seeing that Manitoba has long winters, this will encourage more family outings. I like the idea of nature tours. It will also draw a lot of people.
3. I truly believe that the winter park is going to be on a ++ basis for bringing more families to Hecla not just snowmobilers and business people. Hopefully you will have great packages available for holidays.

I think your resort bungalows are a great idea as long as they are not taking away the natural beachfront.

4. Pricing in the \$250,000 would make them affordable only to the very rich leaving the middle class out in the “cold”.
5. I desire special reduced 55+ rents for the resort bungalows and eventually provide for a 55+ time sharing condos! The winter park is a super idea to keep our money from flowing south to Arizona and Mexico!!

6. As for the resort bungalows planned, I'm sorry but I can't see it work unless the investment will increase in value. That can only happen if the park gets developed and the people come up year round. There has to be traffic. Are the bungalows needed? Yes! Are there investors? If I look at some of the quarter million dollar cabins coming up, I have to say yes. But the investment has to bring a return or increase in value. Compare Hecla village with Wasagaming in Riding Mountain National Park. Is Riding Mountain successful?

In closing I feel that the provincial government needs to stop spending money in some areas like beautifying the Red River with a Trail that floods every year and put their investment into Hecla Island and make it so awesome that this party will be remembered for its achievement for decades to come.

A scale model of the future plans for the island at the polo park mall would help.

7. Based on the plans, I am concerned about the access to walk along the beach or forested area will be severely hampered by the resort bungalows. How energy efficient are the new bungalows? Will there be "nice green lawns" where pesticides are used or will the landscaping be left in a natural state? Will the bungalows block the view of the lake? There is an abundance of wildlife in that area such as moose, pileated woodpeckers and lynx. Will the bungalow development chase the wildlife from there? For city people, this area is such a treat to see the eagles, pileated woodpeckers, lynx etc. Are the cabins equipped with septic tanks for septic fields?

I would really appreciate hearing how much of an environmental impact the resort will have on such a beautiful area, by Lake Winnipeg. Will it be for above the standards set by Manitoba Conservation or doing the minimum requirements.