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Eagle Head residents still waiting for N.S. Environment officials to do their job

EAGLE HEAD, Queens County, NS - Residents fighting a development that threatens a beloved local beach and the surrounding environment are puzzled and frustrated that the Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Climate Change is not enforcing its own directive to clean up damage at the site.

The more than 1,500 members of the group Protecting Eagle Head Beach are upset that government officials have failed to follow up on a July 8 deadline to the contractor doing work on behalf of former Halifax mayor Peter Kelly. Officials had ordered that a pond that had been improperly infilled was to be returned to its original condition.

While nearby residents saw the contractor at the site, the pond remains infilled.

“This is just another example of the department shirking its responsibility by refusing to enforce its own laws,” said Peter Leslie, who was born in Eagle Head, and still lives nearby.

“It’s a bloody mess,” said Eagle Head resident Cathie Mourre. “It’s worse than it was before the so-called remediation. It’s almost like they’re laughing at everybody. It’s like he doesn’t want to fix it, and he’s not going to fix it. And nobody is making him fix it.”

Residents are still waiting for answers from provincial and municipal officials about the proposed development. The Region of Queens Municipality confirmed on July 5 that it withdrew its development permit for the site, but refused to say why. And residents are still waiting for a response from their MLA, Public Works Minister Kim Masland.

Since work began at the site this spring, access to the beach has been restricted, public roads have been blocked, and beaver, otter and other animal habitats have been destroyed or disturbed.

Residents and their supporters fear that Eagle Head Beach and the surrounding environment will be forever damaged by the development. They want provincial and municipal officials to enforce existing laws to protect this sensitive area.

For more information, please contact: Peter Leslie, 902-414-3801