



By
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now a young
“82”,
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During my second year as head lifeguard at Grand Beach (1942), CNR engineers from the Bridge & Building Dept. visited the beach. They were involved with preliminary planning of a new pier and breakwater structure.

They spent a considerable amount of time discussing their new plans with me, while I “worked” as a life guard on the “T” shaped pier that existed at the time.

Their proposed plan involved a new structure that would protect both bathers and boaters at the western section of what is now “west beach”. This was the most populated area for swimming and boating. At the time, the engineers recognized that the wooden “T” shaped pier had a limited life span of approximately 15 years. The breakwater and pier complex was to be built of concrete and steel, protected on the

north side by tons of large boulders.

The pier and breakwater was to start approximately at the north tip of the heavily treed peninsula that borders the west beach. Their design called for it to run approximately 200 ft in an easterly direction, and another section approximately 50 ft. in length, to run in a southerly direction from the eastern end. The width of the entire structure was to be approximately 20 ft.

The design would have provided a much needed harbour for boats on the eastern shore of Lake Winnipeg. It would also have provided a sheltered section of the west beach for bathers.

The CNR were planning the project in conjunction with both the Federal and Provincial Governments. They also looked at developing the old “South Harbour” at Grand Marais. However, the project did not materialize.

With the present park bureaucrats operating Grand Beach, please do not expect very much to “happen” that will restore Grand Beach to the magnificence that it once knew.