



Lake Links Workshop 2010 ~ Celebrating Our Advances ~ Lake Group Survey Summary

Background

The Lake Links Workshop Organizing Committee conducted a survey of lake groups in September/October of 2010. The purpose of the survey was to take stock of how lake groups are doing – how groups are organized, what activities have been carried out on lake stewardship and lake planning; what’s been working and what hasn’t.

This is a summary of the survey results. The results will be utilized at the Lake Links Workshop on October 30, 2010 to help form an important starting point for discussions, information sharing and collective learning at the workshop.

Reasons why your group started?

Answers Given	Response Count
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-ordinate advocacy of common lake concerns, preserve eco-system & foster good-will & neighbourliness amongst owners & their families • To improve water quality, to protect and restore shoreline environment, to educate and to advocate • To help ensure health and beauty of the lake for current and future lake users • Lake stewardship/civic concerns • Common interests/concerns • To maintain the overall health of the lake • Focus on lake health • To protect the lake environment • Water levels and lake protection • Conserve water, shoreline, environment etc. • To enhance quality of lake experience • The association began 30 or more years ago so not sure if it a response to a specific concern or just general interest in maintaining a healthy environment • Our association was formed in 1890 primarily as an anglers association but has expanded to its present day form, which focuses primarily on water quality • Poor water quality • Our shoreline survey pointed to our need for shoreline habitat improvement • Environmental education for the cottagers • Concerns over future development and its effects on quality of water and life style • Concerns over lake stewardship and development • Development/Environmental threats • Concerns about development • Protection from supposed development • Pending subdivision development impact • Looking for input to a subdivision proposal in 1989 • Low water level in 60s • Eurasian milfoil weed problem • Initially (1940's) Weed Growth - Now Marker Buoys • Joint action against spruce budworm (1970s) • Road maintenance • Unknown • Unknown 	31
<i>answered question</i>	31
<i>skipped question</i>	2

Has your lake group been involved in hosting "Lake-wide Events"? Please check all that apply.

Answer Options	Yes	No	Plan to in 1 year	Plan to in 2+ years	Looking for help on how to get started	Response Count
Annual General Meetings	32	0	1	0	1	33
Workshops/seminars/educational talks	25	3	1	0	2	30
Social get-togethers	21	4	1	0	2	28
Kids events	10	9	1	0	2	22
Regattas	7	11	1	0	2	21
<i>answered question</i>						33

Has your lake group been involved in any of the following "Lake Management/Stewardship Planning" related activities? Please check all that apply.

Answer Options	Yes	No	Plan to in 1 year	Plan to in 2+ years	Looking for help on how to get started	Response Count
Conducted a "State of the Lake" study/Developed report	21	4	2	2	2	30
Conducted a "Lake Vision" process or workshop	20	3	1	1	2	27
Developed an "Action Plan/List" for lake stewardship	17	4	4	1	2	27
Developed a Lake Management/Stewardship Plan	16	5	5	3	2	29
<i>answered question</i>						31
<i>skipped question</i>						2

Has your lake group been involved in the any of the following "Stewardship and Monitoring" activities? Please check all that apply.

Answer Options	Yes	No	Plan to in 1 year	Plan to in 2+ years	Looking for help on how to get started	Response Count
Water quality monitoring	32	0	0	0	1	33
General education handout/information packages	27	0	2	0	1	30
Monitoring lake levels	22	4	3	0	1	30
Fish habitat assessments	21	4	1	0	1	27
Shoreline surveys	20	8	1	0	1	30
Invasive species monitoring/signage	19	5	2	0	1	27
Monitoring of plants and animals	18	5	1	0	2	26
Septic re-inspections	17	4	0	4	1	26
Creel surveys	14	7	2	1	1	25
Shoreline restoration projects	10	13	2	0	1	25
Fisheries/wildlife habitat rehabilitation	10	10	2	0	1	23
Buoys/markers and safety signage	9	12	0	0	1	22
Fish stocking	8	14	1	0	1	24
<i>answered question</i>						33

Has your lake group developed or been involved with the following "Communication and Volunteer Recruitment" activities? Please check all that apply.

Answer Options	Yes	No	Plan to in 1 year	Plan to in 2+ years	Looking for help on how to get started	Response Count
Newsletter	31	0	0	0	1	32
Email	28	3	0	0	1	32
Website	26	2	1	0	1	30
Mail-outs	26	3	0	0	1	30
Door-to-door/ dock-to-dock canvassing	17	7	2	0	1	27
Volunteer Recruitment Program	13	9	5	0	1	27
Other	3	13	0	0	1	17
Twitter	0	18	0	0	1	19
Facebook	0	17	1	0	2	20
answered question						33

Are there other activities your lake group is involved in? If yes, please list.

Answer Options/ Answers Given	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	64.0%	16
No	36.0%	9
Other (please specify)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renovated the boat launch to keep vehicles out of the lake when loading / unloading. • BSC loon survey; CPR courses offered; boating course • Municipal official plan, Municipal annual town hall • Zebra mussel study 2009, Plastic worm ingestion study by Carleton University 2010, Creek restoration on going with over 11 kms of fencing with alternate watering facilities for cattle thereby eliminating over 1000 cattle from our lakes tributaries. • Invasive species - zebra mussel & spiny waterflea - testing • Clothing, Calendars • Lake Plan • Municipal election all candidates meeting • Collaborating with Gananoque watershed study • Outdoor activity with a family environment theme • Currently finishing Lake Management Plan • CCRAI, FOCA, Lakeland Alliance, Peterborough Green-Up, Adopt-A-Road (pending) • Research and advocacy re. septic systems, municipal wastewater treatment, stormwater management, naturalization, low-impact development and bio-remediation using milfoil weevils, all candidates meetings, and much more. • Annual Fish Fry (using a commercial supplier) open to the general public • Tried to minimize impact of commercial fishing on our lake • Earth Day clean up, Battery Recycling, Flea Market 		16
answered question		25
skipped question		8

How are you implementing activities on behalf of your lake residents/association members? Please check all that apply.

Answer Options/ Answers Given	Response Percent	Response Count
Individual volunteers taking on specific tasks	96.9%	31
Formed committees to carry out activities	81.3%	26
Door-to-door/dock-to-dock efforts	34.4%	11
Fundraising	31.3%	10
Incentive programs	6.3%	2
Other	9.4%	3
Other (please specify) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnering with local Lions Club, local schools, L&A Stewardship Council, MNR & Quinte Conservation Authority, Township of Stone Mills, Napanee & District Community Foundation, Ontario Stewardship Rangers Fundraising only by charging a small membership fee in the lake association (\$25/yr) Club 100 Association Executive carry out planning/execution Obtained Trillium funds to open an environmental action storefront with others, regular "life on the lake" articles in a local magazine, etc. Surveys of cottagers 		6
answered question		32
skipped question		1

Who are your key partners in lake-related activities? Please check all that apply.

Answer Options / Answers Given	Response Percent	Response Count
Ministry of Natural Resources	75.8%	25
Municipality	72.7%	24
Conservation Authority	69.7%	23
Lake group volunteers	66.7%	22
Ministry of the Environment	45.5%	15
Stewardship Council	45.5%	15
Federation of Ontario Cottagers Associations	36.4%	12
Health Unit	21.2%	7
Consultant	18.2%	6
Environmental non-government organization	18.2%	6
Other	15.2%	5
Parks Canada	9.1%	3
Environment Canada	6.1%	2
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	3.0%	1
Other (please specify) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Napanee & District Community Foundation Community donations for lake events County Consent Review Authority Friends of Salmon River Several Members are Environmental consultants Mississippi-Rideau Septic Office, Greater Bob's and Crow Lake Association, Pike Lake Association, Lake Networking Group 		6
answered question		33

Are there any lessons learned you would like to share from completing any of the above activities?

Answers Given	Response Percent	Response Count
<p>a) Lake-wide Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lake-wide events such as the annual picnic, the golf event, the educational workshops give cottagers and year-round residents a chance to meet • Social networking - knowing and influencing neighbours • Annual BBQ is a great community-builder • Having food works; speakers need to be succinct and engaging; • Shoreline cleanup, corn roast 	41.7%	5
<p>b) Lake Management/Stewardship Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have a Friends of the Lake committee who are working on a 5-year lake plan - takes a lot of energy and determination to keep up the interest • Seeking volunteers and getting active • Need to seek out the expertise residing in the lake community • Take it in small steps - the entire process is very daunting for volunteers. • Weed program, Envirosience • The process brought the community together, and increased credibility of the lake association; set a good basis for dealing with others, especially municipality; the 3.5 year process was just right - not too long, but long enough for everything to be covered; regular feedback to and from the community was important • With some volunteer professional help (my role), it can be done without great expense • Importance of community involvement and importance of building strong working relationships with community partners • Get funding and buy-in from all the major players 	75.0%	9
<p>c) Stewardship and Monitoring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are working towards this and find others' experience really helpful (e.g., Otty Lake Shoreline Handbook) • Getting others involved and distributing state of the lake information. Helps with good environmental practices • The benefits of working with the Conservation Authority • An overall plan is important - it puts individual tasks into perspective and allows priorities to be set; lead people for each area need to be set, then others can be convinced to participate in individual tasks • With active Lake Steward volunteers can be organized to do most of it • Get volunteers to start activities to the point that others with deeper pockets pick it up 	50.0%	6
<p>d) Communication and Volunteer Recruitment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We reached every property on the lake 2 summers ago, going by boat from dock to dock, leaving a survey to be emailed or mailed in. Got a great response and potential volunteers • Social networking and succession of the next generation of youth • Having email addresses for almost all the property owners has helped hugely 	66.7%	8

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A good newsletter has been very helpful in getting members involved; the stewardship plan and its action plan have been vital to bring in volunteers; we try to use email and website as much as possible, but we still have a number of members NOT on high speed internet, and hard copy material is still required for all our material • Always difficult. there is much talent in the retiree community they will work but they don't want to be leaders • Website, newsletter • Need to utilize a variety of approaches to get your message out to members of your community • Keep it simple and fun 		
<p>e) Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mining Act challenges with other groups resulted positive changes and understanding. Drinking Water testing • Difficulties in reaching non-email members • Lake Rep comes to our council meetings all the time • Volunteers need discrete and meaningful tasks and regular encouragement/feedback • Need a base of lake ecological functions to help volunteers to understand what they need to think about • Actually do something that improves your lake and is recognized as such by the public 	50.0%	6
	<i>answered question</i>	12
	<i>skipped question</i>	21

Has your lake group taken recommendations to municipal council or other government bodies for planning or development-related matters?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	79.3%	23
No	20.7%	6
answered question		29
skipped question		4

If yes:

Answers Given	Response Percent	Response Count
<p>a) What was the issue? (e.g. comments on Official Plan or comprehensive zoning; specific development proposal; presentation of lake plan)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official Plan revision • Comments on Official Plan • Comments on Official Plan; input re back lot (i.e., off-lake) development and subdivision of lots; traffic and parking issues • Official plan changes, Adaptation to Climate change, Recognition of A2A corridor, Uranium in drinking water? • Changes to Official Plan due to recommendations from our Lake Management Plan, septic tank re-inspection, • Comments on Official Plan, septic tank inspection, Lake management and Stewardship Planning • Comments on official plan/ comments on specific proposals • Comments re Official Plan; Proposal re Septic Re-Inspection; Comments re Development currently underway • Presentation of State of the Lake report, input into Septic Re-inspection • Presentation of State of the Lake Report to local Municipal Council • Presentation of State of the Lake Report to local Municipal Council • Concerns about development - impact on water quality, quality of life • 1., subdivision proposal in 1989; 2., lake stewardship plan updates and recommendations • All of these • All of the above, we have been working since 1997 • Lake levels • Severances, septic re-inspection, 30 m setback • Selling of crown land • Septic re-inspection • Septic re-inspections, proposed prohibition of condos, timeshares, etc. on lake • Increased septic re-inspection; impact of commercial fishing • Roads, Snow Plowing, Fire Dept support, Official Plan= Dark Skies, Lot sizes, Shore erosion 	95.7%	22
<p>b) What agency/body was it taken to?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipality (T.V.T.) • South Frontenac Council • Municipality, Source Water protection committee, Health department. Hydro 	91.3%	21

<p>One (Garlon herbicide)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Township's Consultant and thence to North Frontenac Council • North Frontenac Council • Municipal Government • Municipality Council • Municipal council • MOE MNR council etc • S. Frontenac Township (1 and 2) • OMB & County Consent Review Committee, • Municipal Council/Municipal planning consultant • Municipal Council • Municipality of Whitestone • Local municipalities • Municipality • MNR & Council • Region, municipality, conservation authorities, Trent Severn Waterway, etc. • Central Frontenac Township Council • I would need to find out the specifics for you if you are interested • Lanark Highlands council 		
<p>c) How successful were you with your recommendation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very - recommendations accepted and incorporated into Official Plans of both Municipalities • Well received by Council • Supported • Several suggestions have been adopted • Listened to and acknowledged for our advice • Positive and it will be incorporated in the Municipal Plan for Future Planning • 1. subdivision changed (larger lots, increased setbacks) and laid groundwork for changes to zoning bylaw; 2., council welcomed our presentations; our final recommendations are to be presented this fall or winter • Water frontage requirement increased from 60 to 100 M • Signs have been posted re traffic on a busy road (Perth Road) as a result of Association efforts; input has been made to the Official Plan but it still has not been passed. • We established a first right of notice should any purchase of crown land be contemplated • Successful in addition of A2A to official plan. • Authorities lacking insight on climate change adaptation • It takes a lot of work to move forward slowly but we are pleased with our results • Slow but clear progress • Won some & lost some • Somewhat • Somewhat • Somewhat but identified some issues • On-going work-in-progress 	95.7%	22

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipalities do listen to our comments and while they are not necessarily totally accepted they are taken into consideration • Unsuccessful • No 		
<p>d) Was there a 'lesson learned' as a result?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sometimes professional help needed - lawyers, planning consultants • Organize and work on developing consensus lake Plan • Yes, substantiated concerns are reacted to by the municipality • The need for lake associations in the Township to work together • As a councillor it's nice work with Otty Lake Association • Neither constant complaining nor too much tact works. Time and education of Councillors is required • Stay in contact with key people; reasonable positions and approaches work, whereas simple NIMBY responses may not work • Keep Municipality involved right from the beginning • Monitor website from council, regional blogs, other associations, newsletters, attend FOCA AGM, Network • It takes time and effort to build a good working relationship • Know the detail and keep plugging • You have to keep plugging away, especially as new council members come in and you have to re-educate. But the efforts can pay off. • Keep up pressures • Keep pushing. Let them know you're out there • Authorities lacking responsibility to deliver education on potential for uranium In-ground drinking water. Keep trying. • Government no help • No 	73.9%	17
	answered question	23
	skipped question	10

Do you have any other comments or suggestions you would like to share with other lake groups (i.e. fundraising, volunteer recruitment, useful resource tips).

Answers Given	Response Count
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Not at this time Hold an earth day clean up each spring Social events help develop the lake community and enhance informal communication Fundraising: Sale of 911 signs for the water front MNR has been a great resource for us. We received a grant this year (\$1500) to do netting and creel surveys. Also M of E assists with secchi readings and phosphorous readings. CFWIP grants (Community Fish and Wildlife Improvement Project) Frontenac Stewardship Council is a very supportive organization for lake associations Benefits of knowledge sharing through lake networking groups - get involved As with most volunteer organizations, a small number of active volunteers do most of the work. Monitor any websites you can and related links - we have found groups with info we didn't know existed! Volunteer recruitment is not easy to achieve We are presently on life support in my view. I have taken on the presidency because I want to increase the communication in the community and try to create an association presence on the lake. Just keep up the good work. Government bodies often proclaim their environmentalism but are more concerned with blindered regulations Difficult to obtain support for lake planning from granting organizations 	15
<i>answered question</i>	15
<i>skipped question</i>	18

Are there any specific topics you would like to receive support, advice, tools, or assistance from the Lake Links participants?

Answers Given	Response Count
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, lakeshore capacity assessment How to increase membership How to reach and attract newer cottagers/residents on the lake so the "old guard" can retire! Membership and involvement (recruitment and retention) Create an action plan to rejuvenate the membership in the association. We are supported by one side of the lake and always by the same members. It is not enough! Developing the Lake plan What have been the long-term benefits of a lake plan? Lake Stewardship See more place planting Trees along lake shore or plants Septic re-inspections Septic inspection methods that actually are useful and its funding Hydro One and use of Garlon Ultra herbicide and its risks Eurasian milfoil weed control 	13
<i>answered question</i>	13
<i>skipped question</i>	20

What is your most effective communication tool/approach? Please check all that apply.

Answer Options/ Answers Given	Response Percent	Response Count
Newsletter	93.8%	30
Email	68.8%	22
Website	53.1%	17
Door-to-door/dock-to-dock canvassing	25.0%	8
Mail-outs	21.9%	7
Other	3.1%	1
Twitter	0.0%	0
Facebook	0.0%	0
Other (please specify) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighbours talking to neighbours • Should do more door-to-door/dock-to-dock; phoning good too • Work through existing road committees • More work planned to recruit new members again. Properties have changed hands etc. • Annual General Meeting Displays • Annual general meeting • AGM • Holding lake-wide events • Published Lake Stewardship Plan • Regular 'life on the lake' section in a local magazine distributed to all households • I do not believe that we have been effective in our communication 		12
	answered question	32
	skipped question	1