

“Defining Values and Issues” on Mississippi Lake

Public Forum #1 Summary
June 21, 2014

A document prepared for the Mississippi Lake Plan Project

Mississippi
Lake *Plan*



Mississippi Lakes
Association



Ontario
Trillium
Foundation



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Trillium
de l'Ontario

Mississippi Valley
Conservation Authority

“Defining Values and Issues” on Mississippi Lake

Public Forum #1 Summary

A public forum was held on Saturday, June 14, 2014, to provide an opportunity for the people of Mississippi Lake to openly discuss the values that are important to them and to identify the issues to be addressed to ensure the long term health of their lake. The purpose of the forum was to gain a better understanding of the community’s current values, issues, and considerations regarding the present and future states of Mississippi Lake. **This report provides a summary of the discussions that occurred at the forum and will be used in the development of the Mississippi Lake Plan.**

About the Forum

The first public forum dealing with the Mississippi Lake Plan took place on June 14, 2014, at Brunton Hall, Beckwith Township. A total of 40 people attended the session including a mix of permanent residents and cottagers. Also in attendance were Reeve Richard Kidd and Councillors Faye Campbell, Tim Campbell, and Brian Dowdall from Beckwith Township and Rob Probert, Councillor from Carleton Place.

The objectives for this forum were to:

- Promote discussion and engage the public in the process;
- Confirm values to help set an overriding vision for the lake;
- Confirm and expand definition of key issues; and
- Develop a preliminary list of the actions to address the issues.

Rob Bell, Chairman of the Mississippi Lake Planning Team, welcomed all, introduced the members of the planning team (see Appendix 1) and the facilitators for the day, Randy French and Gord Rodgers of French Planning Services Inc.

Randy explained the agenda for the day. Today’s session was a means of building on the results of the community survey to confirm and refine values, issues, and potential actions. The issues and actions were to be addressed through a process called a “lake café,” where participants are divided into small groups, assigned an issue to discuss, then moved to a second group of their choice to deal with a second issue.

AGENDA

- ▶ Welcome and Introductions
- ▶ Overview of the Process
- ▶ Confirming Values
- ▶ Defining Key Issues
- ▶ Identifying Potential Actions
- ▶ What’s Next?



What's been done to date?

The development of the Mississippi Lake began in 2012, with the initiation of the Planning Team and the Advisory Committee, along with the securing of funding from Ontario Trillium Foundation. The process has been led by members of the Mississippi Lakes Association, with active participation by the Centre for Sustainable Watersheds, and the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority.

A Community Survey was developed in April 2012, to gather advice and information from the people who live and cottage around the lake. The survey was made available for about 2 years, formally closing in January, 2014. 27% of the estimated 1200 lakefront property owners completed the survey, indicating: what they valued about the lake; the concerns or issues that need to be addressed; and the potential actions to be considered to protect the health of the lake.

From the outset of the process, research and data collection was being done to complete a snapshot of the state of Mississippi Lake. Documentation of the physical conditions, natural environment, and social conditions was compiled in the “Mississippi Lake Today” report, available in draft form in May, 2014. Both the Community Survey and the Mississippi Lake Today reports are available at www.lakemississippi.ca.

Where are we in the process?

Developing a lake plan for Mississippi Lake is a multi-year project, providing for inputs and reviews by community members around the lake on several occasions. This first public forum dealt with defining values and issues, and sought preliminary ideas from participants on the actions that might best address those issues. In September, a second public forum will review and confirm the results of the June 2014 session, and delve more deeply into the proposed actions. Following that the draft lake plan will be prepared, and reviewed in a third public forum in the Spring of 2015. The final plan is expected to be completed by June, then approved by the community and presented to municipalities and others in July, 2015.

THE PLANNING PROCESS

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| • Initial Set-up: | 2012 |
| • Community Survey: | 2012-13 |
| • Mississippi Lake Today: | 2013-14 |
| • Public Forum 1: Values and Issues | |
| • Forum 2: Issues & Actions | Sept 20, '14 |
| • Prepare Draft Plan | Winter 2014 |
| • Forum 3: Review Draft Plan | Spring 15 |
| • Final Plan - Approved | July '15 |

Confirming Community Values and Vision

The community survey conducted in 2012-13 asked respondents to identify the level of importance that they would attach to a list of 10 identified values (see Figure 1 on following page). At the forum participants were asked to review the values rated in the survey, and identify any additional values that should be included. The listed values were accepted for the most part (see Figure 2 on following page), with only a few additional values suggested:

- Good property standards;
- Well managed commercial development; and
- Recognizing the importance of the lake to the community today and for future generations.

At the end of the morning, forum participants were asked to rank the values from the survey by placing dots on the list of values. The end result showed a general consistency between the survey rankings and the forum rankings, with some exceptions:

- “Natural Shorelines” was ranked as #3 at the forum, and #9 in the survey;
- “Sense of Community” was ranked #6 at the forum, and #10 in the survey.



Figure 1 - Survey Results
VALUES RATED BY RESPONDENTS

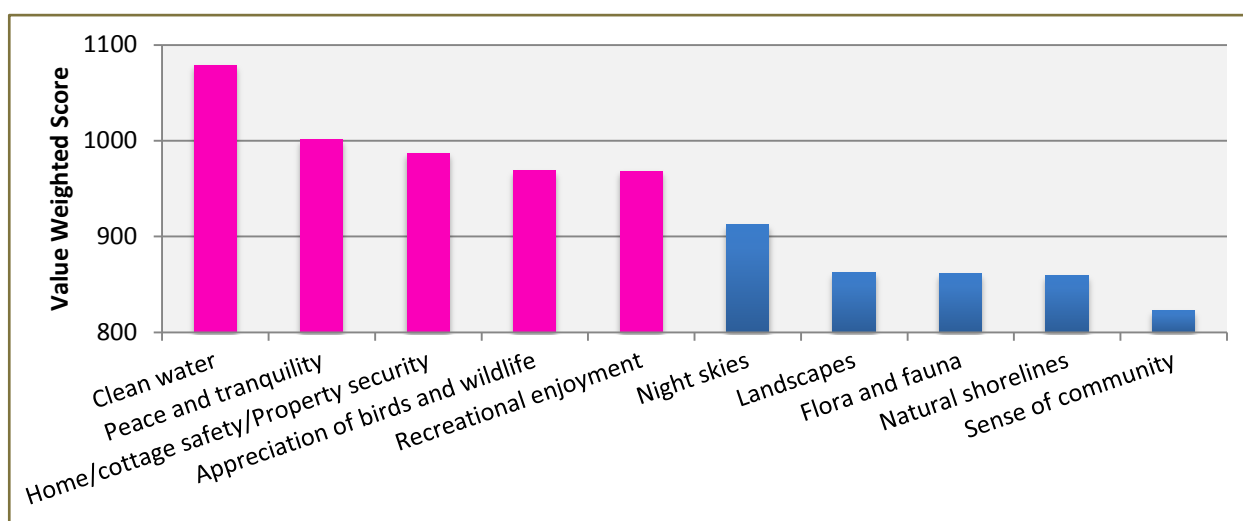


Figure 2 - Survey and Workshop Results
WHAT WE VALUE ABOUT MISSISSIPPI LAKE

VALUES	Values Rating per Survey	Values Rating per forum
Clean Water	1 (712 weighted sum)	1 (21 votes)
Peace and Tranquility	2 (635 weighted sum)	4-5 (12 votes)
Home/Cottage Safety/Security	3 (627 weighted sum)	4-5 (12 votes – tied)
Recreational Enjoyment	4 (610 weighted sum)	2 (14 votes)
Appreciation of Birds and Wildlife	5 (607 weighted sum)	6 (8 votes)
Night Skies	6 (555 weighted sum)	8 (6 votes)
Landscapes	7 (510 weighted sum)	10(3 votes)
Flora and Fauna	8 (509 weighted sum)	9 (4 votes)
Natural Shorelines	9 (502 weighted sum)	3 (13 votes)
Sense of Community	10 (475 weighted sum)	7 (7 votes)
ADDITIONAL VALUES IDENTIFIED AT THE FORUM:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good property standards • Well managed commercial development • Recognizing the importance of the lake 		

Defining Key Issues and Preliminary Actions

The community survey asked respondents to rate the importance of 19 possible issues and concerns. The survey results ranked the issues in the following priority order:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Weeds/Algae in water | 11. Daytime noise |
| 2. Water levels | 12. Septic system issues |
| 3. Boat speed | 13. Commercial development |
| 4. Water quality | 14. Night-time noise |
| 5. Boat traffic | 15. Public access to lake |
| 6. PWCs | 16. Tree and vegetation removal |
| 7. Shoreline erosion | 17. Outdoor light pollution |
| 8. Fishing tournaments | 18. ATVs |
| 9. Fish depletion | 19. Snowmobiles |
| 10. Residential development | |

At the public forum, eight broad issue areas were put forward for detailed consideration and discussion by the participants. These were drawn from the priority issues identified through the survey, results from the data analysis of the Mississippi Lake Today report, and generally broadened to allow for a full discussion.

Participants were divided into 4 groups, and each group was assigned 2 issue areas to discuss. Using a prepared worksheet, they were asked to identify the important issues/concerns for that subject area, and to develop actions to address the identified issues. A second round of small group discussion took place, when participants could choose which group they wished to join.

The chart below provides a list of the eight subject areas and the results of the discussions are found on the following pages:

1. Surface Water Quality	Group 1
2. Aquatic Vegetation (Weeds)	
3. Water Levels and Flooding	Group 2
4. Climate Change	
5. Fishery	Group 3
6. Natural Environment	
7. Land Use/ Development	Group 4
8. Boating Recreation	

SAMPLE WORKSHEET

ISSUE 1 - Surface Water Quality

General Description

- Water Quality ranked very high in importance in the community survey
- Mississippi Lake is a moderately nutrient enriched lake, Mesotrophic status;
- Sufficient Dissolved Oxygen within the water column to support the lake ecosystem most of the year;
- pH averages 7.5, within the Provincial Objective to protect aquatic life;
- Lake water has high alkalinity, suitable habitat for Zebra Mussel

Q1. What are the issues about surface water quality that we need to address?

Q2. Potential Actions - What can we do about it?

Surface Water Quality

The Issues – what participants said:

1. Algae blooms were high in summer 2013, and 4 years' ago - caused by nutrient enrichment; worsened by presence of zebra mussels (filtering the water and allowing light penetration).
2. Swimming affected by: beaches being closed on lake; presence of zebra mussels.
3. Septic systems that are not performing well are of considerable concern.
4. Records on septic systems are not complete; cover primarily new development:
 - Older development is the issue, not new;
 - Renting out properties may worsen impacts, with multiple families using systems that are undersized for level of use;
 - Commercial developments usually come with higher end phosphorus retention systems; and
 - Septic inspections – can they be upgraded?
5. Grey water discharging to lake.
6. Spreading of waste on land.
7. Petroleum products may be entering the lake from boats, especially on long weekends or with increased traffic during fish tournaments.
8. Grassed and hardened shorelines contribute to speed of water runoff and potential inputs of nutrients.
9. Historic development of the lake, with relatively slow current of water moving through the system, may contribute to water quality issues.

What we know about Water Quality

- Water Quality ranked very high in importance in the community survey
- Mississippi Lake is a moderately nutrient enriched lake, Mesotrophic status;
- Sufficient Dissolved Oxygen within the water column to support the lake ecosystem most of the year;
- pH averages 7.5, within the Provincial Objective to protect aquatic life;
- Lake water has high alkalinity, suitable habitat for Zebra Mussel.

Potential Actions – what participants said:

- A. Better understanding of the issue would help:
 - Do a “nutrient budget” to understand levels of nutrients entering and leaving the lake and the level of variation;
 - Determine nutrient loading of farms, actual amount of farm land in upper area of lake-shed and surrounding lake;
 - Increase the amount of testing by the health unit to determine swimability;
 - Update septic records and inspections; and
 - Loading of chemicals from lawns or farms, need to determine what/how much is coming from where.
- B. Public education:
 - Post signs and have pamphlets available at recreational access points (pamphlets with rules, regulations on how to protect environment, e.g., “No dumping garbage”; signs “enjoy our lake, keep it clean” at access points);
 - Address school children, e.g., CP high school is on river in Carleton Place; and
 - Paint fish signs on sewers to indicate it flows into the river (took place in past).
- C. Engage farm community and work with them to improve potential runoff.
- D. Use municipal policy to require high end phosphorus retention systems; possible septic re-inspection program.
- E. Vegetate shorelines to deter geese, so it won't affect water quality.
- F. Try a “Weekend of no motors on lake” (tranquil weekend, no noise) - target a long weekend (awareness building).

Aquatic Vegetation (Weeds)

The issues – what participants said:

1. A balance of vegetation is needed – what is a healthy natural environment vs. too much, affecting lake enjoyment (swimming, boating):
 - Cattail growth, for example: a little is ok but it's starting to invade recreational areas and impede access;
 - Aquatic vegetation along all of shoreline is not good - need sand areas as well, for warm water minnow habitat in spring; and
 - There is misdirected education about vegetation.
2. Shallow lake depth and climate change could lead to major increase in vegetation in future.
3. Excessive development is contributing to increased nutrient inputs, and higher vegetation growth.

General Description of Aquatic Vegetation

- Getting rid of weeds and algae ranked as important to many in the survey, but some noted the importance and benefits of weeds to the fish and wildlife, and the ecosystem as a whole;
- Invasive Eurasian Milfoil has been documented in the lake at McEwen Bay;
- There is little monitoring data to indicate the current state and growth of vegetation in the lake.

Potential Actions – what participants said:

- A. Need a “Best Practices” manual for dealing with aquatic vegetation; include, for example:
 - Chemical use to remove vegetation (shouldn't use them); and
 - Best practices for cattails.
- B. Need cooperation from lake community, municipalities and gov't agencies.
- C. Use an “adopt a lake” program (lake/shoreline) – like an adopt a road program.
- D. Love your lake shoreline survey is beneficial to the lake.
- E. Establish a Septic Re-inspection Program:
 - Sit with DNE staff/councillors about what worked with septic re-inspection program on Otty Lake, how to implement it on Mississippi Lake;
 - Examine Beckwith study on septic inspection program;
 - Use septic inspections to determine pollution loading and from where (verify property loading);
 - Link septic re-inspection with property values in public education;
 - Program should include record-keeping of septic system maintenance; and
 - Consider discounts for community pumping.
- F. Limit development on lake and backlot development; establish more stringent set back of buildings.
- G. Purchase/rent a weed harvesting machine and make a channel through weeds for access.
- H. Monitor farm practices.
- I. Encourage all ideas for consideration.



Water Levels and Flooding

The Issues – what participants said:

1. Overall the water levels are higher (over eighty year span).
2. When the dam was built, it was constructed at a relatively high level.
3. Ice damage occurs over winter.
4. Flooding and unnatural water level fluctuations have impacts on fish spawning.
5. High water levels create more shoreline erosion.

Potential Actions – what participants said:

- A. We need to know more about the flow rate.
- B. Continue monitoring and forecasting water levels.
- C. Educate the lake residents about:
 - Be aware of erosion; and
 - What actions are needed to prevent erosion.
- D. When giving permits for shoreline work, conservation authority should monitor/inspect/follow-up to ensure the permit is complied with.
- E. Remap the bathymetry (lake bottom contours) of the lake.
- F. Relocate/rehabilitate spawning habitats.
- G. Establish incentives/funding for improving shorelines - shoreline protection.

General Description: of Water Levels & Flooding

- Carleton Place dam has the most influence on lake level, when flows are below 150cms;
- Mississippi River is a managed system, the lake level is influenced by upstream dams;
- Minor flooding typically occurs in the spring, due to the lake's location in the watershed and constriction of the channel in Carleton Place;
- Highest recorded flood was in 1998 at 135.73 m.a.s.l.



Climate Change

The Issues – what participants said:

1. More extremes in weather can be expected, e.g., flooding or low water levels; increased storm impacts.
2. Soil desertification (drying of the soil) will continue.
3. Stream flows will get higher in the fall and winter rather than in the spring and summer.
4. Conditions may lead to poorer water quality.
5. More weeds and algae may be expected.
6. Fish populations (mix of species) may change.
7. More invasive species may take hold, with associated impact on surrounding vegetation and the lake's ecology.
8. Less and poorer winter ice, with impact on ice-related recreational activities.

General Description: Climate Change

- Average annual temperature increases are predicted to continue, noticeably in the winter;
- Stream flows are expected to be higher September to January and lower April to September;
- This could potentially impact fisheries, water quality and recreational activities in the future.

Potential Actions – what participants said:

- A. Expect change and adapt.
- B. Need to instill new behavior.
- C. Create a campaign of awareness and educate the community around the lake (residents, commercial operators, agricultural community, visitors):
 - How to prepare for changes and/or continue to minimize changes;
 - Invasive species management; and
 - Changes will need to be made to shorelines – improved naturalization.
- D. Should monitor ice changes, winter conditions, ice thickness and associated winter activities.
- E. Use Lake Plan as an education tool for the lake community.
- F. Use the Lake Plan as a tool to lobby governments (various jurisdictions) – to make them aware of the potential impact on the lake, and to influence their work to prevent climate change.
- G. Manage and prevent the commercialization and over-usage of boats/engines by regulating, monitoring and enforcing the regulations.
- H. Implement adaptive measures.



Fishery

The Issues – what participants said:

1. There are not a lot of studies on fish in the lake:
 - Is the habitat good?
 - Are we experiencing depletion of the fishery?
2. Behaviour of some of those who fish is of concern:
 - Some fish too close to lakeside properties;
 - Some leave garbage on the ice;
 - Sometimes pee in the water or on the ice; and
 - Majority of anglers do not live on the lake, and may not care.
3. Some have observed many dead fish on shore this spring, and are concerned whether this might be the “canary in the coal mine” for Mississippi Lake:
 - Is this from oxygen depletion?
 - Could be a problem with the nutrient budget;
 - Could be from water temperature increases; and
 - Is there any danger to children playing?
4. Out of season fishing is a concern and could have a large impact on the fishery. How can this be monitored and dealt with when you see it happening?
5. Derbies – we do not know if they are a problem other than the associated speeding boats:
 - Is there any monitoring of boats speeding from place to place during derby?
 - Catch and release may be a problem as some fish still die; and
 - There are too many derbies.

General Description: Fishery

- Survey respondents expressed interest and concerns about fishing, including: need further research on habitats; consideration of possible lake stocking; greater regulation of summer and ice fishing
- Mississippi Lake supports a warm water fishery (Largemouth & Smallmouth Bass, walleye, Northern Pike);
- Managed as a self-sustaining fishery – no stocking;
- Most recent netting index survey indicates Walleye populations are healthy, though there are expressed concerns regarding overharvesting.

Potential Actions – what participants said:

- A. Need to determine who is responsible for fishery habitat recovery/reconstruction.
- B. Need proper research and monitoring to understand fish losses:
 - Need to establish state of fishery baseline of fish populations; and
 - Could engage anglers to use and submit “creel diaries.”
- C. Need more and better public education:
 - On proper catch and release techniques and the correct use of bait;
 - On the impact of out of season fishing and on why stocking is not a good practice;
 - Provide general info to all on fishing season so we can all play a role in identifying out of season anglers;
 - Use high school volunteers to hand out info at boat launches;
 - Target young anglers;
 - Use signage/info at boat launches; and
 - Educate non-residents on how to use the lake.
- D. Need to better enforce fishing regulations all year long (seasons, size, catch and possession numbers).
- E. Engage marina and boat launch owners to:
 - Help in educating anglers;
 - Provide a share of boat launch revenue to offset costs of public education;
 - Provide public washrooms for anglers;
 - Provide garbage containers at boat launches; and
 - Delay putting in public docks until near start of fish season.
- F. Work with fishing derby organizers to see if photo identification of fish caught might replace bringing live fish back to the dock.

Natural Environment

The Issues – what participants said:

1. Do not know a lot – need better baseline information on wildlife:
 - Turtles nesting areas and protection, where are they and how to preserve;
 - How healthy are frog populations around the lake?
 - Are there fewer loons this year and less beaver and muskrat?
 - Who are the responsible agencies and what are their roles?
2. Shoreline degradation is a concern:
 - Sinking land/erosion;
 - Cutting down trees without reason;
 - Wild rice without control causes infill/silt-up in some areas;
 - There are development threats to natural environment (e.g., back lot and large block development without retention of open and natural spaces).
3. Inconsistent enforcement of the 30m set back rules.
4. Invasive species are of concern, e.g., impact of zebra mussels.
5. Some native species are also a concern, e.g., geese, cormorants. There is a concern with geese on the Carleton Place portion of river upstream of CP municipal water intake and on the lake.
6. Disturbances to tranquil environment (e.g., duck hunting season (Sunday mornings) and float planes landing and taking off at early hours).
7. Dragon flies are good for mosquito control and we need more.
8. Need information about dangerous spiders and ticks and how to control geese.

General Description: Natural Environment

- Protecting the environment, including protecting shorelines, was of concern to the greatest number of survey respondents
- 2 Provincially Significant Wetlands on the lake shore, 1 ANSI and 1 National Wildlife Area;
- McEwen bay used extensively by migrating waterfowl, 10,000 can pass through in a day;
- There is little current data about the health and abundance of mammals, reptiles and amphibians in and around the lake.

Potential Actions – what participants said:

A. Education:

- Protection of shore lines, what to do and how to get help and how to deal with geese;
- Conduct a BioBlitz to inform people about the lake environment and associated species;
- What can we do to control annoying/invasive plants and animals around our property; which need action and which ones are just pests;
- Educate about an appreciation of nature, even snakes;
- Pass out information at public events and partner with like-minded groups;
- Provide information on lake at lake access points, e.g., map of the lake showing protected areas;
- Educate transient lake dwellers/users at source – boat launches/recreation parks; and
- Post signs around the lake indicating protected area, e.g., “Loon Nesting Area”.

B. Duck Hunting

- Need designated areas, and address safety issues of potential conflict between fall fishing season and hunters;
- Geese – encourage hunting.

C. Sign up for “Love your Lake” program.

D. Wetlands – protect from development:

- Encourage townships to enforce existing guidelines;
- Encourage townships to expand protection to additional, non-designated wetlands; and
- Avoid pressure for wetland drainage.

E. Regulate noise levels, e.g., early AM hours of quiet;

F. Streamline regulations and regulatory bodies and co-ordinate action:

- Regulation need to be easy to access and applied consistently across the lake that applies both to nature and development regulators;
- Townships should develop additional controls on buffers to protect at risk natural areas;

Land Use/Development

The Issues – what participants said:

1. Governance
 - Lack of a coordinated oversight of the lake (there are several “autonomous” agencies but no overall body is “in charge” of the future of the lake in all its aspects);
 - Several layers of oversight, but each is concerned with specific issues;
 - There are gaps and overlaps in jurisdiction and regulation of lake activities (hit and miss approach to stewardship);
 - Abdication/relinquishing of responsibility by governments (due to austerity measures, etc.) with no commensurate assumption of these responsibilities by another agency;
 - Low (insufficient) level of municipality involvement in lakefront development; and
 - Lack of proactive “seizing” of responsibility by municipalities on important issues, where there is clear lack of oversight and/or interest by other agencies/governments.
2. Septic systems:
 - No program to ensure systems are working properly;
 - No program to monitor septic effects on the lake;
 - There is a general feeling that new development complies with proper health/safety standards, so new development is in this way better than nil development, or old infrastructure; and
 - There is low confidence that existing (older) properties are compliant. This might be cost related in some cases, but that should not usurp the health and safety of the lake.
3. New development:
 - High density of new housing has/will have significant impact on the lake;
 - Can produce disruption of groundwater and runoff patterns (natural streams, etc.);
 - Insufficient notification and education for the public regarding new development initiatives; and
 - Conformity of development, size and setback, blocking sight lines of other properties.

General Description: Land Use/Development

- Survey respondents were divided on this topic – some wanting no new development, others feeling that some additional development was worthwhile and indeed necessary.
- Population estimates indicate the lake area may see increased development pressure from the growing surrounding municipalities;
- Current development is a mix of seasonal and permanent dwellings;
- Currently no accurate count of septic systems or their relative condition.

Potential Actions– what participants said:

- A. Municipality engagement in planning the future of the lake:
 - Engage in the development of, and support the Lake Plan;
 - Enact by-laws and regulations to reflect Lake Plan aims and initiatives;
 - Reflect Lake Plan objectives in municipality development (zoning) plans;
 - Introduce municipal initiatives for shaping development such as tax incentives for smart development and surcharges for development (unless certain criteria are met, perhaps).
 - Develop better public education and consultation processes for new development plans.
- B. Septic inspection program:
 - Trigger inspection requirements upon transfer of ownership;
 - Additionally, introduce mandatory periodic inspections, perhaps every five years or so; and
 - Systems should always be “up to date” and have records (e.g., pump-outs for holding systems, inspection visits by certified maintenance companies).
- C. Public education programs for:
 - Septic systems: why their proper functioning is crucial to health; and
 - Development: pros and cons, and why smart development should be encouraged.
- D. Produce the Mississippi Lake Plan because it will provide a clear vision of the intended future state of the lake as critical input into municipal plans for development.

Boating/Recreation

The Issues – what participants said:

1. Boat traffic:
 - Significant increase, as a result of new developments around the lake; and
 - A large portion of boaters are transient (non-resident).
2. Boat speed:
 - Excessive speed is a danger to other boaters, swimmers, wildlife;
 - Large wakes cause erosion to shorelines, properties (docks, etc.)
3. Boater behaviour:
 - Passing too close to swimmers, people's properties, docks; and
 - Rudeness and lack of respect for others.
4. Boat Noise:
 - Large engines produce a lot of noise, especially if not muffled;
 - Noise propagates easily across open water; and
 - Loud music/partying disrupts others' enjoyment of peace and quiet.
5. Floatplanes:
 - Not a very large lake for operating floatplanes and there are safety issues with respect to room to taxi and land amidst boats/swimmers; and
 - Noisy, and prolonged, especially if conducting circuits (numerous touch and goes).

General Description: Boating/Recreation

- Boating was the second most popular activity determined by the Community Survey;
- Boating census conducted by volunteers in August of 2013 documented 1370 moored boats on the lake;
- Comments provided by survey respondents indicate many people are concerned with boating and swimming safety on the lake, due to boat traffic levels.

Potential Actions – what participants said:

- A. Broad-based education programs with focus on safety and lake use:
 - Speed limit signs posted at various places on the lake;
 - Speed limits and rules of conduct posted at marinas and boat launch facilities;
 - Produce a "Code of Conduct" brochure for boating and lake use, distributed widely at municipal offices, tourist kiosks, local merchants (grocery, LCBO, restaurants, etc.), marinas and boating/ATV/PWC/fishing retailers; and
 - Target wakeboard boats specifically causing increased wake/shoreline erosion.
- B. Shoreline Maintenance and Cleanup Program:
 - Similar to "adopt a highway" program - Annual campaign to pick up litter, fix signage, restock brochure supplies, etc.; and
 - Provides a useful vehicle for promoting community cohesion and awareness of lake issues.
- C. Periodic Surveys and Information Campaigns:
 - Conduct at start of boating season, or during fishing tournaments, etc.; and
 - Coordinate volunteers at boat launch facilities, to provide info and conduct short surveys.
- D. Engage Law Enforcement Agencies:
 - Improve enforcement by OPP of boating rules.
- E. Engage Municipalities to adopt a coordinated approach (e.g., similar by-laws and messaging in municipality newsletters, etc.) to address various issues such as speed limits on the lake, fees for launching boats, fees for non-resident boaters or establishing specific zones for PWCs, etc.
- F. Promote the Lake Plan initiative:
 - Promote awareness of the Lake Plan, and its specific objectives regarding speed and noise concerns, boater behaviour and more effective range and randomness of patrols; and
 - Produce decals or flags to place on boats, cars, or on lakefront flagpoles that indicate membership in the MLA, promote/advertise the existence of the MLA and increase the visibility of MLA activity regarding lake stewardship.

What's Next?

The Workshop Summary will be made available to those on the lake plan mailing list, and posted on the Mississippi Lake Plan website. The material collected to date will be compiled into a discussion paper, "Issues and Actions." At the next public forum, scheduled for September 20th, 2014, participants will review the contents of the discussion paper to confirm the issues and to expand upon potential actions. A draft lake plan will be compiled over the winter months and presented for review and discussion at the 3rd public forum in Spring, 2015. A final Mississippi Lake Plan will be produced in June, 2015, and presented for approval by the MLA, MVCA, and municipalities by the end of July.

What's Next?

- ▶ *Discussion Paper "Issues & Actions" (Aug 2014)*
- ▶ Forum 2: Issues & Actions (Sept 2014)
- ▶ Prepare Draft Plan (Winter 2014)
- ▶ Forum 3: Review Draft Plan (Spring 2015)
- ▶ Final Plan Approved (July 2015)
- ▶ Celebrate



APPENDIX 1 - Members of the Mississippi Lake Planning Team

PLANNING TEAM:

- Alyson Symon
- Andre Langlois
- Anne Gourlay-Langlois
- Anne Potter
- Barbara King
- Bob and Morgan Hawn
- Bob Betcher
- Bob Dyke, Heather Ballinger
- Brian Dowdall
- Carol Pearson
- Chris Thomson
- Courtney Allison
- Dale Powell
- Dave & Clare Hands
- Deborah (Debbie) Turner
- Doug Bailey
- Ed Carew
- Faye Campbell
- Frank Mills
- Gale Code
- Gary Turner
- Gisele Neil
- Guy Charron
- Helen Lajeunesse
- Jim Tye
- Jo Ellen Beattie
- Joanna Luciano
- John and Josee Reed
- Kerry-Lynne Wilson
- Kim McArdle & Jon Phipps
- Kim O'Connor
- Lawrie Sweet
- Lynn Bell
- Marie-Claude Roch
- Marion Taylor
- Melissa Dakers
- Natasha Wright
- Rob Bell
- Rob Probert
- Scott Oldham
- Sylvie Powell
- Vern Runnells

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- Gord Rodgers, French Planning Services
- Randy French, French Planning Services