

Lake Plan Update 2018

1. Update of Official Plans

The District of Muskoka is in the process of drafting Official Plan Amendment No. 45. (Lake System Health Policy Update). The Peninsula Lake Association met with the planners to review the amendment and sent comments on this amendment. The amendment will further protect our shorelines through its policy requiring site plans and requiring an Enhanced Protection Lake Study for lakes labelled as "sensitive". It is still in the process of being drafted.

3. Site Plan Control

The Association worked with the town on Huntsville and Skyline Corporation on the redevelopment of Deerhurst. As a result there were several amendments made to the site plan that were more favourable to the lake. There is a working group in place that will monitor the progress of the development. Pow Wow Point resort consulted the lake association with regard to its closing and sale. With encouragement from the lake association it was not sold as a resort but converted to 5 residential lots. The negative impact of 5 lots on the lake will be less than that of a resort.

6. Communication Plan

Pen Notes and the PLA/PLCA website are still our main mode of communication. Most members with email have agreed to accept the use of email communication for urgent notices. Shoreline stewards are used to distribute information when necessary.

The lake association is in the process of preparing a welcome package for new members. Since many members could be from the city, information on septic systems, woodlot management and protection of the shoreline could be very useful.

The Eco Workshop has become a yearly event and guest speakers like those from the MNR*, MWC* have helped us understand our lake and how to protect it. Topics addressed lately have been "lake levels, -blue/green algae, -management of septic systems. "calcium levels.

11. Loon Inventory

For the last several years, loon nests have been installed at the most probable nesting sites. These will float in the event of high water or large wakes. The one on the island has been used and has been successful but wakes are still a threat. Two baby loons were seen on numerous occasions along the Winoka shore throughout the summer of 2017. Hopefully they matured and will return this spring.

12. Boating Awareness

Notice boards have been installed on the canal to make boaters aware of the dangers of speed and wakes to the environment. The Association is trying to determine how best to monitor and regulate the speed in the canal. Individuals have been encouraged to educate the wake board boaters on the damage the wakes cause to the shoreline and how best to avoid this.

13. Code of Conduct

A Boating Code of Conduct was circulated along with Pen Notes in 2017. This will be presented to the board of directors with the intent of having it posted on the website.

14. Monitoring

Peninsula Lake is still involved in the Lake Partners program which tests the lake for various chemicals including phosphorus. The lake is still tested locally by one of our members for bacteria (coliform/E. coli) and for clarity, temperature, and number of ice days. The MNR continues to come and perform the Benthic testing with our members at various places around the lake. In 2017 it was conducted at the dock of Jim and Sue Marshall and in 2018 will take place in Wolf bay.

15. Invasive Species

FOCA has provided signs that are being placed at launch ramps on the lake. These signs give instructions on how to ensure that invasive species do not get transferred from boats into the lake. One of these is being installed at the public launch ramp next to Tally Ho.

16. Land Trust

In the summer of 2017 Norm Moffat established a Conservancy Easement with the Muskoka Conservancy for the lands encompassing Wolf Mountain, Flat Rock and Strawberry Mountain. This will ensure that the land is not developed and stays in its natural state.

17. Lake Watch

The board of directors and the members of the lake association have been very diligent in watching the shoreline for development and unauthorized alterations. The lake association can only report possible violations to either the town of Huntsville or Lake of Bays for site plan violations. In the case of Resource Abuse re lands, waters, forests, fish/wildlife the MNRF Hot line should be called at 1-877-847-7667.

Late in August a possible blue/green algae bloom was reported to the MOECC (Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change). Samples were collected and sent to the MOECC lab for testing. It was a blue/green algae capable of producing toxins. However no toxins were found to be present. The testing was performed every 2 weeks until late October when it was discontinued because the water temperature was probably too low to allow growth of the algae.

18. State of Lake Reporting

As in previous years the technical information re our testing is reported at the eco-workshop held in July. The overall report on the environment occurs at the AGM. It often is scattered throughout the meeting depending upon the topic.

19. Specific Site Stewardship

The trees planted surrounding the McCann Lamon meadow continue to flourish and are visible in summer above the grasses. The "hay field" is being mowed every few years to prevent it from reverting to forest as per the wishes of the Lamon, and McCann families.

Wolf Mountain, Flat rock and Strawberry Mountain are part of a conservancy easement which will ensure they remain in their natural state.

The Skyline Corporation (owners of Deerhurst) agreed to remove the maintenance sheds located near the canal. It is scheduled for 2017 -2018. The Deerhurst working group will be monitoring this. During the meetings with Skyline Corporation it was pointed out by the Lake Association that the canal is a heritage site and the old docks must be preserved and cannot be removed.

20. Working with Partners

The association continues to work with partners.

LOB* and Fairy lake associations are attending our workshop.

FOCA* provides us with information about invasive species and makes information readily available.

FOCA - Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Association

MNRF - Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

MOECC - Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change

LOB - Lake of Bays