

## September 2012 Update

This report is to update the status of those projects specified in the Lake Plan that have been initiated. Many more could be started if new members would be willing to lead them.

### Update Official Plans

Cathy Oakden and John Brenciaglia are working on a Huntsville Unity Plan Committee that will lead to a revised Official Plan for the Town. Site Plans for specific properties have been reviewed.

### Site Plan Control

The Association has worked with the planners of Lake of Bays and Huntsville to implement Site Plan Control Agreements on redevelopments that were critical to the protection of our lake. We will continue to do so in the future as new applications for redevelopment are submitted.

### Communication Plan

Our website is an important means of two-way communication between directors and members. Please use it. Pen Notes is issued twice a year - in the fall and spring. This keeps the membership informed on activities and concerns around our lake.

We found that workshops and specific activities (both social and stewardship) have been enjoyed as a way of updating specific sectors of our membership on our knowledge of the Lake and the impact that we have on it. In order to widen the reach of these activities a network of communication stewards was formed to maintain contact with their neighbours. Leadership of the shore steward program is currently being assessed with the hopes that a Shore Steward Captain be identified in the near future.

### Stewardship Awards

Annual awards have been presented to recognize good stewards in the preservation of our natural heritage, the protection of the lake from damaging development, and the careful management of redevelopment impacts. On Canada Day, 2012 a commemorative plaque, to all those that contributed to the preservation of our lake, was unveiled on the Lamon McCann Meadow under the flag pole. Much remains to be done to increase the number of nominations and expand them to contractors and real estate agents. To this purpose the awards have been presented at our AGMs and published in articles on local papers. The committee membership has been increased by including all former recipients. Certificates can be issued so that more than one member's contribution can be acknowledged annually. We have so many good stewards around the lake and we want to acknowledge more every year....until we include everyone!

### Stream Inventory

Two students of the University of Waterloo Environmental Science Program have conducted a research of all our streams and published a report on their findings. The report is available here: [Actions will be started to implement their recommendations in 2012.](#)

[Peninsula Lake Stream Inventory](#)

### Loon Inventory

For a few years we have recorded sightings of loons on our lake. We were quite happy to see that the loon population seems to be self-sustaining, with an adequate number of young chicks reported. Please check the latest report by Barb Hutchison in Pen Notes.

### Boating Awareness

Awareness of the environmental impact of motor boats has been promoted by a motor free day advertised on Pen Notes and at AGM's every summer. An annual regatta for canoes, rowboats and sailboats is a strong tradition on our lake. A newer tradition is a canoe picnic on PURE Day. See the announcement in Pen Notes and participate.

### Monitoring

The traditional assessment of water quality by turbidity and nutrient monitoring has been expanded to bacterial level monitoring for several years, and to benthic monitoring in the last few years. We now have enough data to discuss the effectiveness of this monitoring. We have an annual poster session at the Ecology Workshop in early July, followed by discussion between members and an invited speaker. See Pen Notes for more on the workshop and plan to attend it.

### **Invasive Species**

Articles on Pen Notes and a presentation at a workshop have been used to increase our members' awareness of the risks of invasion by both water and land non-native species. Precautions to be used to manage the risk have been identified through the distribution of literature at our meetings, workshops and newsletters. The latest and most obvious threat is the proliferation of resident Canada Geese flocks. The only effective remedy so far is the elimination of lawns on the shoreline.

### **Lake Watch**

A past committee developed signage at entry points into the lake and contacts with the agencies responsible for enforcement of safety, environmental and land use regulations. They have also responded to complaints and observations by members concerned but unsure on how to respond to abuses seen. The committee lacks volunteers and its functions have been taken over by the Shore Stewards.

### **Working with Partners**

We continue to educate our elected municipal leaders and their planning staff through boat tours of the lake, invitations to our meetings and presentations to committees. The reputation we have gained has been helpful in several cases requiring planning or enforcement decisions. We have also shared the results of our reviews of official plans and bylaws with other Lake Associations and supported them in activities where our experience could be of help (lake plan implementation, specific development comments, educational events). We would like to extend this out-reach to institutions wider afield, but we badly need volunteers with the appropriate experience and interest.