

There are 22 potential actions that the Lake Vernon Association should consider initiating. Seven of these actions relate to the land use planning regulations and 15 involve stewardship actions. It is recommended that both land use planning and stewardship approaches be used to deal with the wide range of issues identified by the Lake Vernon Association.

The following provides a brief summary of the Land Use Regulations and the Volunteer Actions. Figure 33 - Project List and Issues, identifies which 22 actions will most effectively deal with the 7 issues that were identified.

Land Use Planning Regulations

Local land use planning policies and regulations include Official Plans, Zoning By-laws and other Municipal Tools such as site plan control, septic re-inspection and stormwater guidelines. These tools provide the direction and requirements for new development and redevelopment. It is important that these tools reflect the intent and provide protection of the lake values. Projects 1 through 5 deal with Land Use Regulation.

Lake Stakeholders must be satisfied that current development standards (setbacks, building envelopes, shoreline buffers, boathouse regulations and resort conversion) provide appropriate safeguards. Other municipal regulations regarding tree cutting, soils and the use of pesticides and fertilizers must be reviewed and communicated.

Stewardship and Partnerships

The following projects provide a number of approaches to increase awareness and the wise stewardship of Lake Vernon's resources and features. Projects 8 through 22 deal with Stewardship.

- Communication
- Land Stewardship
- Awareness
- Training and Education
- Protect and Mitigate
- Restore – Rehabilitation
- Information Systems
- Monitoring

Figure 33 – Project List and Issues

PROJECT LIST	# 1 Water Quality				# 2 Economic/ Property Development					# 3 Natural Elements					# 4 Cultural & Historic Features			# 5 Landscape Aesthetics			# 6 Social		# 7 Natural Shorelines				
	Nutrient Loading	Turbidity	Upstream/Watershed	Stormwater	Scale of Development	Construction Practices	Resort Viability	Impact on Features	Septic Systems	Fish Habitat	Deer	Loons	Streams	Exotic Species	Historic Settlements	Special Sites/Features	Public Access	High Profile Landscapes	Noise and Lighting	Shoreline to Treeline	Boating Activity	Recreation	Vegetation Removal	Docks and Boathouses	Substrate Removal	Natural Buffers	Shorewalls
PROJECT LIST ✓ Most Effective Approach ✓ Least Effective Approach - Not Effective																											
LANDUSE																											
1. Official Plan Update	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2. Zoning By-law Update	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	-	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓
3. Site Plan Control	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓
4. Enforcement	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
5. Inventory Wetlands	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6. Stormwater Construction	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7. Septic Re-inspection	✓	-	✓	-	✓	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
STEWARDSHIP																											
8. Shoreline Rehabilitation	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
9. Stream Rehabilitation	-	✓	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	✓	-	-	✓	✓	✓
10. Communication Plan	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
11. Stewardship Awards	-	-	-	-	✓	-	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
12. Stream Inventory	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	-
13. Loon Survey	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	✓	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
14. Boating Awareness	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	✓	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-
15. Code of Conduct	✓	-	✓	-	✓	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
16. Monitoring	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	✓
17. Exotic Species	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
18. Land Trust	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	✓	-	✓	-	-	✓	-	-	✓	-
19. Lake Watch	-	-	✓	-	✓	-	-	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-
20. State of Lake Reporting	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	-	-	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	-	✓	-	✓	✓	✓
21. Specific Site Stewardship	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	-	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	✓
22. Working with Partners	✓	-	✓	-	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓

Implementation

Figure 34 – Project Schedule identifies the proposed schedule for the 22 proposed actions. Prior to initiating implementation of the projects it is recommended that the projects be reviewed and confirmed. The following five steps provide a process to identify the projects and implement a work plan:

- Step One Identify projects to be undertaken.
- Step Two Select “champions” or leaders for each project, and committee members.
- Step Three Review details of project and confirm a work plan.
- Step Four Implement work plan.
- Step Five Monitor progress and undertake follow up actions, if necessary.

Figure 34 – Project Schedule

		2003	2004	2005
Land Use Planning	1. Official Plan Updates and Amendments	✓	-	-
	2. Zoning By-law Updates and Amendments	✓	-	-
	3. Site Plan Control	✓	-	-
	4. Enforcement	✓	-	-
	5. Inventory Wetlands	✓	-	-
	6. Stormwater and Construction Mitigation	✓	-	-
	7. Septic System Re-inspection	✓	-	-
Volunteer / Stewardship Actions	8. Shoreline Rehabilitation	-	-	✓
	9. Stream Rehabilitation	-	-	✓
	10. Communication Plan	✓	-	-
	11. Stewardship Awards	-	✓	-
	12. Stream Inventory	-	✓	-
	13. Loon Survey	-	✓	-
	14. Boating Awareness	✓	-	-
	15. Code of conduct – lake manners	✓	-	-
	16. Monitoring – Macro Benthic, Water Quality, Development	-	-	✓
	17. Exotic Species	✓	-	-
	18. Land Trust	-	-	✓
	19. Lake Watch	-	✓	-
	20. State of the Lake Reports	-	✓	-
	21. Site Specific Stewardship	-	-	✓
	22. Working with Partners	✓	-	-

22 Project Plans

Details of the 22 actions are provided on the following project sheets. Each sheet identifies the objective of the project, together with a general description and a list of tasks to be completed.

1. Update Official Plans

Objective	To ensure the Town of Huntsville Official Plan contains appropriate policy direction to guide development and redevelopment on the lake.
Description	The Association will work with the Town of Huntsville to initiate discussion on the development of more specific Official Plan policy consistent with this Lake Plan.
Tasks	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Association must have a good understanding of the current land use pattern and identify potential development pressure points. Review Lake Plan and Official Plans. 2. Work with Town of Huntsville planning staff to determine if appropriate standards and safeguards are in place for new or redevelopment proposals. 3. Use the following checklist of issues and those identified in the Lake Plan.
Issue Checklist	<p>Encourage the municipality to include lake specific policy, that incorporates the principles and policy direction provided in this study, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Specific policy to ensure natural habitat is identified; b) Specific policy to apply the principles of shoreline activity areas (such as in the Lake of Bays Official Plan) for all designations across the entire lake; c) Design principles for shoreline development (similar to Lake of Bays Official Plan); d) Specific policy to ensure appropriate setbacks for streams (30 metres is recommended for cold-water streams and 15 metres for warm water with the setback areas to be maintained as natural buffers). e) Special policies to prohibit the redevelopment of small lots with over sized cottages. f) Specific policy to recognize the special character of Lake Vernon, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Special natural, social or physical areas; and o Special character areas.
Contact	Terry Sararas- Huntsville, Margaret French - District of Muskoka

2. Update Zoning By-laws

Objective	To ensure the Town of Huntsville updates their Zoning By-law in a manner consistent with this Lake Plan.
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Description	The Association should work with the Town of Huntsville to update their Zoning By-law.
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Tasks	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Association must have a good understanding of the current Zoning By-laws and identify potential development pressure points. Review Lake Plan, Official Plans and Zoning By-laws. 2. Work with Town of Huntsville planning staff to determine if appropriate standards and safeguards are in place for new or redevelopment proposals. 3. Use the following checklist of issues and those identified in the Lake Plan.
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Issue Checklist	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Ensure the Waterfront/Rural/Community interface is identified in the Zoning By-law. b) Discuss and identify appropriate development limits with commercial operators and include in Zoning By-law. c) Encourage the Town of Huntsville to amend their zoning by-law to eliminate golf courses “as a right” in zones such as rural or open space, to ensure a proper environmental analysis and public review is conducted through a re-zoning process. d) Encourage the Town of Huntsville to create a new Environmental Protection or Conservation zone, to be used to protect sensitive features such as wetlands, fish habitat and loon nesting sites. e) Encourage local municipalities to adopt and use a waterfront residential zone that requires a 90 metre to 120 metre (300 to 400 ft.) lot frontage. f) Encourage Huntsville to apply a new backlot residential zone in accordance with their official plans (request a minimum lot frontage of 660 ft.). g) Encourage local municipalities to increase lot frontage requirements for new Tourist Commercial establishments to a minimum of 400 ft. h) Height should be measured on the side of the building that faces the lake and should be measured from the finished grade to the highest point of the roof. A maximum height of 2 stories for residential and 3 stories for commercial development should be required consistently, regardless of location on the lake. i) Shoreline setbacks should be increased to 30 metres (100 ft.) adjacent to sensitive features such as Type 1 fish habitat or loon nesting sites.
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2. Update Zoning By-laws

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| | j) Ensure sleeping cabins have a maximum floor area that is appropriate (e.g. 400 to 600 sq ft.). |
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Contact	Terry Sararas, Town of Huntsville
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3. Site Plan Control

Objective	To ensure that the Town of Huntsville uses Site Plan Control to regulate development, require appropriate stormwater and construction mitigation practices and to protect shoreline buffer areas.
Description	The Association should work with the Town of Huntsville to ensure proper use of Site Plan Control Agreements.
Tasks	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Association must develop a good understanding of the current use of site plan control and identify potential development pressure points. Review Lake Plan, Official Plans, Zoning By-law and Site Plan Control By-law. 2. Work with local municipalities to determine if appropriate standards and safeguards are in place for new or redevelopment proposals. 3. Require Site Plan Control to be used for all residential and commercial shoreline development to require appropriate stormwater management and construction mitigation measures. Encourage the use of site plan control across the entire lake and especially in areas adjacent to shorelines, natural features and important historic sites. Provide map of sensitive areas. 4. Ensure there is a provision in the Site Plan Control Agreement to ensure that all external lighting is pointed downward and away from the lake, and minimized wherever possible. 5. Ensure provision in the Site Plan Control Agreement to ensure that the removal of vegetation is minimized, the shoreline buffer areas are maintained and do not break the natural tree line. Buildings should be constructed in a manner that is less visually obtrusive to the lake. 6. Encourage the use of a monitoring system to ensure that site plan agreements are enforced.
Contact	Terry Sararas, Town of Huntsville

4. Enforcement

Objective	To work with the Federal, Provincial and Municipal governments to improve enforcement of by-laws and regulations which would protect the quality of the water and fish habitat throughout the areas of the Lake Plan. Work with the Municipal governments to assist in the development of new by-laws and provide support for the hiring of an enforcement officer.
Description	To protect the values identified in this Lake Plan, conformity to new and existing by-laws is required. The Association should approach the Town of Huntsville to voice its concern and lend its assistance, wherever possible, regarding the need for new by-laws and by-law enforcement.
Tasks	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To communicate with stakeholders around the lakes and rivers in Huntsville, to learn whether there is support for the development of new by-laws and the hiring of an enforcement officer and to communicate any support from those stakeholders to the Council and the Staff of the Town of Huntsville.2. Evaluate and present the additional cost to the Town of Huntsville for the following:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Legislation – development of new by-laws○ Administration○ Enforcement
Contact	Terry Sararas, Town of Huntsville

5. Inventory Wetlands

Objective	To confirm the location and significance of shoreline wetlands on Lake Vernon.
Description	Wetlands are considered to be the lungs of a lake, and their protection is critical. The Association should undertake a study to identify lacustrine and riverine wetlands to confirm their location and identify methods of protection. This information should be shared with the appropriate municipal agencies, as well as, appropriate stakeholders and landowners.
Tasks	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Determine partners that are able and willing to participate in this exercise. 2. Conduct an evaluation of all wetlands on the shoreline of Lake Vernon. 3. Provide data to the District Municipality of Muskoka. 4. Ensure proper development restrictions are set in the Official Plans and Zoning By-laws. 5. Increase awareness of the importance of wetland function to property owners and local stakeholders. 6. Undertake restoration and rehabilitation where appropriate.
Contact	Jill Attwood, French Planning Services Inc. Graham Good, GIS Technician, District Municipality of Muskoka

6. Stormwater and Construction Mitigation Plans

Objective	To ensure the Town of Huntsville Official Plan has appropriate guidelines to deal with Stormwater Management and Construction Mitigation plans.
Description	The Association should encourage the Town of Huntsville to increase their standards for Stormwater Management Plans and Construction mitigation plans for all shoreline properties.
Tasks	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Association must develop a good understanding of current Stormwater Management Plan and Construction Mitigation standards. Review Lake Plan and Official Plans. Contact the municipal office for more information on their requirements. 2. Work with local municipalities to determine if appropriate standards and safeguards are in place for new or redevelopment proposals. 3. Collect existing information (e.g. District of Muskoka pamphlet) and distribute to local contractors. 4. Work with local contractors and developers to help ensure proper construction mitigation practices are in place. 5. Ensure local official plans contain appropriate policy to require Stormwater Management and Construction Mitigation practices.
Contact	Terry Sararas, Town of Huntsville Geoff Bache, District of Muskoka Ministry of Environment/ Ministry of Natural Resources

7. Septic Re-Inspection Program

Objective	To support the Town of Huntsville with their Septic Re-Inspection Program and encourage them to inspect the septic systems on Lake Vernon as soon as possible.
Description	The focus of this project is to improve septic systems on Lake Vernon. Recently, the Town of Huntsville has initiated a Septic Re-inspection program to ensure all systems in the Town are functioning properly.
Tasks	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Continue to educate septic system owners on the maintenance and operation procedures to ensure systems are functioning correctly. Such tips include regular pump out (every 5 years), water conservation, no chemicals and locate as far from the shoreline as possible.2. Encourage the Town of Huntsville to conduct the Septic Re-inspection Program for Lake Vernon as soon as possible.3. Encourage the use of phosphorus abatement technology and consider a joint monitoring program with the MOE for systems that are constructed on Lake Vernon. This should be linked to the Communication Project.
Contact	Mike Gooch, Town of Huntsville

8. Shoreline Rehabilitation

Objective	To encourage residential and commercial property owners to re-naturalize their shoreline properties.
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Description	Shoreline property owners need to understand the impacts of replacing natural shoreline vegetation with urban style lawns and shore walls. The Association should look for opportunities to promote and distribute information on shoreline protection as well as undertake projects to re-naturalize shorelines that have been altered.
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Tasks	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contact local municipalities, MNR, DFO, Muskoka Heritage Foundation and Lake Associations to discuss approaches to ensuring shoreline protection. 2. Develop or obtain literature from existing sources to provide information to shoreline residents and developers about the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Urban landscaping and related maintenance; ○ Hardening of shorelines; ○ Alteration of riparian and littoral zones; ○ Do's and Don'ts in Buffer Zones (don't rake your leaves, don't cut trees, don't construct manicured lawn to water's edge; do maintain natural shorelines); ○ Rehabilitate your shoreline property (how to improve wildlife habitat); ○ Use existing inventories to identify sensitive shoreline areas. Provide information to adjacent landowners and ensure protection in local land use by-law and official plan policies. 3. Identify priority areas on the lake to undertake a naturalization project and contact property owners who have landscaped lawns and promote interest in shoreline re-generation. 4. Contact commercial nurseries to obtain indigenous vegetation stocks. 5. Publicize project through Association Newsletter, news releases and local newspapers (Forester and Muskoka Sun). 6. Consider hiring Summer Students to promote initiative, distribute trees and undertake plantings where necessary. 7. Work with the Muskoka Heritage Foundation for information and assistance.
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Contact	List of Commercial Nurseries Bill Dickinson, Natural Heritage Committee, Muskoka Heritage Foundation
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9. Stream Rehabilitation

Objective	To undertake a community work party to rehabilitate the shorelines and substrate of streams.
Description	A weekend work project to rehabilitate streams flowing into Lake Vernon to improve fish habitat and natural vegetation. This project could be merged with the Shoreline Re-vegetation Project.
Tasks	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Identify streams that require rehabilitation.2. Contact property owners to promote participation and approval.3. Obtain funding (CFWIP, Tembec, MNR).4. Develop a detailed project plan and work plan.5. Establish a work party including youth.6. Obtain necessary material and approvals.7. Conduct project.8. Rehabilitate other streams on an annual basis.9. Monitor results (MNR, Universities).
Contact	Ministry of Natural Resources (Jan McDonnell) for CFWIP funding

10. Communication Plan

Objective	To prepare a strategy that promotes communication with all stakeholders and lake users. The strategy will provide a consistent approach and message to deal with the identified issues.
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Description	<p>Ongoing communication with shoreline residents is the best way to educate everyone about the impacts of development and human activity on the environment. There are many simple techniques that the Association can use, to make information available. It is important that any approach is user friendly, persuasive, builds on the desires of the reader and provides rationale for their actions. The Association should increase its visibility by improving their use of media tools. Communication must build upon the passions of residents by explaining rationale and obtaining buy-in of both commercial and residential interests.</p> <p>Important topics to be addressed include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Shoreline Alteration/ Urban Development ○ Watershed Awareness ○ Exotic Species ○ Special Features on Our Lake ○ Lessening Development and Construction Impacts ○ Septic Systems ○ Low Phosphorus Lifestyle ○ Boating Conduct ○ Official Plan and Zoning By-law content
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Tasks	<p>1. Prepare a communication strategy to identify the messages and the recipients of the information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Distribute existing information (e.g. MNR's Extension Notes). ii) Consider the following approaches: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a Welcome Wagon pamphlet to new cottagers; • Promote best examples on the lake through awards and media releases; • Provide workshops for contractors, real estate agents and residents; • Boating tours for residents; • Monitor activity and provide information to people who are developing their property; • Shared Website with other Lake Associations (e.g. Fairy Lake and Peninsula Lake); • Partner with real estate agents, contractors, and other lake associations.
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10. Communication Plan

2. Consider the following approaches:
 - Community map;
 - Newsletters in mail outs and “dock drops”;
 - Workshops;
 - Signage at public access points “Welcome to the Community of Lake Vernon”.
3. Continued lobbying and discussion with key interest groups is an important aspect of communication.
4. Develop partnerships with other lake associations (Fairy Lake, Fox Lake) municipalities, MNR, MOE, developers, resort operators and local nature clubs.
5. Promote watershed awareness by contacting and initiating discussion with the Fox Lake Association.
6. Interact with the Lakes Council on official plan policy, identifying issues and the education of the public on stewardship.

Contact

Points of contact – Cottagers, resort visitors, contractors, connecting with youth, fish tournament, municipalities (staff and politicians), real estate agents, retail stores.

11. Stewardship Awards

Objective	To recognize and reward “good stewards” of the land.
Description	Awards recognize good efforts and help to promote the values of good stewardship. The focus of this project is to use other award systems (e.g. Muskoka Heritage Foundation) and to development one especially for Lake Vernon.
Tasks	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a system of awards. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Set criteria for awards (natural stewardship, architectural, contractors who are environmentally friendly); ▪ Publish in association newsletter – ask for nominations; ▪ Set up a committee to review; ▪ Present at AGM and publish results in local newspaper and association newsletter; ▪ AGM awards and presentations. 2. Consider the use of award systems already in place (e.g. Muskoka Heritage Foundation – shoreline stewardship) and submit names for consideration. 3. Consider certification of real estate agents or contractors.
Contact	Bill Dickinson, Natural Heritage Committee (Muskoka Heritage Foundation)

12. Stream Inventory

Objective	To inventory the resources and habitat features (fish and wildlife) of all streams and drainage courses that flow into Lake Vernon.
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Description	Streams are ecologically important to Lake Vernon as refugia to many species of fish and wildlife living in and around the lake. There are 20 permanent and many other intermittent streams that provide the lakes primary source of water and little is known about this important resource. The purpose of this project is to gain a better understanding of these streams and to promote awareness about the importance of their protection and rehabilitation.
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Tasks	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Determine Partners who are willing to help and participate in the project. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MNR has expressed a need and past willingness to undertake an inventory; ○ Upstream Lake Associations of Fox, Round and Buck; ○ Local Schools (SAVE); ○ Consultants. 2. Conduct an inventory of streams. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Habitat features and function of stream; ○ Potential impacts (forestry practices, shoreline development, channel alteration); ○ Areas to rehabilitate (e.g. raised culverts, fish spawning areas, stream banks). 3. Ensure appropriate setbacks are in Official Plans and Zoning By-laws. 30 metres is recommended for cold-water streams and 15 metres for warm water with the setback areas to be maintained as natural buffers. 4. Require the proponents of major development adjacent to streams to undertake inventories. 5. Increase awareness of streams. 6. Undertake rehabilitation or restoration where appropriate.
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Contact	Other Lake Associations
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13. Loon Survey

Objective	To ensure that loon habitat is identified and protected in order to maintain a healthy loon population.
Description	Undertake an inventory of known and potential loon nesting sites. Contact Canadian Lakes Loon Survey to determine the survey requirements and to participate in their program. Information collected will be shared with other stakeholders through the Communication Plan.
Tasks	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Contact Canadian Lakes Loon Survey.2. Confirm location of existing sites.3. Gather and distribute information on loons:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Location of sites;○ Activities that disturb loons (development, lead sinkers etc.).
Contact	Canadian Lakes Loon Survey Bird Studies Canada P.O. Box 160, Port Rowan, ON N0E 1M0 www.bsc-eoc.org.org

14. Safe Boating Awareness

Objective	To make recreational boaters more aware of the impact of their activities on others and to promote safe boating habits.
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Description	This is an education/communication project to improve boater safety.
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Tasks	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Design a boater safety program. Consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Opportunities to hold workshops to obtain boat licenses and awareness of safe operation of boats and jet skis; ○ Safety regattas; ○ Decals to recognize those who have participated in the program (placed on stern of boat). 2. Post signs about boater awareness at public access points. 3. Prepare a navigational chart in connection with Fairy and Peninsula Lake Associations. Include safety tips. 4. Points of Contact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Residents and resort users; ○ Recreational users; ○ Huntsville Fish Tournament. 5. Link with Code of Conduct Project and Lake Watch. Work with OPP and hire summer students to promote boat safety awareness. 6. Encourage OPP to set up radar traps and boat safety tours. Consider having a “boat steward” located in the Narrows and on the Muskoka River on long weekends and during the Huntsville Fish Derby event. 7. Use a positive and helpful approach. 8. Encourage PWC operators to stay away from shoreline areas.
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Contact	Canadian Power Squadron, Peninsula, Fairy and Mary Lake Associations
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15. Code of Conduct – Lake Manners

Objective	To prepare a voluntary “Code of Conduct” for all lake users to make everyone aware of the impact of their actions on others.
Description	Design and promote a proper and accepted voluntary code of conduct through communication and educational opportunities.
Tasks	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Prepare a statement on “code of conduct”.2. Distribute through association newsletters and news releases to local newspapers.3. Use stickers, flags or another visual aids to promote acceptance and awareness.4. Link with Boating Awareness and Lake Watch program.
Contact	Other Lake Associations

16. Monitoring

Objective	To develop a monitoring program on water quality, macrobenthic and development applications.
Description	<p><u>Water Quality</u> - The Association must become more involved in self-help programs with MOE, MNR and the District of Muskoka. This type of monitoring provides a current measure of water quality health through specific techniques such as Secchi disc readings, dissolved oxygen and phosphorus levels.</p> <p><u>Macrobenthic</u> - In order to assess the long-term health of the lake, a monitoring program could be established for littoral zone species such as macrobenthic species. Partner with agencies that are willing to participate.</p> <p><u>Development Applications</u> - Increased development on the shoreline and backlots, as well as the shorelines of Fox, Buck and Round Lakes may result in impacts that are harmful to the lake. The Association must be aware of contentious development issues occurring in the watershed and provided an opportunity to comment.</p>
Tasks	<p><u>Water Quality</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review the water quality program and understand current efforts of the District of Muskoka. Determine what parameters should be tested to determine aquatic ecosystem health. 2. Develop an approach to ensure the continuance of water quality monitoring. 3. Consider partnering with District of Muskoka, Town of Huntsville and Fox Lake Association, resort operators and local business. <p><u>Macrobenthic</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A small committee should prepare a proposal for the establishment of a long term monitoring program. The proposal should address the following: partnering, terms for implementation, matters to be monitored, funding opportunities. <p><u>Development Applications</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contact municipality to request formal notice of major developments. 2. Review and monitor land use plans and development applications within watershed.
Contact	Judi Brouse, District of Muskoka Terry Sararas, Town of Huntsville

17. Exotic Species

Objective	To reduce the possibility of the invasion of Exotic Species.
Description	Continuation of current program to ensure awareness and to encourage boaters to take precautionary measures to reduce the possibility of exotic species invasion.
Tasks	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Obtain and distribute information on exotic species:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ News releases in local papers;○ Association newsletters.2. Work with OFAH to monitor the health of the lake.3. Partner with all associations and resort operators in the watershed (Peninsula, Fairy, Mary and Fox).4. Post signs at all access points on the four lakes (Vernon, Mary, Fairy and Peninsula).
Contact	Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters Other local lake associations

18. Land Trust

Objective	To promote an approach for interested landowners to ensure the long-term protection of properties and features.
Description	Land Trusts are designed to provide tax incentives for property owners to designate their lands for their protection.
Tasks	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Gather information on Land Trusts and promote awareness.2. Contact selected property owners to discuss options.
Contact	Muskoka Heritage Foundation

19. Lake Watch

Objective	To create a system to identify and report inappropriate development and human activity to appropriate authorities.
Description	Lake Watch is a program to help identify and report on inappropriate development and human activities. It is based on the same premise as the Cottage Watch Program initiated by FOCA and the OPP, but its focus can incorporate environmental, boating activities and other matters. The Lake Watch program would provide information about who to contact regarding specific issues (e.g. silt spills) and could incorporate the review of municipal development applications (major developments).
Tasks	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Set up a summer program, hire summer students, to deal with water and land issues.2. Prepare a list of contacts (e.g. destruction of fish habitat – DFO, boating practices – OPP, building infractions – municipality).3. Program could initially focus on boating activity, shoreline buffers and development.4. Consider partnering with Peninsula and Fairy Lake Associations.
Contact	

20. State of Lake Reports

Objective	To create an annual system of reporting on the health of the lake.
Description	The State of the Lake Reports would be completed for each AGM and provides a way to consistently measure the state of the lake. The purpose is to identify past and future trends of development and the state of the environment so that the Association may actively deal with them.
Tasks	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Select performance measures to be collected on an annual basis (e.g. number of seasonal cottages and permanent dwellings, water quality, measures, exotic species, amount of wetland in watershed, results of creel surveys, number of association members). May consider the review of past information to start a base line.2. Prepare a report for the Association Newsletter and presentation at the AGM.3. Continue to monitor every year.
Contact	

21. Site Specific Stewardship

Objective	To protect and enhance the significant features on the lake.
Description	Many of the lake's cultural and historic features are located on private land and the private stewardship of these resources is an essential ingredient to their protection and enhancement.
Tasks	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Set up a committee to identify priority projects.2. Contact property owners.3. Prepare a strategy for the protection of these areas.4. Consider purchase of significant properties.
Contact	

22. Working With Partners

Objective	To work with local Lake Associations, commercial operators, local municipalities and other agencies on common objectives and goals.
Description	Working in partnerships can enhance the success of many projects and it is essential that we share our ideas and work together on common objectives.
Tasks	<ol style="list-style-type: none">3. Contact other Lake Associations and the Lakes Council to promote a partnership on common causes and objectives.4. Consider Political Representation:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Endorse a political candidate in next election;○ Survey local politicians (especially candidates before an election) on their values and motives when in office and provide a news release or information in the Association newsletter;○ Invite local politicians to all events and especially workshops;○ Prepare a strategy to endorse political candidates and to work closely with them during their term of office.
Contact	