

Appendix One – Stakeholders Workshop

Report of Stakeholders Meeting

“Sharing Interests”

LAKE VERNON PLAN

APRIL 19, 2002

Camp Tawingo, Lake Vernon

**LAKE VERNON ASSOCIATION
Environmental Committee**

1. PARTICIPANTS

The interest groups who attended the workshop included a representative from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, municipal politicians and planning staff, and commercial and industrial operators. The members of the Lake Vernon Environmental Committee were also present as observers.

The participants who were invited have social, cultural or commercial connections with Lake Vernon. A total of thirty-four such agencies and enterprises were contacted, and nineteen stated that they would send representation. The Provincial OPSEU strike and other last-minute obstacles reduced this to a total of nineteen persons representing twelve agencies and enterprises, while another five individuals represented the Lake Vernon Association. As viewed by the Environmental Committee, the large turnout showed an enthusiastic endorsement of the need for a Lake Plan and a strong desire of stakeholders to have their viewpoints included in it. (See Appendix A for a list of the participants and Appendix B for the workshop agenda).

2. WELCOME ADDRESS FROM LAKE VERNON ASSOCIATION AND OPENING COMMENTS FROM THE MAYOR, TOWN OF HUNTSVILLE

Peter McBirnie, Executive, Lake Vernon Association welcomed everyone to the workshop, thanking them for their time and interest in attending. He presented an explanation of the necessity of a Lake Plan for the fulfillment of the Association's mandate and goals. He described the desirability of all lakes in the area completing mutually acceptable Lake Plans so that common policies and coordinated standards could be developed.

Hugh Mackenzie, Mayor of Huntsville, emphasized the concerns for environmental matters that are held by his office and outlined the initiative to form a Lake Planning Council. The Town has also developed a Strategic Plan that will take into account environmental interests, and a new Official Plan will follow. Mayor Mackenzie heartily endorsed the Lake Vernon Planning exercise for use in both endeavours.

3. LAKE PLANNING AND PURPOSE OF WORKSHOP

Randy French stated that the purpose of lake planning is to identify the social, physical and natural elements that are important to life on the lake and to identify steps necessary to protect the quality of life on the lake. A Lake Plan is a community based planning process, linked to Official Plan policy and other controls, which reflects and responds to the special character of a lake. The basic purpose of a Lake Plan is to consolidate information, identify issues and provide future direction. A Lake Plan will include a lake Vision, a lake description, an outline of issues, causes, and recommendations, and an action plan.

The purpose of the Workshop is to provide information and more importantly, to gather stakeholder thoughts and ideas about the process, investigate their values and concerns, determine what information they may have and find out their interest in participating in the preparation of the Lake Plan.

4. LAKE PLAN OVERVIEW

Randy French provided a brief presentation on Lake Plans. Peter McBirnie declared that a Lake Plan was necessary to fulfill the Lake Vernon Association’s mandate, to carry out the Association’s obligations to all lakes in the watershed, and to guide agencies that regulate lake activities. The Environmental Committee was formed with the primary objective to prepare the Lake Plan and the Committee is comprised of five members, Linda and Bob Ginty, Brad Allen, Mike Brent and Peter McBirnie.

5. INITIAL COMMENTS OF PARTICIPANTS

Upon introducing themselves, participants were asked to make brief comments on what they thought would be the benefit of a Lake Plan. Briefly, comments were as follows:

“A lake plan will. . . “

- *Engage future youth in the community.*
- *Preserve the lake for future generations.*
- *Assist with planning policy approvals.*
- *Protect the natural features present on the lake.*
- *Help in keeping the area remote and undeveloped.*
- *Protect the Hoodstown Rapids.*
- *Promote and protect opportunity for recreational activity.*
- *Help in ensuring and defining good water quality.*
- *Help to continue to provide angling opportunities.*
- *Lead to share local interest in the natural and social aspects of the lake through input opportunity.*
- *Incorporate future economy as it is affected by shoreline lifestyle.*
- *Result in the potential for employment opportunities.*
- *Help address safety issues related to the lake, such as erosion and boat speed.*
- *Result in “harmonious” use of the lake, industry, recreational and habitat protection.*
- *Provide a local plan from local knowledge and expertise.*
- *Identify what has happened in the past and what needs to be done in the future.*
- *Result in an expansion of knowledge of Lake Vernon.*

6. VALUES

Participants were asked to provide answers to the question: “What does your organization value the most about Lake Vernon?” In order of decreasing number of replies, answers were as follows:

<u>Value</u>	<u>No. Of Replies</u>
Water	
<i>Connection to watershed</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Water quality</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>Water quantity</i>	<i>5</i>
	<i><u>21</u></i>

Social and Cultural Aspects	
Low crime rate	1
Desirable lifestyle	3
Four season use	1
Safety	6
Neighbourhood connection	<u>2</u>
	13
Natural Beauty and Shoreline	2
Natural setting	4
Type and scale of shoreline development	3
Limited dock and structures	1
Limited lot size	<u>1</u>
	11
Habitat	
Wildlife habitat	4
Fish habitat	<u>5</u>
	9
Recreational Opportunities-including Boating	
Recreational opportunities	6
Four – Lake waterway	<u>2</u>
	8
Tourism and Business	
Business generator	1
Tourism attraction	3
Timber resource management	<u>1</u>
	5
Proximity to Town	
Proximity to Huntsville	1
Privacy and Tranquility	
Peace/Tranquillity	1
Miscellaneous	
Water transportation	1
Floodplain	1
Sewage disposal	1
Development opportunity	2
Boat wake	<u>1</u>
	6
TOTAL	75

To summarize the above, the highest values found on Lake Vernon include:

- ❖ Water (21),
- ❖ Social and Cultural Aspects (13),
- ❖ Natural Beauty and Shoreline (11),
- ❖ Habitat for wildlife, fish and plants (9), and
- ❖ Recreational Opportunities including Boating (8).

Other valued lake characteristics are: miscellaneous (6), tourism and business (5), proximity to town (1), and privacy and tranquility (1).

7. CONCERNS

Participants were asked to write answers to and discuss a second question, namely: “What are your concerns about Lake Vernon?” In order of decreasing number of replies, answers were as follows:

<u>Concern</u>	<u>No. Replies</u>
Water Pollution	
<i>Pesticide/fertilizer runoff</i>	2
<i>Septic tank failure – phosphorous</i>	7
<i>Impact from upstream activities</i>	2
<i>Impacts of historical water uses</i>	1
<i>Construction of roads</i>	1
<i>Gravel pit effects</i>	1
<i>Natural and unnatural mercury input</i>	1
<i>General water quality</i>	<u>2</u>
	17
Preservation of Fish and Wildlife Habitat	
<i>Preservation of natural habitat</i>	6
<i>Preservation of fish habitat</i>	2
<i>Preservation of wildlife habitat</i>	<u>2</u>
	10
Land Development and Redevelopment	
<i>Subdivision development</i>	1
<i>Sustainable future development</i>	4
<i>Cottage conversion to permanent residence</i>	1
<i>Existing character of the north and south</i>	1
<i>Housing density</i>	<u>2</u>
	9
Preservation of Shoreline	
<i>Dock/boathouse development</i>	1
<i>Shore stabilization/naturalization</i>	3
<i>Shoreline preservation</i>	<u>1</u>
	5
Limited Recreational and Boating Access	
<i>Limited recreational access</i>	1
<i>Lower speed limit to lower wake</i>	2
<i>Enforcement of boating rules</i>	<u>1</u>
	4
Conflicting Lake Activities	
<i>Lake activities – boating density</i>	2
<i>Commercial vs. residential</i>	<u>1</u>
	3
Preservation of Resorts and Attractions	
<i>Appropriate development standards in place</i>	3

Industry on the Lake	
<i>Recognition of commitment and use</i>	3
Noise Pollution	
<i>Noise pollution</i>	3
Light Pollution	
<i>Light pollution</i>	1
Miscellaneous	
<i>Historical site identification</i>	2
<i>Education of future shoreline owners</i>	1
<i>Open communication of everyone involved</i>	1
<i>Recognition of all non-recreational activities</i>	1
<i>Promotion of resource stewardship</i>	1
<i>Technology – 2 vs. 4 stroke motors</i>	1
<i>Property taxes</i>	<u>1</u>
	8
TOTAL	63

To summarize the above, the greatest concerns for Lake Vernon are:

- ❖ Water pollution (17),
- ❖ Preservation of fish and wildlife habitat (10),
- ❖ Land development and redevelopment (9),
- ❖ Preservation of shoreline (5), and
- ❖ Limited recreational and boating access (4),

Other concerns for Lake Vernon are: conflicting lake activities (3), preservation of resorts and tourist attractions (3), industry on the lake (3), noise pollution (3), light pollution (1), and a variety of physical and social concerns of significance (8).

8. ASSISTANCE

Finally, participants were asked to write answers to and discuss the questions: “How can you help? What resources do you have available?” Replies received were as follows:

- *The DFO representative stated that the department has pamphlets, new articles and booklets available to lake members. Advice is free and they are willing to review all reports, terms of reference etc.*
- *The OPP representative declared that he could provide crime statistics and trends along with information pamphlets and brochures and expressed a willingness to conduct a presentation at any further meetings. He suggested that the Lake Plan might identify “hot spots” for increased concentration of effort.*
- *The District Planning representative outlined the availability of environmental assessments, and brochures on water quality, maintaining forested lands, and habitat preservation and was prepared to provide advice on planning tools and act as a liaison between the committee and other ministries and organizations.*

- *The Huntsville Planning representative offered mapping capability, GIS information on property with lot size, shoreline, assessment, etc., and information input and dissemination and commits to a continued partnership with the Lake Association.*
- *A resort owner offered the assistance of students to help conduct field research, the use of office/computer facilities, to provide a connection to the Ontario and Canadian Camping Associations, and provide a facility to host lake meetings and events.*
- *A representative from Kimberley – Clark offered to host a future meeting and provide a full tour of their facility.*
- *Others offered their support, commitment, expertise and time to help achieve the objectives of the Lake Committee.*
- *Other sources of information suggested were:*
 - *Ministry of Natural Resources*
 - *Fednor – funding opportunity*
 - *Environment Canada – project funding*

9. WATERSHED VALUES AND ISSUES

An open discussion took place to identify the following features and issues within the watershed:

- *Portage areas between connecting lakes (especially Hoodstown Rapids)*
- *Sources of mercury from natural and human sources (contact MOE)*
- *Old gold mines in northern section of watershed (contact MNDM)*
- *Removal of logs from lake bed*
- *Municipal land fill site*
- *Old mill sites*
- *Old contaminated sites (e.g. tanneries)*
- *Roads*
- *Gravel pits*
- *Arrowhead Park*
- *Axe Lake Wetland*
- *Big East River delta*

10. ADVICE AND ACTIONS

An open discussion took place with the following advice and actions suggested by participants:

- *Lake Committee Members should review and gain understanding of present policies, regulations and procedures after they have identified their issues and before they look at solutions.*
- *Success comes from: Buy In, Commitment, and Implementation.*

- *Obtain input from as many lake users as possible to eliminate the potential for gaps in the final plan.*
- *Be willing to COMPROMISE!*
- *Look toward the future – plan for the next 10 years or more.*
- *Maintain the concept of balance between economics, environment and lifestyle.*
- *Ensure that the lake community is involved and volunteers their time.*
- *Define “our lake community” – what are the elements that define the whole community as well as individual neighbourhoods.*
- *“Appropriosity” - the word of the day – applies to the application of appropriate standards to balance the needs of the “whole” community with the needs of the “parts”.*

11. WRAP UP

Peter McBirnie summarized the results of the Workshop and thanked everyone for their interest in attending, for the information they provided, and for their enthusiastic participation.

WORKSHOP APPENDIX A

List of Participants

Stakeholders

1. Hugh Mackenzie, Town of Huntsville
2. Bob Small, Town of Huntsville
3. Terry Sararas, Town of Huntsville
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8. Elaine Jackson, Fox Lake Association
9. Ruth Metz, Peacock Bay Marina
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12. George Young, Town Councillor
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14. Gerald Kroes, Tembec
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18. Sarah McAllister, Kimberly-Clark
19. Chris Stilwell, KWH Pipe Canada Ltd.,
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Fairy Lake Association Representatives

20. Linda Ginty
21. Bob Ginty
22. Brad Allen
23. Mike Brent
24. Peter McBirnie

Facilitator

Randy French, French Planning Services Inc.

WORKSHOP APPENDIX B

Agenda

Lake Vernon Stakeholders Workshop

~ *Sharing Interests* ~

*Camp Tawingo
Friday April 19, 2002
1 pm to 4 pm*

1:00 Introduction

- Welcome *Lake Vernon Association Executive*
- Today's Purpose *Randy French, FPSI*
- Opening Comments *Hugh Mackenzie, Mayor*
- Introductions and Comments *All Participants*

1:30 Lake Vernon Plan Overview *Peter McBirnie*

1:45 Brainstorming Session on Lake Values and Concerns *Facilitator - Randy French*

3:30 Open Discussion on "Best Advice" *All Participants*

4:00 Wrap Up *Peter McBirnie*