

# Appendix Two – Lake Vernon Residents Workshop

## “ Lake Vernon Plan” Residents Workshop

### Proceedings



June 29, 2002  
Camp Tawingo

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## **Purpose of Workshop:**

The following proceedings provide the results of discussions of the residents' workshop on the "Lake Vernon Plan" at Camp Tawingo on June 29, 2002.

The purpose of the workshop was to promote discussion with the residents and recreationalists on Lake Vernon. The intent was to share information on the important values of the lake and identify the special features that support the quality of life on Lake Vernon. Additional discussion was facilitated to identify the issues that may impact these values, as well as how to address these issues.

The information that was collected will be used as background information in support of the strategic actions that are identified in the Lake Vernon Plan.

## **Introduction:**

Doug Jaggard, President of the Lake Vernon Association, welcomed all in attendance and thanked everyone for participating in the workshop. He indicated that the Lake Planning process is important for all who live, cottage, work and play on Lake Vernon, in order to protect the current high quality of life for future generations.

Randy French provided a presentation on the purpose and objective of the Lake Plan and Peter McBirnie reviewed the intended schedule for the completion on the Plan.

## **Developing a Community Map:**

The main purpose of the workshop was to create a visual picture of the values and issues on Lake Vernon. These issues and values were all noted on a community map. To generate a list of the values of the lake, a worksheet was provided to each individual to record their personal answers to the following three questions:

VALUES – "Some of the most important values of Lake Vernon are..."

PLACES – "The...name the place...is a special spot because..."

MEMORIES – "I remember..."

Randy French facilitated an open group session to discuss the answers that were provided on the worksheets, and recorded them on a map of Lake Vernon. Once the values of the lake were identified, the group discussed the issues that pertain to Lake Vernon.

## Summary of Discussion Points:

The following provides a generalized list of the values and issues that were identified and discussed.

### General Values:

- The area's appeal to all five senses.
- The wildlife that occurs in the area – fox, deer, bear, porcupines, beaver, raccoon, moose, martin, muskrat, fisher.
- The area contains a relatively low population and is seen to be a relatively remote area, on the edge of an urban community.
- There is easy access to natural areas and culture.
- The changing of the seasons.
- Seasonal versus permanent perceptions, how they differ and how seasonal and permanent residents can learn from each other.
- The tranquility of the peace and quiet.
- The history and sounds of the trains.
- The smell of fresh air.
- Gathering places and the friendship between cottagers.
- The lakes relationship to climate – “how it makes us more aware.”
- Loons calling in the distance.
- Lake Vernon's location – easy access, highway, services, ability to boat to town, ability to boat to other neighbouring lakes.
- Winter activities – snowmobiling, skiing, ice fishing.
- Darkness-Stars – the beauty of the night sky.
- Sunset and Sunrise.
- Topography – rugged shoreline, tree line beauty.
- Muskoka Mist – mist rising off the lake.
- Water – it's depth, health and supportive marsh areas.
- Fascination with the water – like a hypnotizing fire.
- The enjoyment of boating.
- The size of the lake – room for everyone, not too many cottages and very few boats on the lake.
- Fish – lake trout, catfish, bass, pike, white fish, speckled trout.

### Places and Sites: (see attached map)

1. Hunter's Bay
2. First Farm on Lake Vernon
3. Huntsville Train Station and Docks
4. Big East River Delta (Muskoka Heritage Area and Provincially Significant Wetland)
5. Robinson's Creek and Lake (unique plant species)
6. Eagle Mountain
7. Hutcheson Beach (Kinsmen beach)
8. Vernon Mountain
9. All Islands
10. Post Office at the base of Eagle Mountain
11. Mentez Sawmill
12. Camp Tawingo
13. Old Tannery
14. Big Island
15. Ravenscliffe Community

16. Hudson Bay Trading Post
17. Peacock Bay Marina
18. Heron Colony
19. Site of first cottage on lake
20. Mount Arat
21. Black Creek
22. Loon nesting site
23. Wallington Creek
24. Hoodstown Rapids – portage, history.
25. Mosquito Island (picnic site) (NOTE – WHERE IS THIS LOCATED?)
26. Camp Wabanaki
27. Muskoka River

### Memories:

- Boating – sea flees
- Red Deer Lodge
- May's Farm – early settlers, 3 sisters, eggs, cattle
- Tawingo Lodge
- Algae blooms
- Community well and pump – was a gathering place
- Didn't want to leave when it was time to go home
- Fishing stories
- Poison Ivy encounters
- Yellow canoes
- Quality of life assumption and that we often take it for granted

### Issues:

- Golf courses
- Education
- Boating activity
- Septic systems
- Lighting
- Asphalt/black top
- Lawns/fertilizer
- Natural occurrences – beaver dams, exotic species introduction
- Shoreline disturbance
- Development at 50%

### Resource Contacts:

- 3 Sisters on May's Farm – for local history

Map 1 - Location of Important Sites

