

Put this slide on the screen while you are preparing.



1. Welcome ...

- Welcome your audience

2. Introduce the topic ...

- What do you value the most about your lake or river? Many lake associations across southern Ontario were asked this question while undertaking a survey through the lake planning process and the top four answers were:

Water quality, Peace and quiet, Natural beauty, and Fish and wildlife.

- It was not surprising that water quality, fish and wildlife topped the list, but what is very interesting is that the physical and social elements (peace, quiet, tranquility and natural beauty) also received a very high ranking. It is becoming very clear that physical and social elements provide a large contribution to the "quality of life" on a lake. But quite honestly, these elements can be the most difficult to identify and protect.
- Many lake associations across Ontario have recently initiated a lake planning process to identify the special character of their lake and to put in place a strategy to protect the high quality of life they currently enjoy. Some of these lakes include Peninsula Lake, Fairy Lake, Lake Vernon, Bella and Rebecca Lake, Paudash Lake, Gray and Dark lakes, Sturgeon Bay, Marl and Rosalind, and Kawagama Lake.
- Lake planning is a community led planning process that identifies the special character of a lake community and to ensure it is protected for your children and their children.

3. Who is here?... Before we get started... lets see who is here today?

- Ask for a show of hands to the following questions:
 - a) How many people live year round on the lake?
 - b) How many people are seasonal? If you are seasonal, where do you come from? (name some of the local urban centres, e.g. Toronto, Ottawa, Kingston, Peterborough). Also ask "Have I missed any places?".
 - c) How long have you and your family been on the lake?
 - More than 50 years
 - Between 10 and 50 years
 - Less than 10 years
 - Less than 2 years
 - d) You can also ask any question you think is relevant to your lake.

What is a Lake Plan

... it is an action plan that is developed by the community to reflect and preserve the special character of your lake!



What is a Lake Plan?

It's an action plan developed by the community to reflect and preserve the special character of your lake.

1. It is **A Community Based Process**

- A process for local citizen's to confirm and protect important environmental and social values
- The most essential ingredient is having all the stakeholders at the table.

2. It will **Reflect (and respond) to the Special Character of your lake**

- A Lake Plan provides a process to identify values that are specific to your lake and apply policy to ensure their long term protection, as well as recommend stewardship actions.
- Lake Plans are intended to identify, reflect and respond to the character and physical capabilities of an individual water body and shoreline community, within the broader framework of the watershed and official plan policies.

3. It will **Set a Vision for Your Lake**

- A vision statement is prepared to identify "what your lake will look, feel and be" in the future.
- A set of targets and objectives will be developed in order to clearly define your vision and these will be used to measure the success of your activities.

4. It will create an **Inventory of Resources**

- A Lake Plan will consolidate existing resource and watershed information and will identify gaps and future needs.

5. It will **Identify Issues and Impacts**

- Issues will be identified through discussion with community members at meetings, and a series of workshops. The information will be analyzed and the key issues will be identified.

6. It is **A Strategic Action Plan**

- It will recommend a series of actions to be implemented.

7. And it is **A Living Document**

- It will be revisited to address new issues as they arise.

Purpose of a Lake Plan

- Identify and protect lake values
- Promote community discussion and action
- Educate and Communicate
- Set Environmental & Social Objectives
- Recommend Land Use Policy
- Stewardship Actions

...process is as important
as the product!



The Purpose of a Lake Plan is to:

1. Identify and protect specific lake values

- Such as water quality, scenic areas, boating capacity, fish and wildlife habitat and watershed health.

2. Promote community discussion and action and consensus on lake issues:

- Your lake community includes permanent and seasonal residents, commercial operators, government agencies, local interest clubs (nature clubs, anglers)... and it is essential that everyone in the community has an opportunity to get involved and be heard. A Lake Plan shouldn't be a document designed to please only one interest group.
- Community discussion will be promoted through a series of informal meetings and workshops. The purpose is to create awareness of the issues that affect the quality of life on your lake.
- The purpose of this discussion is to identify future actions that will be implemented by your association and other stakeholders (consensus is important in order to achieve successful implementation).

3. Educate and Communicate

- Communication and education will create awareness, and this is a significant product of the process.
- Opportunities will be promoted to communicate with lake residents, commercial operators, lake users and government agencies.
- One of the recommendations of the Lake Plan will be to prepare a communication plan to educate lake users through a wide range of options such as newsletters, pamphlets, news releases, and workshops.

4. Set Environmental and Social Objectives

- Each lake is different from each other and so are their carrying capacities. Development on some lakes may be limited by trophic status, others by wildlife or fish habitat.
- Objectives and goals will be identified that protect the specific natural and social values that are special to each lake.

5. Recommends Land Use Policy to deal with the protection of land based values.

- Land Use Policy involves Official Plans and Zoning by-laws that provides a set of municipal regulations that "we all must follow".
- One purpose of the Lake Plan is to ensure that current Official Plan policy and Zoning By-law provisions are appropriate.

6. Recommends Stewardship actions

Stewardship – is volunteer actions to improve the health of your community, "the things that we should do".

- Many values cannot be protected purely by land use regulations, and there are many things that "we must do for ourselves", such as shoreline rehabilitation, or proper boating conduct.

It is important to note that the process is just as important as the product.

Visualize Your Lake



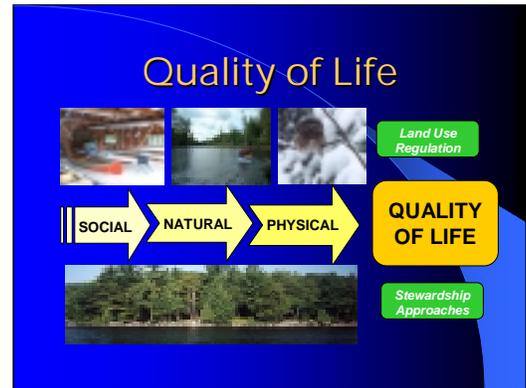
Visualize your lake

What I would like to do is to help you to discover the values on your lake.

But first, to get you in the mood, lets do a quick warm up exercise called the dock walk:

1. Stand. Think of the city. Get a picture in your mind of where you live or use to live in the city. Its a busy place, it's a place where you work, have raised your family, go to school.
2. Start moving on your spot (swing your arms, walk on the spot, look around and look at all the busy people moving).
3. Name some of the busy things you do in the city.
4. Name some of the things you don't like about the city.
5. Stop, close your eyes. Think of your cottage. It's a special place. Take a deep breath in and out. Do it again.
6. Raise your arms slowly and then put them down.
7. Think of sitting out on the end of your dock. Its early morning. Coffee/tea/beer in your hand. Not a ripple on the lake. A fish breaks the water. A bird calls. It's a nice place.
8. Now think of all the things that are special about this place. What do you like about coming to your cottage.
9. Now, keep your eyes closed and turn around. You are still standing on your dock, but now you are looking at your cottage property. Look beyond your cottage property and tell me what is behind your property. What is upstream from your lake (the watershed)?
9. Sit Down.
10. Name the things that you like about your lake. *List them on a flip chart.*
11. Name some of the impacts that can effect your quality of life? *List them on a separate flip chart.*

Review list and highlight main concepts.



Lets talk about ... **Quality of Life**

Everyone has a different perspective on the things that support or impact their quality of life.

When it comes to the quality of life on a lake... our survey says (which, is a summary of survey results from lake associations that are implementing Lake Plans) that the four top values that support the quality of life on a lake include:

- Water quality, peace and tranquility, natural beauty and landscapes
- Some of the other values include, recreational boating, architecture, history, social events, public access, good neighbours, privacy, remoteness, and recreational activities such as swimming, reading (which is the number one activity pursued by cottagers), walking and nature appreciation.

The Lake Planning Process will identify three general categories of values and carrying capacities... **SOCIAL... NATURAL** and **PHYSICAL...** that supports the **QUALITY OF LIFE** on your lake.

Once these values have been identified, the Lake Plan will recommend a series of actions to help to protect and rehabilitate these values. There are two broad categories of actions:

- **LAND USE REGULATIONS** “things we tell people to do” through official plans and zoning by-laws; and
- **STEWARDSHIP APPROACHES** “things we volunteer to do” through awareness and consideration of the environment and others.



Carrying Capacities and Values

First what is capacity?

- It can be defined as the total number of lots (or development) and human activities that a lake can sustain before diminishing any of its key factors.
- It is important to note that every lake is different from each other and their values will have different carrying capacities and thresholds. On some lakes development may be limited by trophic status, wildlife or fish habitat, while other lakes need to consider crowding and remoteness.
- In the past the primary factor that was used to set development limits was water quality, and phosphorus loadings. It was simple and effective, if a lake could not sustain additional phosphorus inputs from new septic systems, it was considered to be “at capacity”
- However, this is changing. On the horizon there are new septic systems that are designed to retain phosphorus, and when MOE approves them it will do two things
 1. Good news ... it will improve water quality, and the
 2. Bad news ... it could mean additional new lots and more dense development
- What we need to do is to look at new approaches that consider all three elements (NATURAL ... SOCIAL ... and PHYSICAL) that defines the quality of life on the lake.
- Generally there are three categories of values that can be considered:
 - **NATURAL** - water quality, wildlife habitat, fish habitat, natural vegetation (littoral and riparian), watershed
 - **SOCIAL** - aesthetics, cultural values, historic values, crowding (isolation), boating limits, recreation
 - **PHYSICAL** - soils, topography, land capability, existing development, hazardous areas

Contents of a Plan

- The Vision
- Lake Description
- Natural Elements
- Physical Elements
- Social Elements
- Land Use Review
- Issues, Causes and Remedies
- Actions

Contents of a Lake Plan

A lake plan can contain many sections.

Here are some of the components that could be included.

Read each title. (the following slides have detail on each component)

The Vision

Lake Description

Natural Elements

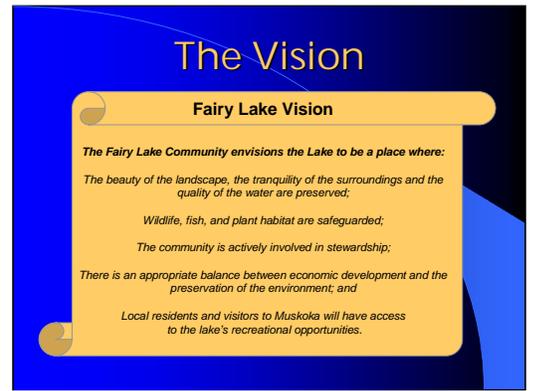
Physical Elements

Social Elements

Land Use Review

Issues, Causes and Remedies

Actions



A vision statement is simply a description of what you would like your lake to be in the future. It can include

- what it will look like
- what it will feel like
- what it will sound like
- what it will be

Here is an example of a vision statement that was prepared by the Fairy Lake Association:

Fairy Lake Vision

The Fairy Lake Community envisions the Lake to be a place where:

The beauty of the landscape, the tranquility of the surroundings and the quality of the water are preserved;

Wildlife, fish, and plant habitat are safeguarded;

The community is actively involved in stewardship;

There is an appropriate balance between economic development and the preservation of the environment; and

Local residents and visitors to Muskoka will have access to the lake's recreational opportunities.



The purpose of the **Lake Description** section is to describe the general characteristics of the lake and the watershed. Some components in this section may include:

Historical Development ... which contains the following

- A review of the historical development pattern.
- When lake was first developed and who discovered it.
- The significance of the name.
- The location and significance of historical sites (e.g. first cottage, influence of commercial development, navigation routes, sunken ships).
- Maps may include original surveys of the townships
- Population statistics

Location

- Location of lake in relation to municipal boundaries,
- Physical characteristics (e.g. latitude, longitude, drainage area, surface area, shoreline length, flushing rate)

Bathymetry

- A map and description of the lake bed – lake bed contours, potential navigational constraints, volume, mean depth

Watershed boundaries

- A map of the watershed boundaries should be produced to identify the location of the lake within the watershed. This will help to identify all upstream lakes, rivers and lands that drain into the lake and will indicate upstream areas where development may have an impact on the lake.

Water Levels

- Water levels are often managed by Conservation Authorities, MNR and Federal agencies for recreational activities, navigation purposes and the production of hydro electricity.
- This section will look at how the dams are operated and how their management affects water levels on the lake.

Access and Ownership

- This section will identify the location of water access points (launch ramps and parks). A Land Tenure map will also be prepared to show the ownership of lands (e.g. private, Crown, Federal, First Nation) in order to determine which set of land use guidelines apply.
- Private and municipal roads will also be mapped.



Natural Elements

Natural heritage features and areas support ecological functions that are critical to the survival of all species, including humans. Background information will be collected from sources such as the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation Authorities and local nature clubs. Some of the natural elements to be evaluated (and mapped) may include:

Water Quality

- Water quality information may be available from the Ministry of Environment or through ongoing self help programs that your association is already undertaking.
- Some of the information that we will want to collect is sechi disk readings (clarity), phosphorus content (natural and manmade influences), mercury contamination (fish consumption), and temperature and dissolved oxygen (which are required by fish species such as lake trout).

Shoreline Vegetation

- An abundance of natural shoreline vegetation helps to reduce the visual impact of development, provide riparian habitat and food sources for wildlife, and helps to mitigate runoff from the surrounding drainage areas.
- Shoreline vegetation should be mapped to identify areas that need to be rehabilitated. Indigenous species should be identified.

Wetlands

- Lacustrine (lake shoreline) and riverine wetlands provide habitat for both fish and wildlife species.
- All wetlands should be mapped to ensure that they are identified and protected in local official plans and zoning by-laws.

Streams

- How many streams flow into your lake? Most people do not know this, yet it is likely that your source of water is directly dependent on the streams and rivers that flow into your lake. All streams should be mapped and you should be cognizant of any development that occurs along the banks.

Fish and Wildlife

- All significant fish and wildlife habitat should be mapped and identified in local official plans and zoning by-laws to ensure that the impacts of development can be avoided or mitigated. These areas may include critical fish spawning habitat (e.g. lake trout, walleye, pike), deer wintering habitat, loon nesting sites, and raptor nests.

Exotic Species

- Exotic species include purple loosestrife, spiny water flea, zebra mussels and others. You should know if there are any exotic species in your lake and identify actions on how to stop further contamination.

Endangered Species

- The location of endangered species is often confidential due to the sensitive nature of the species. While you should identify the potential for any species in your area, you should be careful about showing the exact location.
- It is important that development approval agencies are aware of the presence of endangered species so that appropriate avoidance or mitigation approaches are taken when new development is proposed.



A review of the **Physical Elements** will help to determine the location of development constraints that may affect future development or redevelopment.

Some of the elements include:

Soils

- The location of fine soils such as clays will indicate where increased stormwater management practices must be implemented and enforced. The erosion of clay soils can have serious and long lasting impacts on fish habitat.

Floodplains

- To identify potential hazards. However, it is fair to say that municipalities and conservation authorities are usually more interested in this than a lake association.

Minerals and Aggregate

- The location of mining claims and potential aggregate resources will help to identify potential development sites and will identify where this type of development may occur.

Forestry

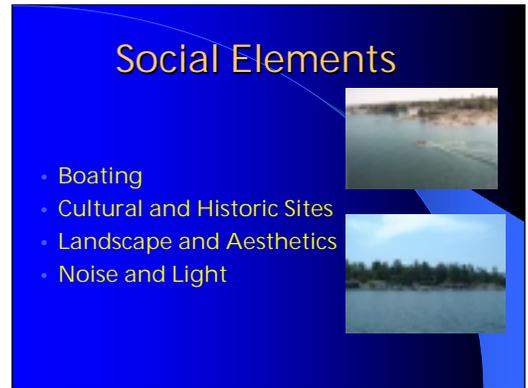
- Commercial logging practices can have a large impact on aesthetics and fish and wildlife habitat if proper mitigation measures are not followed. The location of crown land logging areas should be identified so that the association can become involved in the forest management planning process, if appropriate.

Narrow Waterbodies

- Development on narrow waterbodies can affect navigation and aesthetics, especially if large shoreline structures such as docks and boathouses are constructed. Official Plans and zoning by-laws can provide direction on the development of these areas.

Steep Slopes

- Similarly, development on steep slopes can also affect aesthetics and the official plan should provide policy to ensure that development is appropriate for the site.



Social Elements enhance the quality of life on a lake.

While these elements are the most difficult to identify and protect, they are often the most important elements that contribute to one's experience on the lake.

Some of the social elements to be reviewed include:

Boating

- Recreational boating can have a huge impact on the quiet enjoyment of your lake. Some lakes have developed a code of conduct for safe operation, hosted workshops for people to obtain their license, and assisted local police to enforce speed regulations.

Cultural and Historic Sites

- Significant cultural and historic sites should be identified and mapped. There is usually someone on the lake with a keen interest in local history and they would be able to help identify these sites. Some of the sites that have been identified on other lakes include: fur trading posts, pioneer cabins, old grist mill sites, sunken ships, portages, first nation communities, marine railways (to portage steamships between lakes)
- Sometimes these sites are in private ownership and land owner contact programs could be initiated to help preserve or rehabilitate these sites.

Landscape and Aesthetics

- Landscape and natural aesthetics are amenities that are invaluable to shoreline residents.
- The two most important landscape lines to be protected are the shoreline and the tree-line (or horizon). When viewing the opposite side of the lake, our eyes are immediately drawn to these two lines and anything that stands out on these lines can greatly impact the surrounding natural character.
- Specific heights of land or specific land forms or features (e.g. cliffs) should be identified and specific land use policy should be developed to ensure that development does not dominate or detract from the feature.

Noise and Light Pollution

- The effects of noise and light pollution can be inventoried through surveys, and policy can be provided in local official plans to help control indiscriminant lighting and noise. Some regulation may be appropriate, but most associations have found that awareness of the issue together with education efforts will help to lessen thoughtless activities.



Land Use Review

The purpose of this section is to conduct a review of current land use regulations to determine if there are additional policies that should be considered. This section should include a review of:

Current Land Use

- A review of the current land uses will identify the number of commercial operations and residential properties that exist on your lake as well as the location of garbage dumps, industry and resource extraction operations (e.g. aggregate, minerals, forestry).

Future Growth Plans

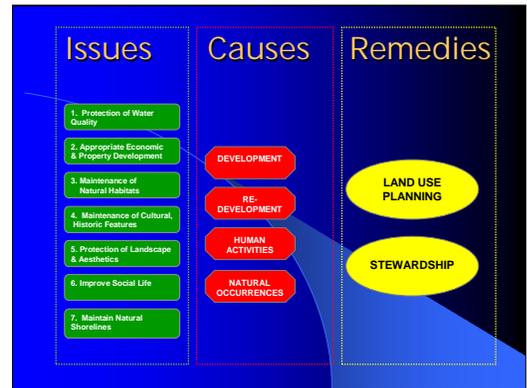
- Some municipalities have prepared Future Growth Plans which will identify the type and location of new development.

Municipal Policy

- This section will review current Official Plan policies and Zoning By-law provisions that apply to shoreline properties.

Enforcement approaches that apply to the lake

- There are numerous enforcement agencies that are involved on your lake. The purpose of this section is to identify who has jurisdiction and what their role is.



Issues. Causes and Remedies

A chain of three lakes in the Huntsville area (Peninsula Lake, Fairy Lake and Lake Vernon) each prepared a Lake Plan and they all identified a similar list of Issues, Causes and Remedies. While some issues are specific to an individual lake, many issues are similar to many lakes across cottage country.

Issues

- From the collection of background information including surveys and workshops, a list of Issues is developed.
- *Read the list of issues and ask if anyone can elaborate on any of the issues from their own perspective.*

The **Causes** (or reasons) for these issues were then identified...

New Development

- Deals primarily with new buildings and structures and new lot creation.
- If a large portion of the shoreline is currently vacant, then new development would have a greater potential to impact the quality of life. However, if most of the shoreline is already developed, there is very limited opportunity for new development.

Re-Development

- Re-development deals mainly with the replacement of older cottages with monster cottages, and increased commercial densities.

Human Activities

- Human activities can include boating, snowmobiling, landscaping, noise and light pollution.
- Many human activities may be difficult to regulate, and stewardship is the best remedy.

Natural Occurrences

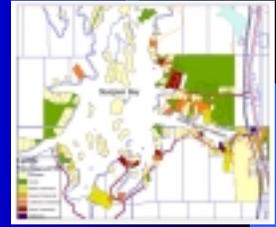
- Natural occurrences include weather, rainfall, temperatures, people, algae growth (e.g. gloe trichia bloom on Peninsula Lake), beaver. Many of these can not be regulated or altered and we must find ways to live with them.

Remedies

- Land Use Regulation
- Stewardship Approaches

Land Use Actions

- Official Plan Policy
- Zoning By-laws
- Site Plan Control
- Stormwater Guidelines



Overview of Actions

Land Use Regulations

Some examples of land use regulations include:

1. Official Plan Policy ... some examples of new policy to be considered include:
 - ensure the protection of significant cultural or historical sites.
 - limit the number of new lots.
 - increase lot frontage and area.
 - provide design principles for the preservation and rehabilitation of natural shorelines.
2. Zoning By-law Provisions ... some examples of new provisions may include:
 - control the development of monster cottages through lot coverage, and height.
 - apply an appropriate restriction on the size and width of shoreline structures (docks, boathouses).
 - ensuring golf courses require a zoning amendment and proper public notification.
3. Site Plan Control can be used:
 - to ensure new major development is sited properly while addressing visual impacts and compatibility issues with neighbours.
4. Stormwater/Construction – to increase standards in clay or fine silt soils
5. Septic Re-inspection programs have been initiated by many municipalities to inspect and require the updating of old systems.

Stewardship Actions



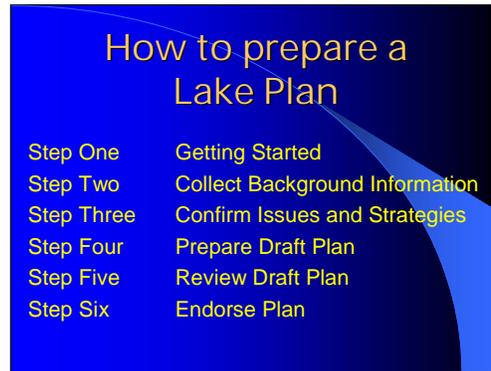
Awards Program
Communication Plan
Shoreline Rehabilitation
Loon Inventory
Boating Awareness



Stewardship Approaches

The following are some examples of stewardship approaches:

1. Stewardship Awards – to recognize the efforts of people and to draw attention to good examples of property stewardship (e.g. shoreline restoration program).
2. Communication Plan – to plan a comprehensive approach to communicating key messages.
3. Shoreline Rehabilitation – to identify priority shoreline areas for rehabilitation and design a program to encourage property owners to maintain natural shorelines.
4. Loon Survey – to undertake a project to inventory loon nesting sites and determine the health of the population.
5. Boating Awareness – to promote the safe operation of boats

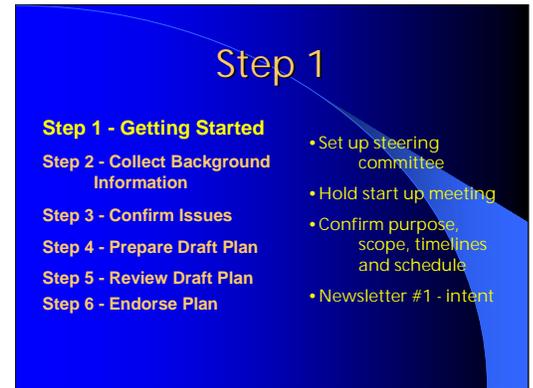


How do you develop a Lake Plan?

There are six essential steps to preparing a Lake Plan.

Read the following 6 steps .. More information on the steps are provided on the following slides.

Step One	Getting Started
Step Two	Collect Background Information
Step Three	Confirm Issues and Strategies
Step Four	Draft Plan Preparation
Step Five	Confirm Direction – Review
Step Six	Endorse Plan

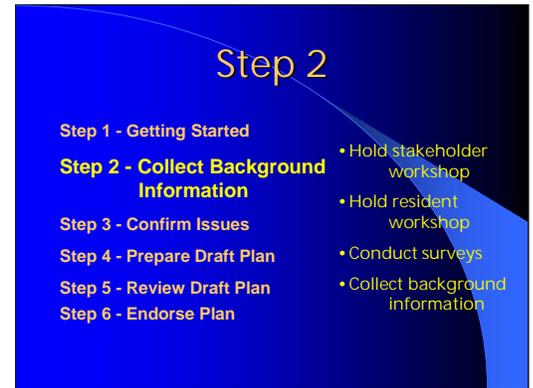


Step 1 – Getting Started

The first step is to **Set up a Steering Committee** which is comprised of members of the Association and possibly the municipality. The purpose of the Steering Committee is to oversee the entire planning process and to provide guidance and recommendations on the Background Information Report and the preparation of the final Lake Plan. The Steering Committee should include about 4-6 people.

The Steering Committee should hold at least one **Start up Meeting to Confirm the purpose and scope of the plan**, set clear objectives, **confirm timelines** and establish a **work schedule**.

This step can be followed by publishing a **Newsletter** to tell everyone on the lake about the intent to complete a Lake Plan



Step 2 – Collect Background Information

The intent of this step is to identify and collect a range of background material to identify features and values that are important to the lake. The Steering Committee will confirm the scope of information to be collected and assign responsibilities using a Work List.

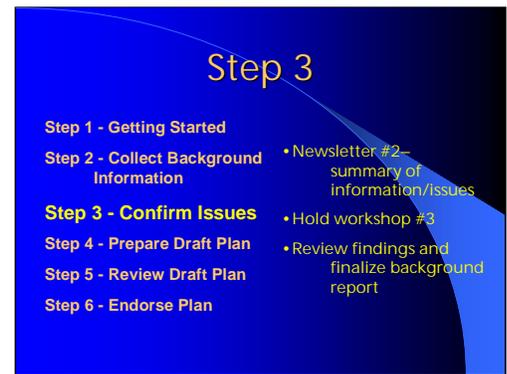
Two workshops should be held. The first is the **Stakeholder Workshop**. This workshop is for a group of about 20-30 people who represent the major stakeholders such as commercial operators, government agencies and members of the steering committee. The purpose of this workshop is to generate a list of the values to be identified and the issues to be dealt with. This is an important step as it will help to obtain buy in to the project, as well as to identify opportunities for financial and human support.

A second workshop should be held for the **Residents** and users of your lake. The purpose is to promote awareness, set objectives, as well as to identify values and issues. The information from both of these workshops will form the base for identifying the matters to be considered in the final plan.

A newsletter could be prepared and circulated at this point to promote awareness and to report on the findings of the workshops. The messages in the newsletter will include an introduction to lake planning, and identify what's happening and how people can participate. It will also identify the values that were discussed at the workshops.

A **residential and commercial stakeholder survey** should also be conducted to create awareness and to gain understanding of issues and values. The survey can be mailed out to all shoreline property owners, however, the best approach is to conduct a face-to-face interview. This can be accomplished by dividing your lake into a number of neighbourhoods and assign specific association members with the responsibility to deliver and conduct the survey. An additional survey may be considered for people who stay at local parks or commercial resorts.

Finally, additional **Background Information** will be collected by using a mixture of local resource people, government agencies and consultants.



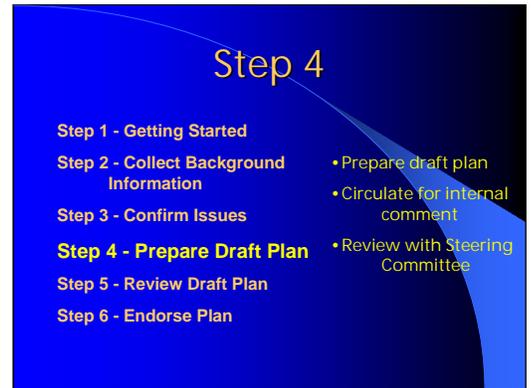
Step 3 – Confirm Issues and Strategies

The purpose of this step is to confirm the issues and develop strategies through discussions with the Steering Committee and community members.

A **newsletter** can be used to communicate the identified issues and provide a summary of information that has been collected.

Another **Stakeholder Workshop** could be held to provide an opportunity for two-way communication and discussion on future direction.

The final task is to **review the findings and finalize the background report.**



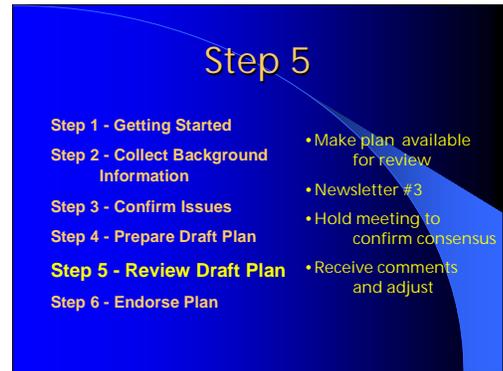
Step 4 Prepare Draft Plan

During this step the committee will prepare the final draft plan which involves the following tasks:

Prepare a draft plan (*contents were discussed earlier*)

Circulate for internal review to members of the steering committee.

Review all comments collected with the **Steering Committee**



Step 5 – Review Draft Plan

The intent of this step is to **Make the Lake Plan available for review** by community members and government agencies.

A **newsletter** could be provided to communicate the content of the plan and a list of the recommended strategies. It is important that ample time be scheduled for this review to provide everyone with the opportunity to review and comment.

The Steering Committee should **hold a meeting to confirm consensus**. In addition the committee should present the draft plan to their Municipal Council.

After all the **comments are received** and considered, the final Lake Plan will be prepared, and reviewed by the Steering Committee.



Step 6 – Endorse Plan

After the Steering Committee has prepared the Final Plan, it should be presented at the **Association’s AGM** for endorsement by the members of the association.



Approaches

The lake planning process should be flexible to maximize the talents of the members of your association
 One of the first tasks to be accomplished will be to identify who is willing to help and what people can do.

- The skills that will help include: biologists, naturalists, publishing, mapping
- The resources that will help include printing, photography, facilitation, coordination, recruiting volunteers, fund raising

There are currently 10 lake associations who are undertaking this process and each association have taken a slightly different approach to complete their Lake Plan

The approach is related to the availability of local resource people and financial support.

1. Self Directed

- The hardest, yet most rewarding approach has been the use of local resource people who are willing to spend a lot of time collecting information and writing portions of the plan.
- For this approach your association would need 8 or 10 devoted individuals to collect and summarize information based on the themes of land use, natural features, physical elements, and social values.
- The advantage of this approach is that it will cost less... estimate \$5 to 10K
- The disadvantage is there will be a big learning curve at the beginning of exercise as no one will have any previous experience with preparing a plan.

2. Consultant

- Another approach is to simply hire someone to complete the whole process.
- The disadvantage to this approach is that it is very expensive (\$30 – 100 K +) and the knowledge and expertise usually leaves with the consultant when the job is complete.

3. Combination of community and consultants

- Most associations have opted for a process that relies on a consultant to help facilitate and steer a committee of 4-5 people
- The consultant will help organize the collection of information and summarize issues and recommendations. The consultant can also provide examples of surveys, table of contents and workshops.
- The benefit of this approach is that it utilizes the experience of a lake planning expert, yet promotes and educates a network of local resource people who will help with communication and implementation of the recommendations.
- Estimated cost \$7 to \$28 K

5 Lessons Learned

- Take time to get organized
- Process is as important as the product
- We = Us + Them
- Partnering
- Use Community Resources

Lesson 1 - Getting organized can take time

- It is ok to take time to get organized to initiate the project. The success of the lake plan will depend on a properly planned process that provides lots of opportunity for discussion and buy-in.
- This time is wisely spent because it will promote early buy-in and ownership of the results.

Lesson 2 - The process is as important as the product

- Don't try to rush through the process too fast.
- Most associations undertake the process over a 2-year period. If you do not provide plenty of opportunities for people to participate and review the results the recommendations may not reflect what the community truly wants.

Lesson 3 – We = Us + Them

- One of the biggest lessons learned so far is that there has to be opportunities to include every group on the lake, including residential, commercial and other lake users.
- Many resident associations are often nervous about speaking with the commercial operators. However we have learned that most commercial operators are very interested in protecting the quality of life on their lake. At a recent workshop we heard a resort operator declare that they have more at stake if the quality of life and the environment were to decline on their lake. They explained that they have a substantial financial and human investment in their property and that if the quality of life (clean water, natural beauty, fish and wildlife) were to decline, fewer people would want to come to their resort. The resort operator stated, "Cottagers have the option of moving, we don't".
- This should not be a document that addresses the needs of one interest group.

Lesson 4 - Partnering with other agencies

- Time and money can be saved when you work with partners such as municipalities, MNR, Conservation Authorities and other local interest groups. Often these partners will be keenly interested in the project and can provide information, staff resources or other help such as map preparation. Established partnerships will also be a benefit when it comes time to implement the action plan.
- Work with Council - call your local representatives and get the municipal planners on board. Take your local politicians on a boat cruise to see and understand your lake. Invite them to your AGM. Consider supporting a candidate for the next election
- Work with Stakeholders - contact watershed organizations, commercial and marina operators, other resource users, and shoreline backlot residents

Lesson 5. Use Community Resources

- Optimize the use of your association and local government resources.
- This will help to save money, create awareness, open communication linkages, and create a document that belongs to the community.



Over view of Costs

What can you afford?

- A tin boat or a cruiser?
- You should design the process to meet your immediate needs and not overburden yourself with costs.

Fundraising

- There are funding organizations such as Trillium that may help, however the application process can be difficult.
- Association membership fees can be increased for a short period of time (1-2 years), or an additional donation may be asked for.
- Ask for corporate donations from commercial or industrial operations in the watershed.
- Ask for cost sharing arrangements with your municipality, or conservation authority.
- Run local fundraisers such as a cook book, art auctions from artisans on the lake, raffles at the corn roast, or a barbeque.

Ways to reduce costs

- Cost savings will be achieved when you are able to:
 - Recruit volunteers
 - Obtain free services (printing and office services)
 - Get the municipality or other local agency to undertake mapping or consider the use of their staffing resource
 - Trade advertising space in your newsletter for service
 - Hire summer students
- Consider spreading the project over a longer period of time
- Don't produce a huge 50 foot cruiser with all the luxuries when a simple runabout will do.

Working with Volunteers

- Project plan
- Setup a system
- Understand and Communicate your needs
- Recruiting
- Prevent Burnout

www.evergreen.ca
www.volunteer.ca

Working with Volunteers

Project Plan

- Prepare a written project plan that clearly outlines goals and objectives. Prepare the project plan before initiating the project. Include an prioritized task list and fundraising responsibilities.
- Identify the skills and resources that are required (skills are related to biology, history, planning, communication, and volunteer coordination, and a service could be photocopying, printing, photo and map production).

Set up a system for working with volunteers

- Have at least one person focused on managing your project, consider it a necessity and not a luxury.
- Consider setting a contact person.

Understand and Communicate Your Needs

- Provide everyone with the project plan (or a simple communication package).
- Clearly express your needs.
- Volunteers need to have a specific task and feel that they are truly contributing.

Recruiting

- Use flyers, newsletters, notices or an announcement at the AGM.
- Word of mouth is typically the most effective vehicle (network, network , network).

Prevent Volunteer Burnout

- Ensure goals are realistic, relevant and achievable.
- Keep the workload manageable.
- Give volunteers an opportunity to say no or take breaks.
- Recognize and reward your volunteers and celebrate when the job is done.

www.evergreen.ca / www.volunteer.ca

- Evergreen is an organization interested in creating healthy , dynamic outdoor spaces, and they promote local stewardship. They have an excellent resource book called Hands for Nature: A Volunteer Management Handbook.
- www.volunteer.ca is Canada's website for information on volunteering.

References and Contacts

- Evergreen Volunteer Manual
- FOCA
- Living By Water
- Conservation Authorities
- French Planning Services

References and Contacts

There are many references and contacts that can be used. Some of them include:

Evergreen – for Volunteer Manual

FOCA – shoreline and cottage related material

Living by Water –

Local Conservation Authorities

French Planning Services Inc

What you can do now?

1. Is your shoreline less than 75% natural?
2. Have you removed natural vegetation?
3. Do you use lawn fertilizer?
4. Do you use powdered dish detergent?
5. Do you cut the lawn within 66 ft of shore?
6. Have you pumped your septic in last 3-5 years?

What can you do right now?

Here is a quick quiz on things you can do right now to improve shoreline and water quality right now?

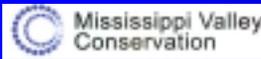
Answer these questions and count the number of “yes” answers with your fingers...

Ask the questions on the screen. And then say the following...

If you have more than two fingers showing, there are some things that you can do immediately to help ensure the future of our lakes. Like stop using fertilizers and high phosphorus soaps, or stop cutting the lawn too close to the shore.

When you go home this afternoon, take a look at your front yard, and ask yourself, what can I do, (or what can I stop doing) to improve the quality of the lake, river or stream.

Brought to you by



**Frontenac Environmental Partnership
Frontenac County Stewardship Council
Leeds County Stewardship Council
Community Stewardship Council of Lanark County
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Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority
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