

A Delicate Balance

The Clear, Ston(e)y and White Lake Plan

Executive Summary

**IT IS TIME
TO SOLVE LAKE ISSUES
IN A DIFFERENT
MANNER**

This was the consensus of a group of Clear, Ston(e)y and White Lake residents in the early spring of 2005.

Our traditional reactive method to issues affecting the lakes needed updating because most groups formed to deal with a particular issue disbanded once the issue was resolved and solutions often led to conflict among the parties involved.

The Clear, Ston(e)y and White Lake Plan Group was conceived to identify the diverse population of our lakes, understand their responsibilities and concerns, and develop relationships which would lead to co-operative approaches to issues dealing with the water and surrounding land.

A POLL WAS TAKEN OF ALL STAKEHOLDERS

- ☑ Cottagers, full time residents and other recreational lake users
- ☑ Commercial operators: all those realtors, tourist operators, contractors and other business people deriving all or part of their living from the lake area
- ☑ Township councils of Douro-Dummer, Galway-Cavendish and Harvey, North Kawartha, and Smith-Ennismore-Lakefield
- ☑ Federal, provincial and non-government agencies with jurisdiction over the water and surrounding land

WATER QUALITY
was
the key concern

**A SENSE OF
URGENCY**
was expressed

RECOMMENDATIONS
with
ACTION PLANS
were developed

The Lake Plan Steering Committee returned to each of our stakeholder groups in May 2008 for their reactions to the draft plan and recommendations. The plan received full support and suggested improvements were made.

Our resident groups voiced the opinion that we may currently be at a “**tipping point**” in water quality which may quickly deteriorate if we do not soon address a number of issues that were identified in the Lake Plan.

It is with this sense of immediacy that The Clear, Ston(e)y and White Lake Plan is being made available to everyone. Quick sustained action and co-operation among stakeholders is crucial if we are to save the irreplaceable natural heritage, beauty of our surroundings and lifestyle we cherish.

A BALANCED APPROACH TO RESOLVING THE SOMETIMES CONFLICTING INTERESTS OF ALL STAKEHOLDERS

A BALANCE BETWEEN PLANNED USE AND OVER-DEVELOPMENT OF OUR LAKES AND SURROUNDING LANDS

The GOAL of the CSW Lake Plan is to protect the lakes' special areas and features through community stewardship, land use planning, policy approaches and working groups.

The intent is to encourage local municipalities to clarify and harmonize existing municipal policies and practices that specifically address the sustainability of our unique natural and cultural landscape. Education and promotion of best practices for lake residents and commercial operators will complement these policies.

PRIORITY ISSUES IDENTIFIED AT WORKSHOPS

- Monitor, Protect and Enhance Water Quality
- Maintain and Restore Natural Shorelines, Wetlands and Forests
- Ensure Quality of Life
- Protect and Enhance Fish and Wildlife Habitat
- Encourage and Promote Sustainable Year-round Development
- Promote Education of Stakeholders
- Improve Communication with Stakeholders
- Develop and Maintain Good Working Relationships with each Township
- Promote Safe Use of Recreational Vehicles

SAMPLE KEY FINDINGS

WATER QUALITY: Measurements suggest that our lakes are presently on the positive side of a delicate water quality balance. Education, vigilance and best management practices are the keys to maintaining this balance.

WETLANDS: Over the past 75 years incremental wetland loss has occurred (32% between 1962 and 1978). There are 6 provincially significant wetlands on Ston(e)y and Clear Lakes. Many other wetlands have yet to be protected via evaluation and policy.

LAND USE: There is little potential for the creation of additional shoreline lots so most new development will be in the form of conversions, infilling, redevelopment and clusters. There are important issues of density and lake capacity that require attention.



Although background information has been collected on the entire watershed, the specific scope of the plan focuses on the immediate area adjacent to Clear, Ston(e)y and White Lakes. The Scope or Study Area of the Lake Plan includes all stream and river systems that flow into Upper Stoney, Stony, Clear and White Lakes, including Jack Lake, as well as many other smaller lakes.

The Clear, Ston(e)y and White Lake Plan was prepared through a community-based process, led by the Stony/Upper Stoney Lake Environment Council, Upper Stoney Lake Association, Association of Stony Lake Cottagers, White Lake Association, Birchcliff Property Owners Association, and Kawartha Park Cottagers Association, with support from the Stony Lake Heritage Foundation. Input was gathered from all lake residents, commercial operators, recreational lake users and government stakeholders..... anyone who had a stake in the future health of the lake and watershed.

ACTION PLAN

Engage the Community

Develop a network of volunteers to implement the Lake Plan recommendations and maintain consensus on the lakes.

Create a Lake Plan Task Force

Form a group committed to proactive support of the Provincial, County and four Townships Official Plan (OP) and Zoning By-law amendment processes with an emphasis on harmonization of watershed related issues.

Provide Information to Property Owners and other Lake Users

Engage them to care for shorelines, surrounding fish and wildlife habitats and promote safe use of all recreational vehicles through: Shoreline Naturalization Programs, Wetland and Woodlands, Septic Re-inspection Programs, Streams and Rivers, Invasive Species, Safe Boating Program.

Continue to Partner with Agencies and Groups

Build on our relationships with groups such as Trent University, Sir Sandford Fleming College, Kawartha Heritage Conservancy, Kawartha Lakes Stewardship Association, and municipalities to update information on natural heritage features and areas such as: water quality, stream inventories, fish and wildlife, species at risk, and wetlands.

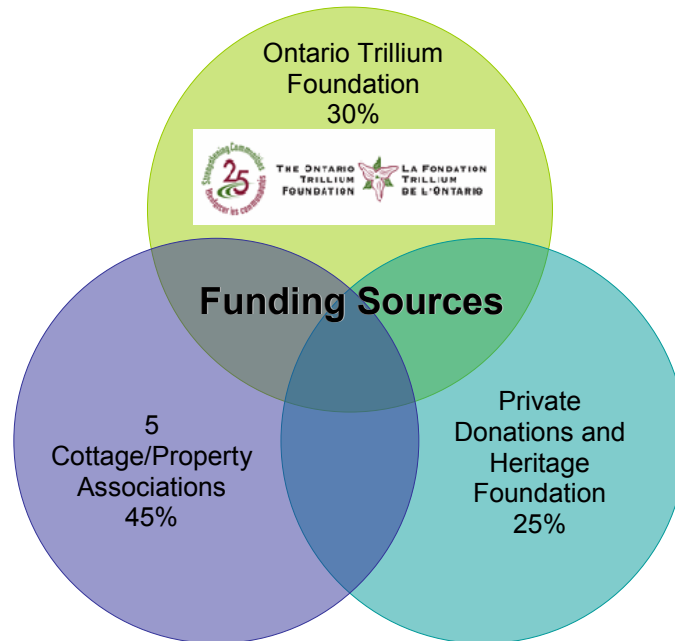
Continue to Work with the County and the Four Townships

Ensure that land use policy and regulations (i.e. Official Plan and Zoning By-law) are consistent with watershed sustainability and provide a guide for future development and redevelopment, especially with respect to: Water Quality, Natural Shorelines, Wetlands, Fish and Wildlife habitat, Species at Risk habitat, Resource Extraction, Viewscapes, Cultural Sites, Setting Appropriate Lake Capacity Limits, and Future Residential and Commercial Redevelopment.

Continue to Promote Communication and Social Interaction Among Stakeholders

The Clear, Ston(e)y and White Lake Plan is a living document that will continue to evolve over time as individual circumstances and issues occur and new information becomes available!

We are sincerely grateful for the financial and generous in-kind support we have received throughout the research and development process. We look forward to continued community involvement during the introduction and implementation of the CSW Lake Plan's Recommendations and Action Plans.



CSW Steering Committee

Carolyn Amyotte, Councillor, North Kawartha Township

Ruth Benson, Resident

Bob Brown, Stony Lake Heritage Foundation

Dick Crawford, Birchcliff Property Owners Association

Michael Harper, Upper Stoney Lake Association

Ken Hyde, Upper Stoney Lake Association

Rob Lamarre, Planning Smith-Ennismore-Lakefield Township

Shelagh Landsmann, Councillor, Douro-Dummer Township

Robert Little, Association of Stony Lake Cottagers

Lynda Marsh, Ston(e)y Lake Environment Council

Bev Matthews, Councillor, Galway-Cavendish and Harvey Township

Roz Moore, Association of Stony Lake Cottagers

John Platt, Kawartha Park Cottagers' Association

Mike Stedman, White Lake Association

Heather Watson, Resident

Professional Consultation
French Planning Services Inc.