



Fourteen Island and Mink Lakes Association

Presentation to South Frontenac Council November 6, 2007

Subject: Lakes Stewardship Plan

Presented by: Fourteen Island and Mink Lakes Association



Fourteen Island & Mink Lakes Stewardship Plan

Executive Summary

1. Who are we?

- Residents of Fourteen Island, Mink, Little John, Little John's Sister, Buffy Lakes
- About 100 property owners/families in Portland and Loughborough Districts

2. Why are we here?

- To inform Council of the work on our lakes stewardship plan

3. What does our plan consist of?

The plan is a community effort aimed at maintaining or improving our lakes, the surrounding sub-watershed, and our lives and lifestyles. It will include:

State of the Lake report

- How healthy are our lakes and surrounding area
- What kind of development is on the lakes
- How are we using the lakes – boating, fishing, etc.

What are the issues?

- Water quality and fishery
- Safe boating
- Future development
- Exotic species
- Lake levels and shorelines

Actions

- Recommendations to Township
- Stewardship by the community

4. Who is involved?

- The community
- Key agencies, including the Township

5. What's our Timing?

- Started early 2007
- Completed August 2009

6. What do we want from Council?

- This is for your information
- We will keep you posted
- We'll be back.....

Fourteen Island & Mink Lakes Stewardship Plan

1. Who are we?

We represent the residents of:

- Fourteen Island Lake
- Mink Lake
- Little John, Little John's Sister, and Buffy Lakes

In total, we are speaking on behalf of about 100 residents who live on these lakes either as permanent or seasonal residents.

These five lakes form a sub-watershed that is at the top end of the Napanee River system, and that straddles Portland and Loughborough Districts.

2. Why are we here?

- We're here to inform council of our work on a lakes stewardship plan
- What the plan will consist of
- Who is involved
- What's our timing/content

3. What does our Lakes Stewardship Plan consist of?

Many lake associations here and in other parts of the province have decided to undertake lake management or stewardship plans. Although each may be a little different, they all cover the same main topics:

The "State of the Lake"

This is the general description of the lake, and background research and analysis on the condition of:

- The lake itself, it's depth, shoreline, inflows and outflows
- Water quality

- Fisheries and wildlife in and around the lake
- Wetlands and forests around the lake
- Social elements – fishing, boating, historical context
- Land use patterns – what kind and amount of development is on the lake

Issues, causes, and remedies.

We've conducted a survey and held a workshop to find out what are the values important to people, and issues that concern people on the lake.

The key issues identified are:

- Protect/improve our water quality
- Improve fishing
- Ensure safe boating
- Ensure appropriate and sustainable development
- Protect against exotic species (too late for zebra mussels)
- Keep property taxes reasonable
- Maintain lake levels
- Maintain natural shorelines

Planning context

We will be reviewing the planning controls that are in place. Because our lakes have no Crown or conservation authority land, the relevant documents are the Township Official Plan and Comprehensive Zoning Bylaw. This review will help us to understand the type and amount of development we might expect in the future.

Actions

The end result of the process will be to recommend specific actions that will help to address the issues that have been identified.

These actions come in two forms:

- Recommendations to Planning Authorities
- Stewardship actions by the Association

The process of doing the plan is as important as the plan itself. The process is bringing the community together, educating people about their lakes, and helping them to understand the things they can do to keep the lakes healthy.

A lake plan is not a legal document. If it's done properly, it is a reasoned assessment of a lake's condition, and sets out reasonable and do-able recommendations for agencies and residents to follow. It's only if and when the Township decides to incorporate parts or all of a plan into its own planning documents that it can have some "legal" status.

4. Who is involved?

Our plan is being put together by a small group of volunteers from around the lake, with the participation of the whole lake community through surveys and workshops, and special assigned tasks.

We are being helped by a number of agencies, particularly in providing and analyzing the information needed for the "State of the Lake":

- Ministry of Natural Resources
- Ministry of the Environment
- Quinte Conservation Authority
- Frontenac Stewardship Council (who have also helped us with funding)
- South Frontenac Township (notably through Lindsay Mills)

We are keeping all our residents informed through newsletters and reports.

5. What's our timing?

The process is expected to be spread over about three years.

Year 1, 2007: The Information collection Phase

- We are in the midst of collecting and analysing background information
- We have had a survey of residents, and a workshop, to define values and issues

- One of our members has been documenting the history of the area
- MNR has been doing netting to assess our fish populations
- We've collected our water quality information from MOE and MNR
- Frontenac Stewardship Council has helped us with mapping
- We'll produce our "State of the Lake" report in Spring, 2008

Year 2, 2008: Preparing the Draft Plan Phase

- We'll complete our information gathering
- We'll confirm the issues, and start to identify remedies, with the help of the residents, and the various agencies
- We'll prepare our draft plan, and circulate it for review – to our residents, and to the various agencies we've been dealing with, including SouthFrontenac Township.

Year 3, 2009: Finalizing the Plan Phase

- We'll write the final version of the plan, based on what people have said about it
- We'll then seek approval of the plan at our AGM in August, 2009
- We'll return to Council with our final plan

6. What do we want from Council?

We are here to inform Council of what we are doing. We aren't seeking any approvals or recognition at this stage.

We want to continue to interact with the Township Planner on the nuts and bolts of the plan, and we'll keep our Councilors informed as we move through the steps of the plan.

When the Stewardship Plan is finalized in 2009, we may want to have a more formal recognition of some of its recommendations.

Fourteen Island and Mink Lakes and Surrounding Area

