



Report on Proceedings of 19th of May 2007

# Fourteen Island and Mink Lakes Stewardship Plan

## Residents' Workshop #1



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## 1. Introduction

The kick off of the Lake Stewardship Plan for Fourteen Island Mink Lakes took place on May 19th, 2007, at the Desert Lake Family Resort. The event drew about 25 people, despite competing with a beautiful Saturday afternoon.



## 2. The Agenda

**1:15-1:30 pm. Meet and Greet**

**1:30 pm. Call to Order and Welcome**

Brett Dark welcomed everyone to the session; noted that we had invited participation from residents of Buffy, Little John, and Little John's Sister Lakes; and introduced the members of the Steering Committee and the Association Executive. Gord Rodgers gave an overview of what the day would entail.

**1:40 pm. Presentation on Lake Stewardship Plan**

Gord gave a Powerpoint presentation on lake planning, highlighting our lake stewardship plan.

**2:10 pm. Values, Special Places & Memories**

This session asked participants to identify what they considered important about the lake – their important values, special places, and special memories.

**2:40 pm. Mission and Objectives**

Gord handed out the draft Mission Statement and Objectives, and asked participants to provide their comments back to him or others on the committee.

**3:00 pm. Short Break**

During the break, there was a draw for one of two hanging baskets – courtesy of Trousdale's Hardware and Silver Brook Farm market. A draw for the second took place at the close.

**3:15 pm. Issues and Actions**

During this session participants identified what they thought were the most important issues around the lakes that the stewardship plan should deal with, and made suggestions for actions or remedies to those issues.

**3:35 pm. Workshop Ended**

## 3. Lake Plan Presentation

Gord provided a brief presentation on the lake stewardship plan. The main points he made are outlined below.

A Lake Stewardship Plan is an action plan developed by the community to preserve the special character of our lakes.

**The Purpose is to:**

- Identify and protect lake values
- Promote community discussion and action
- Educate and communicate
- Understand lake issues and remedies
- Recommend land use policy and stewardship actions

**Contents of a Lake Plan:**

- Mission and objectives
- Lake description
- Natural elements of the lake and area
- Physical elements
- Social elements
- Land use and planning review
- Issues and remedies
- Actions



**Where are we Planning?**

- The subwatershed area, which includes:
  - ▶ Fourteen Island and Mink Lakes
  - ▶ Buffy, Little John, and Little John's Sister Lakes

**How are We Doing It?**

**Step 1: Getting Started 2006-early 2007**

- Steering committee set up
- Secured some funding
- Confirmed schedule and scope

**Step 2: Collect and Analyze Background Information 2007-2008**

- Residents' workshop May 19, 2007
- Contact agencies (MNR, MOE, Conservation Authority, Township)

**Step 3: Confirm the Issues 2007-2008**

- Send out a newsletter with preliminary lists
- Hold a second workshop
- Review and finalize background report

**Step 4: Prepare Draft Plan 2008**

- Prepare a draft stewardship plan

**Step 5: Review the Draft Plan 2008-2009**

- Circulate to all residents, agencies
- Hold workshop to confirm contents
- Receive comments, revise the plan

**Step 6: Endorse the Plan 2009**

- Seek final approval at AGM 2009

## 4. Values, Places and Memories

Gord led the group through a discussion of what people considered to be those things that are important to them about our lake, under the three headings: Values; Special Places; Memories.

Through the discussion, and with the sheets that were filled out and handed back, this is what participants offered:

### Values

- Tranquility; how quiet the lake is even on a long weekend
- Enjoying nature and wildlife, especially the loons
- Fishing
- Clean water, excellent swimming
- Natural shorelines
- Lack of traffic, boats, jet skis
- Friendships and the sense of community
- Buildings around the lake are unobtrusive
- Remote, but close to Kingston



### Special Places

- The various islands and swamps around the lakes
- Osprey island in Fourteen Island Lake
- Picnic Island
- Narrows between Mink and Fourteen Island Lake
- Turkey vulture nest area
- Mink Lake Feldspar Mine

- Diving cliffs in the east bay of Fourteen Island Lake, and elsewhere
- The woods on our properties
- Spring Lake wetland
- Any place that 'invites in' for a drink and a chat
- The dam flowing out of Fourteen Island Lake
- Anne's place – the beach where we have our meetings
- Sigsworth Mill – the inlet to Mink Lake
- Blikey's Camp area (used to make moonshine)
- Snake rock
- Willy's Lane boat launch
- The "WHOLE LAKE"



### Memories

- Some spectacular thunderstorms
- When there were few cottages on the lake and a boat passing by was an event
- Lining up at the realtor to buy this "piece of Heaven"
- The day I saw the house we had bought/my first view of the lake
- The first loon of the summer
- Black rat snakes – in the shed, in the garage, the basement, the upstairs bathroom
- Telephone system woes
- Otters on the attack
- When the walleye (and the grouse) were abundant
- When the dam was fixed, and before – when water levels used to be up and down
- When the lake was 6-8 feet lower, back in the 40's
- Finding the marijuana plantation in our "back 40"
- Birth of grandchildren
- Black bear in the compost
- Watching a blue heron on a windswept night
- Kids growing up on the lake
- Cleo the wonder dog swimming with the loons
- Thelma and Louise's ice cream delivery
- Talking to the old-timers
- Quiet peaceful moments on the dock
- Cross country skiing across the lake
- Paddling the lake on Christmas Day, 2006

## 5. Mission and Objectives

- In the interest of time, those in attendance weren't asked to go through these at the workshop.
- People were asked to fill out their reactions on the sheets that were handed out and get them back to one of the committee members.

## 6. Issues and Actions

Participants were asked to consider what were the current and future issues on the lakes, and what kinds of actions should we be putting our focus on to deal with them.

### 1. Water Quality

- ▶ Need to maintain/improve the water quality of the lakes

#### ACTIONS:

- ▶ Measure current water quality, compare to the past records
- ▶ Follow many of the actions listed below under:
  - Septic systems
  - Disappearing species
  - Future development
  - Natural Shorelines
  - Invasive/exotic species



### 2. Septic systems around the lake

- ▶ Need to find out about faulty septic systems

#### ACTIONS:

- ▶ Increase awareness and education
- ▶ Do septic re-inspections (through Township and Health Unit)
- ▶ Evaluate older systems and replace if needed

### 3. Declining fishery and fishing

- ▶ Improve the fishing, notably for walleye and bass
- ▶ Deal with over-fishing

#### ACTIONS:

- ▶ Find out what we've got – do proper fisheries “assessment” – netting and surveying
- ▶ Consider how to improve natural reproduction
- ▶ Consider “put grow and take” fishery – i.e., stocking for walleye

### 4. Disappearing species

- ▶ Fewer frogs, whippoorwills

#### ACTIONS:

- ▶ Set up monitoring programs to see how well our wildlife is doing
- ▶ Link to regional and provincial monitoring work



### 5. Noise and Light

- ▶ Increased development is leading to more noise
- ▶ Too many unnecessary lights are drowning out the night sky

#### ACTIONS:

- ▶ Increase awareness and education
- ▶ Do a night sky survey of the lake

### 6. Future development on the lake

- ▶ Concern about possibility of future backlot development
- ▶ Concern re. “condominium” type development on the lake
- ▶ Concern about proper development of the remaining large tracts of vacant land on the lake
- ▶ Note the change from seasonal residences to full time
- ▶ Need to ensure that future development follows the bylaws and that it remains “sustainable”

#### ACTIONS:

- ▶ Work with South Frontenac Township and Ontario government (MNR, MOE)
- ▶ Determine the capacity of the lake to handle more development
- ▶ Examine Official Plan and Zoning Bylaws to determine development potential
- ▶ Advocate to the Township any changes thought to be necessary to the OP and ZBL, e.g., regarding backlot development and “condominium or joint ownership” buildings

**7. Invasive and exotic species**

- ▶ Need to deal with the ones we have, and to stop any new ones from coming in.

**ACTIONS:**

- ▶ Increase awareness and education
- ▶ Provide signage and brochures

**8. Boating traffic and Safety**

- ▶ Concern about increase in the number and size of boats
- ▶ Jetskis and high-powered noisy outboards
- ▶ Boat speeds
- ▶ Boat wakes
- ▶ Waterskiing through the channels
- ▶ Boats and swimmers – safety issue
- ▶ Keep our limited access to the lake
- ▶ Concern about non-residents coming onto the lake – illegal fishing, invasive species, noise

**ACTIONS:**

- ▶ Curb reckless boating
- ▶ Increase awareness and education
- ▶ Place speed markers in key locations
- ▶ Don't improve the boat access into the lakes



**9. Natural Shorelines and backshore areas**

- ▶ Keep shorelines in a natural state
- ▶ Deal with shoreline erosion
- ▶ Protect the surrounding forests and wetlands

**ACTIONS:**

- ▶ Increase awareness and education about the values and importance of natural shorelines
- ▶ Enforce existing laws and bylaws re. artificial beaches, driveways down to the water, development or tree removal within 100' of the shoreline

**10. Renters**

- ▶ Important to ensure renters are aware of lake issues and etiquette
- ▶ Concern about over-fishing

**ACTIONS:**

- ▶ Increase awareness and education

- ▶ Consider producing a brochure about the lake, its values, and lake “dos and don’ts”
- ▶ Make copies of the Lake Stewardship Plan available in any rental cottage on the lake

**11. Water levels**

- ▶ Maintain consistent water levels
- ▶ Allow levels to decline naturally over the summer

**ACTIONS:**

- ▶ Review (and confirm or adjust if needed), the current protocols for both dams (entering Mink Lake; exiting Fourteen Island Lake)
- ▶ Keep the dam in good repair
- ▶ Educate people re. the dam and water levels in the lake



**12. Fire Protection and policing**

- ▶ Proper access for emergency vehicles

**ACTIONS**

- ▶ Work with Fire Chief and OPP detachment to understand the issue and learn how to improve things

**13. Communication**

- ▶ Need to build communication around the lakes and between FIMLA and Buffy, Little John, Little John’s Sister Lakes

**ACTIONS**

- ▶ Consider membership (full or associate) in FIMLA for residents of the other 3 lakes

**14. Property taxes**

- ▶ Concern about holding level of property taxes

**ACTIONS:**

- ▶ Maintain contact with the provincial bodies, WRAFT and FOCA
- ▶ Discuss the matter with the Township

## 7. Call for Volunteers

There is a lot of work to be done, and so far only a small number of people on the committee to get that work done. Participants were asked to consider signing up for one of many of the tasks – they are listed in **Appendix 5** of this report.

Your commitment doesn't have to be heavy, as there are lots of small tasks. But if anyone wants to offer more help, we are happy to accept it.

We are also looking for people who can bring their particular expertise, whether professional or not:

- Are you an amateur/professional naturalist?
- A biologist?
- A planner?
- A historian?
- A researcher?
- A Mapping/GIS practitioner?
- A photographer?
- Desk top publisher?

**PLEASE CONTACT** either of the Steering Committee Members top right (with telephone numbers listed) to offer your services or to make an input to the plan deliberations.



### Special Thanks

The Steering Committee for the FIMLA Lake Stewardship Plan extend their thanks and appreciation to Brett and Sally Colman for generously providing a venue for the meeting at the Desert Lake Resort, Verona.

## APPENDIX 1: Who was there?

### Steering Committee Members

- Brett Dark (Chair) - Telephone 374-1789
- Robert Powell
- Peter Peart
- Jim Pine
- Mike Jennings
- Gord Rodgers - Telephone 374-3521

### List of Attendees

- |                    |                           |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Tom Bryant         | Fourteen Island Lake      |
| Bill Carberry      | Little John's Sister Lake |
| Rhonda Cunningham  | Fourteen Island Lake      |
| Stephen Cunningham | Fourteen Island Lake      |
| Brett Dark         | Fourteen Island Lake      |
| Shayne Dark        | Fourteen Island Lake      |
| Taneda Dawes       | Fourteen Island Lake      |
| Floyd Dayo         | Fourteen Island Lake      |
| Margaret Dickson   | Fourteen Island Lake      |
| Mike Jennings      | Fourteen Island Lake      |
| Reta Judge         | Fourteen Island Lake      |
| Robert McCaldon    | Fourteen Island Lake      |
| Jane McCaldon      | Fourteen Island Lake      |
| John Mc Dougall    | Little John's Sister Lake |
| Peter Peart        | Fourteen Island Lake      |
| Jim Pine           | Fourteen Island Lake      |
| Robert Powell      | Fourteen Island Lake      |
| Sandra Powell      | Fourteen Island Lake      |
| Tom Revell         | Little John's Sister Lake |
| Barb Rodgers       | Fourteen Island Lake      |
| Gord Rodgers       | Fourteen Island Lake      |
| Grant Shepherd     | Fourteen Island Lake      |
| Elaine St. John    | Fourteen Island Lake      |
| Stuart St. John    | Fourteen Island Lake      |
| Anne Tucker        | Fourteen Island Lake      |



**APPENDIX 3: Mission and Objectives Worksheet**

The draft Mission Statement and Objectives for the Lake Stewardship was distributed.

**Draft Mission Statement:**

A 14 Island and Mink Lake community where the maintenance and enhancement of a healthy eco-system on the lake and in the surrounding areas is achieved through responsible recreation behavior, constructive social relationships and lake community directed sustainable development.

**Draft Objectives:**

1. To develop a lake plan that reflects the opinions and values of the 14 Island and Mink lake community and speaks with one voice on current and future areas of interest.
2. To provide input to Municipal and other governing agencies to ensure community consultation in all legislative jurisdictions that could impact the lake and surrounding areas.
3. To enhance enjoyment of the lake for current and future generations through responsible recreational behavior and constructive social relationships.
4. To protect and enhance the Natural Environment of our lake that would include: water quality; fish; wildlife; surrounding forests and wetlands.

**Your Comments?**

A. The Mission Statement:

B. The Objectives:

**APPENDIX 4: Values, Places and Memories Worksheet**

The following worksheet was handed out and followed for this session:

**Values, Places and Memories**

**Objective**

To generate a list of the things that are important to you about our Lake.

**Task**

Your task is to quickly complete the following sentences with as many answers as possible in 5 minutes. Use the back of the page if you run out of space.

**1. VALUES**

"Some of the most important values of our lake are...."

**2. PLACES**

"The ...name the place(s) ...is a special spot because...."

**3. MEMORIES**

"I remember...."

APPENDIX 5: Volunteer Sign Up Form

The Volunteer Sign Up Form (page 1) made available at the meeting:



Lake Stewardship Plan  
**Volunteer Sign Up Form**

Can You Help?		Type of Help		
A. Parts of the Plan	Categories and their descriptions:	Coordinating the work	Offering my expertise or knowledge	Offering my help
		Tick box		
<b>i. History</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Help with the current work on the history of the area being done by Robert Powell</li> <li>Provide some history from your own knowledge and background</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>ii. Geology and soils – research and write up:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Geology of the area</li> <li>Types of soils</li> <li>Minerals and mining</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>iii. Land Use and Planning policies – research and write up:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Land use around the lakes</li> <li>Crown land around the lakes</li> <li>Ownership patterns (full time, seasonal, vacant land)</li> <li>Township official plan</li> <li>Township bylaws</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>iv. Water</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research water quality data from MOE and from residents around the lakes</li> <li>Research water levels from Quinte Conservation and from residents around the lakes</li> <li>Do water sampling to get a baseline for the plan</li> <li>Set up measuring sticks and record water levels as a baseline for the plan</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>v. Streams</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research what is known about the streams – MNR and Quinte Conservation and residents</li> <li>Conduct or help to conduct a stream survey – water quality and benthics (life in the stream)</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>vi. Climate</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research what we know about climate from Environment Canada, MOE and residents around the lakes</li> <li>Set up a station to measure rain and snowfall</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**APPENDIX 5: Volunteer Sign Up Form**

The Volunteer Sign Up Form (page 2) made available at the meeting:

A. Parts of the Plan (continued)	Categories and their descriptions (continued):	Coordinating the work	Offering my expertise or knowledge	Offering my help
		Tick box		
vii. Forests and Wetlands	• Research what is known about the forest and wetlands around the lakes – MNR and Quinte Conservation and residents	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	• Add to the mapped information we already have	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	• Get involved in the wetlands monitoring program	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
viii. Fish	• Research what is known about the fish and fish habitat in the lakes from MNR and residents	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	• Research what stocking has been done, and what might be possible	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	• Help with creel surveys, netting surveys	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	• Take a student crew out in your boat so they can do survey work on the fish	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ix. Animal Life	• Research what is known about the species and populations of wildlife in the area – from MNR and residents	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	• Research the exotic and invasive species in and around the lake, e.g., zebra mussels	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	• Research what is known about any endangered or rare species, e.g., black rat snake	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	• Conduct research or observations on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Birds in general</li> <li>○ Loons</li> <li>○ Frogs</li> <li>○ Raptors (hawks, eagles)</li> <li>○ Other species</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
x. Social Elements	• Research the significant social, cultural and historic sites around the lakes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	• Conduct a boating survey to describe the type and amount of boating on the lakes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
xi. Other	• Other category (please specify): <input style="width: 150px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>B. Can you offer a specific type of Expertise that we need?</b>	i. Editing and writing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	ii. Photography	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	iii. Graphic Design & desk top publishing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	iv. Mapping/GIS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	v. Preparing Grant Applications	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	vi. General research	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Your Contact Details			
Name(s)	Address	Tel. Number	E-mail