

Lake Links Meeting, Sunday October 26th

Attending:

Mary Rawlyk, Ron Young, Barbara Parker, Orion Clark, Marilyn Crawford, Dave Crowley, Marilyn Crawford, Walter Ebaugh, Bryon Edwards, San Fong, Katja ?, Karen and Murray Hunt, Bonnie Mabee, Graham Mowat, Penny Paterson, Stan Seymour, Jackie and Brian Stapledon, Charlie Stewart, Julien Hawryszko

Aquatic Invaders workshop:

OFAH presented an excellent and informative workshop on invasive aquatic species.
(abstract will be included in final minutes)

Welcome:

Sarah thanked the OFAH again for their generous support for the event, including lunch. Bob Sneyd, Executive Director and volunteer for CSW, provided overview of evolution from the Big Rideau Lake Association. Spoke of building bridges, working on 'like concerns' of lake country with community and government stakeholders. Sarah Rosolen, Program and Development Director CSW, spoke about development over the last year, work done on developing programs based on lake interests. Together, they provided a quick overview of major CSW programs including Lake Links, a networking and information-sharing forum for lake associations and other community groups.

Survey Results:

Sarah provided an overview of survey results.
(summary will be included in final minutes)

2004 Program Opportunities:

(summary will be included in final minutes)

Lake Program Roundtable – summarized by topic

Building membership – how do we get more people involved

- It is often a crisis that gets people interested
- Otty Lake has a zone system where 'representatives' interact with members and other lake residents on a suite of lake issues – provide a voice for the association also increases interest and participation in the association
- Newsletters around the lake – to all residents at least once/year
- MNR Guardian or other lake steward could communicate about the association/lake goals
- BRLA has an Environment Committee, allowing people that want to be involved only in environment/ not administration to participate
- Advertise for volunteers in a local newspaper/annual newsletter
- Sarah commented that she believes that all residents on Charleston Lake are members of the Association and it would be important to learn from them.

Lake development issues

- Issues were raised about the fact that OPs do not currently factor lake capacity into development decisions
- Mary Rawlyk, Buck Lake commented on the process and positive experience of having municipal and CA planning staff tour the lake, pointing out areas of concern, viewing it in a way not possible from visiting land-based sites.
- Karen Hunt, Otty Lake and Jackie Stapledon, Farren Lake commented that they had done the same thing and had invited councillors as well
- Bonnie Mabee spoke of a success story with the Gananoque Waterways Association where a developer on Red Horse Lake wanted to put in a severance on a property. The CA and Township were going to let it proceed as it complied with the OP. The MOE had previously written a letter, indicating that no development should proceed on the lake as it was a 'sensitive lake trout lake'. GWA made a submission to the OMB, but also offered a facilitation session with the developer, resulting in the development of special by-laws for the property to guide development. The same developer, who had a 60-acre parcel across the lake, also offered to limit development (through by-laws again) to 10 acre parcels, considerably below the potential level development he may have originally envisioned.
- Dave Crowley (Grindstone Lake, Lanark Stewardship Council, FOCA, RVCA, FOTW, FEP!!!) commented that both the municipalities of North Frontenac and Tay Valley had spoken with him recently and positively about Lake Management or Lake Development Plans. He also commented on the number of sensitive lake trout lakes in North Frontenac.
- Orion Clark (Christie Lake and FOTW) commented on lack of baseline data for some lakes, especially those without lake associations. This information is important for OPs.
- Mary Rawlyk commented on small cottages being converted to year-round and the potential impacts.
- It was agreed that this was an important area for CSW to work with lakes to gather and manage data (reference earlier presentation on WIX) and to interface with municipalities. WIX can provide an important tool to empower lake associations to work with their municipalities on lake plans.
- Sarah commented that CSW has a particularly important role as municipalities have several lakes in their jurisdiction and individual lakes may border on more than one municipality. It makes sense for us to be working together. Sarah mentioned that they were planning on meeting with municipalities and various other stakeholders this winter to discuss data sharing and standards, and encouraged participants at this meeting to ask their municipalities to attend. [Editorial note: There is an excellent opportunity for lakes to work together with municipalities on lake plans and to establish a sense of standards.]

Septic systems and waste management

- Jackie Stapledon (Farren Lake, [M.A.P.L.E](#)) spoke of septic survey they had completed but didn't have access to (. She mentioned Tay Valley township was very proactive

now in septic reinspection.

Data collection

- Most lake associations are participating in Lake Partner Program
 - CSW is developing a water quality strategy that will integrate Lake Partner Program protocol with the Conservation Authorities' Watershed Watch (currently they are different) so that all data can be evaluated for trends.
 - Graham Mowat (BRLA) spoke of the LoonWatchers program excellent participation, people love their loons and want to protect them. Kits/resources have to be available for people to participate.
 - Orion Clark spoke of his work with Paul Hamilton at the Canadian Museum of Nature on phytoplankton analysis. They are working on using quantity and diversity of species
 - Orion also mentioned the abundance of historical water quality data at MOE and also sediment cores with Dr. John Smol at Queen's
 - Sarah reiterated the importance of following standardized protocols for data collection and data management to have government stakeholders accept data
 - Walter Ebaugh (Chaffey's) spoke of water quality monitoring programs and excellent relations with CSW staff over the last two years. He would like to post the report on the web to provide access to members.
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- Dave Crowley spoke of opportunities for CSW to partner with Lanark and Frontenac Stewardship Councils, FEP, FOTW, FOCA