

OTTER LAKE - SUSTAINABLE LAKE PLAN

2006 Questionnaire – Results

1. My vision for Otter Lake can best be described as: (check the one or two that most apply to you)

- a place to have fun with lots of activity going on 10 (4%)
- a place to just kick back and relax 53 (21%)
- a place to gather with family and friends 93 (36%)
- a place of natural beauty that restores my sense of well-being 101 (39%)

2. The quality of the water in our lake is important to me.

| <i>strongly agree</i> | <i>agree</i> | <i>no opinion</i> | <i>disagree</i> | <i>strongly disagree</i> |
|-----------------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| 132 | 22 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| (86%) | (14%) | (0%) | (0%) | (0%) |

3. We regularly swim in the Lake.

yes 130 (85%) no 23 (15%)

4. From where do you obtain your drinking water supply?

| <i>a well</i> | <i>the lake</i> | <i>other source</i> |
|---------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| 65 | 23 | 71 |
| (41%) | (14%) | (45%) |

5. If you obtain drinking water from the lake do you utilize a purification/filtration system.

yes 28 (42%) no 39 (58%)

6. Septic re-inspection is important.

| <i>strongly agree</i> | <i>agree</i> | <i>no opinion</i> | <i>disagree</i> | <i>strongly disagree</i> |
|-----------------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| 69 | 57 | 10 | 4 | 2 |
| (49%) | (40%) | (7%) | (3%) | (1%) |

7. I'm concerned about water pollution from water craft particularly those with two stroke engines.

| <i>strongly agree</i> | <i>agree</i> | <i>no opinion</i> | <i>disagree</i> | <i>strongly disagree</i> |
|-----------------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| 39 | 57 | 11 | 25 | 1 |
| (25%) | (37%) | (20%) | (16%) | (1%) |

8. Air pollution is generally not something that we can control locally. Water craft exhaust, however, does concern me.

| <i>strongly agree</i> | <i>agree</i> | <i>no opinion</i> | <i>disagree</i> | <i>strongly disagree</i> |
|-----------------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| 31 | 54 | 35 | 32 | 2 |
| (20%) | (35%) | (23%) | (21%) | (1%) |

9. I like to see wildlife around our cottage/home.

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| <i>strongly agree</i> | <i>agree</i> | <i>no opinion</i> | <i>disagree</i> | <i>strongly disagree</i> |
| 65 | 74 | 9 | 4 | 0 |
| (43%) | (40%) | (6%) | (3%) | (0%) |

10. I'm concerned about wildlife damage to our property, buildings and/or pets.

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| <i>strongly agree</i> | <i>agree</i> | <i>no opinion</i> | <i>disagree</i> | <i>strongly disagree</i> |
| 18 | 38 | 38 | 53 | 8 |
| (12%) | (25%) | (25%) | (34%) | (5%) |

11. I'm concerned about personal safety because of wildlife (eg. bears, wolves, fishers).

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| <i>strongly agree</i> | <i>agree</i> | <i>no opinion</i> | <i>disagree</i> | <i>strongly disagree</i> |
| 14 | 30 | 30 | 61 | 21 |
| (9%) | (19%) | (19%) | (39%) | (13%) |

12. Beavers should be legally trapped out of Otter Lake and its watershed.

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| <i>strongly agree</i> | <i>agree</i> | <i>no opinion</i> | <i>disagree</i> | <i>strongly disagree</i> |
| 47 | 37 | 30 | 2 | 2 |
| (31%) | (25%) | (20%) | (15%) | (10%) |

13. We (someone in your household or visitors) go fishing on the Lake.

| | | | |
|--------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>never</i> | <i>once a year</i> | <i>several times a year</i> | <i>quite frequently</i> |
| 26 | 44 | 55 | 19 |
| (18%) | (31%) | (38%) | (13%) |

14. We are satisfied with the fish population in the lake.

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| <i>strongly agree</i> | <i>agree</i> | <i>no opinion</i> | <i>disagree</i> | <i>strongly disagree</i> |
| 7 | 46 | 62 | 32 | 7 |
| (5%) | (30%) | (40%) | (21%) | (5%) |

15. I value peace and quiet on our lake.

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| <i>strongly agree</i> | <i>agree</i> | <i>no opinion</i> | <i>disagree</i> | <i>strongly disagree</i> |
| 73 | 68 | 14 | 1 | 0 |
| (47%) | (44%) | (9%) | (1%) | (0%) |

16. Noise reduces my ability to enjoy my cottage / home.

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| <i>strongly agree</i> | <i>agree</i> | <i>no opinion</i> | <i>disagree</i> | <i>strongly disagree</i> |
| 48 | 63 | 21 | 19 | 0 |
| (32%) | (42%) | (14%) | (13%) | (0%) |

17. Specific types of noise that bother me include: (check those of concern)
- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| <i>boats</i> 24 (10%) | <i>neighbours' music, radio, TV</i> 32 (13%) |
| <i>jet skis</i> 109 (44%) | <i>constant dog barking</i> 52 (21%) |
| <i>parties</i> 23 (9%) | <i>construction and maintenance</i> 5 (2%) |
18. I have a powerboat which I enjoy using on the lake.
- | | |
|---------------|-------------|
| Yes 100 (70%) | no 43 (30%) |
|---------------|-------------|
19. My boat motor is 25 hp or less more than 25 hp
- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 51 (51%) | 56 (66%) |
|----------|----------|
20. Does your outboard meet the 2008 EPA emission standards which would include most 4-stroke outboards and some newer 2-stroke models.
- | | |
|--------------|-------------|
| Yes 50 (51%) | No 49 (49%) |
|--------------|-------------|
21. I have a jet ski which I enjoy using on the lake.
- | | |
|------------|--------------|
| Yes 3 (2%) | No 146 (98%) |
|------------|--------------|
22. I enjoy watching the night sky.
- | | | |
|------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| <i>very much</i> | <i>some</i> | <i>no opinion</i> |
| 98 (64%) | 51 (33%) | 5 (3%) |
23. I want my property well lighted for safety and security reasons.
- | | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| <i>strongly agree</i> | <i>agree</i> | <i>no opinion</i> | <i>disagree</i> | <i>strongly disagree</i> |
| 3 (2%) | 41 (27%) | 41 (27%) | 61 (40%) | 8 (5%) |
24. I am aware of lighting techniques that provide light for specific purposes but that don't light up the sky.
- | | |
|--------------|-------------|
| yes 89 (63%) | no 52 (37%) |
|--------------|-------------|
25. I am concerned about boating safety on our lake.
- | | | | |
|--------------|---------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| <i>often</i> | <i>occasionally</i> | <i>never</i> | <i>don't know</i> |
| 30 (21%) | 97 (67%) | 10 (7%) | 8 (6%) |
26. Motorized water craft and water skiers interfere with swimmers.
- | | | | | |
|--------------|---------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>often</i> | <i>occasionally</i> | <i>never</i> | <i>don't know</i> | <i>specific concerns</i> |
| 12 (8%) | 80 (54%) | 24 (16%) | 28 (19%) | 3 (2%) |

27. Some water craft operators don't yield the right of way to non-motorized craft (sailboats, canoes, pedal boats).

| <i>often</i> | <i>occasionally</i> | <i>never</i> | <i>don't know</i> | <i>specific concerns</i> |
|--------------|---------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 13 | 72 | 13 | 47 | 9 |
| (8%) | (47%) | (8%) | (31%) | (6%) |

28. Some people have swimming rafts anchored too far out in the lake and they present a safety hazard to boaters.

| <i>strongly agree</i> | <i>agree</i> | <i>no opinion</i> | <i>disagree</i> | <i>strongly disagree</i> |
|-----------------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| 7 | 26 | 59 | 51 | 9 |
| (5%) | (17%) | (39%) | (34%) | (6%) |

29. Security of our cottage / home is an issue on our lake.

| <i>strongly agree</i> | <i>agree</i> | <i>no opinion</i> | <i>disagree</i> | <i>strongly disagree</i> |
|-----------------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| 17 | 59 | 44 | 36 | 7 |
| (10%) | (36%) | (27%) | (22%) | (4%) |

30. We've experienced a break-in in the last 5 years.

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| <i>yes</i> 15 (10%) | <i>no</i> 138 (90%) |
|---------------------|---------------------|

31. We've had a problem with trespass on our property.

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| <i>yes</i> 23 (15%) | <i>no</i> 130 (85%) |
|---------------------|---------------------|

32. I think we have a friendly community on the lake .

| <i>strongly agree</i> | <i>agree</i> | <i>no opinion</i> | <i>disagree</i> | <i>strongly disagree</i> |
|-----------------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| 28 | 101 | 18 | 7 | 0 |
| (18%) | (66%) | (12%) | (5%) | (0%) |

33. I value our sense of community and think it should be strengthened.

| <i>strongly agree</i> | <i>agree</i> | <i>no opinion</i> | <i>disagree</i> | <i>strongly disagree</i> |
|-----------------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| 26 | 85 | 39 | 3 | 1 |
| (17%) | (55%) | (25%) | (2%) | (1%) |

34. The ecologists say that the shoreline is the "ribbon of life" around the lake.

| <i>strongly agree</i> | <i>agree</i> | <i>no opinion</i> | <i>disagree</i> | <i>strongly disagree</i> |
|-----------------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| 50 | 73 | 26 | 4 | 1 |
| (32%) | (47%) | (17%) | (3%) | (1%) |

35. We all need to make sure we do a good job of keeping (or working to restore) our shoreline in a natural state with native trees and shrubs along the shore, and rocks and natural vegetation in the water.

| <i>strongly agree</i> | <i>agree</i> | <i>no opinion</i> | <i>disagree</i> | <i>strongly disagree</i> |
|-----------------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| 58 | 73 | 9 | 10 | 1 |
| (38%) | (48%) | (6%) | (7%) | (1%) |

36. I am concerned that runoff into the lake from lawn and garden maintenance (weed killers, pesticides, fertilizer) can lead to problems for the lake.

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------|------------|----------|-------------------|
| <i>strongly agree</i> | agree | no opinion | disagree | strongly disagree |
| 73 | 60 | 14 | 6 | 0 |
| (48%) | (39%) | (9%) | (4%) | (0%) |

37. A buffer of native trees, shrubs and other natural vegetation should be maintained between the developed part of the property and the lake.

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------|------------|----------|-------------------|
| <i>strongly agree</i> | agree | no opinion | disagree | strongly disagree |
| 54 | 60 | 25 | 11 | 3 |
| (35%) | (39%) | (16%) | (7%) | (2%) |

38. I think a lawn between the cottage and the lake is part of what some people enjoy about their cottage experience and should not be discouraged.

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------|------------|----------|-------------------|
| <i>strongly agree</i> | agree | no opinion | disagree | strongly disagree |
| 11 | 57 | 30 | 34 | 20 |
| (7%) | (38%) | (20%) | (22%) | (13%) |

39. Water levels are generally

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <i>too high</i> | <i>too low</i> | <i>acceptable</i> | <i>no opinion</i> |
| 20 | 23 | 93 | 10 |
| (14%) | (16%) | (64%) | (7%) |

40. There's too much fluctuation in water levels.

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------|------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| <i>strongly agree</i> | agree | no opinion | <i>disagree</i> | <i>strongly disagree</i> |
| 12 | 49 | 46 | 8 | 3 |
| (8%) | (31%) | (29%) | (24%) | (8%) |

41. Should water levels in the lake be controlled by artificial means?

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------|------------|----------|-------------------|
| <i>strongly agree</i> | agree | no opinion | disagree | strongly disagree |
| 11 | 32 | 32 | 52 | 23 |
| (7%) | (21%) | (21%) | (35%) | (15%) |

42. Have you noticed an increase in weed growth in your waterfront?

| | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>yes</i> 93 (62%) | <i>no</i> 25 (17%) | <i>somewhat</i> 33 (22%) |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|

43. Are you concerned by frequent algae blooms in th lake.

| | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>yes</i> 93 (61%) | <i>no</i> 20 (13%) | <i>somewhat</i> 39 (26%) |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|

44. Would you be concerned about construction on already approved building lots on the lake?

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| <i>yes</i> 45 (30%) | <i>no</i> 104 (70%) |
|---------------------|---------------------|

45. Would you be concerned about the creation of new building lots on the lake?

yes 118 (78%) no 33 (22%)

46. In some areas the redevelopment of existing properties (ie tearing down an old cottage and building a new one or doing a major expansion to an old cottage) is becoming an issue.

| <i>strongly agree</i> | <i>agree</i> | <i>no opinion</i> | <i>disagree</i> | <i>strongly disagree</i> |
|-----------------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| 21 | 31 | 55 | 38 | 7 |
| (14%) | (20%) | (36%) | (25%) | (5%) |

47. Should "monster" cottages or homes be built on our lake? ("monster" cottages or homes can be defined as those that cover a large portion of their lot and/or that are much larger than the rest of the buildings on the lake).

| <i>strongly agree</i> | <i>agree</i> | <i>no opinion</i> | <i>disagree</i> | <i>strongly disagree</i> |
|-----------------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| 7 | 26 | 36 | 40 | 43 |
| (5%) | (17%) | (24%) | (26%) | (28%) |

48. "Back lot" and "cluster" development should be strictly controlled to prevent added traffic and pressure on our Lake's environment.

| <i>strongly agree</i> | <i>agree</i> | <i>no opinion</i> | <i>disagree</i> | <i>strongly disagree</i> |
|-----------------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| 83 | 53 | 9 | 5 | 3 |
| (54%) | (35%) | (6%) | (3%) | (2%) |

49. Boat houses should be kept to a minimum to preserve the present look of our lake.

| <i>strongly agree</i> | <i>agree</i> | <i>no opinion</i> | <i>disagree</i> | <i>strongly disagree</i> |
|-----------------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| 40 | 57 | 29 | 17 | 2 |
| (28%) | (39%) | (20%) | (12%) | (1%) |

50. Are there too many laws and rules getting in the way of my ability to enjoy my property as I see fit?

| <i>strongly agree</i> | <i>agree</i> | <i>no opinion</i> | <i>disagree</i> | <i>strongly disagree</i> |
|-----------------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| 14 | 31 | 35 | 56 | 8 |
| (10%) | (22%) | (24%) | (39%) | (6%) |

51. Should there be more public boat access to the lake?

| <i>strongly agree</i> | <i>agree</i> | <i>no opinion</i> | <i>disagree</i> | <i>strongly disagree</i> |
|-----------------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| 6 | 2 | 8 | 50 | 78 |
| (4%) | (1%) | (6%) | (35%) | (54%) |

52. The Rideau Lakes Township roads are generally adequately maintained.

| in summer: | yes | no | In winter. | yes | no |
|------------|-------|-------|------------|-------|-------|
| | 122 | 16 | | 77 | 20 |
| | (86%) | (12%) | | (79%) | (21%) |

53. Our private access roads are generally adequately maintained.

| | | | | | |
|------------|------------|-----------|------------|------------|-----------|
| in summer: | <i>yes</i> | <i>no</i> | In winter. | <i>yes</i> | <i>no</i> |
| | 122 | 9 | | 66 | 20 |
| | (93%) | (7%) | | (77%) | (23%) |

54. I'm concerned about the names assigned to the roads around our lake.

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| <i>strongly agree</i> | <i>agree</i> | <i>no opinion</i> | <i>disagree</i> | <i>strongly disagree</i> |
| 7 | 13 | 77 | 28 | 17 |
| (5%) | (9%) | (54%) | (20%) | (12%) |

55. Non-resident snowmobile and ATV access to and from our lake is a concern.

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| <i>strongly agree</i> | <i>agree</i> | <i>no opinion</i> | <i>disagree</i> | <i>strongly disagree</i> |
| 29 | 49 | 50 | 11 | 4 |
| (20%) | (34%) | (35%) | (8%) | (3%) |

56. My lakeshore property is:-

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>a seasonal cottage</i> | <i>a year round home</i> |
| 61 (42%) | 84 (58%) |

57. Do you use your property all year round.

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| <i>yes</i> 46 (32%) | <i>no</i> 98 (68%) |
|---------------------|--------------------|