



McKenzie Lake Residents' Workshop Summary

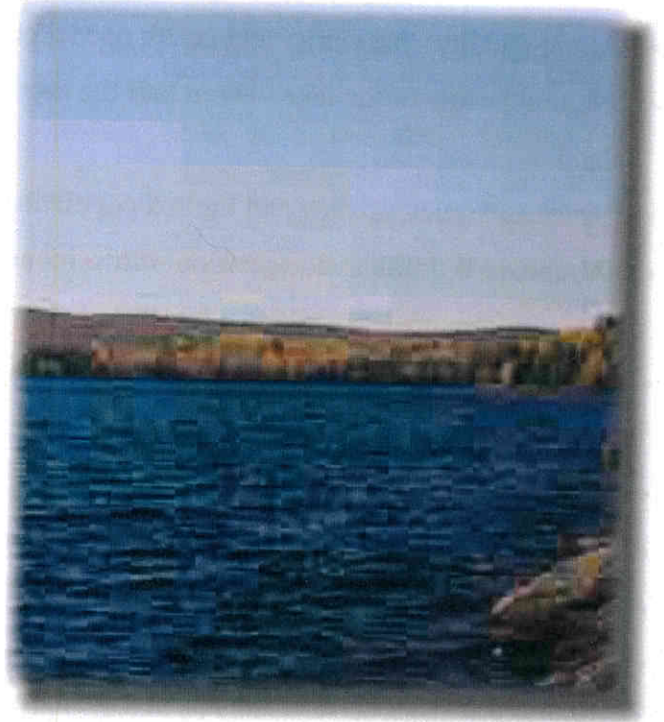
August 30th, 2008

Workshop Purpose

These proceedings record the results of the discussions at the Resident Workshop for the **McKenzie Lake Plan**. The workshop was hosted by the Environmental Committee of the McKenzie Lake Property Owner Association and was held at the Pigeon Residence, on August 30, 2008. About 20 people attended.

The purpose of the workshop was to promote discussion among the residents of McKenzie Lake to identify the important values and special features that support the current high quality of life in the area. Discussion was also promoted to identify the issues that impact these values, and the potential solutions.

The ideas that were discussed will be used to provide guidance for the development of appropriate strategic actions to be identified in the **McKenzie Lake Plan**.



Workshop Purpose

Rhonda Ursulak, Environmental Committee Lake Steward of the McKenzie Lake Property Owners Association, welcomed the workshop participants. Rhonda indicated that the workshop is an integral component of the planning process and that it is extremely important that we encourage the participation of everyone who lives, cottages, works or plays on McKenzie Lake.

Rhonda also provided an overview of the purpose, objectives and benefits

of the McKenzie Lake Plan and reviewed a proposed schedule for the following year.

The workshop provided an opportunity for lake residents to discuss comments with other members of the lake. Workshop participants were first asked to identify the general values, special places, and memories that support the high quality of life of people who live, cottage, or visit the area.

The residents were then asked to identify the issues that impact these values and places, and to discuss potential solutions.

These values, places, issues and solutions are identified on the following pages.

Developing a Community Map of Values, Special Places and Memories

To document the participants values, special places and memories of McKenzie Lake, a visual picture of McKenzie Lake was created. Residences were provided with a brainstorming worksheet which they could record their personal answers to prepare this summary. The three questions asked were:

1. Some of your most important values of your lake are:
2. Name the places that you feel are special
3. What memories do you have on the lake?

Important Lake Values

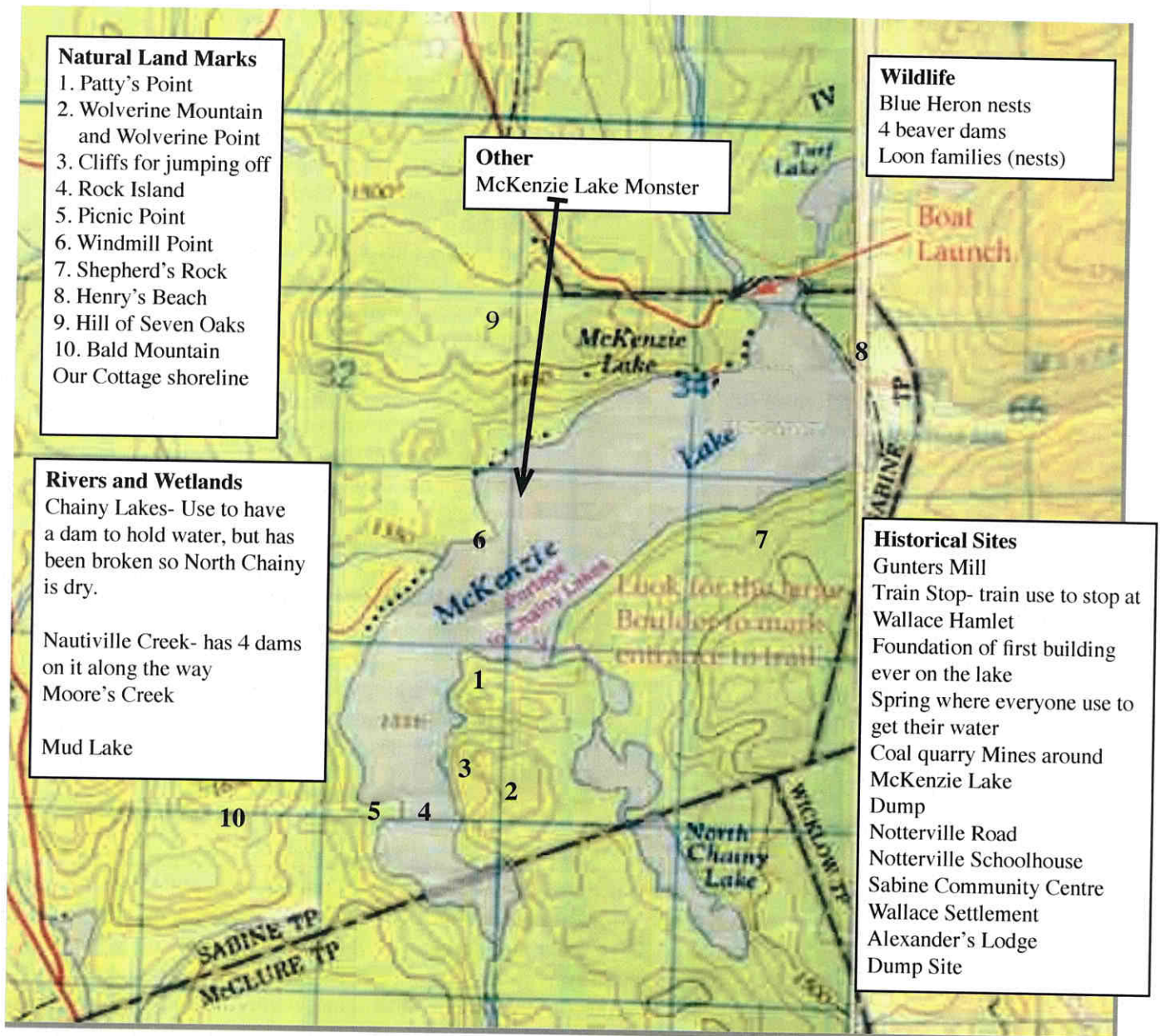
The following list of values identifies some of the reasons why Mckenzie Lake area appeals to residents, cottagers and visitors:

- Some of the most important values of our lake are:
- Water Quality - the clarity and health of Mckenzie Lake
- Natural beauty of the lake - about half the lake is still crown land
- Peace and quiet, privacy and limited population
- Abundant Wildlife and vegetation -birds, loons,beavers, deer, moose, turtles, wetlands, forests
- Social activities of the residents around the lake - BBQ, diverse population
- Fishing Opportunities - lake trout, small mouth bass
- Lake History, saw mill, hamlet town, first settlers and policy makers
- Family History, residents are 2nd - 5th generation on this lake
- Natural Shorelines - vegetation, lots of trees and steep cliffs
- Wild edible plants to take family on to find - mushrooms, blueberries, strawberries, raspberries
- Boating considerations and safety
- Wildlife sounds - loons, wolves, frogs, birds
- Story telling from seasoned residences through stories and pictures
- Strong support of local businesses - pie baking, greenhouse, cleaning services, handyman services etc.
- Night skies - dark nights which enable star gazing
- Recreational activities (summer) - swimming, canoeing, kayaking, hiking, water skiing, tubing,
- Recreational activities (winter) - ice fishing, snowmobiling, skiing, snowshoeing, tobogganing
- Limited population on the lake, keeps it open, secluded and not overcrowded
- Mutual respect for one another around the lake
- Ideal location and environment to teach future generations about the environment
- Nesting habitat for birds - Blue Heron, Osprey, Loons, Piliated Woodpecker
- Feels like home when you come up to the cottage, tranquil
- Active Cottage Association



Special Places

These locations are in the McKenzie Lake watershed



Memories

Memories give inside on what values to protect and issues to consider. Recounting our memories also increases awareness of people's reasons why they enjoy McKenzie Lake and passionate about protecting their quality of life on the lake.

- Corn roasts and sand baked beans
- Eating fish soup at Alexander's Lodge
- Public access to Henry's Beach
- Up and Downs Lane - Rough road
- All the dead heads on the lake from old logs floating
- Henry Coglán-the first trapper on the lake
- Thanksgiving dinners at the cottage
- Totem pole at the lodge
- Coghlan's use to run a still during exhibition years
- Judy La Marsh - Advocate for McKenzie Lake - had a lot of environmental issue practices and actions put into place

- Use to have propane lights at the cottage
- * Ken Pigeon and Judy La March started the Canadian Pension Plan - McKenzie Lake was its birthplace
- Foster's had an ice house for ice for resident ice boxes
- McKenzie Lake Road use to be paved - remember riding our bikes up and down the hills on the road
- * Stan Nelson held the 1st Association meeting which started as the Roads Committee
- Early road board meetings from 1960+
- Ken Pigeon painted a deer on his house and it became the official deer crossing symbol in Ontario
- Use to be two road boards and it became one board: South and North McKenzie Rd
- Fresh bread - boats use to go down the lake every morning to get fresh bread - if you were late, you missed it.
- Fishing and boating on McKenzie Lake
- Kids building a treehouse and a water slide
- Sitting on the beach with Henry Coglan
- Henry Coglan teaching 3 kids to fish off the rocks and catching a lot of fish
- Building and re-building docks that got destroyed by the ice over the winter
- Waterskiing
- Family get together
- Ken Pigeon sharing the history of the lake

- with me
- Remembering Henry Coglan
- Picnicking at the point near the island
- When not so many people were on the lake
- Snowmobiling years ago
- The moose that chased my wife
- Portage with children to Chainy Lake at Patty's Point
- Doug Skinkle stones
- Stan Nelson, Henry Coglan, Harry Weine, Doris McGarry, George Elliott, Ken Pigeon, Charlie Shannon
- Early ski-ins before snowmobiles
- Wolf calling in the winter
- Only seeing trapper footprints on the ice
- Otters playing on the ice
- The bear hat went to attack our cat in the truck; all we heard was a loud crash, a bang - the cat was gone and the truck window was smashed
- Sitting on our deck at night when a firecracker scared a bear and we heard it huffing and puffing as it ran under our cottage.
- Waking up to the sounds of loons
- Watching Doug Skinkle cut our large pine tree
- 2 planes crashing into the lake
- Army uses the area for training
- Big army planes flying overhead.

Issues	Description	Solutions
Water Quality	retain our water quality, have had ecoli in drinking water, more comprehensive water monitoring program, septic systems may be old and not working, or nonexistent, old dump site may be contaminating water supply, phosphorus loading from septic systems	Continue with phosphorus monitoring and clarity testing every year (Lake Partner Program with MOEE), offer a confidential septic and tile bed inspection, and education alternative septic systems, educate property owners on environmentally safe products to use and on water quality
Noise and Light Pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • outdoor flood lights (light pollution) • Fireworks on private property disruptions 	Investigate by-laws in the area regarding fireworks and noise restrictions,
Renters and Guests	do not have same values as owners -do not respect the environment and lake	have a renter's association produces guidelines to Rental Owners, a code of conduct

Issues	Description	Solutions
Wildlife	Lake Trout and Fish are questionable, pressure of wildlife from development, and threatened species beavers are damming and destroying properties	monitor and educate with the MNR start a catch and release of certain species until facts are known, research intervention options, with MNR and other communicate with MNR, relocation options
Enforcement	<p>Remediation of the dump, the bridge and the boat launch and outflow of McKenzie Lake to Moore's Creek</p> <p>dumping of brush around McKenzie Lake</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • littering and dumping garbage * no recycling in area • ATV damage to trails and soil loss on trails, bridge cut off flow on trail to Chaiy Lake • shoreline modifications • inappropriate use of the lake - bathing with soap, public • awareness regarding exotic species, how they are transportation and access points • boat speeds and Personal Water Crafts (PWC), 2 stroke engine and wakes 	<p>liaison with municipality to ensure proper plans are in place (budget for boat launch already scheduled for next year by municipality)</p> <p>Liaison with MNR to keep effluent flow from McKenzie Lake clear from debris.</p> <p>form a community brush pile, organize spring litter clean up every year, develop a recycling program in the community (perhaps partner up with Lake St. Peter)</p> <p>Open up communication with Trail Association (Bell Beckers) and MNR, MOE, Provincial Parks</p> <p>Educate the community encourage a sense of community to enforce lake watch</p>
Development	<p>landscaping to the shoreline, shoreline destruction, cutting down too many trees, hardening shoreline, clearing trees in order to see lake, lawns, increasing run off</p> <p>more all year round homes being built, larger homes, halting cottage development, land severance, urbanization and size of some developments, increased modernization like pavement, phone towers, windmill farms</p> <p>Preserving the crown land</p>	<p>Have a lake resource manual, monitor and educate the benefits of keeping natural vegetation and trees.</p> <p>research by-laws and communicate with municipalities on size limits and severances, incorporate by laws to protect our values</p> <p>research legal rights, plans and policies in place, collect widespread of values on the lake, liaison to municipality on crown land trusts and rights</p>

How Can You Help?

The participants at the workshop were asked to suggest ways people of the community could help right now to preserve the health of McKenzie Lake. We encourage you to get involved!

These are the suggestions that were made:

- volunteer your time and skills for many aspects of the environmental committee: lake monitoring, loon surveys, Lake Plan Survey and research,
- develop a website exclusive to the McKenzie Lake Property Owners Association encourage Association membership
- increase electronic communication
- pool resources and utilize their expertise
- Fill out the survey and mail back
- attend workshops and annual meetings
- self monitor for safe and self stewardship on the lake
- organize more social events