



LAKE PLAN FOR CRANE LAKE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Lake Plan Committee - 2015

PREPARED BY THE CRANE LAKE ASSOCIATION www.cranelakeassociation.ca



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF LAKE PLAN

The stakeholders of Crane Lake include shoreline residents, private and commercial property owners, crown land management, and public lake users. This Lake Plan represents the interests of all stakeholders and includes the responses from those that participated in this community-based process. The intent of the Lake Plan is to protect what is currently respected as unique characteristics of the Crane Lake neighbourhood by developing a framework for the discussion and implementation of responsible, sustainable, and effective stewardship practices in the community. The ultimate goal of the Lake Plan is to serve as a collective voice for the stakeholders of Crane Lake providing a guiding document to local governments and residents with a current snapshot of our neighbourhood and a template for future generations.

VISION & VALUES

The future of Crane Lake and the usefulness of this report require that the Plan represents the interests of all stakeholders and reflects the diversity of those interests. The Plan is meant to characterize the balance between the economic needs of the community and protection of the natural environment. It will be the tool that connects the dots between what is loved by the community today and that which is desired for future generations with respect to the unique beauty and enjoyment of Crane Lake.

A resounding consensus delivered by the Lake Plan is the importance of Water Quality to all stakeholders on Crane Lake. By identifying and confirming this value, the Lake Plan provides a key focal point for future dialogue, especially when engaging with various levels of government in determining land use and planning policies involving our community. The key values that have evolved from this process allow us to focus collectively on the following goals and principals:

WATER QUALITY

Water Quality is the predominant value of Crane Lake stakeholders. The goals and guiding principles of this community must include not only the proactive monitoring of water samples, but also the appropriate respect and response to the results of this testing. This focus demands the ongoing maintenance of a healthy habitat for fish and wildlife and stability in this bio-diverse environment. To support those efforts regarding water quality, the rehabilitation and protection of Crane Lake's natural shorelines, often referred to as "the Ribbon of Life", will help to promote a healthy habitat for local flora and fauna. Respect and protection for local wetlands will enable rare species to exist and will enhance the beauty of Crane Lake. Swimming and water activities are enjoyed and savoured by Crane Lake residents and their guests. With a mutual concern and respect for the quality of water as a main focus, the ongoing future enjoyment of this lake and the activities it allows, will be realized for generations to come.

CROWN LAND RETENTION

The retention of the Crown Land that touches the shores of Crane Lake is a very high priority, and a close second to water quality as an important value for the Crane Lake community. This enthusiastic expression by stakeholders emphasizes, under a unified voice, that the Lake must be protected from future development. This Lake Plan expresses to the Township and their Land Use Planning committee, the solidarity of this community regarding the protection of Crane Lake from any future planning and/or development, especially when in review of the Township of the Archipelago Official Plan. Further, studies by the Township of the Archipelago have already determined that

Crane Lake is at capacity with respect to the delicate balance between people and their impact on water quality. Expanded development that would be brought with the loss of Crown Land will negatively impact the water quality of Crane Lake, possibly irreparably, making this value in clear concert and support with the value of Water Quality.

FIRE PROTECTION

For decades, Crane Lake residents have benefited from the efforts of many individuals who have committed to responding to emergency-related incidents. This commitment has been supported financially by the Crane Lake Association through its membership dues and by donations by property owners, as well as by the individuals who have added their names to this committee's volunteer roster. Until 2015, this was the only line of response to a fire emergency and all Crane Lake cottagers and property owners who assisted over the years are to be thanked and commended for their selfless efforts and service. While the activities of this Committee will still be required, under a new Agreement between the Township of the Archipelago and Seguin Township, Seguin's Fire Department now responds professionally as the primary response team to structure fire emergency calls. The Crane Lake Association's Fire Committee and its fire equipment will continue to be used as required in every response. The focus on education regarding fire safety and risk management remains as a significant goal under this Plan.

CULTURE OF RESPECT

The historical, cultural and natural characteristics that make up Crane Lake are to be acknowledged, respected and retained to ensure future generations do not lose sight of how, why and who developed this community. Stakeholders identify the importance of the retention of local Crown Land as equal to the need for private property owners to show the necessary respect for the natural environment to ensure there is continued enjoyment of the scenery and natural vistas of Crane Lake. Any disruption to the natural beauty of our surrounding forests will have a direct negative impact on this particular pleasure which we measure as a great enjoyment. As guests in nature, the Crane Lake community must show respect to each other as neighbours, showing deference to our right to the enjoyment and preservation of this natural space. A respect for Crane Lake's history by all stakeholders serves as better preparation to move forward into the future with strategic planning and critical thinking that will incorporate the visions of those who built this community. It is through the stories told by past generations, and the community that has since developed within this neighbourhood, that the social fabric of Crane Lake is defined. It is important to the future that this heritage be preserved and that social involvement be encouraged to continue to foster a strong sense of community on Crane Lake. Respect for our predecessors, respect for our future generations, and just as importantly, respect for our current neighbours and their property is ultimately the best solution to a productive, responsible and cohesive community.

ACTION PLAN

WATER QUALITY

1. Continue to draw water samples for testing related to the monitoring of water quality
 - a. The Crane Lake Association, on behalf of all property owners, will provide volunteers to continue the water sampling and testing and share the results with members to increase awareness and for preventive and proactive purposes. (Figure 1.2)

2. Ensure partnerships with stakeholders invested in water quality preservation

- a. The Crane Lake Association will, on behalf of all property owners, continue to partner with other organizations and government agencies to ensure the water samples from Crane Lake receive ongoing professional attention. Examples include the Lake Partner Program, FOCA, and the MNRF.
 3. Promote education and awareness of water quality and preservation strategies
 - a. The Crane Lake Association will continue to provide ongoing education regarding the proactive actions required to ensure the preservation of the water quality of Crane Lake, including the importance of proper septic system management, the use of fertilizers or chemicals and increased awareness of invasive species, both on land and in water.
 4. Encourage the proactive protection of our natural shorelines to enhance water quality and the natural habitat for our fish and underwater vegetation
-

PRESERVATION OF CROWN LAND & NATURAL VISTAS

1. The Community must continue to encourage all property owners to respect and preserve the natural beauty of Crane Lake's vistas
 2. The Crane Lake Association, on behalf of all property owners, will continue to educate property owners regarding the effects of landscaping and shore alteration
 3. The Crane Lake Association, on behalf of all property owners, will continue to encourage all property owners to observe and report when necessary unsafe use of camp fires by visiting campers on crown land
-

FIRE RESPONSE AND RISK MANAGEMENT

1. The Crane Lake Association, on behalf of all property owners, by way of the fire committee, will continue to:
 - a. Maintain fire response equipment
 - b. Maintain a good relationship with the Seguin Fire Department
 - c. Educate CLA members and property owners regarding fire safety and best risk management/loss prevention measures
 - d. Encourage all property owners to effectively practice fire safety
-

A RESPECTFUL AND SOCIAL COMMUNITY

1. All property owners are encouraged to be respectful of those natural qualities that create the unique and pristine beauty of Crane Lake
2. All property owners are encouraged to be respectful of the shorelines of Crane Lake to ensure the ongoing natural preservation of our water quality and underwater fish and vegetation habitats
3. All property owners are encouraged to be respectful of others that live, cottage or visit Crane Lake. This includes:
 - a. active awareness of noise pollution
 - b. preservation of dark skies
 - c. protection of our shorelines with respect to the effects of boating
 - d. enjoyment by others of the various water activities available because of excellent water quality
4. Enjoy the social opportunities available through existing events that involve Crane Lake property owners and their guests
5. Encourage further development of a positive and enjoyable social environment