

News Release

6TH ANNUAL LAKE LINKS WORKSHOP HELD IN PERTH

MANOTICK, October 23, 2007 — The 6th Annual Lake Links Workshop was held October 20th at the Perth and District Collegiate Institute. With representation from over 16 government agencies (municipalities, provincial and federal organizations), non-government and volunteer organizations along with representation from 22 lake associations, there were over 60 participants in attendance. Presentations and panel discussions by local experts addressed important lake topics such as municipal planning, aquatic vegetation growth, algae issues, and septic re-inspection programs.

Since 2002, the Lake Links Workshop has been an annual opportunity for representatives of lake associations and other volunteer stewardship groups in Eastern Ontario to come together with government and non-government agencies to listen to speakers, share information, and address common lake and river issues that matter most to Eastern Ontario communities. The workshop has become an important networking opportunity for these groups and has fostered excellent partnership, communication and collaboration with regional government and non-government organizations.

This year's sessions included discussion of municipal official plan and by-law examples that support sustainable development and protection of lake environments, what steps are being taken by municipalities to include lake management and watershed plans into municipal official plans, and current by-law enforcement techniques that are in place to encourage sustainable development along our waterways.

Other topics included:

- algae and the causes and effects of algae blooms on lake environments
- strategies for dealing with excessive aquatic vegetation growth and the proper permitting processes
- updates of regional septic re-inspection programs with a presentation/case study discussion of the 3-Mile Lake septic re-inspection program

Updates and information sharing with the participating associations and other organizations, including the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA), were given. Common initiatives within the group included the undertaking of lake management planning and the continuation of environmental monitoring projects. Concern over potential mining activity in the region was also voiced.

The Lake Links Planning Committee is a collaborative of organizations from the region including the Bobs and Crow Lakes Association, Cataraqui Region Conservation, Centre for Sustainable Watersheds, Community Stewardship Council of Lanark County, Friends of the Tay Watershed, Frontenac County Stewardship Council, Leeds County Stewardship Council, Mississippi Valley Conservation, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (Kemptonville District), Otter Lake Association, Otty Lake Association, Parks Canada, and Rideau Valley Conservation Authority.

Minutes of the meeting along with the presentations will be available on the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority website (www.rideauvalley.on.ca) and the Centre for Sustainable Watersheds website (www.watersheds.ca).

The Planning Committee is grateful to the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations, French Planning, and the Ontario Trillium Foundation for their generous support of this important lake event.

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