

Steps in Developing Your Lake Plan

The following steps are intended as a guide to the Lake Planning process for lake groups developing a Lake Plan. Because the process is as important as the end product, lake groups are encouraged to follow each step more or less in the order in which they are listed.

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1. Assess the need/desire for a Lake Plan on your lake

The bulk of the work required to develop a Lake Plan will be initiated and carried out by the lake group and other volunteers. It is therefore essential to have community support for the initiative. The community's willingness to finance specific Lake Planning costs must also be considered. Costs may include:

- Preparing and circulating questionnaires to the lake community;
- Organizing community meetings and renting meeting halls;
- Collecting specific data; and
- Printing reports, etc.

Hold a meeting to introduce the initiative and inform property owners and other lake community stakeholders about:

- What Lake Planning is;
- How a Lake Plan will protect the lake; and
- The community's role in the development of a Lake Plan (volunteers, committee members, financial or in-kind contributions, etc.)

The meeting will provide the opportunity to assess the level of support for a Lake Plan and begin recruiting volunteers. Take the time at this stage to develop a complete contact list of all property owners on your lake (*see Appendix 1: Planning a Meeting*).

2. Set up a Lake Planning Committee to undertake the plan and clearly define their roles

Once it has been established that property owners and other stakeholders on your lake are interested in undertaking the Lake Planning process, members for a Lake Planning Committee need to be selected. The Lake Planning Committee should consist of at least 5 to 6 people that are enthusiastic about the project and can commit to seeing the process through to completion. The role of the Lake Planning Committee is to:

- Be ambassadors for the lake and the plan;
- Encourage partnerships and discussion;
- Spark enthusiasm and interest;
- Motivate people to participate.

The Lake Planning Committee can then recommend members for the Community Partners Committee. The role of this committee is to provide advice and input into the development of the plan from a technical perspective. The Community Partners Committee should include

anyone that will be affected by, or can influence, the Lake Plan, but is not directly involved in developing the plan. Potential government agencies and interest groups may include:

- Agriculture Sector
- Municipalities
- Conservation Authorities
- Ministry of Natural Resources
- Ministry of the Environment
- First Nations
- Public Health Unit
- Local interest groups – Scouts, naturalists, anglers, camps, etc.
- Local area businesses that use the lake – camps, marinas, bait shops etc

Members of the Community Partners Committee will also be asked to provide background information, technical assistance, review reports, etc. where applicable.

3. Determine what people value about their lake and the issues that threaten those values

What do property owners want their lake to look, feel, smell and sound like in 5 years? What about in 20 years? What issues threaten that vision? Find out by distributing a questionnaire developed by the Lake Planning Committee and volunteers (see *Chapter Five: Conducting a Property Owners Survey* In: *Sustainable Lakes Planning Workbook: A Lake Management Model, Minnesota Lakes Association*)

It is important to try to get all lake users involved (residents, campground owners and users, upstream residents, farmers, outfitters, etc.) by making the questionnaire simple and accessible. Remember, look beyond your lake – activities beyond the lake boundary can have an effect on the lake and should be addressed in your Lake Plan.

Depending on the particular talents of people on the Lake Planning Committee and the size of the lake, questionnaires can be distributed electronically and/or by mail, with a return envelope or easy drop-off access. If your lake is relatively small or you have the time and a number of volunteers, personal contact is always the best way to communicate your message and gain support. A personal visit or telephone call is a great way to meet the people on your lake and share your enthusiasm for the project.

Once issues have been identified, review the list of contact information to ensure that everyone concerned has been contacted (users of the lake that do not own property, upstream residents and farmers, recreational clubs, etc.) and offered the opportunity to contribute to plan development.

Contact the suggested Community Partners Committee members and discuss your Lake Plan survey feedback with them. Support from government agencies and interest groups with significant interest in your lake (e.g. the municipality) is vital to the successful implementation of a Lake Plan.

4. Devise a Lake Plan strategy tailored to your lake

Because each lake is unique, the approach to developing a Lake Plan for your lake will also be unique. For example, the time frame within which you plan to complete your Lake Plan must be realistic with regards to:

- The amount of information available for the lake
- The involvement of lake community
- The awareness of property owners and users about Lake Planning
- The priority issues affecting your lake

It is important to take the time and make contact with the community and get people involved. The more people that support the development of a Lake Plan, the more volunteers are available to get the work done, wider perspective is reached and the more successful your plan is likely to be.

5. Approach 'Support Organizations' for Lake Planning Resources and Guidance

Refer to the list of organizations below for a number of organizations that provide Lake Planning support and guidance. Rideau Valley Conservation Authority's Lake Planning Program Website http://www.rvca.ca/programs/LMP_Program/index.html also offers other resources and links to other lake associations that have completed the process.

- [French Planning Services](#)
- [Federation of Cottages' Associations \(FOCA\)](#)
- [Huntsville Lakes Council](#)
- [Living Lake Plans](#)
- [North American Lake Management Society](#)
- [Rideau Valley Conservation Authority](#)

6. Establish the Terms of Reference and Work Plan for the Lake Planning process

By establishing Terms of Reference and a work plan for your Lake Plan, you will have identified:

- Goals you want to accomplish with the plan
- Lake issues to be addressed
- The approach to developing the plan
- The role of the Lake Planning Committee, volunteers, community partners, etc.
- Budget
- Time lines, communication strategy, etc.

The resulting document is a customized map of the Lake Planning process, indicating key points for meetings, newsletters, volunteer recruitment and fundraising.

7. Discuss the Lake Plan Project with the Community Partners Committee

In order for your LAKE PLAN to be successful, consult with the Community Partners Committee members (municipalities, MNR, CA, outfitters, camps, scout groups, etc.) to solicit help, information and input. The community partners can also help identify relevant information about your lake that is available through their organization.

Remember, this committee should include anyone that will be affected by or can influence the Lake Plan, but is not directly involved in developing the plan. Ensure that everyone with an interest in the lake has been offered the opportunity to participate on this committee.

8. Ongoing communication with residents and users of the lake

Communication and community involvement are both essential to the success of your Lake Planning process! You need to maintain and strengthen communication between the Lake Planning Committee and lake community through regular forms of communication, including:

- Meetings
- Newsletter updates
- Newspaper articles
- Flyers
- Road posters
- Door to Door campaigns
- Events
- Dock to Dock talks
- Stewardship activities
- 'Fun' events, etc.

Communication must also be maintained with everyone that has an impact on, or has an interest in, the lake.

The Lake Planning Committee depends on the hard work and dedication of volunteers to collect and compile information about their lake. Volunteers need to feel their contribution is

valued and their time commitment is respected. To best organize the volunteers and keep them interested, you might want to put together a questionnaire to find out:

- What are their skills and talents?
- What are their interests?
- Are they willing to learn new skills?
- Is there a job they are interested in doing?
- How much time are they able to commit both short (this summer) and long term (over the next 3 to 4 years)?

Volunteers can then be organized according to their interests and availability. Clarify each volunteer's responsibilities and how their work contributes to the Lake Planning process.

9. Compile and collect information

The Lake Planning Committee is responsible for recruiting volunteers to collect and compile information about the lake. The type of information needed to develop a thorough 'State of the Lake' Report spans time and a range of disciplines and will have to be collected from a variety of sources, including Lake Group records, government agencies, municipalities, etc. (See Appendix 2 Data to Include in a 'State of the Lake' Report for a list of:

- The essential questions that should be answered
- The types of information that may answer those questions
- Where the information may be found

It should be noted that the quantity and quality of information available for each lake will vary and many lakes will have questions left unanswered. The purpose of this exercise is to learn as much as possible about the lake but also to identify gaps in the information and target specific areas for field data collection.

10. Create a 'State of the Lake' Report for your lake

The 'State of the Lake' Report will **consolidate all of the information** collected by volunteers into one document. This document will present the current health of the lake and surrounding area as well as the issues that are threatening the health of the lake.

The information contained in the 'State of the Lake' Report will provide a baseline for any future monitoring or studies. In order to measure the effectiveness of the Lake Plan strategies, you need to know the condition of the lake before you started.

11. Review the ‘State of the Lake’ Report

Copies (electronic or hard copy) of the ‘State of the Lake’ report should be made accessible to everyone with an interest in the lake. This will allow them to:

- Be informed about the current state of the lake
- Ensure all available information has been taken into account

Be sure to provide contact information so that everyone can provide feedback on the report.

12. Establish a vision, goals and objectives for your lake

Combine the responses from the original questionnaire with feedback about the ‘State of the Lake’ Report from lake residents and community partners to establish the vision and the short and long-term goals and objectives for your lake. This step must be done in consultation with everyone that has an interest in the lake.

13. Determine the action strategies to protect and improve the health of your lake

Establish the steps needed to improve your lake health by consulting with all groups that are affected by or can influence the outcome of the Lake Plan. Consult with other lake groups that have had similar issues to share ideas and solutions.

Create a list of the actions and establish priorities. Discuss the list of actions and come up with a practical, achievable action strategy to address each goal and objective. This step will likely require extensive consultation with the Community Partners Committee as they are familiar with mandates, laws, regulations, resources, etc in your area.

14. Review the goals, objectives and action strategies and establish how the success of those strategies is to be measured

With all of the time and energy devoted to developing a Lake Plan, it is important to know if the strategies are working. Everyone with an interest in the lake needs to be involved in reviewing the goals, objectives and strategies of the Lake Plan to:

- Increase awareness and build consensus
- Promote communication about contentious issues and strategies
- Ensure the success of the action strategies can be measured
- Ensure the players have bought into the plan and will undertake the actions

To ensure the success of your action strategies can be measured, be sure to clearly define the goals and objectives and the time frame in which they are to be accomplished. Setting measurable objectives will also mean that success can be recognized and celebrated, which helps to maintain and develop community support and interest.

15. Prepare the draft Lake Plan

Draw on the issues, objectives and action strategies identified by everyone with an interest in the lake to develop a Lake Plan for the future of the lake.

16. Review of the draft plan by everyone with an interest in the lake

The draft plan must be distributed to and reviewed by everyone with an interest in the lake. Distribution can be accomplished in a cost effective manner by:

- Making a complete version available at key locations (local marina, general store, local library, etc.)
- Distributing a summarized version to any individuals with an interest in the lake.

Once everyone has read and digested the Lake Plan draft, follow up with meetings to gather and discuss feedback.

17. Prepare the final Lake Plan

Revise the final Lake Plan to reflect the feedback from property owners, the Lake Planning Committee, the Community Partners Committee and others with an interest in the lake.

18. Endorse the plan

In order to gain approval and support for the plan, the final plan must be distributed to all interested parties to be endorsed (members of the Community Partners Committee, property owners, businesses that use the lake, etc.). This may also be an opportunity for high profile government and interest groups to announce publicly their support for the plan (meetings, events, media, etc.).

19. Implement the plan and monitor the result of the action strategies

Lake groups have the ongoing task of maintaining community interest and involvement, in addition to implementing and measuring the success of the action plans laid out in the Lake Plan. There are many resources available that recommend creative ways to get people

involved and effectively spread your message. The key is to move people from thought to action.

Monitoring and reporting the success of your action strategy (in newsletters, local news paper, meetings, etc.) will help to maintain public interest and will facilitate implementation and revision of the plan when required.

20. Revisit the plan and revise as required

Your Lake Plan is a living document that will be revisited and revised over time as issues are dealt with and as new issues arise. What is more, it is a tool to be used to reflect and preserve the special character of your lake for generations to come.

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Appendix 1: Planning a Meeting

A synopsis of the information found in the Huntsville Lakes Council, *A Template and Manual: Developing a Lake Plan for your lake*, April 2004.

Things to keep in mind when planning a meeting:

- Set the date well in advance.
- Hold the meeting when seasonal residents are more likely to be able to attend.
- Ensure you have updated contact information for every property owner on your lake; prepare a sign-in list for meetings with space for home and cottage addresses, phone numbers and email addresses.
- Update your master contact list after each meeting.
- Send out either hard or electronic copies of the meeting notice to all property owners and include an agenda of the meeting.
- Include all property owners in your meetings, including non-members of your association, businesses, etc.
- Associations should decide on the voting rights of non-members on Lake Plan issues prior to meetings. If only members are able to vote, be prepared to recruit and welcome new members to keep attendance up.
- Stick to the agenda.
- More updates can mean more involvement. Follow up meetings with a newsletter or other media announcement (local paper, website, etc.) to highlight major points and accomplishments (steps in Lake Plan development, time line, budget, call for volunteers, announce accomplishments to date, recognize good stewards, etc.). Include any new background information that clarifies the issues.

Types of meetings

Introductory Meeting

Lake groups may want to consider holding a preliminary social event to get people thinking about the issues. One of the major obstacles facing lake groups is reaching the portion of property owners that are not members of the group or association. An informal social event may provide the opportunity to meet property owners on the lake while involving them in the Lake Planning process.

Consider having flip charts available for people to write down their concerns and values. Attempt to prioritize the values and the concerns as a group before the end of the event. This information will provide the preliminary information needed to begin work on management plan for the lake.

General Meetings

Be prepared to hold at least four general meetings during the time you are preparing your Lake Plan, a minimum of one per year. The frequency with which you hold meeting will depend in large part on the ability of residents (both permanent and seasonal) to attend. One general meeting per year should be sufficient provided people are kept informed by newsletter, email, website, etc. The following is simply a guideline of what can be covered at your annual meeting and should not limit you in terms of content or meeting frequency.

You should also budget time for a number of lake group Lake Plan Committee meetings (meetings can be help at members homes or other small locations, keeping the cost negligible). Lake Plan Committee members can also correspond by email or phone thereby ensuring all members are kept up-to-date.

First General Meeting

- Outline why a Lake Plan is important, what it can do for property owners and the steps in developing a Lake Plan (time frame, roles and responsibility)
- Budget and how to raise funds
- Discuss lake values and concerns and rank them according to importance (use the list from the preliminary social if you held one)
- Vote to proceed
- Form a lake group Lake Plan Committee and survey the room for local talent and expertise

Second Meeting – Lake Planning Committee

- Invite other stakeholders whose focus relates in some way to the issues (municipality, MoE, MNR, OPP, etc.)
- Hold the meeting for Lake Planning Committee members only but if the issues are contentious, all property owners should be invited

Third General Meeting

- General meetings require all property owners and stakeholders attend.
- If controversial issues deal with a small portion of residents or users, hold a separate meeting to try and get consensus on these issues.
- Consider hiring a facilitator if the issues are particularly contentious.

- Include a summary of previous meetings and a questionnaire for review prior to discussion (refresh people on the process taken to get where to where you are).
- Discuss the recommendations one issue at a time and prioritize the options.
- The meeting should result in an outline of the next steps to be taken:
 - Agreement on recommendations or steps to be taken before recommendations can be made
 - Development of the draft Lake Plan
 - Realistic time line to complete steps

Fourth General Meeting

- Motion to accept the draft plan.
- If too many revisions are brought forward, revise the whole document and hold another meeting.
- If stakeholders are so far apart on an issue that consensus is unlikely, it may be best to drop that issue entirely and revisit it at a later date (the Lake Plan should be reviewed annually).

Other Resources include:

How to Run and Effective Meeting, by Don Payne, Director, FOCA Executive Committee
<http://www.foca.on.ca/content/view/102/5/>

Appendix 2: Data to Include in a 'State of the Lake' Report

Before stewardship actions and land use recommendations can be developed to protect the long-term health of a lake, decision makers and property owners need to know the current condition of the lake and its watershed.

The intent of a 'State of the Lake' Report is to improve the knowledge and understanding of a lake and its watershed by outlining its history, changes, and trends over time, and examining the interactions and relationships of the lake environment relative to the pressures and issues facing the lake.

The type of information needed to develop a thorough 'State of the Lake' Report spans time and a range of disciplines and will have to be collected from a variety of sources. A 'State of the Lake' Report can include the essential lake health questions that should be answered and the types of information that may answer those questions.

The quantity and quality of information available for each lake will vary and many lakes will have questions left unanswered. The purpose of this exercise is to learn as much as possible about the lake but also to identify gaps in the information and target specific areas for field data collection. Once all of the information about your lake has been gathered, the information can be consolidated to produce a 'State of the Lake' Report for your lake.

This report will be developed to inform the reader, as well as solicit feedback and information that may have been overlooked. Your Lake Planning Committee will then be in a position to target resources towards monitoring or data collection programs. Once completed, members of the lake community can use this information to develop actions and recommendations that help ensure the long-term health of the lake and its watershed.

Data to Include in a 'State of the Lake' Report¹

	QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED/ INFORMATION NEEDED	SOURCE
LAND USE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Official Plans <input type="checkbox"/> Township Zoning By-laws <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards <input type="checkbox"/> Site Plan Control <input type="checkbox"/> Assessment Maps <input type="checkbox"/> Determine historical land uses <input type="checkbox"/> Pending applications for development/zoning amendments/subdivisions <input type="checkbox"/> Identify any present or future development sites (undeveloped lots, potential severances) <input type="checkbox"/> Characterize the location, type and extent of agricultural and industrial activity <input type="checkbox"/> Determine the extent of seasonal dwelling conversions to permanent residences and other development trends <input type="checkbox"/> Identify location of all past, present and future landfills sites <input type="checkbox"/> Identify recreation opportunities (past, present and perceived for the future) <input type="checkbox"/> Identify all existing and proposed municipal services (i.e. septic, stormwater, drains, roads salt application etc.) including policies and management of each <input type="checkbox"/> Identify the jurisdictional responsibilities of the agencies including policies and regulations affecting development and the management of water 	<u>Municipal Authorities</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Crown Land Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Ontario Living Legacy, District Land Use Guidelines <input type="checkbox"/> Ontario Base Maps <input type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure (dumps, highways, towers, dams, railways, pipelines, seaplane landing, hunt camps, etc) <input type="checkbox"/> Existing and potential recreational sites and trails (public access, boat launch, trails, natural areas, beaches, portages) <input type="checkbox"/> Sites of cultural significance <input type="checkbox"/> Surface Geology Maps <input type="checkbox"/> Known aggregate, mineral and forestry resources in watershed <input type="checkbox"/> Identify any specific (present and past) licensing arrangements e.g. bait fishing licenses, trapping, timber licensing agreements and forest management policies 	<u>Ministry of Natural Resources</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Sites of cultural significance <input type="checkbox"/> Sites of existing or potential land claims 	<u>Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs</u>

¹ Some information will come from a variety of sources and is therefore listed under multiple sources. These are only suggested sources of information and not all organizations will actually have the materials listed.

	QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED/ INFORMATION NEEDED	SOURCE
LAND USE Cont'd	<input type="checkbox"/> Mining claim areas with watershed <input type="checkbox"/> Active and abandoned mine sites <input type="checkbox"/> Known mineral resources <input type="checkbox"/> Determine the extent of mining claims on properties in the lake watershed and include a summary of the legislation affecting same	<u>Ministry of Northern Development, Mines and Forestry</u>
	<input type="checkbox"/> Areas subject to natural hazards such as flooding, erosion, and ice damage <input type="checkbox"/> Shoreline surveys	<u>Conservation Authorities</u>
	Areas of natural, cultural or historical interest <input type="checkbox"/> Shoreline Classification Inventory <input type="checkbox"/> Rideau Canal water level operations	<u>Parks Canada</u>

	QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED/ INFORMATION NEEDED	SOURCE
ECOLOGY	<input type="checkbox"/> Characterize the aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems of the lake watershed in terms of diversity and ecological health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify features that play significant roles in supporting the flora and fauna of the watershed (i.e. woodlots, wetlands, corridors, linkages etc.) • location of wetlands and assessment of significance • exotic species (purple loosestrife, zebra mussels etc) • role of natural and human-made obstructions on ecosystem health (e.g. dams, beaver dams) • trends in land use/vegetative cover over time <input type="checkbox"/> Identify specific habitats, spawning areas, nesting sites, migratory routes etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • location of known habitat such as: traditional deer winter yards and corridors • maps of breeding birds and nesting sites (loons, great blue heron, goshawks, osprey, red-shouldered hawk, cooper's hawk) • list of Species at Risk • location of significant or critical fish habitat (spawning, feeding, rearing, foraging) 	<u>Ministry of Natural Resources</u> <u>Birds Studies Canada</u> <u>Conservation Authorities</u>
	<input type="checkbox"/> Forest cover <input type="checkbox"/> Timber licenses and farms <input type="checkbox"/> Woodlot Management Information	<u>Eastern Ontario Model Forest</u>
	<input type="checkbox"/> Fisheries information	<u>Fisheries and Oceans Canada</u> <u>Ministry of Natural Resources</u>

	QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED/ INFORMATION NEEDED	SOURCE
SURFACE WATER QUANTITY	<input type="checkbox"/> Determine the lake characteristics (size, shape, depth, bathymetry, etc) - topographic and bathymetric maps <input type="checkbox"/> Identify and map all dams – natural and man made <input type="checkbox"/> Dam locations and operating regime (operating rule curve) <input type="checkbox"/> Lake surveys <input type="checkbox"/> Water Levels	<u>Ministry of Natural Resources</u> Parks Canada Lake Group/ Residents
	<input type="checkbox"/> Characterize the stream flow and water levels of the lake/watershed/historical human influence on water levels <input type="checkbox"/> Watershed and subwatershed boundaries (drainage basins and related tributaries) <input type="checkbox"/> Stream flow characteristics	<u>Conservation Authorities</u>
	<input type="checkbox"/> Permits to take water	<u>Ministry of the Environment</u>
SURFACE WATER QUALITY	<input type="checkbox"/> Historical water quality reports, records and trends (include water chemistry and benthic data) <input type="checkbox"/> Threats to water quality <input type="checkbox"/> Relate the status of water quality to human health risks and human activity <input type="checkbox"/> Relate overall water quality to constraints on the health and diversity of the aquatic ecosystem, plants and animals <input type="checkbox"/> Developmental carrying capacity of the lake/watercourse	<u>Conservation Authorities</u> <u>Ministry of the Environment</u> Lake Group/ Residents
	<input type="checkbox"/> Stormwater Management <input type="checkbox"/> Developmental carrying capacity of the lake/watercourse <input type="checkbox"/> Septic re-inspection	<u>Municipal Authorities</u>
	<input type="checkbox"/> Septic re-inspection <input type="checkbox"/> Bacterial monitoring at public beaches	Public Health Unit
	<input type="checkbox"/> Lake Partner Program <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental compliance reports	<u>Ministry of the Environment</u>

	QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED/ INFORMATION NEEDED	SOURCE
GROUND-WATER	<input type="checkbox"/> Groundwater monitoring <input type="checkbox"/> Groundwater characterization studies of the watershed (through Source Water Protection partnership efforts) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify aquifer characteristics of surficial and bedrock aquifers • the relative abundance and quality of groundwater throughout the watershed • geological and soil maps of the watershed • well record information • identify groundwater users in the area along with data on pumpage, number of wells etc. • significant groundwater discharge and recharge areas • water budgets <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrogeological reports	<u>Conservation Authorities</u>
	<input type="checkbox"/> Groundwater monitoring <input type="checkbox"/> Groundwater characterization studies of the watershed (through Source Water Protection partnership efforts) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify aquifer characteristics of surficial and bedrock aquifers • the relative abundance and quality of groundwater throughout the watershed • geological and soil maps of the watershed • well record information • identify groundwater users in the area along with data on pumpage, number of wells etc. • significant groundwater discharge and recharge areas • water budgets 	<u>Ministry of the Environment</u>
	<input type="checkbox"/> Hydrogeological reports	<u>Municipal Authorities</u>
	<input type="checkbox"/> Historical ground water testing results	<u>Lake Group/ Residents</u>
	<input type="checkbox"/> Lake base geology maps <input type="checkbox"/> Surficial and bedrock geology maps	<u>Ministry of Natural Resources</u>

	QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED/ INFORMATION NEEDED	SOURCE
Recreation Tourism and Economy	<input type="checkbox"/> Accident reports <input type="checkbox"/> Inventory of navigational constraints and current warning systems <input type="checkbox"/> Noise complaints	<u>Ontario Provincial Police</u>
	<input type="checkbox"/> Boating capacity assessment	<u>Parks Canada</u>
	<input type="checkbox"/> Existing and potential recreational sites and trails (public access, boat launch, trails, natural areas, beaches, portages)	<u>Ministry of Natural Resources</u>
	<input type="checkbox"/> Potential recreational linkages	Local Interest Groups
	<input type="checkbox"/> Information on economy <input type="checkbox"/> List of local businesses <input type="checkbox"/> Identify past, current and anticipated economic trends (inventories, forecasts, etc) <input type="checkbox"/> Identify the role tourism and recreation plays in the local economy. <input type="checkbox"/> Level (intensity) and type (diversity) of recreational use of the lake and watershed <input type="checkbox"/> Maps of existing and potential recreational sites and trails (public access, boat launch, trails, natural areas, beaches, portages, private and commercial camps, outfitters, etc.)	Local Chamber of Commerce

Appendix 3: Example Visioning Exercise Questions for Public Meeting

Question 1:

What is your vision for _____ Lake and its Watershed so that 20 years from now this is still a great place to get away to, have fun and live in? Imagine we are in this meeting room in the year 20__ and we are celebrating the success of the visioning and planning we did in _____. The outcome has been successful beyond our expectations. What does this look like, sound like, feel like?

Question 2:

What are the major issues and challenges facing this area that can cause problems or are causing problems now?

Question 3:

What issues need to be addressed/improved now and how might we start doing this?

Question 4:

What issues do we need to address immediately and in the near future? "Top Priorities"

Question 5:

What ideas, advice or resources do you have that could assist the lake association in addressing current issues and concerns?