

**PART V— SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Project Team was asked to investigate the health of the inland lakes in the Cataraqui Region. Throughout the report, recommendations have been highlighted as they come up in discussion. This section compiles all the recommendations in a comprehensive list. They apply to a variety of stakeholders including the CRCA, municipalities, provincial governments, lake associations, communities, and landowners. The recommendations are grouped by category and are followed by the page number referencing their location in the main report. In some cases appendix references are also included.

The project team is recommending the following key tools and strategies to address the environmental integrity, water quality, ecosystem health, and visual character of the inland lakes in the Cataraqui Region:

### **PLANNING TOOLS AND POLICIES**

- Municipalities should consider the potential impact of development on habitats and natural linkages, and should seek to protect and enhance habitat corridors by using a Natural Heritage Systems Approach in their Official Plans. (See page 50 and appendix F4 for sample official plan policy)
- Municipalities should consider updating their Official Plans to include monitoring requirements and specifications for the management of Lake Trout lakes. (See page 14)
- Municipalities should consider recognizing the value of community-led lake plans as the basis for 'secondary plans'. (See page 45)
- Municipalities should consider developing a by-law to manage light pollution. (See page 19 and appendix F3 for sample by-law)
- Municipalities should consider the mandatory inspection of both commercial and domestic sewage systems, especially for waterfront properties. (See page 66 and appendix F6 for sample by-law)
- The Province of Ontario should consider expanding the *Cosmetic Pesticide Ban Act, 2008*, to include any areas currently excluded under the law (e.g., golf courses and agricultural lands) within 300 metres of any lake. (See page 47)
- Municipalities should consider implementing 'low impact development' to mitigate stormwater runoff, pollutant, and nutrient loading in lakes and waterways. (See page 48)
- Municipalities should consider implementing the Development Permit System (DPS) for waterfront areas (i.e. riparian areas). (See page 58)
- Municipalities should consider implementing the following land use planning recommendations either through the DPS or through traditional tools for all new lots (e.g. zoning by-law, site plan control):
  - Riparian Specific:
    - Minimum 30 metre vegetative riparian buffer including the following provisions:
    - Increased vegetative riparian buffer for slopes of 25% or greater
      - Minimum 75% vegetative cover along the shoreline
      - Minimize impervious surfaces within the 30 m buffer
      - Prohibit lawns within the 30 metre buffer
      - Prohibit permanent shoreline construction – floating docks recommended
- Other Site-Specific Recommendations:

- Maximum 10% total impervious surfaces per new lot (See page 100)
- Maximum 5% building lot coverage
- Minimize lawns and gardens and locate them as far as possible from the lake (See page 98)
- No more than one primary dwelling unit on a private lot with frontage on lakes
- Minimum one hectare lot size (See page 97)
- Minimum 91 metre water frontage
- Minimum 30 metre building setback
- Minimum 30 metre setback for septic systems

See Also:

See appendix F2 for sample low impact development by-law;

appendix F7 for sample 30-metre riparian zone by-law;

appendix F8 for sample stormwater run-off monitoring program; and appendix F11 for sample DPS by-law

- Municipalities should consider prohibiting back-lot development on private lanes within 300 metres of the shoreline.
- Municipalities should consider the designation of locally significant wetlands requiring a 50 metre buffer from development.
- Municipalities should consider harmonizing the zoning policies for all waterfront areas around a lake, in order to recognize that lakes represent a specific planning domain. This pertains to lakes within a single, or within multiple jurisdictions. (See page 30)

### **COMMUNITY-BASED APPROACHES**

- All stakeholders within the Cataraqui Region should encourage and participate in collaborative community-based lake planning efforts (See page 44).
- Lake and property owners associations should consider engaging the associations on upstream lakes in lake planning activities in order to be most effective in protecting water quality. (See page 95)
- Stakeholders should consider including a Landscape Character Assessment in community-based lake planning activities (See page 18).
- Lake and property owners associations should consider pursuing stewardship and monitoring activities (e.g. stormwater run-off, lake trout population, water quality, landscape character assessments) with government partners (e.g. Ontario Ministry of the Environment Lake Partner Program). (See page 42 and appendices F5 and F9 for sample programs.
- The CRCA should consider lobbying for a multi-stakeholder roundtable discussion with the Federal and Provincial Governments, to address the impacts of current water supply management rules and policies with respect to the impacts of water ‘taking’ and ‘drawdown’ on ‘upshed’ inland lakes. Examples of injurious impacts include those on sensitive Lake Trout habitat, wetlands and other spawning areas. (See page 28)
- The CRCA and member municipalities should consider increasing public education efforts – especially for waterfront landowners – regarding lake and watershed stewardship, including better utilization of

communication technologies (e.g. websites) and workshops. One component of a communication strategy would be to develop a 'Cataraqui Region Watershed Report Card' to create awareness about watershed health. (See page 37)

#### LANDOWNER INCENTIVES

- The Province should consider constructing a tax incentive program that provides incentives for riparian management zones on privately owned waterfront lots. The structure can be based on existing OMNR programs such as the *Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program*. (See page 68 and appendix F1 for a sample by-law)
- The CRCA and member municipalities should consider methods for educating landowners regarding their conservation and tax incentive options. (See page 72)

#### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY

- The province of Ontario should consider expanding the *Clean Water Act, 2006*, to address the connection between riparian land use and water quality of inland lakes beyond those with municipal drinking water systems. (See page 29)
- The CRCA should consider completing further research on the projected impacts of climate change on the region, and from this research, develop adaptation and mitigation plans. (See page 11)
- The CRCA should consider conducting a study to classify all of the shoreline in the region's watersheds, as the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority has done (RVCA, 2005). (See page 53)
- The CRCA and member municipalities should consider investigating new advances in sewage system technology for waterfront development (See page 67).