



Fostering Shoreline Conservation

The second Renfrew County Stewardship Forum was held on February 7th, 2013 at the Marguerite Centre in Pembroke. Discussion focused on the *Centre for Sustainable Watersheds (CSW) 2012* shoreline survey, Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA) Changing Climate Implications, and proposed community collaboration on Renfrew environmental issues.

The following individuals were present:

Cheryl Keetch, *Ottawa River Institute*

Kathryn Lindsay, *Bonnechere River Watershed Project*

Meredith Brown, *Riverkeeper*

Barbara King, *Centre for Sustainable Watersheds*

Kristina Inrig, *Sustainable Eastern Ontario*

Tina Toon, *Sustainable Eastern Ontario*

Izett McBride, *Township of Whitewater Region*

Allen Dick, *Township of Whitewater Region*

Brian Whitehead, *Jp2g Consultants Inc.*

Michael Fadock, *Jp2g Consultants Inc.*

Eric Withers, *Jp2g Consultants Inc.*

Jim Gibson, *United Township of Head, Clara & Maria*

Joanna Samson, *Ministry of Natural Resources*

Joanna Gaweda, *Ministry of Natural Resources*

Patricia Tait, *Ottawa Riverkeeper Riverwatch Program*

Mike Ryan, *Ottawa Riverkeeper Riverwatch Program*

Ole Hendrickson, *Ottawa River Institute*

John Almstedt, *Lake Clear/ORI/BRWP*

Larry Wade, *Round Lake*

Eric Smith, *Renfrew County Stewardship Council*

Linda McCormick, *Friends of Carp River/MVC*

Bobby Campbell, *Township of McNab Braeside*

Paul Lehman, *Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority*

Introductions and 1st Renfrew County Stewardship Forum, 2012

The initial Renfrew County Stewardship Forum 'Fostering Adoptive Collaboration' was held on April 24, 2012 at Algonquin College, Pembroke with a positive turnout of 26 individuals. The general sense was partnership between citizens, municipalities and government bodies are needed to proactively deal with environmental issues and stakeholders to include public consultation. Many groups felt the need to have a 'host' to bring together the various local organizations to work together, share 'good ideas' (community based monitoring) and continuing to foster collaborative



partnerships for environmental stewardship and management of Renfrew waterways. The full presentation can be viewed at watersheds.ca/news&events

Notable mention – Township of Whitewater Region is currently developing an official plan and dealing with water quality issues on Muskrat Lake

Renfrew County Lake Shoreline Assessment Pilot Project

Barbara King from Centre of Sustainable Watersheds presented *Love Your Lakes'* program field observation methods, draft reports and general summary of shoreline findings from Lake Clear, Mink Lake, Bobs Lake and Crow Lake. The project evolved from the 1980's MAPLE program (**M**utual **A**ssociation for the **P**rotection of **L**ake **E**nvironment in Ontario) and is currently being piloted across the province. The four lakes assessed in 2012 found half of the participants knew about the *Love Your Lakes'* program prior to a Lake Association presentation. By report delivery, averages of 50% of lake owners were more likely to take action as a result of the survey, which included clear suggestions to shoreline improvement and minimizing runoff erosion. It was made clear the suggestions resulting from the survey are *non-regulatory* and the project objective is for a shoreline balance of 75% for nature and 25% for property owner. Questions arose to the following:

- Need to correlate water quality with shoreline conditions. Currently there is no systematic approach in Renfrew County. This is outside of CSW *Love Your Lakes* program.
- Need for water conservation was evident in 2012 drought.
- Recruiting a lake process?
 - 6-12 mo. lead time to recruit a lake via POA – non-regulatory
 - Does POA approval mean assumed all property owners approve?
 - Intro letter to every property owner about the project
 - > What's in it that is positive for a property owner
 - Assessment individual to each property including recommendations
 - Lake association needs to provide a boat and a few volunteers; gas is covered
- Has CSW done before/after performance evaluations to assess conversion rate?
 - A lower Beverly evaluation survey had been done
 - Conversion rate will be assessed by RVCA on Bobs Lake and Crow Lake
- Need correlation analyses to assess efficacy of the *Love Your Lakes* program
 - Renfrew County has inconsistent water quality monitoring data
 - Ideal to monitor water quality with shoreline assessment and tracking change
 - CSW partner in Muskoka/Sudbury currently have water quality monitoring programs in place
- Sustainability plan for CSW and *Love Your Lakes*?
 - Partnership with Canadian Wildlife Federation
 - Currently seeking corporate sponsorship(s)



- What can Municipalities do?
 - Limit road proximity to lakes
 - Educate residents on wastewater, septic management and overflow water discharge

The full CSW presentation and shoreline rating maps can be viewed at watersheds.ca/news&events

Implications of a Changing Climate

Paul Lehman from the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority spoke about the implications Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority are experiencing as a result of climate change. With increased storm intensity and warmer temperatures, managing reservoir flows >5 cm have increasingly been unable to maintain due to changes in stream flow patterns. Shifts in the spring freshet have caused concern in maintaining lake water levels for recreation use, as well as fall drawdown. An increase in fall precipitation combined with fall drawdown had the potential for downstream flooding; however storing spring freshets risks shoreline damage from ice. Climate change has altered the historical patterns and methods relied upon for decades, causing the typical reservoir operating regime (calendar schedule) to adapt to present weather conditions. Pauls' presentation and weather charts can be viewed at watersheds.ca/news&events. Questions arose to the following:

- There seems to be many issues...how do we address?
 - MVC has an application to increase water power generation
 - Water management plan is needed, include water quality, land use, nutrient loading, septage
 - Understanding sources of nutrient loading
 - Reinstall septic inspection program
- Water storage guided by calendar date?
 - Water level constant real-time, daily monitoring, analysis and response
 - MVC utilizing 'balanced risk' decision management

Best Practices for Collaboration

Kristina Inrig from Sustainable Eastern Ontario spoke on internal capacity grants for Not-For-Profits, Stewardship Forum support and encouraged collaborative opportunities in Renfrew. Interest was shown to maintain communication/collaboration with projects such as Love Your Lake program, NYN initiatives, and annual/biannual Renfrew County Stewardship Forum. Other regions have successfully sought funding on a collaborative application to Ontario Trillium Foundation to form a Lake Alliance (ie: Renfrew County Stewardship Alliance), something Renfrew could consider, and support internally once funding complete.



Many attendants were interested in collaborating to aid the Snake River/Muskrat Lake watersheds' high phosphorus issue. CSW confirmed *Love Your Lakes* will survey the Muskrat Lake shoreline this summer (2013) and the below individuals will be contacted shortly for involvement.

Eric Withers
 Michael Fadock
 Brian Whitehead
 Joanne Gaweda
 Doug Skeggs

Meredith Brown
 John Almstedt
 Cheryl Keetch
 Ole Hendrickson
 Kathryn Lindsay

Eric Smith
 Bobby Campbell
 Allen Dick
 Izett McBride

- A reminder of the upcoming *Funders Forum* on *May 31 in Kemptville*. This usefully event directly connects the funders with organizations/groups seeking funds and build application writing skills.

Round Table Discussion Outcome

2 nd Renfrew County Stewardship Forum			
Discussion			
Needs		Opportunities	Challenges
Collaboration	Public engagement		Lack of capacity
	Better communication between players and effected residents	Stakeholders, municipalities & public working together	Lack of funding
	Get information to both public and decision makers - public meetings	Develop a regional network	Different 'levels' of responsibility
		Share information and knowledge	Need coordinated effort
County level plan for sustainability in Renfrew	More information about County including water quality reports	Ottawa River Keeper can map some info within watershed	Regulations won't solve 'water' problems alone
	Find out all data available in County and bring together	Analyze historic data	Lack of data analysis
		Build citizen science programs to fill gaps in data	Lack of compiled data
		Promote 'best practices' to County on environmental issues	County not involved in any environmental issues
Need a community map of who does what	Have 'go to' place to get information to share (network/database house)	Community mapping of who are all the groups and what they do	Lots of work, limited resources
		Map who is responsible for what within stakeholders, municipalities & public	Many stakeholders involved
	Need for 'champions'	Work around Muskrat Lake issue!	Don't re-invent 'the wheel'

