

**Report on Lake Plan Implementation to
Baptiste Lake Association Annual General Meeting**

August 11, 2012

- BLA initiated the lake plan process in 2005, to conserve, protect and enhance Baptiste Lake. We commissioned a series of scientific and technical studies (natural heritage, physical elements, land use, natural architecture) to provide baseline information. In 2006, a survey was conducted of all Baptiste Lake residents (cottagers, permanent residents, businesses, anglers, governments) to get community input. Stakeholder meetings were held with lake residents and area businesses in 2006, 2007 and 2008, with a final stakeholder meeting held in 2009, where the lake plan was approved. The final report was published that fall.

- a Lake Plan Implementation Committee was launched in 2010, with an implementation plan approved in 2011, to be launched over a three-year period. A workshop was held with the Hastings Highlands mayor and council in June of last year. Its theme was “Working Together for Mutual Benefit”, and it was a very successful event.

- The first year of implementation was last year. Here is what we accomplished. John Jared initiated a water testing program for water quality in the lake. Bob and Bryn Weese completed a study of the environmental and economic impact of fishing derbies on the lake. Burt Clarke looked at options regarding speed limits on the lake. Pauline Hawkes initiated a shoreline shrubs planting program (to be continued this fall), while Peter Oliver started an education (with meals) program on shoreline preservation and

restoration, using our “bookcase” events in the spring and fall (Victoria Day opening event and Labour Day corn/pig roast) to promote the cause. Frank Hicks began testing streams flowing into Baptiste Lake, while also testing the water temperature of the lake. Penny Anderson is monitoring developments which might impact the lake. Byron Kellar completed a report on the possibility of a public beach on Baptiste Lake, and Wally McColl is looking into a nautical map of greater Baptiste Lake.

- This year is year two of implementation. Here is what we launched this spring. Jim Verhoeven is looking into fishery rehabilitation. Adrian Hill in analysing land use issues. Christopher and Shannon Fabricius are initiating a wetlands evaluation and inventory. Bob Redford will be working with the municipality to encourage them to adopt a mandatory septic re-inspection program, as neighbouring municipalities have done. Hugh Stephens has already reported on the damage that light pollution does to our environment. We shall be making these reports available to you in our new website and through articles in our newsletter.

- Much is left to do. We need volunteers to undertake the following projects:

- frog and turtle monitoring program
- options for a boat wash-out station
- invasive species education
- forestry and tree-cutting bylaw for the lakeshore (recent problem)
- identify and protect wildlife habitat areas (e.g. turtle nesting sites)
- education on rare species and species at risk

- narrow water bodies

- I would ask each of you, if you are not already helping out, to do as your neighbours are doing, and volunteer to undertake one of these tasks – many hands, undertaking small and “doable” tasks, are how we shall implement the lake plan. Please see me after the meeting, or sign up at the table. Thank you.