



Eastern Georgian Bay Stewardship Council

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Lake Plans & Municipal Planning Workshop



Randy French (French Planning Services) speaking about lake plans to attendees at the 2nd annual Lake Stewardship workshop hosted by the E. Geo. Bay Stewardship Council.

Over fifty representatives from 23 lake associations and 2 municipal councils participated in a lake stewardship workshop held on June 25, 2007, at the West Parry Sound District Museum. The theme of the workshop, hosted by the Eastern Georgian Bay Stewardship Council (EGBSC), was “Lake Plans and Municipal Planning.”

According to Eric McIntyre, stewardship council coordinator: “The urbanization of cottage country is undeniably upon us. Now is the time for lake residents and municipalities to formulate what they want their lakes to look like in the future. Don’t wait until the developers show up with their proposals; the ground rules need to be firmly established

in an Official Plan beforehand.” Several speakers advised that lake plans can be an effective tool to assist municipalities in formulating a vision for their lakes.

Mr. McIntyre noted: “We were very pleased with the turnout. Not only is the topic a very timely one, but we were extremely fortunate to have lined-up an outstanding set of guest speakers.”

These included:

- Dr. Karl Schiefer, a consulting biologist provided a thought-provoking commentary on the social, ecological and environmental impacts of cumulative development;
- Steve May from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, gave a provincial over-view of municipal planning;
- Randy French of French Planning Services, a consultant specializing in lake plans spoke about the lake plan process and gave several case histories of their benefits; and
- Greg Mason, a Township of the Archipelago planner explained how official plans and by-laws guide the vision of what ratepayers want their lakes to look like.

According to workshop evaluations, participants were extremely appreciative of the excellent line-up of guest speakers at the event. Presentations are available on the Eastern Georgian Bay Stewardship Council’s web site at www.helpourfisheries.com.

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