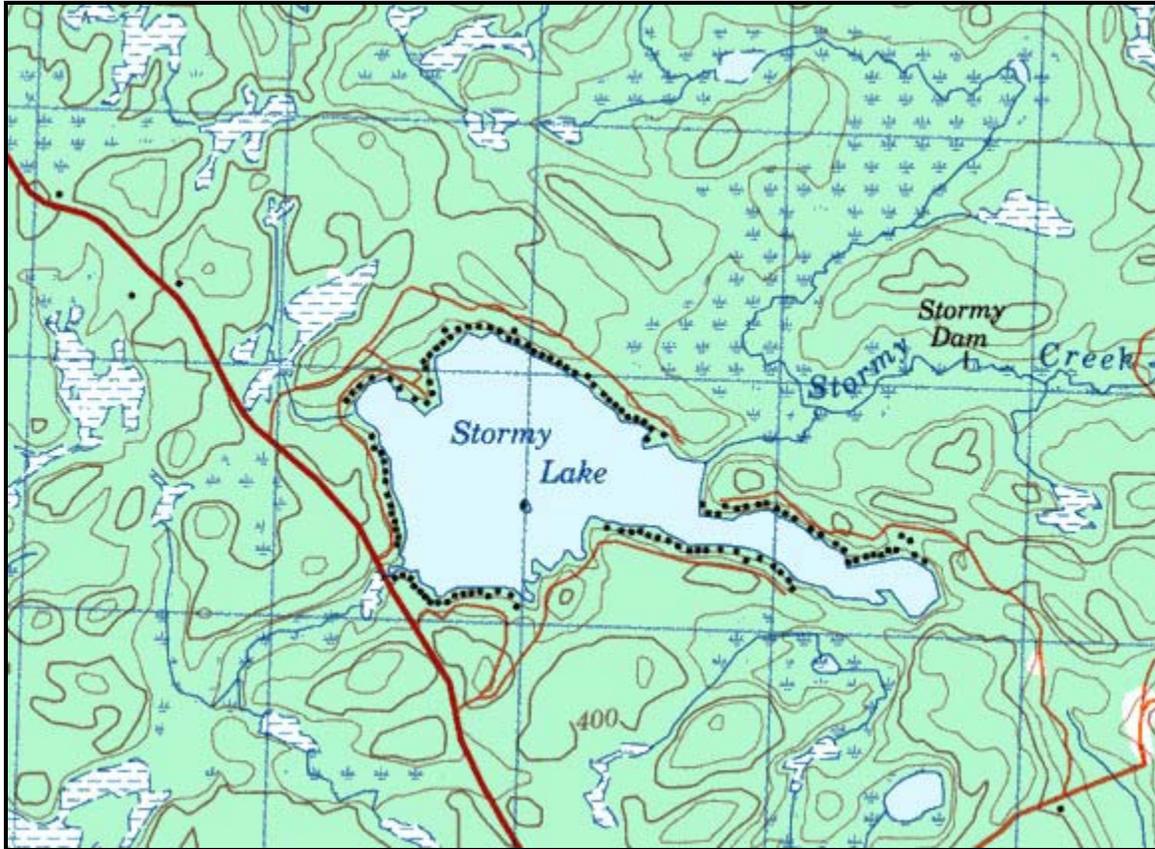


A Preliminary Proposal for the

Stormy Lake Plan



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Introduction

The Stormy Lake Association has expressed an interest in undertaking/initiating a community-based planning process to identify the carrying capacities and threshold limits for Stormy Lake in the Township of Glamorgan, County of Haliburton. The intent of this process is to provide recommendations for the municipal official plan and zoning by-laws as well as identify appropriate stewardship approaches to protect the specific values and features that are important to Stormy Lake.

The following outline provides a description of the process and products, as well as a preliminary quote to complete this initiative. The final cost will depend on the matters to be addressed, and the capability and willingness of local resource people to assist with the collection of background information and the preparation of the final Lake Plan. In order to minimize costs, French Planning Services Inc. will strive to use existing information as well as the talents and resources of municipal staff and local people.

What is a Lake Plan?

Lake Planning is a community-based planning process that considers the interests of all stakeholders on the lake and within the immediate watershed, including shoreline residents,

Lake Plan's are intended to identify, reflect and respond to the character and physical capabilities of an individual water body and shoreline community
- Lake of Bays Official Plan

and crown land managers, and lake users (anglers, boaters).

The purpose of the Lake Plan is to recognize and protect the unique characteristics of Stormy Lake and to recommend land use direction and stewardship approaches to ensure long-term protection, maintenance and restoration of the natural, social and physical features.

The lake planning process provides local property owners and stakeholders with an opportunity to confirm and protect important ecological and social values, and to set common sustainable objectives for their waterbody. The Lake Plan will identify land use, water, recreation and resource management issues, and provide detailed action-oriented recommendations related to land use policy (official plans, zoning by-laws) and stewardship approaches, such as an education and communication plan and restoration projects.



Our approach is to work closely with members of the Lake Association, and Municipal and Provincial staff in order to create a flexible process that will maximize the use of local resource people. The benefits of this approach include reduced costs, increased awareness, and improved local stewardship, as well as the creation of a network of local experts—communication and education are an essential component of this initiative.

Determining Appropriate Carrying Capacities, Threshold Limits and Shoreline Guidelines

Lake Planning encourages local stewards and other stakeholders to define the carrying capacity and threshold limits of waterbodies, individual basins, river reaches, and neighbourhoods in order to design appropriate guidelines for the preservation of shoreline values and features. Carrying capacity and threshold limits refer to the amount of development and recreational or human activity that a lake can sustain before diminishing any of its key features.

While water quality is considered to be the keystone resource for setting development capacities, there are many other factors that also affect a person's experience or quality of life on a waterbody (Figure 1).

Figure 1 – Factors that Influence Quality of Life

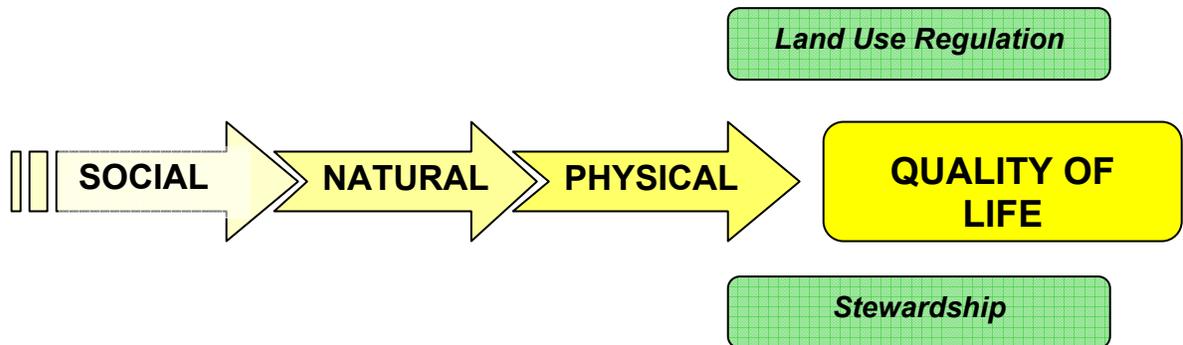
SOCIAL	NATURAL	PHYSICAL
<i>Land Use</i>	<i>Water Quality</i>	<i>Soils</i>
<i>Aesthetics</i>	<i>Water Quantity</i>	<i>Topography</i>
<i>Social Values</i>	<i>Wetlands</i>	<i>Groundwater</i>
<i>Boating Limits</i>	<i>Fish Habitat</i>	<i>Physiography</i>
<i>Cultural Values</i>	<i>Wildlife Habitat</i>	<i>Land Capability</i>
<i>Historic Values</i>	<i>Littoral Vegetation</i>	<i>Hazardous Areas</i>
<i>Recreation Activities</i>	<i>Riparian Vegetation</i>	<i>Navigational Constraints</i>
	<i>Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species</i>	

The Lake Planning process will assess and identify three general categories of values and carrying capacities: social, natural and physical (Figure 2). Initial meetings with the Lake Association, the Township, and other government and non-government stakeholders, such as MNR, MOE, DFO, commercial operators and recreational users, will help to determine which factors require further investigation. The Lake Plan will recommend land use planning and



stewardship approaches to maintain important values and ensure that carrying capacities are not exceeded.

Figure 2 – Social, Natural and Physical Features



Content of Plan

The content of the Lake Plan will depend on the direction set by the Steering Committee and the issues and values identified by shoreline residents throughout the process. Generally, the Lake Plan could accomplish the following:

- Provide a vision statement, and identify principles and targets to ensure the future health of the waterbody;
- Identify all biological, chemical and physical attributes, features and values;
- Identify and portray lake characteristics and neighbourhoods;
- Review water quality status and trends, and recommend new indicators for environmental health;
- Identify sensitive features and recommend appropriate recreational and/or environmental carrying capacities;
- Evaluate current land use policy on a watershed scale and recommend changes to improve the protection of the lake's assets;
- Identify issues, causes and remedies; and
- Prepare a list of actions (i.e., land use controls and stewardship approaches to deal with specific issues such as an education/ communication strategy).

Project Objective and Products

The objective of this project is to facilitate a planning process to enable local stakeholders to research information and develop approaches to protect their lake. Where possible, all research and communication for the Lake Plan will be conducted by the Stormy Lake Association under the guidance of French Planning Services Inc.



The lake planning process may result in the following two documents, or any combination of these two elements:

1. Background Study – The background report can contain information describing the artificial, natural, physical and social elements on Stormy Lake. The report will summarize existing land use planning direction and resource management potential, as well as summarize the findings of the stakeholder survey and provide recommendations to improve land use policy and promote local stewardship. It will also include a detailed analysis of the water quality information and recommended development capacities.
2. Lake Plan – The Lake Plan summarizes important background information and recommends specific land use policy (official plans, zoning by-laws, site plan control) and stewardship approaches (communication plans, rehabilitation plans and monitoring activities).

From recent experience with a number of Lake Associations, the preference is towards the preparation of a Background Information Report, as well as a condensed Lake Plan (16 page) for distribution to Lake Association members and local agencies.

After the Lake Plan has been completed, the Stormy Lake Association may consider two other products to help recover some of the costs of preparing the plan and to communicate information to watershed residents and users. The intent of these products is that they are prepared separately and sold to people on Stormy Lake by the Stormy Lake Association. The cost of preparing these documents is not included in the estimate:

1. Lake Atlas - The Atlas is a “table top” book that presents the information, in graphic and textual form, compiled in the Background Information Report and Lake Plan.
2. A Community Map - The Community Map is a cartographic rendering of the information gathered on landform, landscape, social and historical features, and environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands, streams and fish and wildlife habitat. Local stories about past events on or surrounding Stormy Lake should also be considered to make the map more personal and interesting.

General Approach

The approach recommended by this proposal is for French Planning Services Inc. to work closely with members of the Stormy Lake Association to confirm a work plan, collect the background information, conduct surveys, and make final recommendations. The level of involvement of the participants depends on their ability and willingness to participate. The



benefit of this approach is that local people will become the keepers and the communicators of the information, and the knowledge will be kept on the lake.

To facilitate this approach, French Planning Services Inc. will take the lead in coordinating the process and developing the final product while working closely with members of the Stormy Lake Association. It is very important that communication between the Lake Association and the consultant is open and ongoing to ensure that the process is positive and satisfies the objectives of the Stormy Lake Association.

The following principles outline the approach that French Planning Services Inc. recommends:

- Optimize the use of Lake Association and local government resources and information, where appropriate (volunteers, students, MNR inventories, water quality data, Official Plan), to minimize costs;
- Ensure open communication with Stormy Lake residents and stakeholders through use of surveys, newsletters and workshops; and
- Ensure open communication and involvement with interested parties such as local residents, the local municipalities, MNR, MOE, DFO and commercial operators.

In order to finalize this proposal, the Stormy Lake Association and French Planning Services Inc. will discuss and confirm responsibilities for the following:

- Organizing the volunteers of the Stormy Lake Association for the collection of information;
- Facilitating workshops and information sessions with stakeholders;
- Collecting available resource information (review of MNR, MOE and municipal files);
- Conducting a review of municipal planning documents and working with municipal staff;
- Coordinating the resident and resort surveys and preparing the results;
- Collecting background information and preparing Lake Plan documents;
- Reviewing and summarizing existing water quality information from existing reports;
- Providing a discussion of water quality stressors related to Stormy Lake;
- Reviewing the current water quality monitoring program;
- Providing input into stewardship initiatives; and
- Preparing maps.



Work Plan and Schedule

A schedule for the planning process is found in Appendix 1 and the following provides more detail on each step of the process.

Step One - Initial Preparation

The purpose of this step is to confirm the framework for the project and to establish a Steering Committee. The purpose of the Steering Committee is to oversee the entire planning process, and to provide guidance and recommendations on the Background Information Report and the preparation of the final Lake Plan. It is proposed that the Steering Committee will hold one meeting during this step to confirm the purpose and scope of the plan, set clear objectives, confirm timelines, and establish a work schedule.

Step Two - Collect Background Information

The intent of this step is to identify and collect a range of background materials that will support the identification of important features and values. The Steering Committee will confirm the scope of information to be collected and assign responsibilities using the [Collection of Background Information Work List](#) (to be provided). The responsibilities for the collection of background information will be determined through discussion with the Stormy Lake Association. French Planning Services Inc. is prepared to take on these responsibilities where local resource people are not available.

Two workshops should be held at a minimum. The first workshop is held for a group of about 20 people who represent the major stakeholders such as commercial operators, government agencies and members of the steering committee. The purpose of this workshop is to create a list of the values to be protected and the issues to be dealt with as well as to identify opportunities for support or the collection of information. A second workshop is held for the residents and users of Stormy Lake to promote awareness, set objectives, and identify values and issues. The information from both of these workshops forms the basis for identifying the matters to be dealt with in the final Lake Plan.

A newsletter will be prepared and circulated at this point to promote a wider awareness and to report on the findings of the workshops. The messages in the newsletter will include an introduction to lake planning as well as identify what's happening this summer and how people



can participate. The newsletter will also identify the values that were discussed at the workshops.

A residential survey will also be conducted to create awareness and to gain understanding of local issues and values. The best approach is to conduct a face-to-face survey, which can be accomplished by dividing Stormy Lake into a number of neighbourhoods, and assign specific members of the Lake Association with the responsibility to deliver and conduct the survey. If this is not possible, the other approach is to mail the survey to all shoreline property owners and other interested parties.

Finally, the Steering Committee will confirm relevant issues and problems and present their results at the local Lake Association's Annual General Meeting (depends on timing).

Step Three - Prepare Background Report

During this step, French Planning Services Inc., or the Lake Association, will be responsible for consolidating the information collected and preparing a draft Background Report to be reviewed and confirmed by the Steering Committee. A newsletter will be prepared to communicate the findings in the Background Report and to initiate discussions regarding appropriate recommendations for the Lake Plan.

Step Four - Draft Plan Preparation, Issues, Direction and Strategies

The purpose of this step is to develop strategies to deal with issues and problems through discussions with the Steering Committee. Another Stakeholder Workshop will be held to provide an opportunity for two-way communication and discussion on future direction. At this point the draft Lake Plan will be prepared and reviewed with the Steering Committee.

Step Five - Draft Plan Review

The intent of this step is to make the Lake Plan available for review and comment. Copies of the Lake Plan should be available for a detailed review by those interested and a newsletter should be provided to communicate the content of the Lake Plan and list the recommended strategies. It is important that ample time be scheduled for this review to provide everyone with the opportunity to review and comment. The Steering Committee should present the draft plan to the Township Council and to the local Lake Association members at their Annual General Meeting, or a special meeting held for this purpose. After all the comments are



reviewed and considered, the final Lake Plan will be prepared by French Planning Services Inc. and reviewed by the Steering Committee.

Step Six - Final Plan

After the Steering Committee endorses the final Lake Plan, it will be reviewed by the involved agencies and presented and endorsed by the Lake Association at the Annual General Meeting. A newsletter will be prepared to announce its approval and recommendations.

Appendix 1 identifies a potential work schedule for the planning process. The work schedule is flexible and can be modified to meet the intent and time requirements of the Lake Association. Further discussion with the Steering Committee is necessary to confirm the schedule.

Preliminary Fee and Cost Estimates

The preliminary estimate for this project is in the range of \$5,000 to \$32,500 (not including GST).

	Task	Cost
Randy French, French Planning Services Inc.	Facilitate Lake Planning Process and Prepare Lake Plan	\$5,000 to \$22,000
Jasmine Chabot, French Planning Services Inc.	Review of Natural Heritage Data, Biological Inventories, and Prepare Lake Plan	\$2,000 to \$7,000
Applied GeoGraphics	Production of Maps (assuming GIS data is accessible)	\$ 3,500
ESTIMATED TOTAL		(Not including GST) \$5,000 to \$32,500

This proposal has been provided for discussion purposes and requires further information to provide a final cost estimate based on the willingness of local resource people to provide assistance, the accessibility of existing information, and the requirement for additional professional assistance. French Planning Services Inc. agrees to work within the final budget. We operate on a “pay as you play” philosophy and only services that are provided are charged to the maximum of the final estimate.



Appendix 1 - Schedule of Proposed Planning Process

Step One	Initial Preparation	February to March 2005 (2-6 months)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish Steering Committee, and identify roles and responsibilities • Steering Committee “Start Up” Meeting #1 to confirm purpose, scope, set clear objectives, confirm timelines, and establish work schedule 		
Step Two	Collect Background Information	March to August 2005 (6-12 months)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steering Committee will confirm the scope of information to be collected and assign responsibilities using the <u>Collection of Background Information Work List</u> (to be provided) • Hold Workshop #1 – Residents and Lake Users: to identify values, set objectives, and promote awareness • Hold Workshop #2 – Major Stakeholders, Commercial Operators, and Government • Prepare Newsletter #1 – “<u>Introduction: What is a Lake Plan?</u>” • Collect background information • Conduct stakeholder surveys (if necessary) • Undertake inventories or studies, if required (boat survey, shoreline structure) • Identify additional information needs (vegetation survey) • Steering Committee will confirm relevant issues and problems, and submit collected information • Present background information at AGM (depends on timing) 		
Step Three	Prepare and Confirm Background Report	August to November 2005 (3-6 months)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare Draft Background Report • Newsletter #2 – “<u>Recommendations from Background Report – An Executive Summary</u>” • Major Stakeholder Meeting #2 – to discuss recommendations • Residents Workshop #2 – to discuss recommendations • Review Workshop findings and finalize report 		
Step Four	Draft Plan Preparation, Identify Issues, Direction and Strategies	November 2005 to April 2006 (3-8 months)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steering Committee will develop the draft strategies to deal with issues and problems • Prepare draft <u>Lake Plan</u> • Review draft plan with Steering Committee and confirm recommended approaches 		
Step Five	Draft Plan Review	April to June 2006 (3-6 months)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make Lake Plan available for review and comment • Newsletter #3 – “<u>Content of the Lake Plan</u>” • Present draft <u>Lake Plan</u> and confirm community consensus on recommendations through working group meetings or a workshop • Receive comments, review with Steering Committee, and finalize <u>Lake Plan</u> 		
Step Six	Final Plan	Summer 2006
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek final plan approval at AGM and prepare Newsletter #4 – “<u>Next Steps</u>” 		



