



**REPORT # 1**

**UPDATE: MUSSELMAN'S LAKE STEWARDSHIP PLAN PROJECT (C10-DV & E05)**

Report Prepared By: Planner

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Director of Development Services concurs with the recommendation.

The Deputy-Director & Manager of Planning recommends:

- 1) THAT the Report on the status of Musselman's Lake Stewardship Plan be received for information.**

**1. PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this Report is to advise Council on the status to date of the project.

**2. BACKGROUND:**

Town Staff, in partnership with the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority, have initiated a study to develop a State of Musselman's Lake Sub-Watershed Report, and, an accompanying Stewardship Plan for the Community of Musselman's Lake. The Sub-Watershed Report and the Stewardship Plan are being developed in consultation with area residents and key stakeholders.

A budget of \$30,000 was established to complete this project, with funds being contributed from both the Town and Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority, as well as through other funding grants.

**3. ANALYSIS & OPTIONS:**

**3.1 Project Overview**

The key objectives of both the State of Musselman's Lake Sub-Watershed Report and the Stewardship Plan are to:



1. Involve all partner agencies and the public through active participation. The consultation program includes: community meetings, conducting a community survey with the residents, and the formation of a Technical Working Group comprised of various community groups/sectors;
2. Integrate disciplines, policies, mandates and requirements of all agencies and interests;
3. Identify the location, area, extent, present status, significance, function and sensitivity of the existing natural environment within the sub-watershed;
4. Identify the location and type of development constraints within the sub-watershed;
5. Identify sources of surface water contaminants from agricultural, urban, rural and natural areas and areas where there is potential for rehabilitation;
6. Evaluate potential impacts on water quality and on the natural environment associated with future development in the sub-watershed;
7. Identify remedial measures and control options to rehabilitate ecosystem health. Prioritize measures and options based on their cost/benefit and produce an implementation strategy (Stewardship Plan), which identifies agency roles and responsibilities and a schedule for completion;
8. Identify opportunities for community involvement;
9. Assess the impact associated with future urban growth on the health of Musselman's Lake and its surrounding drainage basin and develop a strategy to minimize and/or eliminate these impacts; and,
10. Provide direction for the protection and rehabilitation of natural heritage features.

Attachment No. 1 to this Report outlines the Project Outline and Responsibilities for the State of Musselman's Lake Sub-watershed Report and Stewardship Plan.

### **3.2 Consultation Process**

Over the course of the development of the Musselman's Lake Stewardship Plan, four community meetings are to be held to seek local input and insight from members of the Community of Musselman's Lake.



To date, Town Staff, in partnership with Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority, have hosted two Community Meetings. The first meeting, a “Public Information Session” was held on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2007 as a kick-off to the project where members of the community were invited to share any comments/concerns to assist in the development of the Musselman’s Lake Stewardship Plan. Suggestions from residents on issues to be addressed included those dealing with water quality, recreation, natural areas, safety concerns and collaboration between the community and the municipality.

A Second Community Meeting, held on November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007, provided community members with an update on current activities, and included a brief presentation from the President of Pride in Preston Lake, a community group with an established Lake Management Plan. A Technical Working Group (TWG) for the Stewardship Plan was also initiated at this meeting, seeking representatives from various sectors [i.e. residents; agriculture; aggregates, etc.] within the Community.

A hot button link has been placed on the Town Website devoted to the Musselman’s Lake Stewardship Plan and includes a link to the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority webpage. Information on Community Meetings, reports, and upcoming dates are periodically posted to both websites.

### **3.3 Technical Working Group (TWG)**

As part of the Project Outline, an advisory Technical Working Group (TWG) has been established, consisting of members of resident and community associations, the agricultural, aggregate and commercial sectors, Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority, Regional and Municipal Staff, Ministry of Natural Resources staff, and Ministry of Environment staff. The TWG will provide input to assist the Musselman’s Lake Stewardship Plan Project Steering Team (PST) on the development of a Stewardship Plan. This group of stakeholders will work together to identify and share data and scientific information relating to the project. In addition, the TWG will help form stewardship recommendations and a work plan with specific tasks, and, identify the relevant lead agencies, costs and forecasted timelines for implementation.

The proposed Terms of Reference for the Project Steering Team and the Technical Working Group is included as Attachment No. 2. The proposed Terms of Reference will form an Appendix to the State of Musselman’s Lake Sub-Watershed Report and Stewardship Plan.

The first TWG meeting, held on April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008, included an overview of lake monitoring to date, funding resources, and a discussion surrounding the basis for the stewardship plan, and, a general project timeline.



Next steps for the Technical Working Group will be the creation of a community survey to seek further resident input regarding Musselman's Lake. Additional lake monitoring and water quality sampling will be ongoing throughout 2008 by Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority staff.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

A project budget of \$30,000 was established to cover the costs of implementing this project for 2007 and 2008. This \$30,000 would be used to cover the costs associated with a workshop consultant, various material and supplies, including printing and publication for the workshops and advertising, as well as lab analysis and water quality monitoring.

The Town's share of this project is \$10,000 which is funded from the 2007 Capital Budget.

#### **5. ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PLAN:**

The Musselman's Lake Stewardship Plan is aligned with the Corporate Strategic Plan in the following manner:

*Balanced Growth & Community Sustainability*

- \* preserve and enhance community character (rural/urban)
- \* balanced land use planning—environment, economic and social considerations

*Community Health & Safety*

- \*enhance public safety through collaboration

#### **6. CONCLUSION:**

The Town, in coordination with Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority and members of the Technical Working Group, will continue to work toward the development of a Stewardship Plan that will help to improve the health and quality of Musselman's Lake and its watershed.

Staff will be submitting future Reports to Council on the Stewardship Plan once a draft implementation program has been development.

**For further information on this report, please contact Paula Viola, Planner, at (905) 640-1910 extension 326.**