

LAKE PLAN FOR CRANE LAKE

Lake Plan Committee - 2015

PREPARED BY THE CRANE LAKE ASSOCIATION www.cranelakeassociation.ca

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF LAKE PLAN

The stakeholders of Crane Lake include shoreline residents, private and commercial property owners, crown land management, and public lake users. This Lake Plan represents the interests of all stakeholders and includes the responses from those that participated in this community-based process. The intent of the Lake Plan is to protect what is currently respected as unique characteristics of the Crane Lake neighbourhood by developing a framework for the discussion and implementation of responsible, sustainable, and effective stewardship practices in the community. The ultimate goal of the Lake Plan is to serve as a collective voice for the stakeholders of Crane Lake providing a guiding document to local governments and residents with a current snapshot of our neighbourhood and a template for future generations.

VISION & VALUES

The future of Crane Lake and the usefulness of this report require that the Plan represents the interests of all stakeholders and reflects the diversity of those interests. The Plan is meant to characterize the balance between the economic needs of the community and protection of the natural environment. It will be the tool that connects the dots between what is loved by the community today and that which is desired for future generations with respect to the unique beauty and enjoyment of Crane Lake.

A resounding consensus delivered by the Lake Plan is the importance of Water Quality to all stakeholders on Crane Lake. By identifying and confirming this value, the Lake Plan provides a key focal point for future dialogue, especially when engaging with various levels of government in determining land use and planning policies involving our community. The key values that have evolved from this process allow us to focus collectively on the following goals and principals:

WATER QUALITY

Water Quality is the predominant value of Crane Lake stakeholders. The goals and guiding principles of this community must include not only the proactive monitoring of water samples, but also the appropriate respect and response to the results of this testing. This focus demands the ongoing maintenance of a healthy habitat for fish and wildlife and stability in this bio-diverse environment. To support those efforts regarding water quality, the rehabilitation and protection of Crane Lake's natural shorelines, often referred to as "the Ribbon of Life", will help to promote a healthy habitat for local flora and fauna. Respect and protection for local wetlands will enable rare species to exist and will enhance the beauty of Crane Lake. Swimming and water activities are enjoyed and savoured by Crane Lake residents and their guests. With a mutual concern and respect for the quality of water as a main focus, the ongoing future enjoyment of this lake and the activities it allows, will be realized for generations to come.

CROWN LAND RETENTION

The retention of the Crown Land that touches the shores of Crane Lake is a very high priority, and a close second to water quality as an important value for the Crane Lake community. This enthusiastic expression by stakeholders emphasizes, under a unified voice, that the Lake must be protected from future development. This Lake Plan expresses to the Township and their Land Use Planning committee, the solidarity of this community regarding the protection of Crane Lake from any future planning and/or development, especially when in review of the Township of the Archipelago Official Plan. Further, studies by the Township of the Archipelago have already determined that

Crane Lake is at capacity with respect to the delicate balance between people and their impact on water quality. Expanded development that would be brought with the loss of Crown Land will negatively impact the water quality of Crane Lake, possibly irreparably, making this value in clear concert and support with the value of Water Quality.

FIRE PROTECTION

For decades, Crane Lake residents have benefited from the efforts of many individuals who have committed to responding to emergency-related incidents. This commitment has been supported financially by the Crane Lake Association through its membership dues and by donations by property owners, as well as by the individuals who have added their names to this committee's volunteer roster. Until 2015, this was the only line of response to a fire emergency and all Crane Lake cottagers and property owners who assisted over the years are to be thanked and commended for their selfless efforts and service. While the activities of this Committee will still be required, under a new Agreement between the Township of the Archipelago and Seguin Township, Seguin's Fire Department now responds professionally as the primary response team to structure fire emergency calls. The Crane Lake Association's Fire Committee and its fire equipment will continue to be used as required in every response. The focus on education regarding fire safety and risk management remains as a significant goal under this Plan.

CULTURE OF RESPECT

The historical, cultural and natural characteristics that make up Crane Lake are to be acknowledged, respected and retained to ensure future generations do not lose sight of how, why and who developed this community. Stakeholders identify the importance of the retention of local Crown Land as equal to the need for private property owners to show the necessary respect for the natural environment to ensure there is continued enjoyment of the scenery and natural vistas of Crane Lake. Any disruption to the natural beauty of our surrounding forests will have a direct negative impact on this particular pleasure which we measure as a great enjoyment. As guests in nature, the Crane Lake community must show respect to each other as neighbours, showing deference to our right to the enjoyment and preservation of this natural space. A respect for Crane Lake's history by all stakeholders serves as better preparation to move forward into the future with strategic planning and critical thinking that will incorporate the visions of those who built this community. It is through the stories told by past generations, and the community that has since developed within this neighbourhood, that the social fabric of Crane Lake is defined. It is important to the future that this heritage be preserved and that social involvement be encouraged to continue to foster a strong sense of community on Crane Lake. Respect for our predecessors, respect for our future generations, and just as importantly, respect for our current neighbours and their property is ultimately the best solution to a productive, responsible and cohesive community.

ACTION PLAN

WATER QUALITY

1. Continue to draw water samples for testing related to the monitoring of water quality
 - a. The Crane Lake Association, on behalf of all property owners, will provide volunteers to continue the water sampling and testing and share the results with members to increase awareness and for preventive and proactive purposes. (Figure 1.2)

2. Ensure partnerships with stakeholders invested in water quality preservation
 - a. The Crane Lake Association will, on behalf of all property owners, continue to partner with other organizations and government agencies to ensure the water samples from Crane Lake receive ongoing professional attention. Examples include the Lake Partner Program, FOCA, and the MNRF.
3. Promote education and awareness of water quality and preservation strategies
 - a. The Crane Lake Association will continue to provide ongoing education regarding the proactive actions required to ensure the preservation of the water quality of Crane Lake, including the importance of proper septic system management, the use of fertilizers or chemicals and increased awareness of invasive species, both on land and in water.
4. Encourage the proactive protection of our natural shorelines to enhance water quality and the natural habitat for our fish and underwater vegetation

PRESERVATION OF CROWN LAND & NATURAL VISTAS

1. The Community must continue to encourage all property owners to respect and preserve the natural beauty of Crane Lake's vistas
2. The Crane Lake Association, on behalf of all property owners, will continue to educate property owners regarding the effects of landscaping and shore alteration
3. The Crane Lake Association, on behalf of all property owners, will continue to encourage all property owners to observe and report when necessary unsafe use of camp fires by visiting campers on crown land

FIRE RESPONSE AND RISK MANAGEMENT

1. The Crane Lake Association, on behalf of all property owners, by way of the fire committee, will continue to:
 - a. Maintain fire response equipment
 - b. Maintain a good relationship with the Seguin Fire Department
 - c. Educate CLA members and property owners regarding fire safety and best risk management/loss prevention measures
 - d. Encourage all property owners to effectively practice fire safety

A RESPECTFUL AND SOCIAL COMMUNITY

1. All property owners are encouraged to be respectful of those natural qualities that create the unique and pristine beauty of Crane Lake
2. All property owners are encouraged to be respectful of the shorelines of Crane Lake to ensure the ongoing natural preservation of our water quality and underwater fish and vegetation habitats
3. All property owners are encouraged to be respectful of others that live, cottage or visit Crane Lake. This includes:
 - a. active awareness of noise pollution
 - b. preservation of dark skies
 - c. protection of our shorelines with respect to the effects of boating
 - d. enjoyment by others of the various water activities available because of excellent water quality
4. Enjoy the social opportunities available through existing events that involve Crane Lake property owners and their guests
5. Encourage further development of a positive and enjoyable social environment

INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF LAKE PLAN

The stakeholders of Crane Lake include shoreline residents, private and commercial property owners, crown land management, and public lake users. This Lake Plan represents the interests of all stakeholders and includes the responses from those that participated in this community-based process. The intent of the Lake Plan is to protect what is currently respected as unique characteristics of the Crane Lake neighbourhood by developing a framework for the discussion and implementation of responsible, sustainable, and effective stewardship practices in the community. The ultimate goal of the Lake Plan is to serve as a collective voice for the stakeholders of Crane Lake providing a guiding document to local governments and residents with a current snapshot of our neighbourhood and a template for future generations.

PLANNING APPROACH

For the past decade the Crane Lake Association (CLA), as the representative body for property owners on Crane Lake, has given serious consideration to the design and development of a Lake Plan. In the summer of 2013, the CLA put forward to its membership a formal commitment to move forward in the development of a plan. A steering committee was created. Based on the considerable work done for Lake Plans by other local Associations, and the guidelines provided by the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA), a structured approach was established based on the following stages.

STEP ONE – PLANNING & PROCESS

- The intent to create a Lake Plan was announced at the 2013 Annual General Meeting of the Crane Lake Association. Interested persons were encouraged to reach out to the Board to be included in the steering committee.
- The Lake Plan Steering Committee was created to include all those that volunteered to help.
- The planning process to commence the design and contents of the Lake Plan included:
 - Determine scope of plan; Prepare work list of information to be collected; Contact Stakeholders; Prepare survey

STEP TWO – INFORMATION GATHERING

- Survey
 - A comprehensive survey was designed and circulated to stakeholders throughout the summer of 2013. A copy of the survey is available at www.cranelakeassociation.ca/lakeplan
 - Members of the CLA were provided a copy of the survey with their Newsletter
 - All property owners received an email with the link to the survey
 - All properties on Crane Lake received a 'dock drop' with a card containing information regarding the survey, inviting all members of the household (extended family, staff, etc.) to participate in the survey.
 - 169 surveys were completed and returned. Survey details and summarized results are available at www.cranelakeassociation.ca/lakeplan.

- Workshop
 - Participants in the survey who indicated their interest in further involvement were contacted with the opportunity to participate in follow-up workshops to review the survey and further discuss and identify important areas of focus on Crane Lake.
 - The workshops were held in the summer of 2013 for all responding participants.
- Information Gathering
 - Members of the Lake Plan Steering Committee proceeded to gather the necessary research and details to fit with those areas identified as critical in the Planning stage, as well as to support those areas of importance identified by the survey. Supporting information was gathered from various reliable sources including:
 - The Township of the Archipelago
 - Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Association
 - The Ontario Ministry of the Environment
 - The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
 - Fisheries and Oceans Canada
 - Muskoka Conservancy
 - Ontario Nature
 - Water Quality Survey of Blackstone, Crane, Healey and Kapikog Lakes, 2008, BLUEWATER BIOSCIENCES, March 15, 2009

STEP THREE – CONSULTATION

Notice of discussion of the Lake Plan was circulated to property owners of Crane Lake a month in advance of the 2014 Annual General Meeting. A presentation on the findings of the survey and the next steps of the Lake Plan were discussed at the 2014 CLA Annual General Meeting, including a breakout session to obtain further input. During the breakout session, attendees were provided large blank pages and markers and were provided with instructions to brainstorm responses that were used to supplement the survey and help focus further the areas of importance. The results of this workshop were found to be complimentary to the survey and supported the results found within.

At the 2014 Annual General Meeting, the CLA announced that the final steps would be the circulation of the Lake Plan to members at the 2015 Annual General Meeting and by email circulation to all property owners

STEP FOUR – IMPLEMENTATION

The Lake Plan Steering Committee proceeded to compile the relevant sections of the Lake Plan with presentation to the Crane Lake Association board for review.

STEP FIVE – MONITORING

The Crane Lake Association, on behalf of all Crane Lake Property owners, understands the importance of the Lake Plan as a living document and has committed to a monitoring process in which the Plan will be reviewed at least every five years. These reviews will be conducted by the CLA Board of Directors, who will determine the scope of the review based on the needs and intents of the community at that time.

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LAKE DESCRIPTION

PHYSICAL ELEMENTS

LOCATION

- Crane Lake is located in the Township of the Archipelago in the District of Parry Sound, Ontario, Canada. The lake is approximately 15 kilometres south of the town of Parry Sound, just east of Georgian Bay.
- The Crane Lake community can be reached by two roads:
 - via Exit 189 on Highway 400N, Lake Joseph Road to Regional Road 11 to Healey Lake Road to South Crane Lake Road
 - via Exit 213 on Highway 400N, Lake Joseph Road to Blackstone/Crane Lake Road

LAKE DESCRIPTION

Crane Lake is a moderately-sized, moderately deep lake with the following characteristics (see map Fig 1.1 below):

- Surface area: 513 hectares (1,267 acres)
- Lakeshore perimeter: 50.4 kilometres
- Average depth: 9 metres (30 feet)
- Maximum depth: 32 metres (105 feet)

WATERSHED

While Crane Lake has several small localized tributary inflows it is most influenced by the Blackstone River which flows from Blackstone Lake through the eastern and central basins of Crane Lake eventually ending up in the Blackstone Harbour of Georgian Bay. (Figure 1.1)

WATER LEVELS

- Water levels have been controlled since the early 1900's by a dam built for logging purposes.
- Cottage property development throughout the 1900's was based upon the assumption that the dam would be used to control water levels.
- The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) uses logs in the dam to control the water level. The regular operation involves the removal of a number of logs in the fall to lower the water levels such that when the spring run-off caused by melting snow occurs, damage to docks and other private property would be minimized.
- In 2001 the provincial government initiated a study to determine what action they could take to eliminate the need for the MNRF to regularly monitor the dam as they had deemed that maintaining water levels for recreational purposes was not in their mandate.
- The final decision, with active input from the Crane Lake Association and community, was to:
 - maintain the variable portion of the dam (ability to add & remove logs)
 - lower the rest of the dam to the normal summer high level via a fixed weir
 - install remote monitoring equipment
- The water levels continue to be managed using this system, however matters outside of the control of the community, such as MNRF personnel changes and budget constraints, can impact how quickly action is taken when water levels rise higher than expected. Community involvement is ongoing.

FIGURE 1.1 – CRANE LAKE WATERSHED

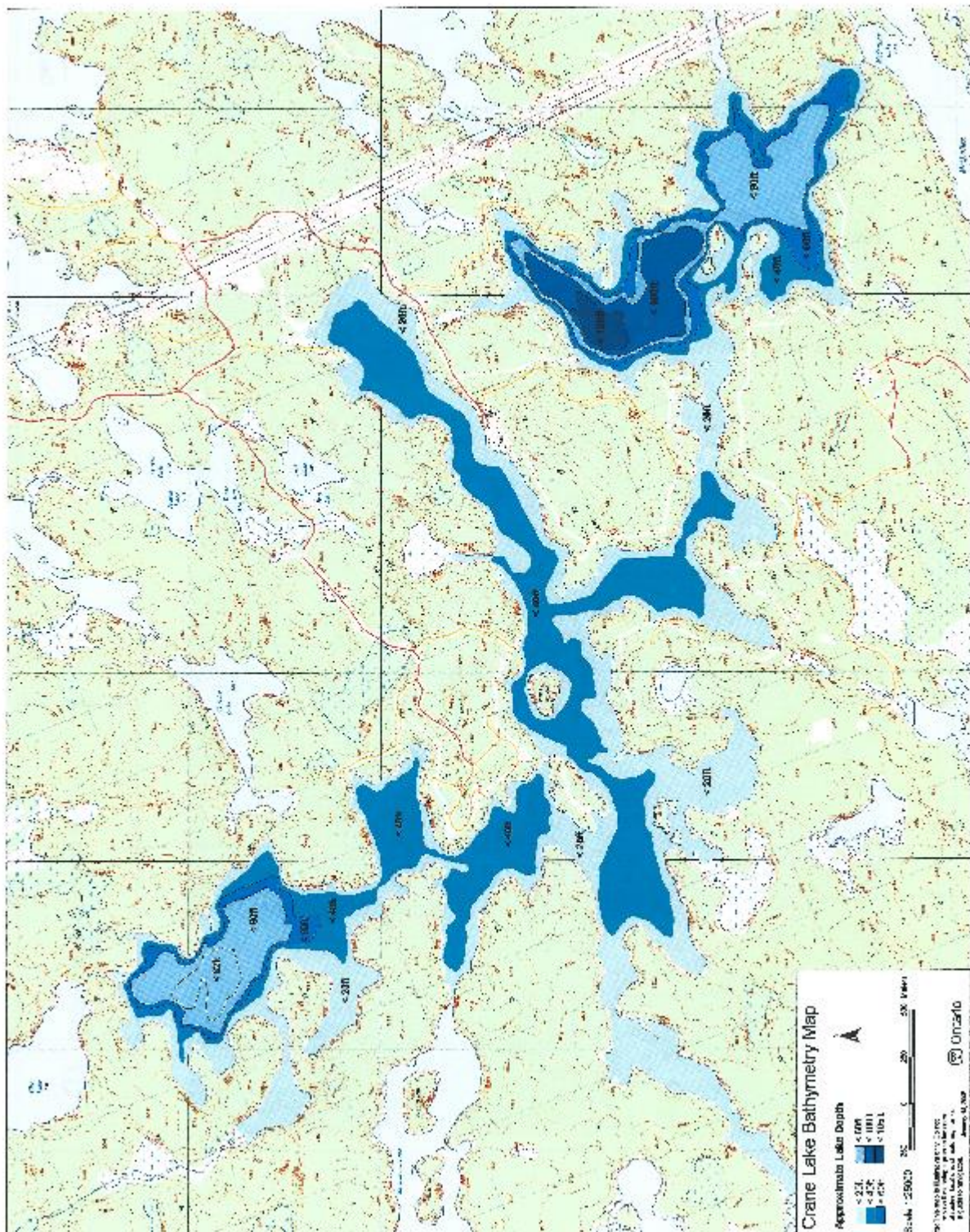
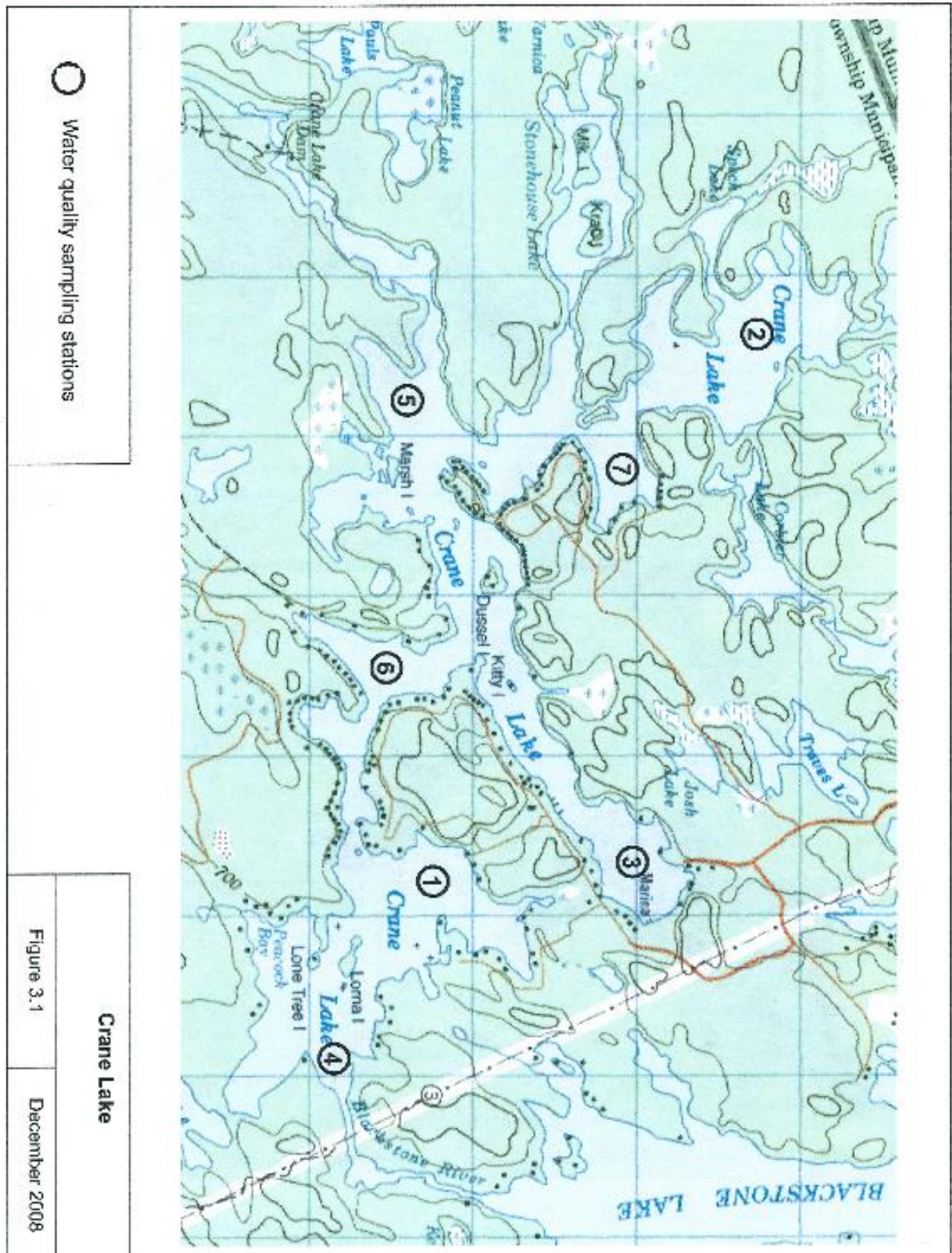


FIGURE 1.2 – TYPICAL WATER QUALITY TESTING SITES ON CRANE LAKE



NATURAL ELEMENTS

WATER QUALITY

HISTORY

- Volunteers have been collecting water samples on Crane Lake for many decades. For many years samples were taken to the Ministry of Health for analysis and the results shared with cottagers through the Crane Lake Association newsletter.
- Recognizing the importance of a longer-term database to manage and protect water quality and aquatic ecosystems, the Township of the Archipelago (TOA) initiated a monitoring program in 1999 involving a partnership between the TOA, local cottage associations, and local volunteers.
- In addition to the TOA monitoring activities the Crane Lake Association also participates in the Lake Partner Program operated by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. This program analyzes water samples from many of Ontario's lakes for phosphorus content and water clarity.

TRENDS

- Water quality in Crane Lake has historically been quite good. The pH is nearly neutral at 6.9 and there are low levels of dissolved solids resulting in high water clarity of 5 – 6 metres.
- The average total phosphorus readings for surface water as measured by the Lake Partner Program for the period 1996 – 2012 were 4.2ug/L. Sampling of deeper water (15 metres) took place in 2008 where results were slightly elevated at 15ug/l however there was very little phosphorus cycling from deep sediments because of the high dissolved oxygen conditions in the deeper basins which is a favorable condition for longer term water quality protection.
- The average E.coli readings for the period of 2004 - 2015 were 10.7 cfu/100mL which are in line with the Township's target of 10.
- Crane Lake being a moderately deep lake develops a thermocline or zone of rapid temperature change at a depth of 6 to 8 metres in the summer. Surface temperatures may be 21^o C while waters below 14 metres are 5^o C. Generally surface temperatures rise during the summer and often reach 25^o C before cooling off in the fall.

ALKALINITY

- Alkalinity, or the lake's ability to neutralize acid, is often related to the hardness of water since the main source of alkalinity is from carbonate rocks, such as limestone. While Crane Lake has granite bedrock with little carbonate, it still has adequate natural buffering capacity to neutralize the more acidic tributary inflows from surrounding beaver ponds and acidic bogs.

IMPORTANCE

- The Lake Plan survey conducted in 2013 confirms that water quality is the single most important value to ensure the ongoing enjoyment of life on Crane Lake.
- While 86% of respondents felt that the current water quality was good or excellent there were many concerns voiced about the future of the lake's health.

STREAMS

THE BLACKSTONE RIVER

- The Blackstone River flows into the southeast section of Crane Lake, through the central portion and then out the southwest section over the Crane Lake dam, eventually reaching Blackstone Harbour and Georgian Bay.

OTHER STREAMS

- There are several other small localized tributary inflows, the locations of which are sometimes hard to describe as not all of Crane Lake's many bays and streams have documented names. Starting from the south east and moving west and north:
 - McQuillan (Birch) Lake flows into the bay just south of where the Blackstone River flows into the lake.
 - There is a stream that flows into Peacock Bay.
 - There is a stream that flows into the top of the south end's northwest section.
 - There is a stream that flows out of the end of Overflow bay
 - There is a stream that flows into the end of Vankoughnett Bay
 - There is a stream flowing in behind Kitty Island
 - There is a stream flowing in behind Marsh Island
 - There is a stream flowing into Stonehouse Lake to the west & north
 - There is a stream flowing into Corbier (Alice) Lake in the north end on the east side
 - There is a stream flowing into Clear Lake further up the eastern shore of the north end
 - There is a stream flowing into Speck Lake on the west side of the north end

VEGETATION

TREES

- Shorelines on Crane Lake are rocky with a variety of trees including;
 - Hemlock
 - White Pine
 - Cedar
 - Spruce
 - Oak
 - Birch
 - Beech
 - Maple
 - Poplar
- Large sections of Hemlocks at the north end of Crane Lake have been identified and designated by the MNR as the Crane Lake Forest Provincial Conservation Reserve
 - "In the geographic Township of Conger in the municipal Township of The Archipelago, and in the geographic Township of Foley in the municipal Township of Seguin, in the Territorial District of Parry Sound, containing 387 hectares, more or less, being composed of those parts of the said geographic townships designated as Parts 1 to 4, both inclusive, on a plan known as C27 Crane Lake Forest Conservation Reserve, filed on March 7, 2003 with the Office of the Surveyor General of Ontario in the Ministry of Natural Resources"
 - http://www.experience-muskoka.com/park/crane_lake_forest_provincial_conservation_reserve.html

SHRUBS & GROUND COVER

- Shrubs include juniper and flowering dogwoods. There are a number of lichens and mosses found on the rockier shorelines.

WETLANDS

Crane Lake is fortunate that the western basin of the lake and several other bays have remained undeveloped with natural shorelines. There are wetlands in the following locations:

- Thompson “Lake” – a large wetland located on the western side of the north end
- Along the shores of the entrance to the Crane Lake Dam
- Homestead Bay
- Behind Marsh Island (both sides)
- Behind Kitty Island
- In south end on the north west shore of the inlet
- On west side of south end past Alle’s cottage
- Where Blackstone River flows into Crane Lake
- In Peacock Bay a couple of small marshes

FISH HABITAT

SPECIES

- The following species of fish have been identified by the Ministry of the Environment’s 2005 Trapnet Survey Report as having habitats in Crane Lake:
 - Lake Trout (stocked)
 - Walleye (Yellow pickerel)(natural and stocked)
 - Smallmouth Bass
 - Largemouth Bass
 - Northern Pike
 - Muskellunge
 - Yellow Perch
 - Black Crappie
 - Cisco
 - White Sucker
 - Brown Bullhead
 - Burbot
 - Rock Bass
 - Pumpkinseed
 - Forage Species (minnows, shiners, darters, etc.

HABITAT

- Fallen and submerged logs along the shoreline form an important fish habitat on the lake.
- Submerged shoals also attract fish. These shoals are found west of Oak Point and off of Lorna Island.
- Areas of vegetation, including off the shores of the property owned by Crane Lake Resort, provide cover for fish, as do the aquatic plants that grow in the summer in front of Dussel Island.

WILDLIFE HABITAT

WATERFOWL

- Crane Lake is home to a number of nesting pairs of Common Loons and Great Blue Herons as well as many types of ducks. The waterway heading west to the Crane Lake Dam is a particularly important nesting area for waterfowl as are all of the marshes identified in the Wetlands section of this document.
- More recently, many Canada Geese have made a home on Crane Lake using any significantly sized patch of grass as a nesting and/or feeding platform.

MAMMALS

- Beavers and otters are plentiful, often found under boathouses and docks.
- Bears are sighted near roadways and may approach cottages if foraging in the forest is unsuccessful.
- White tailed deer and moose are typically forest dwellers but there have been sightings on the roadways and shorelines.
- Raccoons, squirrels and chipmunks are frequently spotted throughout the forest.

INVASIVE SPECIES

Invasive species are a subject of extreme importance to the Crane Lake community. As their name implies, once invasive species are found in an area, it requires extreme commitment and determination from local communities to remove the species prior to their overtaking existing species. In many cases, this removal is unsuccessful, meaning that the Crane Lake community must rely on prevention as a first line of defense.

AQUATIC

- While there have been no known reports of zebra mussels having been discovered in Crane Lake, signs are posted warning about the risk at all boat launch locations.
- Round Goby fish have invaded the Great Lakes and could make their way to Crane Lake as “hitchhikers”, though none have been reported to date.

TERRESTRIAL

- Asian Long-Horned Beetles attack maples and oaks and are on the ‘high watch’ list.
- Emerald Ash Borer affects ash trees, though the population of ash in the area is limited.
- Beech Bark Disease caused by a fungus has recently been found on trees on Crane Lake.
- Other invasive plants that may be in the area include Dog Strangling Vine, Buckthorn and Garlic Mustard.

SPECIES AT RISK

Refer to the Georgian Bay Biosphere website at www.gbbr.ca for a complete current list of species at risk in the Parry Sound-Muskoka district. The Crane Lake community must remain proactive in protecting species at risk:

AQUATIC

- Crane Lake has a diverse fish population however the biological productivity in Crane lake is comparatively low, meaning that fish populations must be managed carefully and conservatively to avoid levels of exploitation that exceed the natural biological capacity of the lake.

TERRESTRIAL

- Beech trees attacked by the beech bark disease are expected to have a 90% mortality rate. Since there is no known treatment for this disease the beech forest is at risk of been wiped out. Animals that feed on beech nuts will be negatively affected should this occur.

FIRE RESPONSE

“The structure of the Crane Lake Fire Committee is like a three legged stool, with each leg of equal importance. Manpower, equipment (or “apparatus” in fire-speak) and communication are the three legs.” -Jim Hart, past Chair of the Crane Lake Association Fire Committee

FIRE COMMITTEE PERSONNEL

For decades, concerned community members have joined together to participate in the Crane Lake Fire Committee of the Crane Lake Association, providing rudimentary response capability to Crane Lake property owners in the event of a fire. Until 2015 the Township of the Archipelago did not provide professional or volunteer fire response. Through the efforts of the CLA Fire Committee and the support of the membership over the years, a structured process with CLA-owned equipment is in place in order to provide modest, localized protection for buildings and the natural environment. The stakeholders of Crane Lake are the beneficiaries of visionary, committed individuals who have donated much of their personal time and energy to the safe-keeping of the community.

The Fire Committee generally consists of 15 – 20 active members, several advisors, and countless property owners who have asked to have their phone numbers added to an automated contact system, facilitated through a contract between the TOA and Northern-911, an emergency dispatch call company. While the committee is fortunate to occasionally benefit from modest training by emergency response professionals, there is no professional training on equipment usage or firefighting practices and this committee is not to be compared with any volunteer or full-time fire fighting organization. The Fire Committee members learn to be familiar with the fire equipment and how to access it so that they are able to respond to an incident on Crane Lake. The Fire Committee provides no guarantee that they will be available to respond when an incident occurs since they are volunteering Crane Lake cottagers and may not be on the Lake at the time of the incident. This underlies the importance of having a large and diverse group of members and additional people on the calling list.

EQUIPMENT

The fire-fighting apparatus utilized by the Fire Committee has accumulated throughout the years by purchases made with the Crane Lake Association funds, donations from individual property owners, and ‘intelligent acquisitions’ of used equipment. Currently, the Crane Lake Association’s Fire Committee maintains the following:

- Fire Boat – 24’ pontoon boat with 90HP Yamaha Motor and equipped, at a minimum, with:
 - Fire pump with hundreds of feet of hose, nozzles, etc.;
 - Limited First-aid supplies;
 - Oxygen tank;
 - Back board and neck braces;
 - Defibrillator;
 - Megaphone;
 - VHF radio & walkie-talkies;
 - Various tools & accessories.
 - Emergency lights and siren.
- 5 Portable Honda fire pumps and related hoses and nozzles distributed throughout the lake;
- Firefighting accessories, including axes, picks and shovels;

The Fire Boat is parked beside the boat launch ramp at the Crane Lake Marina and is available for use by anyone to respond to an incident. The location of the 5 portable pump boxes are marked on the Lake Map distributed by the Crane Lake Association to its members. The Fire Committee members test the fire pumps and run the Fire Boat on

a regular schedule during the Spring, Summer and Fall seasons as well as completing inventory checks on the Fire Boat and related equipment to make sure everything is operational and ready for when it is required.

COMMUNICATIONS

In the past, the Fire Committee was alerted to an incident through the local phone system, or for those with satisfactory reception, cell phones. An individual reporting an incident would need to call each number on the list in order to get in touch with a Committee member, with no guarantee that anyone would be available. In 2011, with the support and co-operation of the Township of the Archipelago, a new process was introduced through 'Northern-911'. To report an incident, individuals call the central "fire number" (705-751-FIRE or 705-751-3473) or 911, where a Northern-911 dispatcher will initiate an automated phone call to all individuals who have volunteered to have their names on the calling list. By early 2015, more than 60 individuals have their contact numbers on the list and are notified of an incident, in addition to the Fire Committee. While response by the CLA Fire Committee is still not guaranteed, this service dramatically increases the possibility that someone on the lake will be available to respond to an incident.

As of April 2015, the Seguin Township Fire Service agreed by contract to provide professional fire response to Crane Lake property owners. This contract was developed through the ongoing efforts of the Fire Committee and CLA members over many years, and was negotiated for an additional charge on each property owner's annual tax bill. An informal survey in 2013 indicated that the majority of property owners were interested in the addition of this service. A formal vote facilitated by the Crane Lake Association was conducted and presented to the Township of the Archipelago resulting in the contract signing in early 2015 with a service start date in April 2015.

With professional fire response now provided by Seguin Township, the Fire Boat and related equipment remain a critical and strategic component in the overall Crane Lake fire response plan. Seguin will use this equipment as required when responding to an incident on Crane Lake, and the CLA Fire Committee will continue to maintain the equipment and respond to incidents when available.

PRIORITIES & PRACTICES

Given the realities of responding to fire emergencies in environments such as Crane Lake, the nature of the construction of cottage homes, and the longer response times, means that if the fire originates in a building, it is unlikely that the structure would be saved, regardless of best efforts. While buildings can be rebuilt, it takes a generation to restore a burned out section of shoreline. The enjoyment of the pristine environment on Crane Lake would be severely impacted if this occurred, not to mention the effect on property values. To that end, the Fire Committee focuses fire protection efforts on quickly extinguishing fires with the intention to stop the spread of fire damage to other properties and minimize the impact of the fire on surrounding forest areas.

WINTER READINESS

The pumps and boat are prepared for winter storage in order to maximize their useful lifespan. Even though the pumps are winterized (filled half full with antifreeze), they can still be used in the event of an incident in the winter. To further support winter response, one of the portable pumps and related equipment is kept on a sled in the snowmobile storage area at the marina.

EDUCATION

One of the most important functions of the Crane Lake Fire Committee is education. Communication to property owners regarding responsible behaviours is ongoing including: taking necessary steps to prevent a possible fire incident; building proper camp fires; not burning in the daytime; not burning during a fire ban, etc. In order to reach as many people as possible, a few of the processes used are:

- Emergency Information Sheets – Posted on bulletin boards at the Transfer Stations.
- Newsletters – The CLA produces a newsletter 3 times a year for its members, often containing articles or information relevant to property owners about fire protection. The newsletter is distributed by mail or e-mail to every Association member.
- Fire Protection DVD – In 2006, a professional video was produced and distributed by the CLA describing the operation of the portable pumps and fire boat, including what to do in the event of a fire. This DVD was delivered to every property on the lake and the video is posted on the Crane Lake website: www.cranelakeassociation.com. Some of the depictions in this video are now outdated, however it remains an excellent training tool for all property owners.
- Bulletin Board – At both the Blackstone Crane Lake Transfer Station and Healey Lake Transfer Station the Crane Lake Association maintains a fire bulletin board. Every attempt is made to maintain important information at these sites, including details on TOA burning regulations, Fireworks bylaws, the CLA Fire Committee Emergency Information Sheet, and other relevant information from the Fire Committee or the CLA.
- AGM – Each year the Fire Committee presents at the Crane Lake Association AGM to keep members apprised of the latest news about fire readiness and share new information.
- Regatta – At the Crane Lake Association annual regatta, the Fire Committee demonstrates the use of the fire pumps and holds a competition. Participating groups compete in a speed competition to rig a fire pump and hit a target. Many teams include young children, helping to familiarize them with the fire protection systems.
- Website – www.cranelakeassociation.com contains information about fire protection and prevention, updates from the Fire Committee and the fire video.

FUNDING

The cost of ongoing maintenance and upkeep of the Crane Lake Association's fire protection capability is provided by the annual membership dues of the CLA. At the 2014 Annual General Meeting, a vote of the membership set the annual CLA membership dues at \$100 per member, with \$50 allocated to the Fire Committee capital reserve fund, which is used to cover the cost of any new equipment acquisitions for the fire committee.

COMMUNITY VALUES AND CHARACTER/SOCIAL ELEMENTS

BOATING USE

TYPES OF WATERCRAFT IN USE

A wide variety of powered and non-powered boats are in use on Crane Lake, including the following:

- Canoes
- Kayaks
- Paddleboats
- Sailboats
- Windsurfers
- Under 10 HP motor boats
- Pontoon boats
- Bowrider/runabouts
- Fishing boats
- Wakeboarding boats
- Water ski boats
- Jet ski/Personal Water Craft

BOATING ISSUES

Issues identified by the Crane Lake community focus on the use of motorized boats:

1. Boat wakes and their effect on shoreline erosion;
2. Boat traffic – both the danger of collision in high areas of activity and the noise associated with the motors;

As water pollution is a significant concern for the community, there exists a concern over the polluting effects of old style 2 stroke outboard motors and other significant polluters, including poorly maintained watercraft.

RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The waterways within and surrounding Crane Lake offer exceptional experiences to the water-traveler who ventures beyond the known shorelines. The following is a sampling of destinations and/or landmark sightings within reach from the Crane Lake neighbourhood, and several are only accessible by portage.

TRIPPING EXPERIENCES:

- Paddle beyond the Dam on Crane Lake to little Blackstone Lake to Blackstone Harbour in Georgian Bay
- Motorized or non-motorized watercraft through Blackstone River to Blackstone Lake
- Paddle/portage from Crane Lake or Stonehouse Lake into Peanut Lake and Paul Lake
- Paddle/portage from Stonehouse Lake into Warnica Lake
- Paddle/portage from Crane Lake into McQuillan Lake (also known as 'Birch' Lake)
- Paddle/portage from Crane Lake into Alice Lake into Corbier Lake (also known as "Deer" Lake)
- Paddle/portage from up the creek on the east side of Green's Bay into Bob's Lake

PUBLIC WATER ACCESS TO CRANE LAKE

- A single government dock is accessible from Blackstone Crane Lake Road, about 1.5km before the road ends. This is the only formal, public access to Crane Lake. There are several private boat launches managed by various private property owners.

LANDMARK SIGHTINGS:

- The Cliffs (known in the community as “Jump Rock”) are located on private property on the southern eastern shoreline when approaching the entrance to McQuillan Lake
- A natural Spring in the Blackstone River is located at the midpoint when travelling between Crane and Blackstone Lakes
- Along the south side of the Blackstone River, not far from the natural Spring, is a glacial formation – a round pothole drilled into the rock as the ice melted
- The natural waterfalls between McQuillan Lake and Crane Lake

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

While not everyone who comes to Crane Lake participates, (only 35% of respondents felt strongly about formal social/recreational functions), there are several opportunities to enjoy social activities on Crane Lake:

1. Crane Lake Association Sponsored Social Events
 - Annual Regatta – Held at the Crane Lake Resort beach, the regatta includes swimming and boating races plus a fire pump relay competition and is open to all of the community and free to members of the Crane Lake Association and guests of the Resort. 50% of the community has attended this event at one time. In 2014 the regatta celebrated its 40th anniversary.
 - Annual Sailing Race – Open to the community with an awards reception after the race at a local cottage, the Sailing race takes place the day after the regatta and runs in alternating areas of the lake each year. This event has a limited participation (14% have participated in the past) though there are always boats full of spectating cottagers.
2. Annual Crane Lake Golf Tournament
 - Open to the whole community, this event is organized by a private individual not directly associated with the Crane Lake Association. The cost includes transportation to and from a local golf course, a best ball scramble, and an awards dinner. All prizes are donated by the participants. This event, while open to the whole lake, tends to have more regional participation with only 13% having attended in the past.
3. Localized Events - Neighbours have developed their own traditions and special interest groups over the years with activities such as:
 - Roads committees
 - Dockside exercise classes
 - Canoe trips
 - Potluck dinners
 - Family reunions –often held at the Crane Lake Resort
 - Weddings at the Crane Lake Resort

LAND USE CONSIDERATIONS

CURRENT LAND USE

Crane Lake statistics:

Lake surface area:	1,267 acres
Perimeter of Crane Lake	50.4 km total shoreline of which 57% is Crown land
Crown shoreline:	28.7 km or 57%
Total lots on Crane:	267
Water access lots:	79
Road access lots:	188
Total undeveloped lots:	42 of which approximately 15 are undevelopable
Water access undeveloped:	15
Road access undeveloped:	27

Marina/resort: The Crane Lake Resort operated for many years under various owners, however the facility was closed effective December 31st, 2014. An independently operated Crane Lake Marina shares the location on the lake and offers, at the time of this publication, services including a small store, laundry services, boat refueling, and boat storage/repairs.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The Township of the Archipelago facilitated a “Septic re-inspection program” where a fair number of septic systems were deemed faulty and had to be replaced. Crane Lake fared well in comparison to other neighbourhoods within the Township, however proper maintenance of black water disposal remains a primary concern.

OFFICIAL PLAN – TOWNSHIP OF THE ARCHIPELAGO

Purpose - The purpose of the Official Plan is to establish land use policies which will guide development for the whole of The Township of the Archipelago and which will provide for the long term use of land and water for public and private recreation in accordance with the goals and objectives set out for the Municipality.

Goal - The general goal of the Official Plan of The Township of The Archipelago Planning Area is to preserve the unique and high quality of the natural environment which leads to a recreational experience that is both relaxing and aesthetically appealing to property owners and visitors who use the area. It is designed to make both property owners and visitors realize that they share equally in the responsibility of attaining this goal.

Primary Objective - The main objective of the Official Plan is to respect, maintain and improve the natural environment of the region of which the Township is part.

Official Plan Review – Full details are available online at the website of the Township:
<http://www.thearchipelago.on.ca/index.php/departments/planning/official-plan-review>

Plan History:

- The Township of the Archipelago was formed in 1980
- The Township’s first Official Plan was put into effect June 1, 1983

- The second major amendment (No. 14) was put into effect October 28, 1999
- The third major amendment (No. 45) was put into effect April 2, 2008.
- The latest amendment is No. 52 and was put into effect December 2, 2008
- As you can see there have been a total of 52 amendments since 1983 albeit only 2 were of broad scope
- As of January 1, 2014 the TOA is embarking on another full-fledged amendment.
- The TOA is a significant part of the Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve which was formed in 2004. The GBBR is one of 600 UNESCO Biosphere reserves in the world and 1 of 16 in Canada.

Key Points:

- It is an accepted principle of the Archipelago community that the needs of the “built form” are basic and should be secondary to the preservation of the natural landscape of the area.
- The most vital element of the Township’s character is the resource provided by the clean water of Georgian Bay and the numerous inland lakes. The protection of the water resource is of paramount concern in The Archipelago since the quality of recreational life is directly related to the quality of this important resource.
- The formation of the Township of the Archipelago has united a series of predominantly water-based neighbourhoods, all with similar physical characteristics and yet each having its own distinct activity patterns. These area features, whether found on the islands of Georgian Bay or on the inland lakes, require that individual attention be applied to the respective neighbourhoods in order to respond to individual density concerns and to support the provision of a minimal level of services for defined communities of interest.
- Because of the character of the Municipality, a limited number of services will be required to provide adequately for the ratepayers. This limiting of services not only has obvious financial benefits, it also preserves the character of the Township. The Municipality need not fall into the trap of requiring more and more assessment to offset increased demand for additional services.
- The Archipelago is a showcase for the Precambrian Shield having an area of rocky shores. This land however can be considered extremely fragile with respect to its ability to withstand development. The shallow soils or barren rock provide little buffer from nutrient loading to the lakes.
- Crane Lake (as well as Blackstone Lake) has been identified by the Ministry of Natural Resources as a sensitive cold water lake trout lake.
- No further development, excepting the infilling of existing lots of record, is permitted in the Crane Lake Neighbourhood.
- The Archipelago promotes a “Dark Sky” policy.

CRANE LAKE HISTORY

This community is indebted to several authors who have cared about the history of Crane Lake and have recorded facts and memories of earlier times. Much of the following history is taken from Jim Hill's book (2004 revision) that is a compilation of stories by him and others of earlier times on the lake. The other major reference is the series of Crane Lake Association newsletters from 1968 onward that chronicle the association's stewardship of the lake. A timeline follows.

THE EARLY YEARS

Billions of years ago, two of the Earth's plates collided, causing heaving and eruptions of molten lava from inner earth. Then tens of thousands of years ago, during the ice age, glaciers carved the emerged granite and made some lakes deeper, creating Crane Lake's thermocline environment.

Prior to the 1880s there were human visitors to Crane Lake itself. The Parry Sound area had transient First Nations people who moved through it. Trappers and fishers would have found plenty of game in the abundant forests and pristine waters.

The first lumber mill was established in the Parry Sound area in 1856 by William Gibson of Willowdale, Ontario. In 1863 it was bought by William Beatty, his father and his brother. Subsequent development included roads, ships, churches and prohibition. Once loggers cleared the public land, settlers came in the 1870s. The Parry Sound Wagon Road was built in 1867 and the Great North Road to McKellar soon followed. Many settlers travelled by steamer up the North Shore of Lake Huron.

As early as 1891, in *The Canadian Guidebook: The Tourist's Guide to Eastern Canada and Newfoundland*, Crane Lake attracted sports people:

Between Parry Sound and the mouth of the Moon River lie the desert waters of Crane and Blackstone Lakes, favourite haunts of the maskinonge...It seems strange to talk of slaking off black bass and making disrespectful remarks about these gamy gentry when they insisted in taking the hook, but they were so plentiful as to be really troublesome.

Then came the railroad! In 1898, the Canadian Atlantic Railroad reached Depot Harbour; in 1901 the Canadian National Railroad stretched to Parry Sound; in 1908 the Canadian Pacific Railroad reached Parry Sound. Visitors to Crane Lake could take daily trains either north or south.

In *Where to Fish* (1913), printed by the Passenger Division of the Canadian Northern Railroad, Crane Lake is reached via Blackstone Road, about 136 miles from Toronto:

This lake contains perhaps the best 'lunge' fishing in Ontario. Years ago it was full of black bass and the fishermen wondered what could be depleting the waters, and it has been found to be the maskinonge. A number of these monster fighters, weighing up to 35 and 40 pounds, have been taken out of the waters in recent years.

In a reprinted 1980 article in Hill's book, a picture of early Parry Sound is painted:

One could hardly go anywhere east or west in Canada without passing through Parry Sound...It was a different story one hundred years ago. Then the only settlement on the whole North Shore consisted of a sawmill and a few shacks at the mouth of the Sequin River. Up and down the shore there was the occasional trading post, scattered bands of wandering Indians and mile upon mile of good pine timber stretching back inland so far that men thought it would be never logged out. But they were wrong. Loggers came to the North Shore in such numbers and with such enthusiasm for the pine harvest that the forests were almost completely exploited by 1921...The lumber companies on Crane Lake cut most of the trees which were mainly conifers. Growing back, the forest was the mixed forest with not only evergreens, but the deciduous trees now enjoyed today.

THE FIRST SETTLERS

Logging companies came to Crane Lake before the end of the 19th century. They built the first lodging and the first dam on Crane Lake. When Foley Township was surveyed in 1866, there were five families of Van Koughnetts living in the area. Their predecessors were Americans of Dutch descent, United Empire Loyalists who came to Canada after the American Revolution. Some of their descendants remain on the lake and in the area today.

THE DAM

Jim Hill wrote:

The character of Crane Lake is greatly dependent upon the Crane Lake Dam. Without the dam, access to Blackstone Lake, Beaver Lake, and Clear Lake would be greatly impaired. The first Crane Lake Dam was a wooden dam built around 1880 by the Mitchell McDonald Lumber Mill. This dam was located at the narrow area of the river upstream from the current dam near Peanut Lake Portage. A sudden release of water trapped by the dam allowed lumbering companies to float logs downstream to Georgian Bay.

In 1925 the Department of Public works constructed a new masonry dam, in a new location by the Little Blackstone River that feeds Little Blackstone Lake. It was repaired in 1952 and replaced in 1963 with a concrete structure; the north side measured 198.73 meters above sea level and the south 199.65 meters. The height of the dam was adjusted by the adding or removing of timber logs, performed mainly in the spring and fall each year. The logs were pulled out each fall to accommodate any significant precipitation during the winter and to prepare for the spring thaw. This was to prevent any flooding or dock damage. In 1998 the water level was lowered to 198.56 meters. In 2010 a weir dam was created by cutting the north side of the dam to a height of 198.56 meters, still with the facility to remove and add logs.

CRANE LAKE HOUSE

In 1906 Alexander and Annie Maude Van Koughnett moved to Crane Lake after buying the lodge from the Rankin family logging company. They began a resort business that has continued well into the new Millennium. By 1913 the three storey structure accommodated 50 guests. Visitors to this wilderness resort relished the opportunity to hunt and especially fish for Muskie, walleye, pike and bass. They came by train and then horse cart to Blackstone Landing and then the last nine miles by rowboat, through Blackstone River, according to Mabel Van Koughnett.

When World War I broke out there were large vegetable gardens, pasture horses, sheep and cattle, large barns, pig pens and chicken coops, and ducks and geese in the area. In the mid-1920s the lodge burned down and was hastily rebuilt with fourteen bedrooms. Fewer people could afford vacations during the depression. The livestock was butchered and sold and the fields reverted to forest.

Hurricane Hazel in 1954 washed out the new road to one lake property but by 1959 a new road ran all the way to Crane Lake House. When Annie died in 1963, her son Ken, and his wife Mabel, continued to operate the resort. He replaced the lodge with new structures about that time, and maintained the business until they sold it in 1975. The resort was bought by a company formed by Bob Canning, Chris Holmes and Garnett Graham and was operated by Holmes until 1977. Tony Nikitenko and his family ran the operation until 1986 when it was purchased by Norman and Mandy Paine. In 2002 Ned McLennan became the fifth owner of Crane Lake House (Resort). Major upgrades, including the construction of fifteen new cabins occurred.

CAMP AGA MING

Following the Second World War, business at Crane Lake House became brisk again. Annie's daughter, Frona, and her husband, Elmer Jacklin began Camp Aga Ming (Place by the Water) in 1947, paying the crown ten cents per foot for lake-frontage across from the First Narrows. According to Roger Jacklin, building materials were floated down the Blackstone River from the Landing on Blackstone Lake in two 16 foot cedar strip boats, powered by a roaring 5.5 Viking. They initially constructed a twelve by twelve foot two-room cabin with a shedded roof, expanding to a seven bedroom lodge by the late fifties. Bed and board at the time was \$15 per day. Frona's baking was legendary: fresh bread at 50 cents a loaf, a dozen butter tarts for \$1.00, a tray of Chelsea buns for \$1.50. They continued to expand the Camp and Elmer built a road in 1964. When Elmer died in 1969 and Frona retired, their daughter, Kay, and her husband Al Reeve operated the Camp until the late seventies. The property was sold and is now used privately.

Some of Camp Aga Ming's guests were to become cottagers, and Elmer built many of the first cottages on the Lake. In Roger Jacklin's words, "the style of the cottages he built is functional and unmistakable: many with the same cottage roof and 'verandah' or deck as Aga Ming." He claimed in 2004 that all were still standing.

THE EARLY COTTAGERS

Cyrus Heard received a homesteading grant of 100 acres on Crane Lake by the mouth of the river leading to Blackstone Lake. He built a two storey, four bedroom log cabin in 1907. He made a large garden and grew and sold vegetables in Parry Sound for three years. He then abandoned the property. About 1924 or 1925, Eugene Ferree (of Lockport) bought the Heard homestead (which is now known as Patterson's White Pine Lodge) for \$1000. When Ferree first took possession of his property, he killed thirteen porcupines that were living in the lodge. Incidentally, his grandson, Gene Patterson, wrote that Ferree had fished in nearby First Lake in 1892.

Ferree joined other American families on the Lake--The Kydds (Cleveland), Balcoms (Perry's father from Buffalo), Dunlop/ Marshalls (Lockport) and Earhardtts (Pittsburgh), Howatts (now Lissauers) from Sharon, Pennsylvania. They enjoyed the sporting nature the isolated atmosphere offered.

In a 1995 article, Gene Patterson wrote:

Needless to say, the lake was much quieter then. At first, the only motor on the lake belonged to Alex Van Koughnettt. Then in the 20's came the 3 and ½ HP outboard. Prior to World War II, I believe the largest motor was 12 HP. We all knew the sound of each and every motor, and even if it was dark, we knew whose motor it was that was passing by...

The highlights of each summer were the square dances at Crane Lake House and the Jacklins' in Blackstone...My mother, Florence Ferree Patterson, always had a cook to feed the 20 hungry mouths always in camp. Grandfather had a guide-Dick Lashbrook first, then Jack Woolman. Dick came from Gordon's Bay and would walk overland to go to and fro. Jack stayed at our place during the winter time and trapped for beaver. Electricity would not be considered until the mid '60s...Our cooking for many a year was on the inherited 1907 wood stove.

These cottages also had ice houses. In the winter the Van Koughnetts cut the ice, dragging it with horses, to the sawdust in the icehouses. Propane fridges came after the Second World War.

Jim Hill (2003) recalled:

There was a lumber camp at the end of Peacock Bay that was still standing when I was a boy. I used to go over to talk to the Ranger who used it as his headquarters. There was a fire tower at the end of Birch Lake that he climbed up on regularly in fire season to look for smoke. There was a "grounded tree line" for telephone communication with Parry Sound. Since this was nothing but wires strung on trees, you can imagine the maintenance required to keep it operating. (Cottagers would not have phone service until 1985.) The Ranger also kept the trails to all the lakes clear enough to use the wheeled water pump that could be taken to fires. The trails were easier to use than they are now and they were marked with highly visible PORTAGE signs.

DEYETT'S GENERAL STORE

In 1928 Henry and Edith Deyett began Deyett's General Store at Rosseau Road, the year their son, Francis, was born. The store remained open until Francis retired in 1991. Jim Hill (2003) reminisced:

As a boy I was most interested in the pop and the fishing tackle and in the hand pump that filled the large glass tanks for gravity feed to the car... A true general store, they had everything from fireplace pokers to a spark plug for a boat motor to screws and nails of all sizes as well as aged cheese to fresh wild blueberries to Strawberry Elixir.

There was a rack behind the counter that held the sales books for all the customers. We never carried cash. Along about the first of the year, we would get a bill for the past season's purchases.

Of special mention was the cheddar cheese they sold. (We called it Henry's Old.) Mrs. D. bought ten or so wheels and had the maker store them for years until they were good and ripe. An interesting aside is that after Francis retired, he held an auction of everything in the store and the empty cheese boxes sold for a lot more as memorabilia than they did when full of cheese. The post office was tucked in one corner of the store. The CBC did a special for television showing a real antique Post Office (to introduce postal codes in Canada).

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF CRANE LAKE

The Second World War put a hiatus to cottagers' summer retreats to Crane Lake because of gas rationing. Following the War, more properties were bought and cottages built, some by Elmer Jacklin. Ken Van Koughnett now managed the lodge with his wife Mabel and his mother, Annie.

The mid-fifties saw more cottages being established on Crane Lake, mainly by Americans. For the first time, a road was established to Crane Lake Resort in 1959. There were approximately 20 cottages in all by the early sixties.

Gordon Willoughby wrote in 1998:

Exploring the surrounding lakes has always been fun. Many of you have visited Clear Lake. In the early sixties, a boys' camp called Wee-Gee-Wa operated at the end of Clear Lake. The boys would travel to Crane Lake House where Ken would transport them by scow to the camp. Among those boys were Mark and Marty Howe, sons of the great Gordie Howe, who sponsored the camp. Another notable visitor in the sixties was Lady Baden-Powell, the founder of the Girl Guide organization.

In 1967, major development occurred when the Lake Developments Company of Mississauga created four subdivisions on Horseshoe, Harris, Whitestone and Crane Lakes. It began to sell 75 lots on Crane Lake that were either land or water access. The price of lots there ranged from \$1295 to \$6900. Cottages were built over the next few years, many of them by local builders or the cottagers themselves.

The road to these cottages was assumed by the Local Roads Board in 1969, a right of way having been given by Annie Van Koughnett over her 1000 feet of property. A dedicated committee (led by Hugh McMahon and William Fenwick) had the road recognized by the Ministry of Transportation and Communication in 1972, meaning ongoing maintenance was then paid for by tax dollars.

One lot was reserved by the developer solely for the use of owners of water based lots for parking and access to their lots. In 1974 the Aga Ming Property Owners Association was formed that gave all cottagers in the subdivision access to this common lot.

THE LAKE ASSOCIATION

Back in 1967, largely due to the new development on the lake, the Conger Township Conservation Association was formed by two stewards of Crane Lake, Gower Rideout and Rufus Kydd. In 1968 the First Annual General Meeting of Conger Township Conservation Association was held with Gower Rideout as President, Rufus Kydd as Vice-President, Don Matheson as secretary and Ken Van Koughnett as treasurer. An early roster shows 150 members from Crane and Blackstone Lakes. By 1971 Blackstone has its own cottage association. As a testament to the vision of the original founders, the environmental concerns of the fledgling association still form the underpinnings of the now named Crane Lake Association five decades later. The 1990 bylaws state the purposes:

1. To promote the conservation of land, water, fish and wildlife of Crane Lake
2. To encourage water and fire safety
3. To represent members in matters of mutual interest pertaining to their lands on Crane Lake
4. To encourage and organize social and recreational activities among its members.

Review of the Association newsletters indicates active interest, concern and advocacy that continues to safeguard these pillars. Articles about fishing, water quality, fire protection, safety, flora and fauna, Councilor's reports and recreational activities are featured every year. Water quality of the lake has been monitored and reported by volunteers for over thirty years. Membership hovers around 150 cottages of a possible 215, representing the majority of cottagers/dwellers on Crane Lake. Initial dues were \$5.00 per year.

From 1975, the VIII #4 CLA (Crane Lake Association) newsletter contains a response from the MNR that stated that there "are no plans of any kind at the moment for further development of the Crown Land on Crane Lake" as the lake had reached its population threshold.

Fishing topics such as 'catch and release', stocking, and a general concern for fish habitat are evident. Historically, Gene Patterson noted that in the late 1920s and early 1930s his grandfather received government permission for his family to stock all of the small lakes around Crane and Blackstone. From the CLA newsletters, in 1984 there were plans for pickerel stocking. In 1989 a letter was sent supporting pickerel replenishing. In September 1990, 7000 Walleye were released. In the spring of 1997, 2800 lake trout were imported to the lake. In 2002, an MNR report on fish in Crane was given, and pickerel depletion was noted. Another MNR survey in 2006 suggests the nutrients and clear water of the lake are no longer conducive for pickerel. In 2011, the local councillor, Ian Mead, wrote about the importance of the Crane Lake shoreline and protecting the 'Ribbon of Life' around the lake.

In 1987, John Wilson had an article about the dump and garbage disposal. Development of a boys' camp was challenged and quashed in the late 1980s. In 2004, the algae blooms in Sturgeon Lake provided a wake-up call about the dangers of phosphates. In 2005, septic system health was highlighted again.

The first Fire Boat was launched in 1984. Fire pumps were installed and maintained by volunteers. In 2006 a new property numbering system was instituted for easier identification especially for emergency/fire response. The fire pump relay is a competition at the CLA's annual regatta and doubles as an educational activity. The Fire Boat was featured in Cottage Life Magazine and, in 2011, the CLA was the recipient of the Jerry Strickland Award by the Federation of Ontario Cottagers Associations for its efforts in fire response and risk management.

The CLA annual regatta is the highlight for many cottagers. Events include swimming, canoeing and the aforementioned fire pump relay. There is also a longstanding sailing regatta annually that includes small sailboats and windsurfers.

FORMATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF THE ARCHIPELAGO

On April 1, 1980, as a result of an order by the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Crane Lake became part of a new organized township, in large part because of the tireless efforts of a dynamic visionary, John Wilson. He became the first councillor to represent Ward 5 of the Township of the Archipelago. Prior to 1980, this area was composed of geographical townships with no local government except several roads boards. The Township of the Archipelago now consists of 85,000 hectares, including much of the famous 30,000 Islands. One of the main reasons for creating the Township was to provide proper planning for the islands and waterways in the area. In the south, 83 percent of the mainland and 70 percent of the islands remain in the public domain, while in the north 96 percent of the mainland and 50 percent of the islands are crown land. An Official Plan was developed by the Township in 1982 and has been reviewed regularly since (every five years). The Official Plans are reviewed elsewhere.

In 2003 Ipsos Reid completed a survey for the Township. Of the Crane Lake respondents (239 mailed, 113 responded), 78 percent wanted the quality of the area preserved. Overall top priorities for all respondents in the Township were to *preserve* the (*relative peace-and-quiet, natural, aesthetical and recreational cottage-getaway*) Quality of Life attributes of the Archipelago and to *restrict* activities that might threaten them.

PRIOR LAKE PLAN

In 2004 the Crane Lake Association drafted its first Lake Plan for discussion at the annual general meeting. Membership endorsed these five community priorities for the health of the lake and community:

1. Preserve Water Quality
2. Preserve the Natural Environment
3. Promote Safety
4. Preserve Family Cottaging
5. Preserve Access.

A survey sent out the next winter yielded more than 50 percent response rate. The majority of the responses were overwhelmingly in favour of the lake plan and supported maintaining and improving it over time. This Lake Plan follows from this initial work.

TIMELINE OF CRANE LAKE

From Jim Hill's 2004 Crane Lake History (2nd edition) and a review of CLA newsletters:

- 1856 First mill in the Parry Sound area was established by William Gibson of Willowdale
- 1863 William Beatty and family bought out Gibson, building roads, ships, churches
- 1867 Parry Sound Wagon Road built
- 1891 Advertisement in *The Canadian Guidebook*
- 1898 Canadian Atlantic Railroad reached Depot Harbour
- 1901 Canadian National Railroad reached Parry Sound
- 1906 Alexander and Maude Van Koughnett buy Crane Lake House from Rankin Family
- 1908 Canadian Pacific Railroad reached Parry Sound
- 1913 Two trains daily, one southbound and one northbound
- 1913 *Where to Fish* advertisement
- 1925 Ferree (of Lockport) buys Heard homestead
- 1926/27 Crane Lake House burns down and is rebuilt
- 1928 Deyett's Store is established and served the area until 1991
- 1920s and 1930s Ferree received government permission to stock surrounding lakes
- 1938 Statute Labour Board organized with Fred Van Koughnett as chair
- WWII Gas rationing curtailed travel to Crane from US until summer of '44
- 1947 Aga Ming resort began by Jacklins
- 1947 & 1948 at least 3 new cottages; Yokum/Martin, Newlands & Walkers (Pittsburgh)
- 1950s More cottages including Horsman (Pittsburgh), Rideouts (Detroit), Willoughby
- 1954 Road to Fred VanKoughnett's on Crane Lake
- 1959 Road to Crane Lake House
- 1960 Electricity came to Crane Lake
- 1967 Lake Developments Company sells lots

- 1967 Lake Association formed
- 1968 First Annual General Meeting of Conger Township Conservation Association held
- 1972 Association name changed to Crane Lake Conservation Association
- 1975 Association name changed to Crane Lake Association
- 1975 Crane Lake House sold to Canning/Graham/Holmes
- 1977 Crane Lake House sold to Nikitenko
- 1980 Incorporation of the Township of the Archipelago spearheaded by John Wilson
- 1982 First Official Plan developed by the Township
- 1985 Bell provides telephone service to the Lake
- 1986 Crane Lake House sold to Paine
- 1991 Deyett store closes
- 1996 Ken Van Koughnett dies
- 1998 First Golf Tournament
- 2002 Crane Lake House sold to McLennan
- 2003 Crane Lake Forest Conservation Reserve being established by MNR
- 2003 Ipsos Reid Survey completed; 78% want quality of area preserved
- 2004 Crane Lake PLAN initiated by Crane Lake Association is adopted at AGM
- 2007 Deyett store levelled
- 2010 Dam reconstructed
- 2010 New Official Plan by Township
- 2014 Crane Lake Association celebrates their Regatta's 40th Anniversary with a celebratory BBQ
- 2015 Crane Lake contracts through TOA with Seguin Township for professional fire response
- 2015 The Lake Plan for Crane Lake is produced

ACTION PLAN

WATER QUALITY

1. Continue to draw water samples for testing related to the monitoring of water quality
 - a. The Crane Lake Association, on behalf of all property owners, will provide volunteers to continue the water sampling and testing and share the results with members to increase awareness and for preventive and proactive purposes. (Figure 1.2)
2. Ensure partnerships with stakeholders invested in water quality preservation
 - a. The Crane Lake Association will, on behalf of all property owners, continue to partner with other organizations and government agencies to ensure the water samples from Crane Lake receive ongoing professional attention. Examples include the Lake Partner Program, FOCA, and the MNRF.
3. Promote education and awareness of water quality and preservation strategies
 - a. The Crane Lake Association will continue to provide ongoing education regarding the proactive actions required to ensure the preservation of the water quality of Crane Lake, including the importance of proper septic system management, the use of fertilizers or chemicals and increased awareness of invasive species, both on land and in water.
4. Encourage the proactive protection of our natural shorelines to enhance water quality and the natural habitat for our fish and underwater vegetation

PRESERVATION OF CROWN LAND & NATURAL VISTAS

1. The Community must continue to encourage all property owners to respect and preserve the natural beauty of Crane Lake's vistas
2. The Crane Lake Association, on behalf of all property owners, will continue to educate property owners regarding the effects of landscaping and shore alteration
3. The Crane Lake Association, on behalf of all property owners, will continue to encourage all property owners to observe and report when necessary unsafe use of camp fires by visiting campers on crown land.

FIRE RESPONSE AND RISK MANAGEMENT

1. The Crane Lake Association, on behalf of all property owners, by way of the fire committee, will continue to:
 - a. Maintain fire response equipment
 - b. Maintain a good relationship with the Seguin Fire Department
 - c. Educate CLA members and property owners regarding fire safety and best risk management/loss prevention measures
 - d. Encourage all property owners to effectively practice fire safety

A RESPECTFUL AND SOCIAL COMMUNITY

1. All property owners are encouraged to be respectful of those natural qualities that create the unique and pristine beauty of Crane Lake
2. All property owners are encouraged to be respectful of the shorelines of Crane Lake to ensure the ongoing natural preservation of our water quality and underwater fish and vegetation habitats

3. All property owners are encouraged to be respectful of others that live, cottage or visit Crane Lake. This includes:
 - a. active awareness of noise pollution
 - b. preservation of dark skies
 - c. protection of our shorelines with respect to the effects of boating
 - d. enjoyment by others of the various water activities available because of the excellent water quality
4. Enjoy the social opportunities available through existing events that involve Crane Lake property owners and their guests
5. Encourage further development of a positive and enjoyable social environment