

LAKE NETWORKING GROUP

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What is the Lake Networking Group?

- An informal (yet organized) group of Eastern Ontario lake associations
- Meets 3-4 times a year organizing workshops and special meetings as needed
- Has built a sense of community amongst lake groups
- No restrictions on membership
- Group size is conducive to open discussion

When did the group get started?

- After several unplanned but productive individual encounters, representatives from 7 local lake associations met in January 2004 to discuss items of common interest and concern
- Lake association reps recognized that they could all benefit and learn from the experience of one another

Who participates today?

- Representatives from 25 Eastern Ontario lake associations
- Large geographic spread means that there is participation by lake groups from 4 watersheds (Mississippi, Rideau, Cataraqui, Quinte) and 6 Townships (South and Central Frontenac, Tay Valley, Drummond/North Elmsley, Lanark Highlands, Rideau Lakes)

How does it work?

- Lake representatives are connected by email
- Regular updates are circulated and meetings are held 3-4 times a year
- Agenda items come from requests from the lake reps
- Special guests are regularly scheduled
- Coordination is required to keep the group functioning

What do members of the Lake Networking Group do?

- Discuss common issues providing not just an exchange of ideas but also a template for action gained from one another's experiences
- Provide collective opportunity for two-way communication with partner agencies
- Plan workshops, special meetings to meet identified needs of their lake residents
- Serve as a lobby group. Group Members support one another to seek attention, resolution for common issues

What are the benefits of participating in the Lake Networking Group?

- Affirming experience for new lake reps/isolated associations
- No need to re-invent the wheel
- Lake associations can put their own challenges into perspective
- Enthusiasm and successes can inspire other lake associations
- Potential for political “clout” from large representation
- Two-sided value. Partner agencies value opportunity to speak to a broad base of lake associations

Who are some of the partner agencies?

- Tay Valley Township
- County of Lanark
- Rideau Valley Conservation Authority
- Mississippi Valley Conservation
- Centre for Sustainable Watersheds
- Stewardship Councils from Lanark, Frontenac and Leeds Counties
- Friends of the Tay Watershed
- OPP Lanark Detachment

Municipal Perspective


“ The Lake Networking Group offers a focal point for discussion of common interests. While each Lake Community is unique, there are a myriad of common issues. The flow of ideas at the Lake Network level allows for distilling of those issues through a group of knowledgeable individuals. The discussion and vetting process provides for a refinement of those ideas as well as the underlying rationale behind recommendations for improvement. Councils will acknowledge and appreciate that items brought to its attention by the Lake Network have broad support and widespread implications. Like the spokesperson of a delegation, the Group offers a single point of communication, meaning messaging (to and from) can be disbursed in a consistent and coordinated fashion.”

Conservation Authority Perspective

- “The Lake Networking Group is really a two way street (it’s great that the Conservation Authority can present a new program or other initiative and share information to the target group and get feedback at the same time)”

Member perspective

“Interest is maintained in the Lake Networking Group as we all love our Lakes and want to maintain their health and beauty and because there is so much to learn from one another to help us carry out these goals”

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**“We do not inherit this
Earth from our
ancestors, we borrow it
from our children”**

Native American proverb