

July 22 2015

Community Update – Stoco Lake Stewardship Plan – What’s Happening?

In January 2015, a community meeting was held to discuss interest in working together on a Stoco Lake Stewardship Plan. Over 30 people attended, including all of Tweed Council, representatives from Quinte Conservation, Watersheds Canada, and Friends of Stoco Lake. There was enthusiasm for moving forward with a community-based lake planning process, which will take about 2 years from start to finish.



Photo credit: Terry Sprague 2005

What will the Stewardship Plan do?

The planning process will help us better understand the lake and the factors affecting it, as well as the values of community members with respect to what is important. The Plan will identify current initiatives, priorities and stewardship actions, and ways to work together to achieve common goals.

What have we been doing since January?

1. A Steering Committee has been established with representatives from the Friends of Stoco Lake, the Municipality of Tweed, and Quinte Conservation. The Committee has met three times, and their Terms of Reference have been approved by partner organizations.
2. The Steering Committee has been focusing on a number of activities, including:
 - a. Obtaining a proposal from French Planning Services – the leader in lake planning in Ontario - to assist with elements of the work plan over the next two years;
 - b. Initiating development of a communications strategy, including an email distribution list, a community survey to be launched in fall 2015, and update of the FOSL website;
 - c. Collection of information that will be used to prepare a ‘State of the Lake’ report, led by Quinte Conservation;
 - d. Coordination with Watersheds Canada on a pilot project for 2016; and
 - e. Development of satellite maps of Stoco Lake and the watershed by Quinte Conservation.

What do we have planned this fall?

1. The partner organizations are all committing significant ‘in-kind’ resources for the Stewardship Plan. Applications for funding implementation of the proposed work plan are underway. The Municipality has also allocated funding in their budget for the Plan, pending a specific request from the Steering Committee (in preparation).
2. *Mark your calendars* - the first community workshop is planned for the morning of Saturday September 26, 2015. Questions for discussion may include: *What do you value about Stoco Lake? What are the issues and challenges? What are your ideas for action?*
3. The current schedule targets a draft ‘State of the Lake’ report in spring 2016, followed by a draft Stewardship Plan in the fall. The community will be engaged in developing and reviewing both documents. The Stoco Lake Stewardship Plan should be finalized by summer 2017.

Would you like more information?

For more information, contact Friends of Stoco Lake at info@friendsofstocolake.ca. The FOSL website (www.friendsofstocolake.ca) is currently being updated, but will soon have information on the Stewardship Plan process. Like us on Facebook  (‘Friends of Stoco Lake’) or follow us on Twitter  (@FOSLStoco).