



Kahshe Lake Values Survey Summary Report

2019

Submitted to the Kahshe Lake Ratepayers' Association

Provided by Watersheds Canada and the Canadian Wildlife Federation

info@loveyourlake.ca www.loveyourlake.ca



CanadianWildlifeFederation.ca



Watersheds.ca



Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Results.....	3
Property Ownership.....	3
Recreation	4
Values Associated with Personal Enjoyment	5
Top Issues Facing Lake	6
Actions to Undertake to benefit Lake and Community.....	7
Perceived Water Quality Concerns	9
Shoreline Property Owner Interest in Stewardship Information and Activities.....	10
Discussion.....	11
Conclusion.....	11
Appendix A: Questions Asked in Values Survey	12

*Disclaimer: The collective data being reported on has been obtained from the values survey responses. In some cases, not all questions were fully answered which could have an impact on the results.

Introduction

As part of the Love Your Lake Shoreline Assessment program, a values survey was conducted to gauge the opinions of residents on Kahshe Lake about major concerns and important qualities of Kahshe Lake. This report summarizes the preliminary results of the survey which was distributed to 696 shoreline property owners or residents on Kahshe Lake, 111 of whom provided their responses. The results of each survey were compiled in an excel file which were then analyzed by Watersheds Canada and the Canadian Wildlife Federation in the form of tables and histograms. Conclusions were made based on trends among the responses, and identification of potential stewardship initiatives to help Kahshe Lake Ratepayers' Association focus their stewardship efforts.

Results

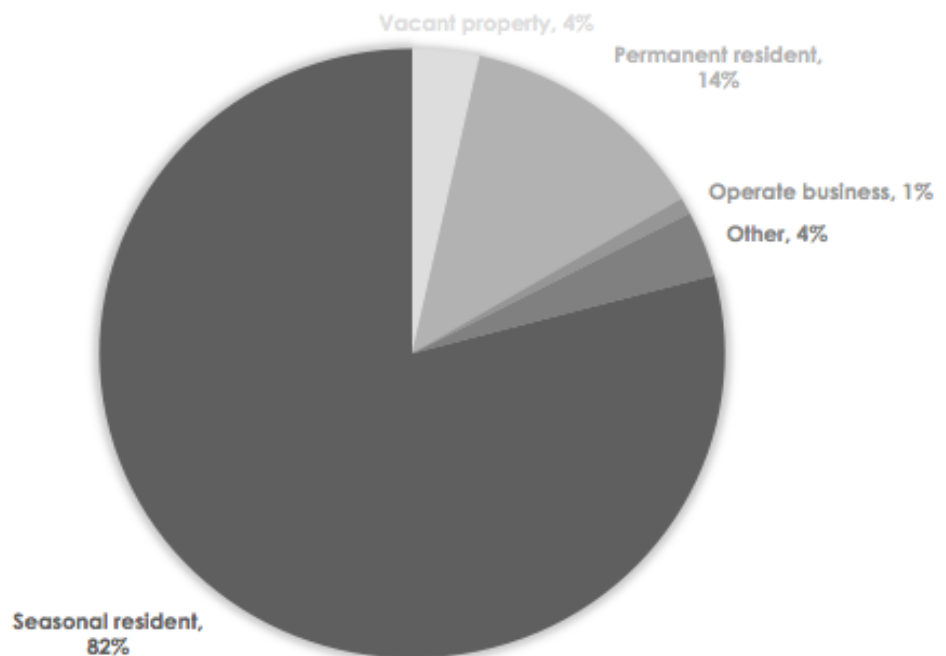
Property Ownership

Of the 111 respondents to the values survey, 91 (82%) identified themselves as seasonal residents, 15 (14%) identified themselves as permanent residents, 1 (1%) identified themselves as operating a business, 4 (4%) identified themselves as owning vacant property, and 4 (4%) identified themselves as Other, as shown below. Answers for the "Other (please specify)" category included: "Winterized home used all year", "Use vacation property owned by family", "Seasonal with winterized residence", and "Semi-permanent long-term resident".

Of the 91 seasonal residents, 71 (78%) said they do not plan to become permanent residents, 13 (14%) said they do plan to become permanent residents, and 6 (7%) said they are unsure of their future plans.

Time spent on Kahshe Lake varied from 0.5 years to as many as 115 years, with 48 years as the average number of years spent on the lake.

TYPES OF RESIDENTS BY TOTAL NUMBER OF SURVEY RESPONSES



Recreation

The top three recreational activities identified by the 111 survey respondents included Swimming, Canoeing or Kayaking, and Socializing. The least popular recreational activities included ATVing, Hunting, and Scuba Diving. 12 responses for the “Other (please specify)” category included 11 unknown answers, and 1 “Bird watching, gardening” answer.

In order of popularity from most to least popular, the number and percentage of shoreline property owners on Kahshe Lake that participate in recreational activities are summarized in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Top recreational activities enjoyed by residents on Kahshe Lake.

Recreational Activities:	# Respondents	% of Respondents
Swimming	106	95%
Canoeing or Kayaking	95	86%
Socializing	80	72%
Nature Appreciation	75	68%
Power Boating	67	60%
Fishing	61	55%
Water Skiing/Wake Boarding	47	42%
Hiking	42	38%
Snow Shoeing	25	23%
Cross-Country Skiing	21	19%
Snowmobiling	16	14%
Sailing	16	14%
Jet Skiing	15	14%
Ice Skating	15	14%
Other (please specify)	12	11%
Mountain Biking	9	8%
Ice Fishing	8	7%
Camping	6	5%
Wind Surfing	6	5%
Scuba Diving	3	3%
Hunting	2	2%
ATVing	2	2%

Values Associated with Personal Enjoyment

The most important elements of Kahshe Lake, valued for their impact on personal enjoyment of the lake, included Water Quality, Swimming, and Scenery/View. Figure 1 shows the totals for ranked responses for each element, in order of the most valuable to least valuable element. Surveys asked respondents to rate each activity from 1 to 5 with 5 being extremely important and 1 being not important.

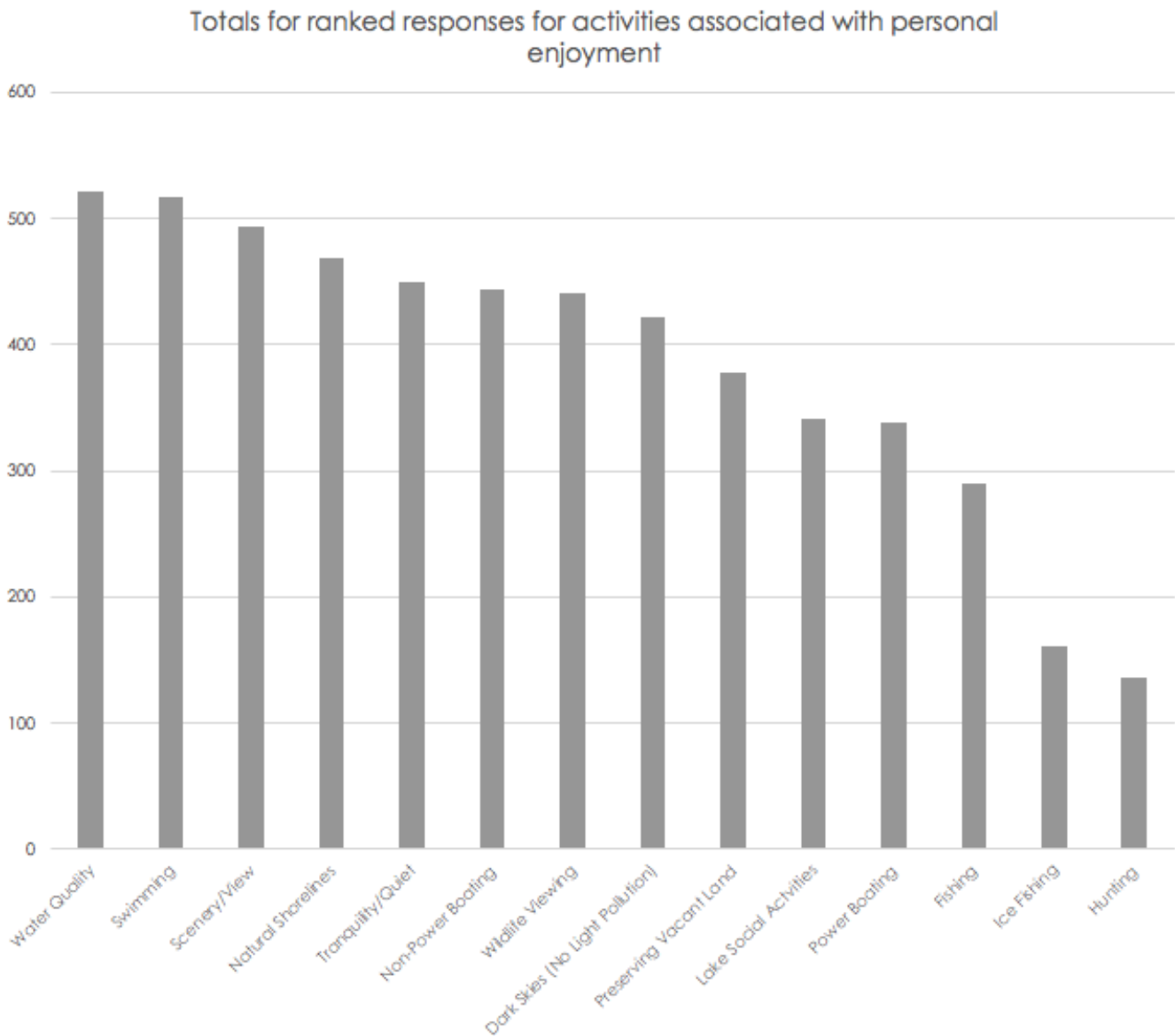


Figure 1. Totals for Kahshe Lake shoreline property owner ranked responses regarding elements affecting enjoyment of the lake.

Top Issues Facing Kahshe Lake

The most frequently identified issue facing Kahshe Lake provided by the 111 respondents was Water Quality, followed by Boating, and Noise Pollution. Responses in the “Other (please specify)” category include:

- “Fireworks getting a bit crazy”,
- “Fireworks leads to fire danger, camping on islands and conservation area”,
- “Boats are too fast, waves too big, ban wave boats for loon protection”

Table 2 summarizes the number and percentage of respondents that identified each issue as a top concern. Figure 2 shows the distribution of shoreline property owner responses regarding the issues facing Kahshe Lake.

Table 2. Top issues facing Kahshe Lake in order of most popular to least popular.

Top Issues:	# Responses	% of Total	Rank
Water Quality	84	76%	1
Boating	50	45%	2
Noise Pollution	40	36%	3
Faulty or Poorly Maintained Septics	40	36%	3
Shoreline Development	34	31%	4
Water Levels	26	23%	5
Light Pollution	16	14%	6
Fish Populations	15	14%	7
Wildlife	10	9%	8
Cottage Conversions to Permanent Homes	10	9%	8
Other (please specify)	3	3%	9

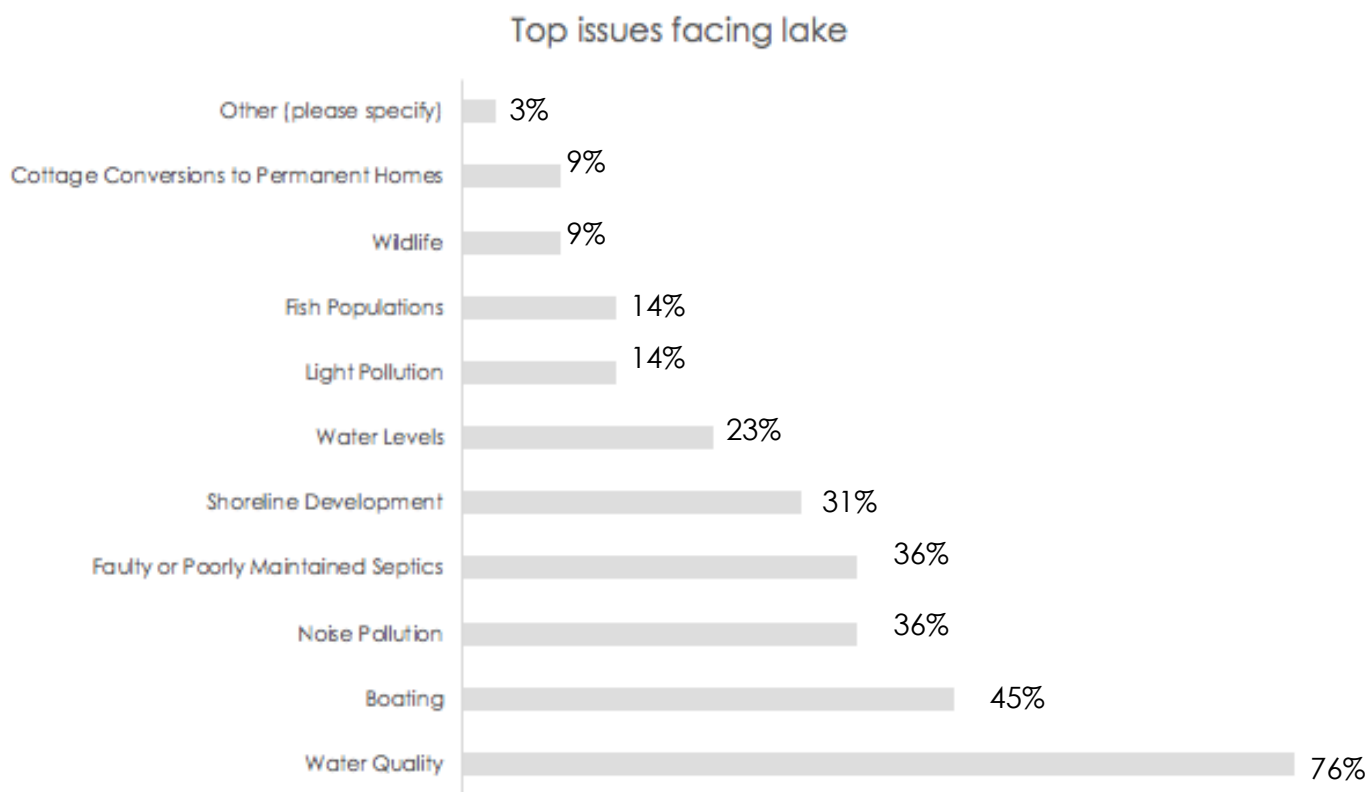


Figure 2. Distribution of shoreline property owner responses identifying the top issues faced by Kahske Lake.

Actions to Undertake to benefit Kahshe Lake and the Community

The most frequently identified actions shoreline property owners on Kahshe Lake believe would benefit the lake and the community include:

- Limit boat wakes,
- Engage in a septic re-inspection program,
- Provide education materials to property owners on a variety of subjects

Table 3 summarizes the number of times and percentage of responses that each action was identified as beneficial to the lake and the community.

Table 3. Actions to benefit Kahshe Lake and the community as identified by shoreline property owners.

Undertake Actions:	Responses:	% of Total:	Rank
Limit boat wakes near shore	80	72%	1
Engage in a septic re-inspection program	40	36%	2
Provide education to property owners	37	33%	3
Create or enforce stricter rules for new development	34	31%	4
Undertake more water quality testing	28	25%	5
Undertake a lake management plan	25	23%	6
Create or enforce stricter rules for re-development (cottage conversions)	23	21%	7
Stop mowing grass by the shoreline	16	14%	8
Engage more property owners in lake activities	12	11%	9
Improve communication between landowners and lake association	10	9%	10
Plant trees and shrubs along shore	9	8%	11
Other (please specify)	4	4%	12
Do Nothing	2	2%	13

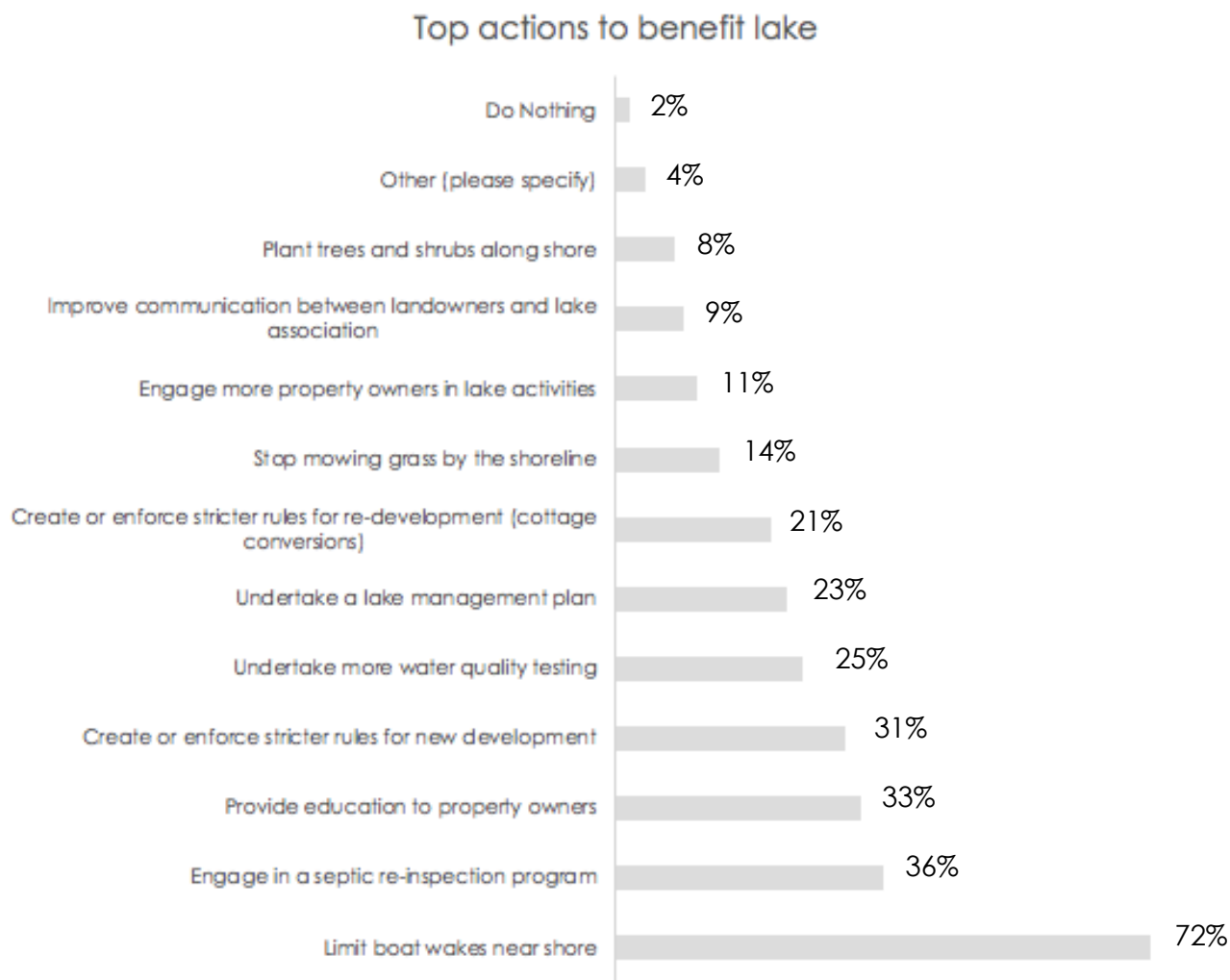


Figure 3. Ranking of top actions needed to benefit Kahshe Lake.

Perceived Water Quality Concerns

Of the 111 survey respondents, 67 (60%) perceive water quality to be good, 5 (4.5%) perceive water quality to be poor, 13 (12%) don't know about the water quality, and 23 (21%) perceive water quality to be excellent.

The top concerns expressed about water quality were Algae/aquatic vegetation, Bacteria, and Clarity. Table 4 summarizes the number and percentage of responses identifying each water quality concern for Kahshe Lake. Figure 4 below shows the distribution of shoreline property owner responses regarding water quality concerns on Kahshe Lake.

Table 4. Top water quality concerns.

Water Quality Issues:	Responses:	Percentage	Rank
Algae/Aquatic Vegetation	55	50%	1
Bacteria	52	47%	2
Clarity	35	32%	3
Pollution	30	27%	4
No concerns	16	14%	5
Smell	8	7%	6
Other concerns	4	4%	7

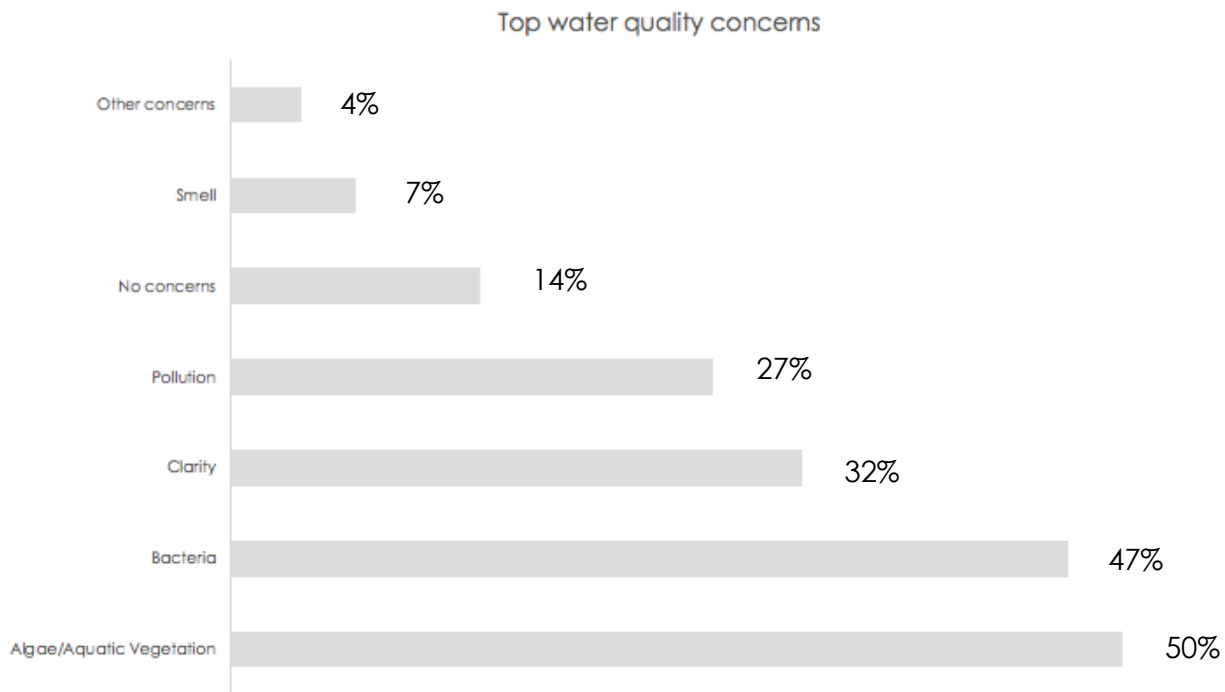


Figure 4. Ranking of top water quality concerns.

Shoreline Property Owner Interest in Stewardship Information and Activities

Of the 111 respondents, 90 (81%) said they were interested to learn more about their activities and how it affects water quality, wildlife habitat, and the overall health of the lake. When asked whether they would be interested in participating in stewardship activities around the lake, 45 respondents (41%) answered “yes”.

Discussion

On the completed surveys, Water Quality was the single most important factor affecting the property owners' enjoyment of the lake with 83 respondents rating it as an "extremely important" factor. As well, 50% of respondents placed Algae/aquatic vegetation as one of their top concerns regarding the health of Kahshe Lake.

When shoreline property owners were asked to identify the top actions that would benefit their lake, Limit boat wakes near shore was the most recommended, followed by Engage in a septic re-inspection program, and Provide education materials to property owners. Kahshe Lake Ratepayers' Association may consider gathering more information on this as well as getting opinions from more residents on Kahshe Lake.

Residents rate Swimming as the top activity on Kahshe Lake with 95% saying they participated in this lake activity. This result provides an opportunity to Kahshe Lake Ratepayers' Association for more stewardship initiatives by showing that the suitability of the environment for recreational activities could be jeopardized if current issues are not addressed.

When asked about overall water quality, residents seem to agree that they have good water quality. 21 respondents said the water quality was "excellent".

Conclusion

The main concern seems to be Water Quality among lake residents. 60% of respondents rated Kahshe Lake as having good water quality. Other main concerns were Boating, and Noise Pollution.

On Kahshe Lake 81% of respondents are willing to learn more about how to help the health of the lake. There appears to be opportunity for planning and stewardship programs to help restore and preserve Kahshe Lake.

By working together with all interest groups and landowners in a coordinated effort, the protection of Kahshe Lake can be improved.

Appendix A: Questions Asked in Values Survey

1. Which of the following apply to you? (Check all that apply.)

- Permanent Resident
- Seasonal Resident
- Own Vacant Property
- Operate a Farm
- Operate a Business
- Other (please specify)

2. If you are a seasonal resident, do you plan on making this your permanent residence sometime in the future?

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

3. How long have you or your family been on your lake?

- _____ Years

4. What types of recreational activity do you participate in at the lake? (Select as many as apply.)

- ATVing
- Cross-Country Skiing
- Hiking
- Jet Skiing
- Power Boating
- Snowmobiling
- Camping
- Fishing
- Ice Fishing
- Mountain Biking
- Sailing
- Snow Shoeing
- Wind Surfing
- Canoeing or Kayaking
- Hunting
- Ice Skating
- Nature Appreciation
- Scuba Diving
- Socializing
- Water Skiing/Wake Boarding

5. Please rate how the following 15 elements add to your personal enjoyment of your lake. Please circle only one number for each value.

Element	Not Important 1	2	3	4	Extremely Important 5	Don't Know
Water Quality	1	2	3	4	5	0
Natural Shorelines	1	2	3	4	5	0
Scenery/View	1	2	3	4	5	0
Wildlife Viewing	1	2	3	4	5	0
Dark Skies (No Light Pollution)	1	2	3	4	5	0
Tranquility/Quiet	1	2	3	4	5	0
Fishing	1	2	3	4	5	0
Ice Fishing	1	2	3	4	5	0
Preserving Vacant Land	1	2	3	4	5	0
Hunting	1	2	3	4	5	0
Swimming	1	2	3	4	5	0
Power Boating	1	2	3	4	5	0
Non-Power Boating	1	2	3	4	5	0
Lake Social Activities	1	2	3	4	5	0
Other (Please Identify)	1	2	3	4	5	0

6. What do you see as the top five issues facing your lake and your lake use?

- Water quality
- Water levels
- Declining fish populations
- Boating
- Cottage conversions to permanent homes
- Shoreline development
- Faulty or poorly maintained septic
- Noise pollution
- Light pollution
- Wildlife
- Other

7. Please identify the top three actions you believe should be undertaken to benefit your lake and lake community.

- Stop mowing grass by the shoreline
- Plant trees and shrubs along shore

- Limit boat wakes near shore
- Engage in a septic re-inspection program
- Provide education materials to property owners on a variety of subjects
- Undertake more water quality testing
- Create or enforce stricter rules for new development
- Create or enforce stricter rules for re-development (cottage conversions)
- Improve communication between land owners and lake association
- Engage more property owners in lake activities
- Undertake a lake management plan
- Nothing
- Other

8. In your opinion, describe your lake water quality.

- Excellent
- Good
- Poor
- Don't Know

9. What are your particular concerns with respect to water quality?

- Bacteria
- Smell
- Algae/Aquatic vegetation
- Clarity
- Pollution
- No Concerns
- Other

10. Are you interested in learning more about how your activities as a landowner can affect water quality, wildlife habitat, and the overall health of your lake?

- Yes
- No

11. Would you be interested in participating in stewardship projects/activities related to your lake?

- Yes
- No