

Education Report to AGM July 29, 2014

The primary role of the TLWI is to educate the stakeholders of the Turtle Lake area towards responsible use of the lake and surrounding areas in order to maintain or enhance the quality of the Turtle Lake watershed itself.

To help the achievement of this mandate, is the distribution of On the Living Edge, a guide to lake front living. This publication is front and centre to a variety of practices that underline the importance of environmentally responsible actions and activities in and around the lake. Copies of this book are available free at Hamlet AGM's or to anyone who asks their local representative. The goal of TLWI is to have a copy of this book in the hands of every cottage owner in the area and to see the information and examples within the book actively and consistently implemented.

There has been a restructuring of some provincial and federal departments with a re-alignment of roles and responsibilities for activities on and near the water. TLWI.ca is in the process of updating this information and contact information on its website.

Although the TLWI.ca website was out of commission for a period of time this winter and spring, it is up and running and now continues to have many "hits" and provides answers to the most frequently asked questions which include:

- What is the current water level of Turtle Lake and how does it compare over time?
- As a lakeshore property owner and lake user, what can I do to prevent damage to the lake and shoreline?
- What kind of materials are permitted for boat docks & lifts?
- What do I need to know about sewage handling?
- What approvals are required to alter the shoreline?
- What can you tell me about the livestock watering in the lake?
- How do I report situations that could threaten the lake or shoreline?
- How can I get involved in the Turtle Lake Watershed Inc.?

A variety of presentations from past and present in the form of Power Point and other form are available on the website. The most recent addition includes a report on the re-organization of government departments and the revised roles and responsibilities of these departments.

Turtle Lake has always been a year-round destination for some, but recently it is becoming more so for many. Consequently, activities in and around the lake during winter months are beginning to be more noticeable. Whether the debris is caused by the environment or by human negligence stakeholders need to be reminded to be responsible for cleaning up after themselves when they are active on the lake.

We should not rely solely on the organization itself to educate the public regarding appropriate lake practices. Each of us can be an advocate for the responsible use of the lake and the surrounding area by educating ourselves and others. In this way we can ensure the area remains clean and healthy into the future.

Submitted by:

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