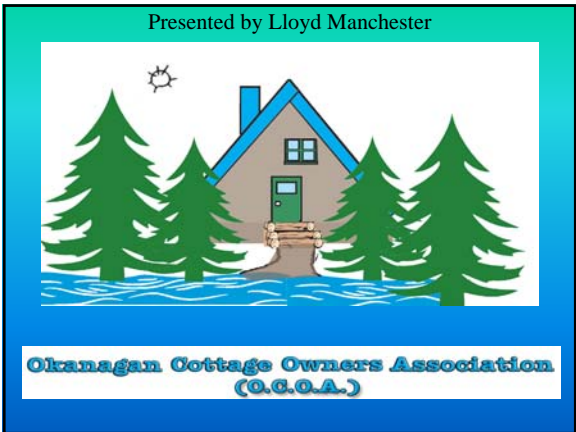


OBWB Presentation

July 3, 2007



Mission and Goals of the OCOA

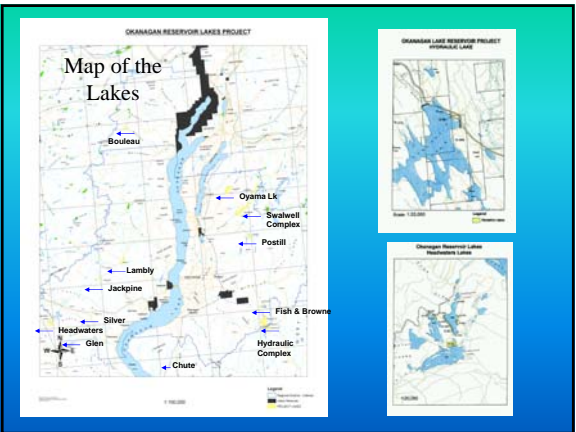
The main mission of the Okanagan Cottage Owners Association is to:

- To promote sustainable environmental stewardship for cottage owners in the Okanagan.
- To assist members in research, education and information sharing on relevant issues.
- To work proactively with other stakeholders in the watershed to ensure water quality and sustainability.

As an association we support a number of progressive initiatives:

We support working with government and other organizations to promote sustainable use in community watersheds.

- ❖ We support increased awareness and accountability within the watersheds we represent
- ❖ We support the use of composting toilets that reduce the need for black water systems
- ❖ We support filtered gray water systems which will not impact the lake environment
- ❖ We support water quality monitoring programs and are willing to assist in their implementation
- ❖ We support education in community watersheds through signage and educational materials





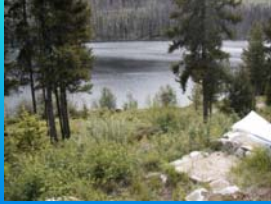
cabin



Beaver Lake FSR



Chute Lake



Leases and Taxes

The Okanagan region is the only area in the Province where cottage owners do not have the ability to buy their leased recreational lots from government.

Property assessments are based on freehold lake properties from other regions. Cottage owners pay lease fees based on these property assessments. Over the last few years, property assessments have increased by over thirty percent per year.

Cottage owners also pay taxes on their properties. This is creating financial hardship and uncertainty for all cottage owners. This inequity needs to be resolved.

Common Goals

The OCOA shares a common interest with local and regional governments, water purveyors, Interior Health Authority, in that we want to ensure the lakes have good water quality and we want to promote good stewardship practices to sustain the environment.

Strong educational programs are needed to help develop environmental awareness in the watersheds including the ability to report offences.

The OCOA Educational Program

- The OCOA has implemented a community watershed signage program in conjunction with the Province, Regional District of Central Okanagan, and Shell Canada
- The OCOA is producing a pamphlet for distribution in the watersheds and at retail outlets

Watershed Educational Signage



Environmental Integrity

Our association believes that environmental integrity within watersheds will only increase should we be allowed to purchase our properties.

It is important to note that no further development or sale of land is allowed in the lakes system.

We are prepared to work with regional government to ensure that proper development guidelines are in place to guide this process.

Framework Process with Province & Stakeholders

For the last few years we have participated in a stakeholder process to develop a framework agreement that shares common interests in community watersheds.

Key Points of draft Framework Agreement:

Cottage Zoning Bylaw that will restrict the size and scope of development (RDOC) and put a Conservation Land Zone over the Land Act Reserves

Forestry, Cattle and Recreation Management Strategies. In part these strategies include strategic fencing and input into logging plans in the watershed
Water Quality Management & Protection Strategies

Framework Process with Province & Stakeholders

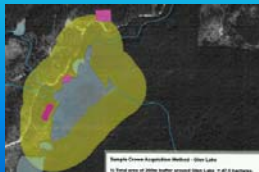
Studies currently in Progress include:

Summit Environmental is assessing risks/hazards to water quality and recommending **implementable & enforceable** preventative mechanisms

Oland Engineering assessing lot capacity to support a sustainable septic disposal system

Land Act Reserve

PREVENTING NEW DEVELOPMENT BY PLACING A LAND ACT RESERVES AROUND ALL THE LAKES.



-  Land Act Reserve
-  Lease Lots

Strategic Fencing



Watershed Impacts

The majority of impacts to watersheds comes from land use activities such as forestry, ranching and recreation

Watershed Impacts

- In most cases, the addition of nutrients and silt have the most impact on water quality
- Water quality data in the watersheds indicates that water quality degrades after leaving the lake
- This is due to uncontrolled inputs into the system such as stream in-stability, cattle, and storm events
- Un-regulated camping areas with no services

Recreational Impacts

Recreational uses of the lakes system will continue to increase as urban populations expand. There will continue to be increases on the demand on our water resources.



Recreational Impacts



Cattle in the Watersheds

Uncontrolled access of cattle to streams, lakes and riparian buffers can seriously impact water systems. Downstream impacts from the outlet to the intake of water systems need to be reduced.



Forestry Impacts



Okanagan Reservoir Lake Study

The Okanagan Reservoir Lake Project Study (July 4, 2004) stated:

“it appears, based on observation and published reports, that other activities in the watershed have a much greater chance of impacting water quality in the watersheds”.

Okanagan Reservoir Lake Study Recommendations

The following are some of the key recommendations of the report.

- On-site inspections of all lease properties has shown that the properties are presently having little or no discernable impact on water quality in the reservoir lakes;
- The lack of impact is mainly associated with the fact that the lots are serviced by outhouses and not septic systems, and therefore, have little effluent discharge;
- The majority of lots have good riparian buffers which are a major factor in protecting lake general environmental quality;

Okanagan Reservoir Lake Study Recommendations

- The majority of these properties have sufficient area to site conventional and or upgraded septic systems if required in the future;
- It appears, based on observation and published reports, that other activities in the watershed have a much greater chance of impacting water quality in the watersheds;
- One of the biggest factors affecting the water quality of these reservoirs is their short water residence times; this factor also supports the theory the water quality of these lakes are very dependent on the activities in the upper watersheds

Domestic and Irrigation Use

Treated or disinfected water is being used for irrigation!

For example:

District of Summerland chlorinates all its water:

- 80% goes toward irrigation
- 20% goes toward domestic

District of Lake Country disinfects all its water with chlorine gas and/or hydrochlorite:

2 distribution systems for domestic

3 domestic systems for both domestic and irrigation with 80- 98% going toward irrigation.

Domestic and Irrigation Use

South East Kelowna Irrigation District chlorinates all its water:

85% goes towards irrigation

15% goes toward domestic

Okanagan Lake Water Quality

The majority of citizens in the Okanagan Valley get their water from Okanagan Lake.

When we look at protecting water quality we have to decrease the pollution going into the lake.

Many activities contribute to the decline in water quality such as uncontrolled development, untreated storm drain inputs, lakeshore erosion, motor boats, waste water treatment discharge in the lake and people dumping garbage into the lake.



Concluding Remarks

As citizens living in the Okanagan basin we all have an impact on the environment in which we live. We all have to take responsibility to ensure the protection and enhancement of our environment.

It is clear that British Columbians believe that access to the backcountry is important to them. Multiple uses whether recreational or industrial within all the watersheds in the Okanagan will continue to increase.

Concluding Remarks Cont'd

We need to be proactive and creative in the solutions we employ to protect our watersheds. Ownership of our properties will not be detrimental to this goal.

Working together with our association will assist us all in ensuring that environmental degradation does not occur. Working together, we can achieve the goals we have in common.

On behalf of the Okanagan Cottage Owners Association, I thank you for your time today.