

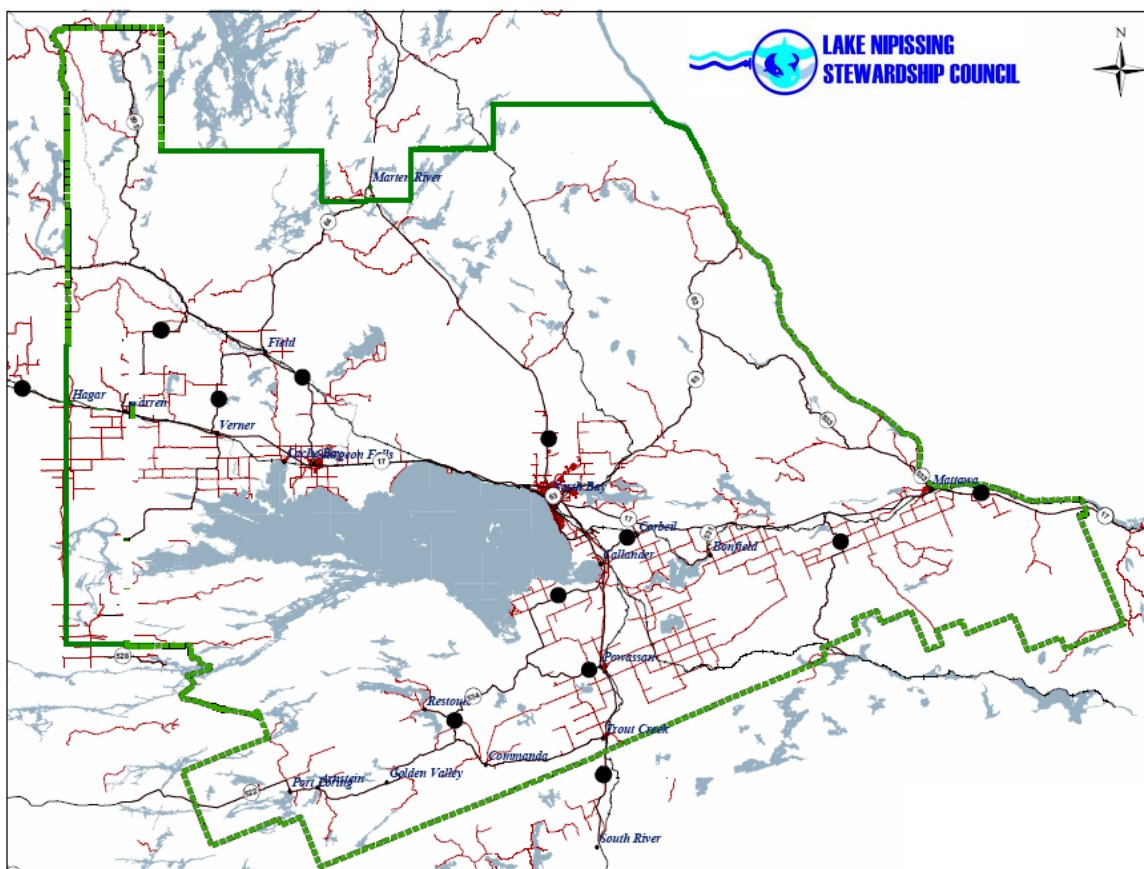
Lake Nipissing Stewardship Council

2006 ANNUAL REPORT



The Mandate of the Lake Nipissing Stewardship Council

- To preserve, protect, restore and improve the natural resources and environment of all the waters of Lake Nipissing and area, in the Province of Ontario.
- To encourage and foster an understanding and awareness of the natural resources and environment and their value in enhancing our quality of life, by organizing conferences, seminars, public meetings and distribution of information circulars on issues relating to the environment and its management and protection
- To conduct educational seminars, conferences and public forums about the flora, fauna, ecology, hydrology and geology of the region
- To collect information on the state of the natural resources and environment of Lake Nipissing, and to provide information for, and participate in, management decisions affecting all the waters of Lake Nipissing and area.



Structure of the Lake Nipissing Stewardship Council

Formed originally in 1999, the Lake Nipissing Stewardship Council (LNSC) is a registered, non-profit, charitable organization with a mandate to "*preserve, protect, restore & improve*" the natural resources and environment of Lake Nipissing and area'. Since inception, the Council has expanded its influence through membership in Ontario Stewardship. The volunteer board represents a diverse group of stakeholders who all have interests in the management of local resources. Advisors as well as other partners provide additional consultation and expertise.

The core areas of the organization are natural resources and the sustainable use of these resources. Project leads are responsible for each initiative and are overseen by the larger Board. The Council Executive heads up strategic planning as well as more complex administrative matters, and additionally, a 'Development Committee' looks after funding to support project work of the Council.



OPERATIONS

The LNSC participates in the management of the broader Lake Nipissing ecosystem and works closely with government Ministries, other agencies and a wealth of community partner organizations and individuals to implement improvement projects, support stakeholder groups, educate others and perform practical research and assessment activities. In addition to this, the Council provides valuable feedback on issues concerning our area.

Annual work plans (including projects and budgets) are prepared by Council and then prioritized. Individual Committee and Board members take an active role carrying out projects in either lead or support capacities working with partners as much as possible. To engage in project/partnership work with the LNSC it is by no means a requirement to be a Board member.

The Board of Directors meets approximately every month. The committees and the Executive meet when necessary on a schedule determined by the Chair.

The Coordinator for the Executive takes care of the administrative needs of the executive and Board. The Stewardship Coordinator looks after resource activities, work planning, partnership support and communications. The annual general meeting is held in the spring of each year.

Chair's Remarks

The year 2006 will stand out as significant in the metamorphosis of the Lake Nipissing Stewardship Council (LNSC) from a fish advisory board entirely focused on Lake Nipissing to a completely independent autonomous organization that has expanded its area of concern to a much larger geographical area from the Ottawa River in the east to Highway 535 and Cross Lake in the west and from Marten River in the north to Noelville and Trout Creek in the south. Membership in the Ontario Stewardship Program (OSP) required the LNSC to broaden its mandate to encompass environmental issues for not only water and water based matters, but also lands and forests to offer support for stewardship activities in the wider Nipissing area. The Council did not take the decision to join the OSP lightly, and we and the Ministry of Natural Resources, negotiated the current agreement starting on January 18, 2006 and concluded with the signing of the memorandum of understanding on July 6, 2006. Although the negotiations were long and sometimes arduous, once we reached an agreement, the LNSC took off its boxing gloves and got down to the work of nurturing and protecting the environment of the Nipissing area with the same fervor and diligence that that has characterized it in the past. As a result of this agreement, the LNSC gained a stable funding source of \$10,000 annually and the assistance of a Stewardship Coordinator, Nathan Kirby, a Ministry of Natural Resources employee.

With the change in the focus of the LNSC, a change in the membership of the board occurred. During this past year two new civic representatives from the municipalities of Callander and Nipissing replaced the representatives from the City of North Bay and the Municipality of West Nipissing on the board as directed by the bylaws of the Corporation. The North Bay District Office of the Ministry of Natural Resources vacated its voting position on the board to ensure the independence of the LNSC from actual and perceived government control. The North Bay - Mattawa Conservation Authority and Anishinabek/Ontario Fisheries Resource Centre were added to the board as voting members in keeping with its broader mandate.

Normal retirements and the aforementioned changes resulted in a significant number of new members being present at the monthly board meetings. The new board members are:

Doug Brydges - Municipality of Callander
Kalvin Young - Township of Nipissing
Kim Carmichael - Anishinabek/Ontario Fisheries Resource Centre
Susan Brownlee - North Bay – Mattawa Conservation Authority
(Paula Scott, NBMCA, replaced Susan at the end of 2006)
Bill Hagborg – Lake Nipissing Partners in Conservation
Shaun Roberts – Director at Large
Roy Warriner – Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters

I thank these individuals for stepping up to the plate and bringing their wisdom, knowledge, dedication and a willingness to work for the benefit of the environment in Lake Nipissing and area. I look forward to working with all of them.

So many new faces around the table meant that many long standing members retired. They are:

Peter Bullock – City of North Bay
John Dobbs – Municipality of West Nipissing
Bruce Sharpe - Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters
John Campbell – Director at Large
Mike Batsford – Honourary Director, South Shore Re-Stocking Association

I wish to thank these members for their tireless commitment and contribution to the health and welfare of Lake Nipissing. They shall be missed.

I would also thank those board members who have chosen to continue to work with the newly reconstituted LNSC. You are the back bone of the new Council, our link to the past and nucleus for meeting the new challenges that face us. Your wisdom and knowledge will be needed to help us avoid the unseen pitfalls that threaten us and your continuing dedication will be the driving force that propels us forward.

I also wish to thank Gail Laird, Executive Coordinator. As the chairperson of the Lake Nipissing Stewardship Council no one works more closely with the Executive Coordinator or depends on her more heavily than I do. Gail Laird has made my year as chairperson very easy. I know how much she assisted as I terminated her employment with the LNSC at the end of January 2007 because the Council had run out of funding for the position. We had no other option but to cease her employment. The executive and the board have come to realize in a very real way the burden that she carried while she worked for the Council, as we have had to carry it ourselves over these past few months as volunteers. At press time, I am happy to announce that the LNSC has secured funding in the form of a training grant from the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities for Gail as we embark on a new initiative and beginning in June she will be rejoining us.

As I consider the year 2006 and the changes that it brought to the Lake Nipissing Stewardship Council, I believe that they were necessary and will prove to be for the ultimate benefit of the Lake Nipissing area. I am encouraged by the zeal and fervor of the new Council of 2007 and I think that we are bound for bigger and better things.

John Thornton
Chairman

Stewardship Coordinator Comments

The past year has been one of growth for the Lake Nipissing Stewardship Council.

As John Thornton has mentioned, the first several months of 2006 were spent negotiating a partnership agreement with the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) through the Ontario Stewardship program. At the end of July, these negotiations proved to be successful and the Board signed on to become one of the newest additions to the provincial organization.

Ontario Stewardship is a unique program within Ontario. Member councils receive support through the MNR in the form of a paid employee (a Coordinator), annual seed funding, insurance coverage for project activities and a connection to other councils/professional expertise and a broad range of partners. What is even more unique is that although the council is *supported* by the province, the council is *not controlled* by this partnership. It is a partnership of mutual interests. The Lake Nipissing Council remains independent and free to conduct themselves, set their own goals and carry out activities as they see fit. Having said that, there are of course some checks and balances in place in the form of 'Program Guidelines'. This ensures that provincial resource contributions (taxpayer money, Crown forest royalties, fishing & hunting dollars, etc) are being spent appropriately. Even still, these guidelines are broad enough and interpretive enough that they are meant to inspire rather than limit the efforts of the Council.

Since becoming a member, the Lake Nipissing Stewardship Council has expanded its area of coverage and its mandate, not just to include Lake Nipissing, but the waters, wetlands, agricultural and forest lands around it, encompassing a much larger area. This demonstrates that even though this arrangement is still in its relative infancy, it is already beginning to work, and work well. By the end of 2006, initiatives had already been started by the Council to delve into forestry and agricultural property improvements which not only affect those specific land uses, but also affect clean water, fisheries, and a multitude of other features. In the professional field, this approach is called 'integrated resource management' and recognizes that every single thing, alive or not is connected to each other through one manner or another. By considering the needs of the natural world, we can better manage these resources and how they can be sustainably used to improve and support the lives of the people in our communities.

Expansion of the Council's focus has so far seen them receive invitations from new funders, inspire new partnerships and begin to accomplish a wider range of projects and better respond to the needs of those communities and resources it serves.

I would encourage any individual, stakeholder or organization who is genuinely interested in natural resources, the environment, education or their community to contact the council. We are always looking for volunteers, project suggestions, new partnerships (in a

lead or support function) and of course funding to help sustainably manage our natural resources and the environment around us.

Nathan Kirby
Stewardship Coordinator,
Lake Nipissing Stewardship Council

'Lake to Plate' Educational and Fish Preparation Workshops

The workshops were held on December 5th at The West Nipissing Recreational Complex in Sturgeon Falls and on December 7th at Nipissing Secondary School in North Bay.

These workshops held in 2005 and again this year are designed to ease fishing pressure on walleye by educating the public about the other bountiful edible species of fish in Lake Nipissing. The educational portion served to help raise public awareness of the ecosystem of Lake Nipissing, and to increase the profile of the Lake Nipissing Stewardship Council (LNSC).

The workshops opened with introductions of the experts and a short PowerPoint presentation on the programs and work that the LNSC has spearheaded over its previous five years.

The biology and historical significance of each of the featured species, northern pike, burbot (ling) and white bass were presented by Nathan Kirby and Norman Dokis in a plenary session before the actual cleaning seminars began.

Attendees were then divided into three groups and rotated through the cleaning stations for the above species on a 10-15 minute time period per station.

At the conclusion of the workshops, a selection of fried, pickled and smoked fish was available for sampling while members of the Lake Nipissing Stewardship Council made themselves available for questions and conversation.

The focus of the workshop was further enhanced by individual displays of the fish native to Lake Nipissing featuring a hand drawn reproduction of the fish, the name of the fish in English, French and Ojibway and scientific and historical detail.

The success of the workshops depended on the participation of members of the LNSC and particularly on others who are not members of the LNSC board who are listed below. Thank you all for your assistance.

Marlo Johnson
John Garrett
Norman Dokis
Tom Lambert
Amanda Brosseau

Thank-you as well to the staff of both Nipissing Secondary School and the West Nipissing Recreational Complex who provided venues for these workshops at no cost to us.

Lake Nipissing Educational Unit

The Lake Nipissing Stewardship Council completed in 2006 (and donated early in March 2007) a Grade Two educational resource on Lake Nipissing to each of the Near North District School Board, the Nipissing-Parry Sound Catholic District School Board and the Dokis First Nation elementary school.

The Lake Nipissing Stewardship Council's mandate talks about protecting the natural resources of a large area from Mattawa to Hagar and from Trout Creek to Martin River. This unit on Lake Nipissing is a continuation of the Council's educational efforts, aimed in a new direction at developing the attitudes of stewardship in the next generation. These children will be charged with the responsibility of caring for our natural resources. The materials that are part of this kit will assist teachers to bring the world that is immediately outside their classroom windows, indoors - so that the seeds of conservation and preservation can be sown and take root in the local landscape.

Mrs. Karen Anderson, the author, whose generosity with her knowledge and expertise in the field of education, made this unit possible. Karen is a retired elementary school teacher with the Near North District School Board who has written and published 16 books for students in the primary division, four of which have been translated into Cayuga and Mohawk by Six Nations Kawennio Language Project. Karen has also just had a novel, titled *A Contemporary Romance*, accepted for publication by Publish America. Husband Jim, son in law Patrick, granddaughter Rosie and a photogenic Shih Tzu, Diggie, were all essential participants in production of the pictorial tour of Lake Nipissing.

We thank Lynne Lamontagne for her generous loan of a very expensive camera.

We also wish to recognize the invaluable assistance of Shaun Roberts, the former Ministry of Natural Resources Large Lake Biologist, who provided biological fish facts, fish resources and proofreading.

Finally, we thank the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ontario Stewardship Program, and the Lake Nipissing Walleye Restocking Association for their generous monetary support. All of these people and organizations donated their time, expertise or money to this project because of their love for Lake Nipissing and a desire to preserve it into the future.

Listed below are others who assisted and contributed to the production of this unit, and as a show of our appreciation, we have included a letter of thanks on the next page from Dokis Elementary (Kikendawt Kinoomaadi Gamig). Thank you everyone.

Evelyn McLeod, Nipissing First Nation

Lake Nipissing Partners in Conservation
The Waltonian Inn, Callander
The Sundown Ridge, Highway 17, North Bay
The West Nipissing Resort, Lavigne
Due North Marketing, TJ and Monique Quesnel, West Nipissing
Ministry of Natural Resources, North Bay Office

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Board of Directors

EXECUTIVE:

CHAIR: John Thornton, Ontario Federation of Anglers & Hunters

VICE CHAIR: Kevin Cameron, West Nipissing/Upper French River Tourist Association

SECRETARY: Bill Hagborg, Director at Large/Nipissing Partners in Conservation

TREASURER: Peggy Walsh Craig, Nipissing Environmental Watch

GENERAL DIRECTORS:

Roy Warriner, Ontario Federation of Anglers & Hunters (new to Board; 2006)

Shaun Roberts, Director At Large (former MNR representative)

John Campbell, Director at Large (retired from Board; 2006)

Doug Bridges, Municipality of Callander (new to Board; 2006)

Peter Bullock, City of North Bay

Leonard Dokis, Dokis First Nation

John Dobbs, Municipality of West Nipissing (retired from Board; 2006)

Frank Marusich, Nipissing Partners in Conservation

Scott McLeod, Nipissing First Nations

Rick Stevens, Nipissing First Nation

Dave Waye, Director at Large/South Shore Operators

Paula Scott, North Bay/Mattawa CA (new to Board; 2006)

Bruce Sharpe, Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters

Kim Carmichael, Anishinabek/Ontario Fisheries Resource Centre (former advisor)

Kalvin Young, Township of Nipissing (new to Board; 2006)

Gerry Duquette, Dokis First Nation (retired from Board; 2006)

Mike Batsford, South Shore Restocking Association (retired from Board; 2006)

Susan Brownlee, North Bay Mattawa Conservation Authority (retired from Board; 2006)

ADVISORS:

Doug Walsh, Ministry of the Environment

ADMINISTRATION:

Gail Laird, Coordinator for the Executive

ONTARIO STEWARDSHIP:

Nathan Kirby, Stewardship Coordinator

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SPECIAL THANKS

Grants



Sponsors

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
Ontario Stewardship
Bill Hagborg
John Thornton
Lake Nipissing Walleye Restocking Association

Supporters

The people and businesses that sold LNSC Slot Rulers
Nbisiing Secondary School
West Nipissing Recreational Complex
John D'Agostino, Lawyer
Heather Smith, OFAH
City of North Bay

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