

Executive Summary

Natural heritage protection and proper lake planning is of great importance for the County of Peterborough and the province of Ontario. From significant wetlands to significant habitat of endangered and threatened species, natural heritage features provide important environmental and social values, as they are a legacy of the natural landscape (NHRM, 2010). Much of these resources found across southern and eastern Ontario have been lost, which makes the protection of the natural heritage features in the County of Peterborough even more imperative.

An important way to protect the natural environment from incompatible uses and development is through Official Plan (OP) policy and zoning. OPs set out the bro5 23hM-(tur)val and

2. Provide the County of Peterborough a tailored list of possible short term and long

analysis and interviews revealed that there are many interesting options to consider when updating the OP in 2013. One gap in the County of Peterborough OP relates to shoreline protection. Addressing shoreline development will be a challenge, but information collected from case study locations offers interesting techniques to mitigate impacts. Also, many issues fall within the jurisdiction of the province. Aggregate extraction, fish and wildlife habitat, provincially significant wetlands and species at risk are all protected by provincial and sometime federal legislation. The County can look for ways to strengthen these policies at the local level if political will exists, but for the most part, most municipalities are following the guidelines presented to them. The work the County is doing with fellow stakeholders is encouraging and seems to be the norm across most case study locations. Below is a summary of the short term, long term and supporting recommendations proposed based on the strengths and weaknesses of the current County of Peterborough OP.

Recommendations:

Short Term

1. Restrict boathouse height to one storey. Do not allow boathouses to be used for human habitation.
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5. Encourage area municipalities to develop a septic re-inspection program. This could be funded through an annual property tax.

Long Term

6. Write a Peterborough CouLo[4(nnua)-5(1 prope)5(rt))JT4()F2 1Aa.8.1024 642.1gPtT3n.62 6298.37 -7(. d