

LSEMS CONFERENCE
RESTORE THE LAND...RESTORE THE LAKE....
WORKING TOGETHER FOR A GREAT LAKE

Session:	The Strength of Our Communities – Part A
Date:	Friday, October 21, 2005 – 1:30 p.m.
Moderator:	Rob Orland, Orland Conservation
Scribe:	Gina Casey, Executive Assistant, LSRCA

Presentations were provided by:
Kelly Clune, Resident of Orillia
Debbe Crandall, Executive Director, Save the Oak Ridges Moraine Coalition
John D. Hall, Coordinator, Hamilton Harbour Remedial Action Plan

Question:
As has been reiterated throughout the Conference, this is not just another passive conference --- this is about the need for broad and active community engagement --- it is time for a strong and coordinated thrust ---

Based on the presentations you have just heard, how can we apply the lessons learned today to develop a “One Voice Action Plan” for LSEMS Phase IV?

We need to learn from the Hamilton Harbour Remedial Action Group...

- Believe we should do what Hamilton Harbour Remedial Action Group is doing.
- Hamilton Harbour is one of 7 remedial action plans.
- Each plan was developed by the IJC – there is a process to follow and the process works everywhere and defines the problem, gets input, looks at solutions, produces a plan, reviews the plan etc.
- Involves everyone.
- The process is similar to the process used by the LSEMS.
- A critical step to consider is staff – from the beginning Hamilton Harbour had a fulltime RAP coordinator and staff person.
- This contributes to the success – having someone who can get things done.

We need to more clearly establish and communicate everyone’s role...

- Opinions have been sought through many workshops around the lake –
- there is an LSEMS Citizens Advisory Committee – participants don’t know their role.
- Three “Cs” approach is good – (citizen’s, civil servants and scientists).
- People and government become equal – no hierarchy .

We need to set clear milestones...

- Set milestones – lines in the sand.

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We need early community involvement...

- It is recommended that the community needs to be involved at early stages.

We need an independent report card...

- Impressed with independent report cards – only reports are coming from the Conservation Authority.

We need to learn from the Bruce Trail Association...

Bruce Trail Association has motivated volunteers and is an excellent model of engaging volunteers.

We need to adopt and work with the One Voice theme...

- One Voice Theme – the importance of cleaning up the lake – this has consensus.

We need to unify our goals...

- Some groups believe that the important way of saving the lake is to stop development around the lake.
- No one will take the position to stop development and we need to reach a compromise.
- Once we have unity on goals, it will be easier to settle on ways and means.
- Establish clear goals with community for Phase IV of LSEMS through meetings, around the kitchen table, etc.

We need to communicate better...

- Educate – in simple terms. We need to be clear and accurate.
- Need to have data – Phosphorus loads, water quality/quantity.
- We need to be clear on what we are monitoring

We need to involve the community, listen to all ideas & celebrate successes...

- Involve the community in useful ways.
- Don't be afraid of "off the wall" solutions.
- Listen to the community – how do they want to be involved – let them tell us – this should not be dictated.
- Celebrate successes – this gives momentum

We need financial resources...

- Crucial element is funding

We need a "one ear" communications vehicle as well...

- One Voice – Needs also one ear
- Lake Simcoe is big – communities are diverse – there is no media that connects the lake (Barrie vs Newmarket)
- A communication device needs to be created.
- Spoke with Authority regarding Lake Link – to bring together everyone interested in the lake
- One link – could be part of a report card idea
- Could be done for about \$30,000.

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We need to focus on education...

- A focus should be education.

We need a new governance structure...

- Need to have a study of governance, look at some other models, and review accountability.
- The LSEMS Citizens' Advisory Committee needs to be reviewed – The meetings are too far apart – members did not understand objectives and therefore decided not to serve on the Committee.
- Make it more of a working group.

We need better report cards and to improve trust among partners...

- Report Cards – need citizens involvement.
- When staff writes reports they need to have citizens there to keep it accurate.

We need sub watershed management strategies & committees...

- Stewardship – would like to see a watershed management committee for each subwatershed of Lake Simcoe – try to find a volunteer in each of those areas and have it supported by a staff person from the Authority.

We need to involve students...

- Continue monitoring –
- Use Georgian College students for assistance.
- Utilize existing resources – get them involved.

General Comments:

- Should discontinue use of green garbage bags in landfill sites.
- Lake Simcoe is a federal program – should have been a RAP from the beginning.
- Do not believe public can make an enormous contribution without having the expertise.
- Money issue: we need to know how the money is being spent.
- Why are we not banning pesticides?
- Groups are funded by government – we need to see action happen
- Need to say “this is what we need to do and this is how it will happen”
- Been doing the “how to” for too long!
- Requested Authority to advise City of Orillia regarding the 40 tons dumped on the shores of Lake Simcoe – however nothing happened. Is this because Orillia is not part of the Authority?

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- Citizens are getting dragged down – having to bring issues to court – this is unacceptable – should not be doing it.
- Might get more action from Authority if it had an independent Board of Directors – not municipal politicians.
- Corporate Boards select representatives for knowledge – hand pick directors carefully – ones that will push for success.
- Funding for Authority comes from municipality – therefore could not request municipalities not to send a municipal politician to sit on the Board.
- Issue is those sitting on the Authority Board are also voting on contentious issues within their municipality.
- Need to have directors not influenced by the dollar – money should not be an issue.