

This document can be made available in other accessible formats upon request and as soon as practicable.



AGENDA

Lake Management Task Force (LMTF)

Register to Attend:

greyhighlands.ca/register

Watch Live: greyhighlands.ca/watchlive

Thursday, June 25, 2026 - 5:00 PM

Page

1 CALL TO ORDER

2 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

2.1 Recommendation:

That the Lake Management Task Force approves the agenda as amended or as circulated.

3 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

4 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4.1 Recommendation:

3 - 5

That the Lake Management Task Force approves the minutes of 2026-05-28 as amended or as circulated.

[Lake Management Task Force \(LMTF\) - 28 May 2026 - Minutes - Html](#)

5 ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

5.1 Draft Lake Management Task Force Report - June 2026

6 - 35

That the Lake Management Task Force receive the June 2026 Draft Lake Management Task Force Report for information.

[Lake Mgmt Task Force Report \(2026-06-16\)](#)

[LMTF Report - 5.0 Implementation Strategies \(2026-06-16\)](#)

[LMTF Report - Education Plan \(2026-06-16\)](#)

5.2 August Task Force Meeting Date

That the Lake Management Task Force schedule an additional regular meeting to take place on [insert date] in virtual format beginning at [insert time].

6 NEXT MEETING

6.1 Lake Management Task Force meeting

Date: July 30, 2026

Time: 5:00pm

Location: Virtual

7 ADJOURNMENT

7.1 Recommendation:

***That the Lake Management Task Force adjourn at [time]
until the next meeting or until the Call of the Chair.***

**The Municipality of Grey Highlands
Lake Management Task Force (LMTF) Minutes
Thursday, May 28, 2026**

Members Present:

Chair Councillor Nadia Dubyk, Janine McGowan, Maurice Dempster, Ken Shelson, Councillor Dan Wickens, Jim Hartman, and Sheila Davie

Members Absent:

Richard Lemoine

Staff:

Committee & Records Coordinator Danielle Thompson and GSCA Water Resources Coordinator John Bittorf

1 Call to Order

Chair Dubyk called the meeting to order at 5:04pm and welcomed recently appointed member Sheila Davie.

2 Approval of Agenda

2.1 Motion:

LMTF2026-17

Dan Wickens - Ken Shelson

That the Lake Management Task Force approves the agenda as amended to include the following:

Under Item 5.5 - Task Force Report Sub-Committee Update:

- **draft task force report table of contents and implementation strategies section; and**

Under Item 5.6 - Education, Communication and Outreach Sub-Committee Update:

- **draft education plan; and**

Under Item 5.8 - Planning and Infrastructure Sub-Committee Update:

- **boater behavior information and draft signage and fertilizer by-law rationale; and**

That Item 5.5 be considered first under Items for Discussion.

CARRIED w 2/3.

3 Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

None declared.

4 Approval of Minutes

4.1 Motion:

LMTF2026-18

Dan Wickens - Janine McGowan

That the Lake Management Task Force approves the minutes of 2026-03-19 as amended or as circulated.

CARRIED.

[Lake Management Task Force \(LMTF\) - 19 Mar 2026 - Minutes - Html](#)

5 Items for Discussion

5.5 Education, Communication and Outreach Sub-Committee Update

Member Wickens departed the meeting during consideration of this item.

**Item moved up to be considered prior to Item 5.1 and attachments added as per approval of agenda.

- Media outreach update.
- Review of draft education campaign items, elements, considerations.
- Education campaign items to come forward for consideration at June meeting.

LMTF2026-19

Janine McGowan - Jim Hartman

That the Lake Management Task Force receives the Education, Communication and Outreach Sub-Committee Update for information.

CARRIED.

[LMTF - Education Plan \(May Meeting\)](#)

- 5.1 Council Resolution 2026-214
Lake Survey Results

LMTF2026-20

Ken Shelson - Janine McGowan

That the Lake Management Task Force receives Council Resolution 2026-214 for information.

CARRIED.

[Council - 18 Mar 2026 - Resolution 2026-214](#)

- 5.2 Council Resolution 2026-229
Inland Lakes Water Quality By-law 2026-023

LMTF2026-21

Jim Hartman - Maurice Dempster

That the Lake Management Task Force receives Council Resolution 2026-023 for information.

CARRIED.

[Council - 15 Apr 2026 - Resolution 2026-229](#)

- 5.3 Council Resolution 2026-306
Lake Eugenia Water Testing

LMTF2026-22

Janine McGowan - Jim Hartman

That the Lake Management Task Force receives Council Resolution 2026-306 for information.

CARRIED.

[Council - 06 May 2026 - Resolution 2026-306](#)

- 5.4 Funding Opportunities

Staff Report CTE.26.03

LMTF2026-23

Maurice Dempster - Ken Shelson

That the Lake Management Task Force receive report CTE.26.03 Funding Opportunities for information.

CARRIED.

[CTE.26.03-Funding Opportunities - Pdf](#)

5.6 Task Force Report Sub-Committee Update

**attachments added as per approval of agenda.

- Review of draft task force report table of contents.
- Review of task force report sections - individual sections to be brought forward to a future meeting for consideration.
- Review of framework for implementation strategies and recommendations section.

LMTF2026-24

Jim Hartman - Maurice Dempster

That the Lake Management Task Force receives the Task Force Report Sub-Committee Update for information.

CARRIED.

[LMTF Report - Table of Contents \(May meeting\)](#)

[LMTF Report - 5.0 Implementation Section \(May meeting\)](#)

5.7 Research and Monitoring Sub-Committee Update

No update.

5.8 Planning and Infrastructure Sub-Committee Update

**attachments added as per approval of agenda.

No update.

[Draft poster for launch area at Eugenia 2026 05 27 \(002\)](#)

[Draft wording of a document that could be circulated to the community and posted on the web site \(002\)](#)

[Ontario Boat Launch Best Practices Poster](#)

6 Next Meeting

6.1 Lake Management Task Force meeting

Date: June 25, 2026

Time: 5:00pm

Location: Virtual

7 Adjournment

7.1 Adjourn:

LMTF2026-25

Ken Shelson - Sheila Davie

That the Lake Management Task Force adjourn at 6:56pm until the next meeting or until the Call of the Chair.

CARRIED.



**MUNICIPALITY OF GREY HIGHLANDS
LAKE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
REPORT**

DRAFT JUNE 2026



Note: Add an image of each lake

Table of Contents

About the Lake Management Task Force	2
Executive Summary	xx
1.0 Context Setting	xx
1.1 Introduction	
1.2 Lake Management Concerns	
1.3 Lake Management Goals and Guiding Principles	
1.4 Lake Management Stakeholders	
2.0 Lake Background Characterization	xx
2.1 Lake Eugenia	
2.2 Brewster's Lake	
2.3 Irish Lake	
2.4 Wilcox Lake	
3.0 Lake Management Objectives	xx
4.0 Lake Management Best Practices	xx
5.0 Actions and Recommendations	xx
Action 1: Water Quality Testing	
Action 2: Septic System Management	
Action 3: Stormwater Runoff Management	
Action 4: Invasive Species Management	
Action 5: Fisheries and Wildlife Protection	
Action 6: Shoreline Naturalization Maintenance	
Action 7: Responsible Boating	
Action 8: Farmland Measures	
Action 9: Responsible Shoreline Development	
Action 10: Public Lake Access Management	
Action 11: Volunteer Based Lake Monitoring	
Action 12: Communications and Education	
6.0 Education Plan	xx
References	xx
Appendix (Acronyms list)	xx

About the Lake Management Task Force

- Reporting to Council, the Lake Management Committee is responsible for undertaking a review of current state of Lake Eugenia, Irish Lake, Wilcox Lake, and Brewster's Lake and develop a lake management plan and recommendations
- Task Force first meeting March 2025; developed sub-committees to manage work efforts; final report complete in Aug 2026; Council review Sep 2026

Mandate

- To review the current state of Lake Eugenia, Irish Lake, Wilcox Lake, and Brewster's Lake
- Research best practices in lake management
- Investigate and recommend strategies for lake mitigation, focusing on aspects such as water quality, human use, invasive species, fishing conditions, and aesthetic considerations
- Develop a Lake Management Plan identifying priorities for action as well as potential funding measures and partnerships for projects
- Develop a public education plan

Task Force Members

- *[note: add names and time on task force given turnover]*

Executive Summary

[complete last]

1.0 Context Setting

1.1 Introduction

- Lake Eugenia, Brewster's Lake, Wilcox Lake and Irish Lake situated within the Municipality of Grey Highlands
- Within of Grey Sauble CA and Saugeen Valley CA
- Lake Management Task Force Report is the result of 17 months of work to provide recommendations for healthy lakes in the Municipality

1.2 Lake Management Concerns

- Top concerns overall based on survey of lake residents and visitors:
 - Water quality
 - Growth of aquatic plants and algae
 - Pollutants from shoreline development and activities, and surrounding areas
 - Introduction of non-native invasive species
 - Poorly functioning septic systems
 - Limited monitoring and testing of lake health and water quality
- Include a graph of top concerns for each lake

1.3 Lake Management Goals and Guiding Principles

Goals

- Support high water quality standards for Lake Eugenia, Brewster's Lake, Irish Lake and Wilcox Lake for human use and ecological needs
- Promote sustainable human and natural resources management activities that support lake health
- Use available science-based findings to guide lake management and education plans

Guiding Principles

- Promote an ecological approach to the use of land and water for a healthy lake
- Recognize the links between human health and environmental health
- Consider the implications of cumulative actions on the lakes as a whole, including broader watershed impacts
- Recognize that lake management is a shared responsibility and requires a shared approach to coordination and implementation of actions.
- Utilize best practices and lessons learned from management plans conducted on other lakes to help inform recommendations

1.4 Lake Management Stakeholders

A wide range of community groups, organizations and individuals have an interest, dependency and a role to play in maintaining healthy lakes in the MGH.

Category	Stakeholders	Typical Roles
Federal Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fisheries and Oceans Canada 	•
Provincial Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) Grey Bruce Health Unit 	•
Local Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Municipality of Grey Highlands Grey County 	•
First Nations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Saugeen Ojibway Nation (SON) 	•
Stewardship Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grey Sauble Conservation Authority (GSCA) Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority (SVCA) 	•
Lake Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brewster's Lake Association Lake Eugenia Property Owners Association Friends of Lake Eugenia Lakeside residents 	•
Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grey Agricultural Services 	•
Lake-related Businesses, Clubs and Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ontario Power Generation (OPG) Eugenia BIA 	•

2.0 Lake Background Characterization

NOTE:

- *add 2 maps for each lake – depths and land use;*
- *add: OPG owns most of lakebed and approx 5m of riparian area around Eugenia Lake.*
- *Add: something about public access for all the lakes making note that Brewster's has no public access.*
- *Add: estimated split between residential, agri, natural environment around the shorelines for each lake*

2.1 Lake Eugenia

Lake Eugenia is a reservoir which was created following the construction of the hydro-electric dam on the Beaver River in 1915. It has over 700 hectares in surface area with a maximum depth of approximately 13 metres. It is bordered by approximately 400 homes, both full-time and seasonal. Additionally, farmland borders the south-west corner of the lake. It is a major recreational area for Grey Highlands. Invasive species found in the lake include zebra mussels and fragmites. In addition, blue-green algae blooms may discourage swimming from midsummer onwards. There is a public beach and boat launch located off Canrobert Street in the village of Eugenia. Water quality and clarity testing is performed at various sites through the Lake Partner Program, as well as by the municipality at the public beach and by the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority at multiple sites.

2.2 Brewster's Lake

Brewster's Lake is a calm, spring-fed lake located west of Singhampton. It is about 25 hectares in surface area with a maximum depth of about 12 metres. It is surrounded by 50-70 homes. The most common fish species is northern pike. The Brewster's Lake Home Owners Association is a membership organization for the lake. Water quality is tested through the Lake Partner Program and is generally good.

2.3 Irish Lake

Irish Lake is located due west of Flesherton. It has approximately 11.5 hectares of surface area with a maximum depth of about 6 metres. It is surround by about 50 cottages, and only non-motorized boats (or electric trolling motors) are permitted. Unlike the other lakes in Grey Highlands, it is under the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority's jurisdiction. The outflow from the lake flows west towards Lake Huron. Fish species including brook trout and smallmouth bass occur naturally in Irish Lake. From time to time, it has also been stocked with rainbow trout. There is a small, public access point near the south-west corner of the lake. Water quality is generally considered high for residential use, even though we have not been able to identify any source of regular testing data.

2.4 Wilcox Lake

Wilcox Lake is the headwater for the Boyne River, and is located directly south of the community of Flesherton. It covers approximately 26 hectares and has a maximum depth of 5.3 metres. It is surrounded by a mixture of homes for full time residents and seasonal cottages. The lake is divided into two “lobes”, which are separated by a point of land stretching out into the lake. The two lobes have slightly different characteristics. Wilcox Lake supports natural populations of largemouth and smallmouth bass, yellow perch and sunfish. Residents have indicated concerns about fragmites, an invasive plant which can rapidly take over shallow stretches of water. Water quality and clarity testing through the Lake Partner Program is resuming starting in 2026.

3.0 Lake Management Objectives

Objective 1: Maintain healthy water quality conditions

- Overwhelming community support for maintaining excellent water quality conditions as per survey
- Occasional posting of Lake Eugenia public beach as unsafe due to E.coli.
- Pollutants from shoreline development and activities.
- After rain events, pollutants tend to be washed directly into the lake instead of being purified by gradually filtering through vegetation into the ground.
- shoreline properties are on private septic systems - greater risk for leaching of contaminants into the lake if septic systems are not functioning optimally.
- Potential contamination from other sources. The potential for oil and/or gas spills from power boats, oil spills from shoreline properties, and other disturbances are areas of concern.

Objective 2: Enhance and maintain the natural integrity of the shoreline

- Biodiversity is what sustains healthy aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems.
- Native biodiversity, or life that is naturally occurring in an area, provides greater benefits to the lake ecosystem than non-native biodiversity
- Proliferation of non-native invasive species – zebra mussels, phragmites
- Wildlife species of conservation concern - Major threats to species of conservation concern include loss of habitat (e.g., removal of nearshore vegetation), increased disturbance from development activities and boating, direct mortality and injury by road vehicles and boat propellers

Objective 3: Maintain the biodiversity of the lake ecosystems

- The zone between land and water is often referred to as the 'Ribbon of Life'. Shoreline areas are extremely rich in biodiversity and provide multiple benefits to the lake ecosystem including filtering contaminants, preventing erosion, and providing fish and wildlife habitat
- The lake shoreline is a dynamic system. Natural forces such as water currents, wave action, and ice movement can be a source of shoreline accumulation (e.g., gaining land) or shoreline erosion (e.g., losing land). A natural shoreline provides a stable waterfront in most instances, due to its ability to stabilize soil, absorb wave energy, and slow lot-level surface water runoff.
- Developed shorelines can cause reduced aquatic habitat potential, less water quality buffering capacity, greater wave action, land/water isolation, and other negative implications for the lake. The land/water interface along the shoreline, as well as shallow nearshore areas (less than 2m deep) are particularly prone to alterations from development and other activities associated within shoreline living.

Objective 4: Improve understanding of how lakes will respond to emerging pressures

- Understanding of lake-based pressures and how the lake ecosystem will respond to them are key elements in directing management decisions.
- Some of the important emerging pressures include: Climate change; Cumulative development; Non-point sources of pollution; Invasive species.
- Limited monitoring programs and data on lakes ecosystem - limited routine monitoring of key indicators of lake(s) health, such as invasive species, water quality, and biodiversity .

4.0 Lake Management Best Practices

5.0 Actions and Recommendations

[Introduction]

LMTF identified a numbers of actions to be taken with supporting recommendations:

- Action 1: Water Quality Testing
- Action 2: Septic System Management
- Action 3: Stormwater Runoff Management
- Action 4: Invasive Species Management
- Action 5: Fisheries and Wildlife Protection
- Action 6: Shoreline Naturalization Maintenance
- Action 7: Responsible Boating
- Action 8: Farmland Measures
- Action 9: Responsible Shoreline Development
- Action 10: Public Lake Access Management
- Action 11: Communications and Education Plan

Action 1: Water Quality Testing

Supports Objectives: xxx

BACKGROUND

Importance of water testing

- Testing ensures public health and safety, protects ecological health of the ecosystem and can prevent long term environmental damage.
- Testing at the deepest spots in the lake provides the most consistent representative and long-term data for the overall health of the lake.
- The four Grey Highlands lakes (Eugenia, Irish, Wilcox, Brewster's) being addressed by the LMTF have different natures and should be addressed using the optimum testing program for each body of water.

Testing programs

- There are currently three authorities gathering test data from the lakes:
 1. Ontario Lake Partner Program (LPP): tests for Sulphate, Chloride, Calcium, Total Phosphorus and Water Transparency on Brewster's Lake and two locations on Lake Eugenia, using a network of volunteers to collect samples. It has agreed to resume testing on Wilcox Lake for 2026. Tests at each location are conducted five to six times per year.
 2. Grey Simcoe Conservation Authority (GSCA): tests for E. coli, Total Phosphorus, Total Chlorides, Total Nitrate at three locations in and around Lake Eugenia. Tests are conducted eight times per year.
 3. The municipality of Grey Highlands tests for E. coli, Total Coliforms and Reactive Phosphorus at the Eugenia public beach weekly from June to October (18 times per year).
- Microcystin toxin is emitted by blue-green algae, and can be detected through water testing even when an algae blooms are not seen. Testing may provide a correlation of algae growth with weather events.

Collating Data

- Data collected by the GSCA is hosted in their database and is made publicly available through their [web site](#). *[need web site address as well]*
- Data from the LPP for the lakes under GSCA's authority are now also available through the same web site. This provides a single contact point for researchers looking to analyze water quality data.
- Opportunity to add Friends of Lake Eugenia testing data to GSCA database for a comprehensive view.

Wilcox Lake Sampling Resumption

- The Lakes Partner Project (LPP) formerly collected samples on Wilcox Lake. The resumed collections will take place at two sites, since due to geography, the lake has two "lobes" with differing characteristics.

Recommendations for Water Quality Testing		Priority Lakes	Stakeholder Involvement
1(A)	<p>MGH to enhance water testing at Lake Eugenia main public beach that is done on a weekly basis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change from reactive phosphorus to total phosphorus testing and test lower limit of 0.005 mg/l, as per LPP and GSCA for comparability. • Add testing for microcystin toxin to detect blue-green algae to the weekly process. • Share test data results with GSCA. <p><i>Status Update:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>LMTF recommended MGH Council to move forward with the above, which was unanimously supported by Council and MGH Staff have implemented.</i> 	Lake Eugenia	MGH
1(B)	<p>Add additional test sites on Lake Eugenia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four sites are proposed (shown below on map) to provide coverage of parts of the lake that are currently far from any testing points. • Determine who will conduct testing and funding source. 	Lake Eugenia	MGH, Friends of Lake Eugenia
1(C)	<p>Add testing on Wilcox Lake through one of the relevant authorities.</p> <p><i>Status Update:</i></p> <p><i>A volunteer from the LMTF re-started LPP testing as of [date].</i></p>	Wilcox Lake	LPP
1(D)	<p>Add testing on Irish Lake through one of the relevant authorities.</p>	Irish Lake	LPP, SVCA
1(E)	<p>Consolidate water quality test results in one database for comprehensive view to support analysis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSCA to add data from MGH, LPP, Friends of Lake Eugenia to the GSCA website database (web site)<i>(note – add website address)</i> 	All 4 lakes	GSCA, MGH, LPP, Friends of Lake Eugenia

Note: add maps with locations and table with tests, frequency, responsibility

Action 2: Septic System Management

Supports Objectives: xxx

BACKGROUND

- xxx
- xxx

Recommendations for Septic System Management		Priority Lakes	Stakeholder Involvement
2(A)	<p>Create a municipal septic reinspection program for all septic systems within 100m of shoreline for all four lakes</p> <p><i>Status Update:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>MGH launched a septic reinspection pilot program in spring 2026 for Lake Eugenia</i> 	All four lakes	MGH
2(B)	<p>Conduct an education campaign to reinforce septic system maintenance tips and benefits</p>	All four lakes	MGH

Action 3: Stormwater Runoff Management

Supports Objectives: xxx

BACKGROUND

- xxx
- xxx

Recommendations for Stormwater Runoff Management	Priority Lakes	Stakeholder Involvement
<p>3(A) Develop a municipal by-law to regulate use of fertilizer on residential properties within 100m of shoreline for all four lakes.</p> <p><i>Status Update:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>LMTF recommended to MGH Council to create a fertilizer by-law, which was unanimously supported</i> • <i>Council approved the new Inland Lakes Water Quality By-law on April 15, 2026 to regulate the use of fertilizer on the shores of Lake Eugenia, Wilcox Lake, Irish lake and Brewster's Lake.</i> 	All four lakes	MGH
<p>3(B) Develop an education campaign to support reduction of stormwater runoff through property stewardship</p>	All four lakes	MGH, Lake Associations
<p>3(C) Develop a program that provides educational and project management assistance, as well as financial assistance where possible, to waterfront residents to support the uptake of lot-level measures for water stewardship action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>See funding/ grants staff report</i> 		

Action 4: Invasive Species Management

Supports Objectives: xxx

BACKGROUND

- xxx
- xxx

Recommendations for Invasive Species Management		Priority Lakes	Stakeholder Involvement
4(A)	<p>Education campaign to reinforce best management practices to reduce the risk of introducing and spreading invasive species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BMP examples: Inspect boats, wash and dry fishing gear • Report invasive species sightings through the Invading Species Hotline: 1-800-563-7711 and/or the Early Detection and Distribution Mapping System (EDD MapS Ontario): www.eddmaps.org/ontario • Promote the use of existing “monitoring tool-kits”(e.g., https://foca.on.ca/ais-monitoring-toolkit/) to facilitate public education 	All four lakes	
4(B)	Consider the feasibility of installing a voluntary boat and trailer wash station near the public boat launch	Lake Eugenia	Eugenia BIA
4(C)	Host workshops and on emerging invasive species		

Action 5: Fisheries and Wildlife Protection

Supports Objectives: xxx

BACKGROUND

- xxx
- xxx

Recommendations for Fisheries and Wildlife Protection		Priority Lakes	Stakeholder Involvement
5(A)	<p>Undertake routine sampling of aquatic invasive species (e.g., zebra mussels, spiny water flea, etc.) by participating in the <u>Invading Species Watch Program</u>.</p> <p>Establish multiple sampling locations particularly in waters adjacent to public access locations and developed shorelines.</p> <p>Invasive species monitoring as per Invading Species Awareness Programs (program administered by Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters).</p>		
5(B)			
5(C)			

Action 6: Shoreline Naturalization Maintenance

Supports Objectives: xxx

BACKGROUND

- xxx
- xxx

Recommendations for Shoreline Naturalization Maintenance		Priority Lakes	Stakeholder Involvement
6(A)	Provide more education and marketing to shoreline residents on what to consider when undertaking shoreline improvements (i.e., who to contact for support, what options are available, etc.) that protect or enhance the integrity of the shoreline		

Action 7: Responsible Boating

Supports Objectives: xxx

BACKGROUND

The following discusses the ways in which the impact of boating wake can be managed, while still providing for the maximum safe enjoyment of the lakes.

Understanding the Science of Wake Impact

- **Know that speed alone doesn't tell the whole story.** Research on Ontario lakes shows that the speed of the boat, its shape and size matter, but so do water depth and shoreline characteristics — factors that most wake regulations don't currently address.
- **Recognize the outsized impact of wake/wakesurf boats.** Wake boats create disturbance to a depth of 6–8 metres, while traditional recreational boats disturb to only 1.5–2 metres. This disturbance can re-suspend aquatic plants and sediment, releasing phosphorus and toxins that reduce water quality and aquatic insect populations. Note that this may also be related the blue-green algae issue that is being experienced on Lake Eugenia.

Physical & Environmental Measures

- **Protect and restore natural shorelines.** Natural vegetation (native plants, tree roots, aquatic plants) is far more effective at absorbing wave energy than hardened shorelines like riprap or seawalls. Work with the conservation authority on shoreline naturalization programs.
- **Strategic placement of swim buoys and exclusion zones.** Clearly marked buoy lines near swimming areas, docks, and ecologically sensitive zones signal to boaters where reduced speeds are expected and provide a visible buffer.
- **Coordinate and educate the boat launch users.** Distributing responsible boating materials at the Lake Eugenia boat launch can reach operators before they get on the water.

Advocacy for Stronger Regulation

- Under current Transport Canada regulations, restricting wake boats requires a blanket restriction on all powered watercraft, which can affect traditional recreational users. Advocates across Canada are pushing for the ability to specifically restrict ballasted wake boats without penalizing other boaters. Supporting lake associations and coalition efforts lobbying for more targeted federal rules is a meaningful long-term strategy.

Recommendations for Responsible Boating		Priority Lakes	Stakeholder Involvement
7(A)	<p>Post sizable, info graphic for safe boating and lake usage signs with relevant information at each public access point.</p> <p>Lake Associations may want to consider signs at private beach points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See example of safe boating info graphic <i>Figure xx</i> • See example of boat launch best practices sign <i>Figure xx</i> 	Lake Eugenia, Irish Lake, Wilcox Lake	MGH, Lake Associations, Eugenia BIA
7(B)	Establish or expand no-wake zones near sensitive shorelines, swimming areas, marinas, and narrow channels	All four lakes	MGH, Lake Associations, GSCA
7(C)	<p>Apply for Vessel Operation Restriction Regulations (VORR) to Transport Canada for specific boating restrictions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This could include horsepower limits, seasonal restrictions, or specific activity (e.g., wakesurfing) bans tailored to each lake 	All four lakes	MGH, Lake Associations
7(D)	<p>Develop education plan to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe boating • Reporting violations to the OPP • 	All four lakes	MGH, Lake Associations

Figure xx: Example of Safe Boating info graphic sign

Figure xx: Example of Boat Launch Best Practices



Action 8: Farmland Measures

Supports Objectives: xxx

BACKGROUND

- xxx
- xxx

Recommendations for Farmland Measures		Priority Lakes	Stakeholder Involvement
8(A)			
8(B)			
8(C)			

Action 9: Responsible Shoreline Development

Supports Objectives: xxx

BACKGROUND

- xxx
- xxx

Recommendations for Responsible Shoreline Development		Priority Lakes	Stakeholder Involvement
9(A)	Conduct a lake density study	Lake Eugenia	MGH
9(B)	Review planning policies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional Dwelling Unit restrictions in lake communities – not as of right 	All four lakes	MGH

Action 10: Public Lake Access Management

Supports Objectives: xxx

BACKGROUND

- xxx
- xxx

Recommendations for Public Lake Access Management		Priority Lakes	Stakeholder Involvement
10(A)	<p>Consider actions to reduce amount of time that Lake Eugenia public beach is posted as unsafe for swimming:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct routine maintenance such as regular garbage pick-up, clean-up of pet and bird feces, and provision of adequate feces disposal facilities. • Implement ways to deter birds in the beach vicinity, such as creating and maintaining tall vegetation or wider buffers. 		
10(B)	Enhance the boat launch?		

Action 11: Communications and Education Plan

Supports Objectives: xxx

BACKGROUND

- xxx
- xxx

Recommendations for Communications and Education		Priority Lakes	Stakeholder Involvement
11(A)	Create a municipal webpage for lake management content	All four lakes	MGH
11(B)	Develop an email alert for weekly water testing results update	Lake Eugenia	MGH
11(C)	Develop an education plan targeted at lake residents and visitors supporting stewardship of healthy lakes	All four lakes	MGH, Lake Associations

6.0 Education Plan

[Introduction]

- seasonal approach to the implementation of best management practices (BMPs).
- information to help reduce impact on local lakes
- Good water quality and a healthy, sustainable environment are a result of responsible home and property management choices.
- *Which stakeholders to inform and educate, and through which communication channels*

Season	Topic	Page
Spring	(A) Lawns (B) Regulated use of fertilizers (C) Naturalized areas (D) Shoreline restoration and preservation (E) Natural filters (F) Rain gardens (G) Collecting rain water (H) Septic re-inspection program (I) Boat launch	
Summer	(A) Invasive species (B) Permeable surfaces (C) Blue-green algae (D) Safe boating (E) Volunteer based lake monitoring	
Fall	(A) Preparing lawns and gardens (B) Composting	
Winter	(A) Salt alternatives (B) Preventing erosion (C) Disposing of hazardous waste	

Spring

(A) LAWNS

KEY MESSAGES

- xxx
- xxx

RESOURCES

- xxx
- xxx

(B) REGULATED USE OF FERTILIZERS

KEY MESSAGES

- xxx
- xxx

RESOURCES

- xxx
- xxx

(C) Naturalized Areas

KEY MESSAGES

- xxx
- xxx

RESOURCES

- xxx

xxx

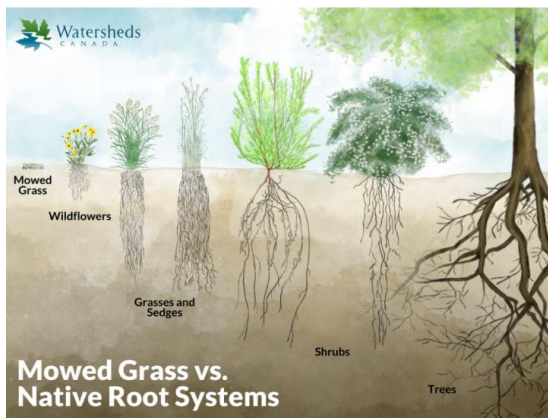
(D) Shoreline Restoration and Preservation

KEY MESSAGES

- Restoring and preserving shorelines around lakes provides countless benefits including reducing property erosion, improving water quality, and increasing fish and wildlife habitat.

Remove Lawn to Shoreline Edge - replace manicured lawns that extend to the shoreline with native plant species and/or leave a 10-15 meter strip of shoreline un-mowed to allow natural regeneration of native vegetation.

- Consider creating a shoreline buffer strip by replacing turf along the shoreline with deep-rooted native trees and shrubs to: stop property erosion, fertilizer and nutrient runoff, improve water quality, and provide habitat. Native shrub and tree species have deeper root systems that stabilize soil and absorb nutrients before they enter the water.
 - The lakes under the LMTF purview are in planting zones 5a and 5b, so be sure to select native species from the appropriate zone. Also select native species based on soil type and sun exposure (full, partial, shade). Other aspects to consider could be choosing native plant varieties of various heights, winter interest, and those that provide forage and habitat for native fauna species including frogs, fireflies, pollinators, and even fish.
- Consider not mowing lawns right up to the shoreline which will:
 - Attract less geese from grazing and defecating along the shoreline edge, reducing the nutrients that feed excessive algal growth.
 - Use less fertilizers and fuel, which will reduce pollutants entering into the water system.
 - Encourage native species to spread naturally.



RESOURCES

- <https://watersheds.ca/how-native-plants-help-with-erosion-control/>

(E) xxx

KEY MESSAGES

- xxx
- xxx

RESOURCES

- xxx

xxx

(F) xxx

KEY MESSAGES

- xxx
- xxx

RESOURCES

- xxx

xxx

(G) xxx

KEY MESSAGES

- xxx
- xxx

RESOURCES

- xxx

xxx

(H) xxx

KEY MESSAGES

- xxx
- xxx

RESOURCES

- xxx

xxx

(I) xxx

KEY MESSAGES

- xxx
- xxx

RESOURCES

- xxx

xxx

Summer

(D) Safe Boating

- **Report violations to the OPP.** The OPP has confirmed they want to hear from people about excessive wakes, noise, and boats too close to shore, even if they cannot respond immediately. Callers should gather as much information as possible — boat registration number, colour, make, model, time, frequency, and location — and call the OPP at 1-888-310-1122.
- **Establish or expand no-wake zones.** No-wake zones are designed to reduce shoreline erosion and protect swimmers and smaller vessels, as wake can cause damage to docks, boats, and the environment. Work with your municipality or conservation authority to investigate the designation of no-wake zones near sensitive shorelines, swimming areas, marinas, and narrow channels.
- **Leverage existing Ontario law.** Boaters in Ontario are already required to observe a speed limit of 10 km/h within 30 metres of the shoreline, helping protect swimmers, reduce shoreline erosion, and ensure safe navigation near docks and residential areas. Enforcement of this baseline rule is often the most impactful first step.