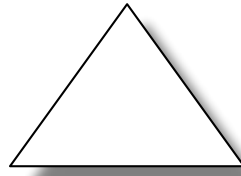


Values of a healthy lake

Environmental: healthy habitat for plants and animals in our lake and



Economic: ensures strength of local tourism now and in the future

Recreational: swimming, wildlife viewing, drinking water

Impacts we have on our lake

- Nutrients: too much input can result in increased algae blooms, coliform, and ecoli
- Chemicals: purposeful or accidental input of gasses, paints, oils, cleaning supplies
- Wake: ignoring speed limits and shoreline distancing destroys habitat and causes erosion
- Shoreline changes: improper construction & lawn maintenance can have a negative impact on lake health
- Spread of invasive species: through poor boat cleaning and fishing practices

How to care for our lake

Nutrients

- Maintain functioning septic with regular pumping
- Keep fertilizers and compost far away from shoreline
- Use phosphate-free soaps
- Naturalize shorelines with native plant species to uptake nutrients

Chemicals

- Take care filling boat motors – don't over fill, and soak up any spills before running bilge pump
- Store chemicals – ie. Gasoline, paint - far from shoreline in a sealed environment
- Limit pesticide use, and don't use them near the shoreline
- Wait to apply insect repellent until after swimming
- Don't pour medicines, paint products, oils, varnishes, or non bio-degradable cleaners down the drain

Wake

- Maintain distance from shoreline - watch your wake to ensure it isn't reaching shore
- Avoid sensitive areas, such as marshes
- Obey speed limits – 10km/h within 30m of shore

Shoreline changes

- Naturalize shorelines with native plants; don't cut your lawn within 3m of shore
- Use silt fences around shoreline manipulation projects

Invasive Species

- Don't transport firewood
- Ensure boats are clean- remove any vegetation or animals and empty bilge before launching
- Wash boat and accessories with hot water, or let dry for 3 days
- Don't transport bait from one area to another
- Don't empty aquariums into natural water bodies
- Plant native vegetation species to encourage strong populations of native wildlife

For more information on ways to care for your lake, visit www.oxtongelake.ca Produced by Ben Teskey, Lake Steward Oxtongue Lake. Assisted by Stephen Fuller, Earth steward Intern, Wolf Den Hostel & Nature Retreat