

## Summary of the State of Pike Lake and its Watershed

The "Report on the State of Pike Lake and its Watershed" (June 2010) provides a comprehensive overview of the environmental, social, and economic factors affecting Pike Lake and its surrounding watershed. It was developed by the Pike Lake Community Association with input from volunteers, government agencies, and other stakeholders. The report aims to improve understanding of the lake's current health, identify key issues, and propose solutions to protect its long-term sustainability.

You can read the complete document [here](#).

### Key Highlights:

#### Overview of Pike Lake and its Watershed

- Pike Lake is part of the Tay River Watershed, spanning 66.6 km<sup>2</sup>, with a surface area of 3.16 km<sup>2</sup>.
- The lake has steep, rocky shorelines typical of the Canadian Shield, 25 Crown land islands, and one private island.
- The watershed includes Crosby and Little Crosby Lakes, wetlands, and streams.

#### Nine Key Issues Identified

1. **Water Quality:** High nutrient levels (phosphorus and nitrogen) contribute to algae blooms and aquatic vegetation growth. Groundwater is vulnerable due to thin soil cover.
2. **Development Pressures:** Increasing conversion of seasonal cottages to permanent residences impacts water quality and natural landscapes.
3. **Conservation of Natural Environment:** Habitat loss threatens wildlife and fish populations. Species at risk include the Eastern ratsnake and bald eagle.
4. **Impacts of Motor Vehicles:** Boating and recreational vehicles cause shoreline erosion, pollution, and disturbance to wildlife.
5. **Crown Land:** Unsustainable use of Crown land islands (e.g., littering, fire damage) requires better stewardship.
6. **Mining Concerns:** Mining rights on some properties pose risks to water quality and ecosystems.
7. **Aquatic Vegetation:** Excessive growth of invasive species like Eurasian watermilfoil affects recreation and water quality.
8. **Water Levels:** Controlled by a dam, fluctuations impact fish spawning, shoreline properties, and downstream flows.
9. **Fisheries Health:** Pike Lake supports a cool-water fishery, but habitat loss, water quality issues, and overharvesting threaten fish populations.

#### Current State and Recommendations

- **Water Quality:** Regular monitoring, septic system upgrades, and shoreline vegetation buffers are recommended.
- **Development:** Municipal zoning policies promote sustainable development, but stricter enforcement is needed.
- **Wildlife Conservation:** Protecting wetlands, forests, and old fields is critical for biodiversity.

- **Recreational Activities:** Education on responsible boating and prevention of invasive species spread is essential.
- **Crown Land:** Collaboration with the Ministry of Natural Resources to manage public use sustainably.
- **Mining:** Advocacy for stronger regulations to protect private landowners and ecosystems.
- **Aquatic Vegetation:** Limit nutrient inputs and explore removal methods with regulatory approval.
- **Water Levels:** Review dam operations to balance ecological and recreational needs.
- **Fisheries:** Conduct updated surveys and habitat enhancement projects.