

## MILLER LAKE COMMUNITY GROUP - SURVEY TOTALS 2012

### 1 Respondents Location and Length of Ownership

In total, there were **69 surveys** returned. This is roughly a third of property owners directly on the lake or with backlots on the lake.

The margin of error is +/- 9% for a 95% accuracy rate. Example: A total of 63% could mean 54% or 72%.

Most respondents were long-term owners of over 10 years - **48 in total** - and these people would have the most accurate long-term observations.

Naturally, most respondents were on the longest roads - **Barney's Blvd 33%** - and **Tammy's Cove 46%** (combined Northeast and Southeast sections).

### 2 Anecdotal Observations

Most people observed **NO CHANGE** in the following subjects:

- 51% Sailing
- 53% Stability of lake levels
- 58% Fishing
- 64% Water quality
- 76% Evening noise during the week
- 80% Swimming

They noted **MORE** change in the following subjects:

- 49% Canoes & kayaks
- 53% Boat traffic
- 54% Evening noise on weekends
- 55% Water-skiing
- 64% Power boat traffic

There was a disconnect between **LESS and NO CHANGE** on several subjects. This may have to do with where your property is located on the lake.

Amount of wildlife

- 39% *Less*
- 40% *No change*

Natural shoreline (preservation of)

- 45% *Less*
- 48% *No change*

### 3 Retirement plans

If you are a seasonal resident, do you plan to live here full-time in future?

- 23% Yes
- 42% No
- 35% Maybe

**4 How people feel about the natural elements of Miller Lake in rank order:**

These are combined responses marked **IMPORTANT** or **VERY IMPORTANT**:

- 100% Concern about Water Quality
- 91% Preference for Peace and Quiet
- 84% Important to protect Ecological areas
- 83% Interest in maintaining the Natural Shoreline
- 83% Enjoyment of Night Skies
- 82% Important to protect Rare & Endangered species
- 72% Preference for Stable water levels throughout the year

**5 Activities that people enjoy at the lake (totals of IMPORTANT & VERY IMPORTANT):**

- 91% Walking & hiking
  - 87% Canoeing & kayaking
  - 73% Viewing the lake & scenery
  - 70% Fishing
  - 70% Viewing birds and wildlife
  - 69% Viewing plants and flora
  - 63% Viewing stars & night skies
  - 56% Cross-country skiing & snowshoeing
  - 45% Sailing & wind-surfing
  - 29% Water-skiing, tubing, wake-boarding
  - 16% Hunting
  - 12% Snowmobiling
  - 7% Riding ATV's
- (Activities ranked as LEAST IMPORTANT:  
Hunting – 71% / ATV's – 88% / Snowmobiling – 68%)

**6 Quality of Lake Water**

Most people quite sensibly felt that the water quality was **good** - **56%**. Another large proportion rated it **fair** - **36%**.

**7 Concerns about Lake Water in rank order:**

- 30% Bacteria
- 26% Algae
- 17% Clarity
- 12% Smell
- 10% Weeds
- 3% Other (someone wrote 'gas slicks' for this; a few wrote down 'pollution'; one person wrote 'swimmer's itch')
- 1% No concerns

8 **UNTIL A FORMAL STUDY OF THE LAKE'S CAPACITY IS UNDERTAKEN, WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE A MORATORIUM ON CONSTRUCTION ON UNDEVELOPED BACK-LOTS?**

A surprising **68%** answered **YES** to this question. **NO – 16%**

9 **WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE THE MUNICIPALITY CONTROL SHORELINE DEVELOPMENT, SUCH AS BOAT-HOUSES AND RETAINING WALLS?**

**YES - 57% / MAYBE – 26%**

10 **Types of non-motorized watercraft people own, in rank order:**

- 38% Canoe
- 19% Kayak
- 16% Paddle boat
- 14% Row-boat
- 9% Sail-boat
- 5% Other (not really sure what this means)

11 **Boats and engine sizes (number of boats):**

**Under 25 hp:**

- 23 2 stroke
- 3 4 stroke
- 1 Other (electric?)

**25 - 100 hp:**

- 17 2 stroke
- 5 4 stroke

**100 - 200 hp**

- 3 2 stroke
- 4 4 stroke

**Over 200 hp**

- 2 4 stroke
- 1 Other

**59 Total boats**

12 **WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE A LIMIT ON ENGINE SIZE FOR BOATS ON MILLER LAKE?**

Surprisingly, **YES**, even from boat owners. **54% / MAYBE 20%**

13 **What engine size should be the limit?**

Between 25 - 100 hp - **59%** / Under 25 hp – **36%**

14 **Opinion of PWC's**

**Should be controlled - 68%** - This was a very high percentage of people who dislike PWC's. Not sure what 'controlled' means.

**15 Like to see more police surveillance of boating on the lake?**

The majority said **NO - 45%** - but if you add together YES and MAYBE, you get **55%**. This may relate to the previous question.

**16 Control of lake levels and preferred high-water mark:**

People felt that lake levels should be controlled - **52%** - and that mid-summer levels were the best option - **60%**.

**17 SEPTIC SYSTEMS**

**Age of systems, in rank order:**

- 34% 11 - 20 yrs.
- 24% 1 to 10 yrs.
- 19% 31 - 40 yrs.
- 16% 21 - 30 yrs.
- 4% Don't know
- 2% Over 41 yrs.

**Distance from shoreline of septic field, in rank order:**

- 50% 50 - 100 ft.
- 43% More than 100 ft.
- 6% Less than 50 ft.
- 1% Don't know

**Last time the septic tank was pumped out, in rank order:**

- 63% 1 - 3 yrs.
- 22% 4 - 5 yrs.
- 6% 6 - 10 yrs.
- 4% Over 11 yrs.
- 4% Don't know

Septic tanks should be pumped every 2- 3 yrs. Most people in our survey do that. We could probably encourage more to do so by striking a deal with a local pumping contractor that will give a discount to our members.

Most septic fields are close to shore. Obviously, these cannot be moved, but we might encourage people to rejuvenate their shorelines, thus ameliorating the effects of effluent.

**18 Dishwashers and Lawn fertilizers**

Two of the worst sources of phosphates. We could encourage people to a) use dishwasher cleaners with no phosphates, and b) not to fertilize lawns.

Dishwasher owners: **28%**

People who fertilize lawns: **7%**      Occasionally: **6%**

**19 Should MLCG invest in professional analysis of lake quality?**

- 68% YES