

SUMMARY OF RESULTS of 2011 DSLPOA SURVEY

Introduction

During the summer of 2011 the Drag and Spruce Lakes Property Owners' Association endeavoured to distribute a survey to all properties on Drag and Spruce Lakes and in Outlet Bay and the river. This was done at the AGM and through distribution by the Area Directors. Surveys were dropped off in the 3 areas without Area Directors as well. The Purpose of the survey was to get up to date information to guide the executive as they plan how to best represent our members and be proactive on upcoming issues. We wanted to hear from both association members and other neighbours on the water, and give everyone an opportunity to be heard. The survey was anonymous - only the President saw the names (and she has a terrible memory)!

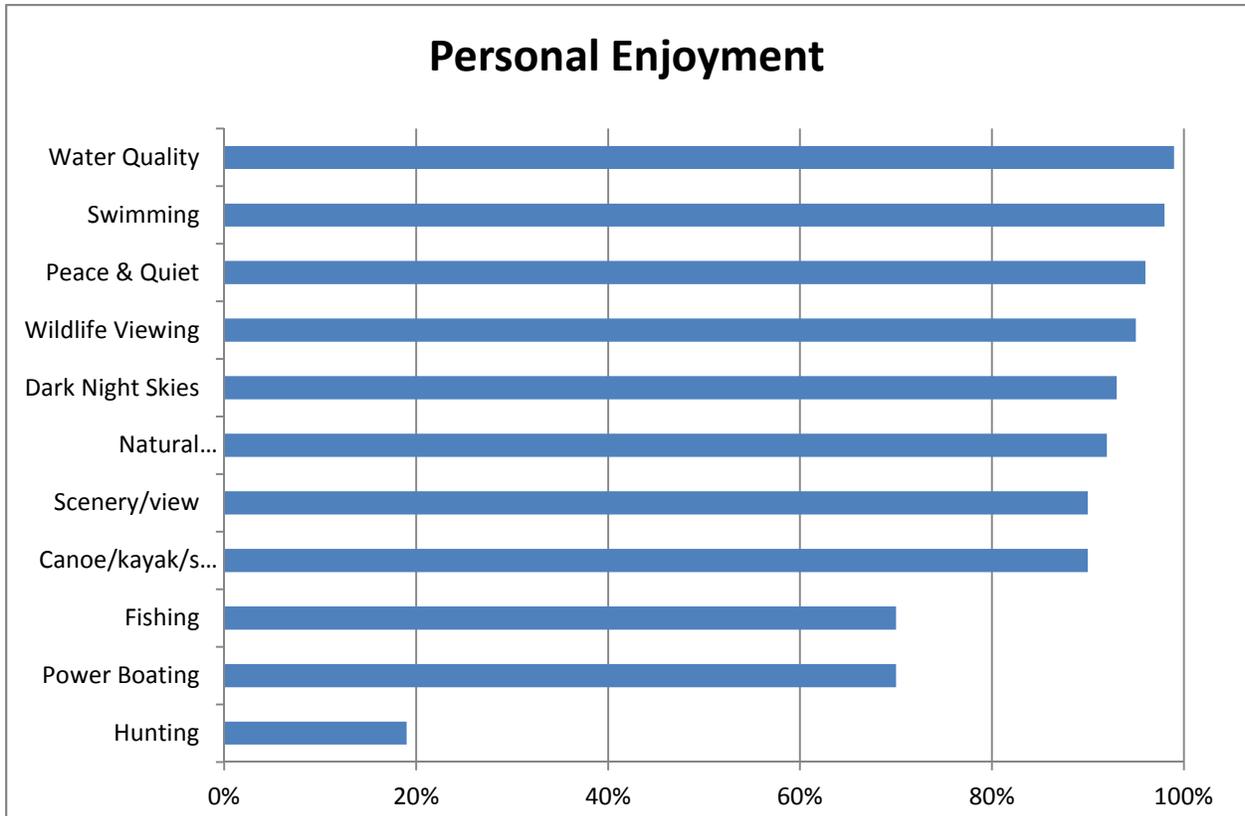
Surveys were returned by 91 households, and we thank those who took the time to do this, as their responses will be a great benefit to the association and will help in planning future actions and areas of focus. While we are not planning on producing a Lake Plan at this time, the Executive is often asked by the County and Municipality and other groups for our opinions on how our property members would feel about an issue. Your responses will allow us to represent you better. All responses are considered.

Below is a summary and highlight of those results for the purpose of discussion. You can go onto our website www.dragandsprucelakes.ca and download the entire raw data and the statements made by individuals.

Question 1. – Lake Quality Values

We asked you to rate how certain qualities added to your enjoyment of our community and waterways, and this chart shows the responses as a percentage. We grouped together the responses included in the first 3 columns; very important, somewhat important and important for the purpose of this chart.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS of 2011 DSLPOA SURVEY



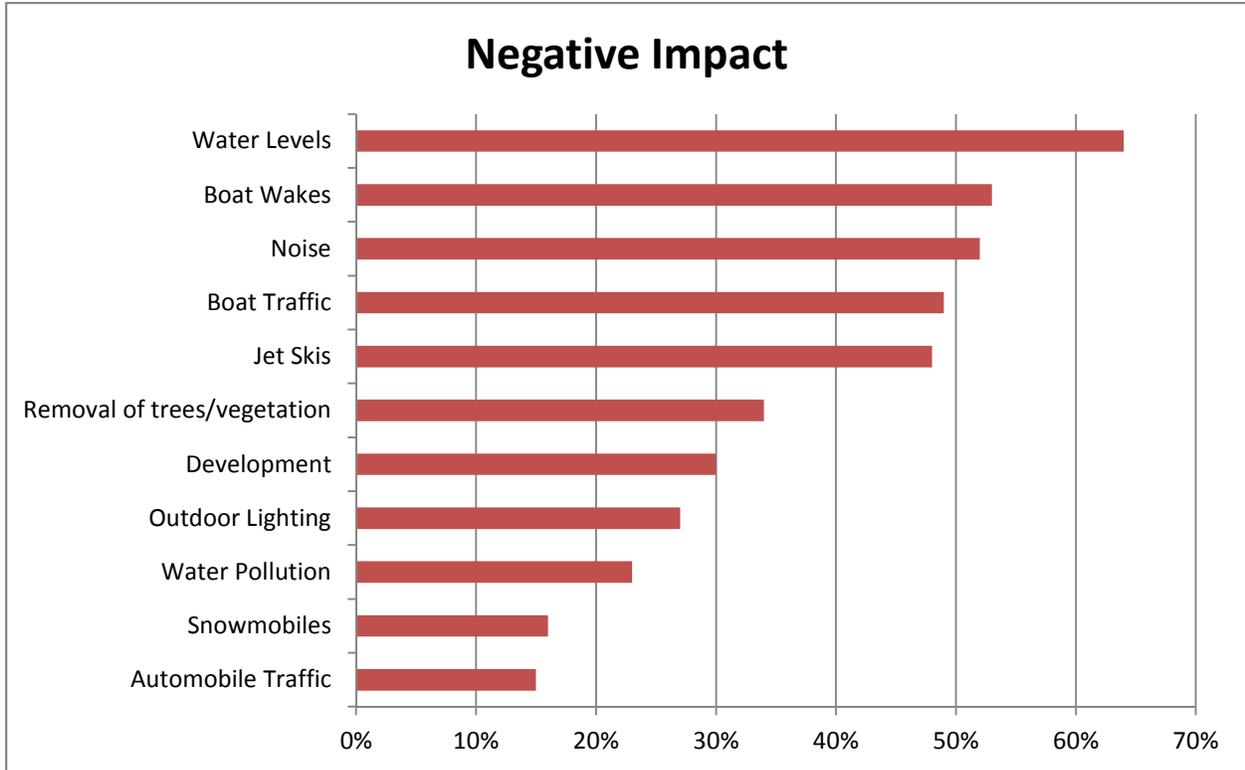
Analysis

While many activities rate highly and are important, we note that owners place the highest values on the natural qualities of the waterfront, i.e. water quality, natural shorelines, scenery/view. Peace and quiet, wildlife viewing and dark night skies rate high as well. Swimming and canoeing/kayaking/sailing are obviously a very important part of life on the lakes and relate strongly to water quality.

Question 2- Negative Impacts

We asked you to rank certain factors according to their negative impact on your enjoyment of your property during the past five years. For the purpose of the chart we included the first 2 columns; significant and moderate.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS of 2011 DSLPOA SURVEY



The greatest concern, water levels, comes as no surprise. Comments indicate that most people want them higher to keep channels clear, while a few like it lower so that there is more beach area. Safety and shoreline preservation are always guiding concerns. Boat traffic, boat wakes and noise also rank high as concerns. This may indicate that we need to focus more on a guide to safe boating, including reminders that you must observe the speed limit law of 10 kph within 30 metres of shore.

Question 3 – Water Quality

We asked you how you rate the quality of our water.

	Excellent	Good	Poor	No Opinion
%	32	58	2	0

SUMMARY OF RESULTS of 2011 DSLPOA SURVEY

What are your particular concerns?

	Bacteria	Algae	Smell	Clarity	No Concern
%	35	33	11	25	22

Analysis

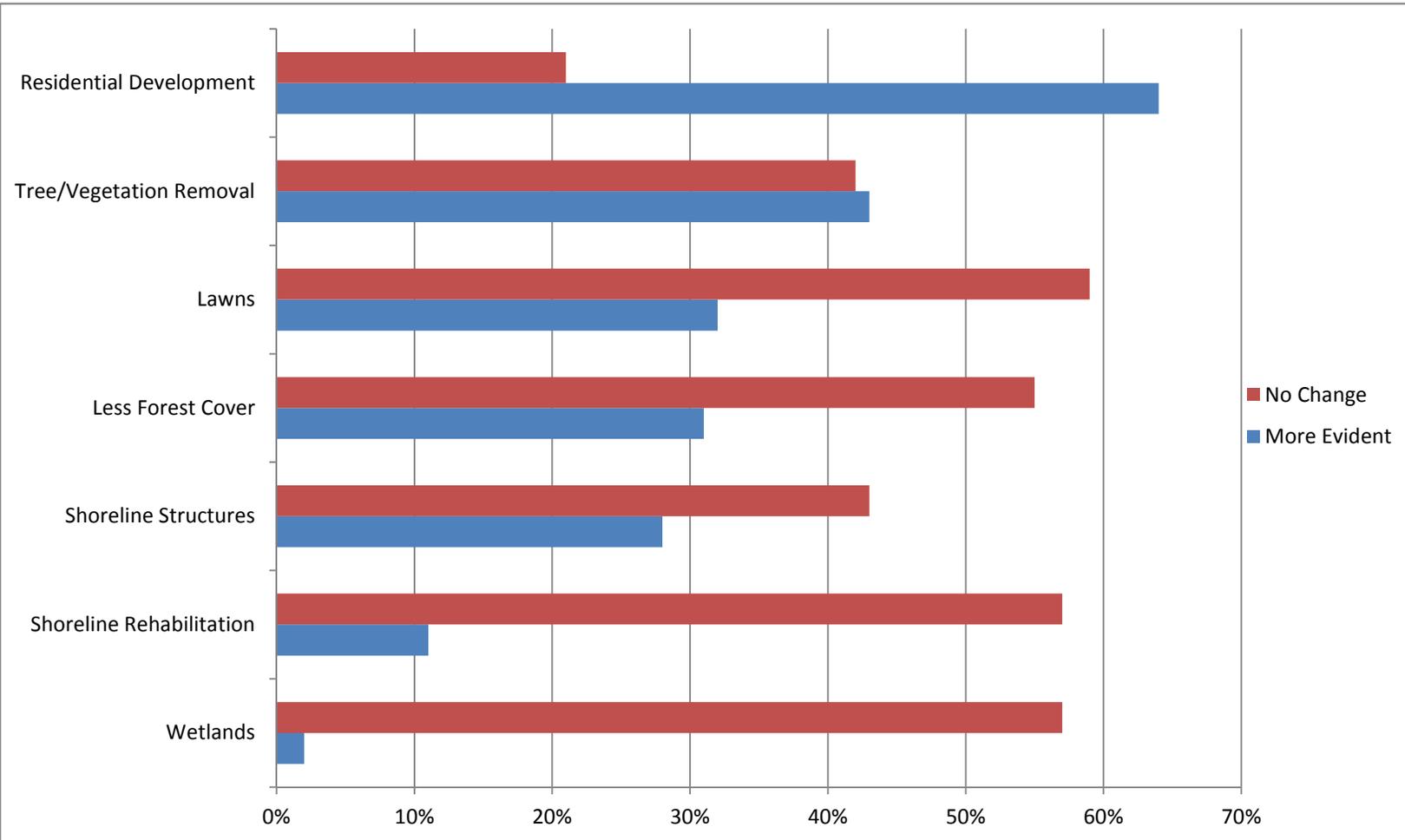
The chart on water quality showed that 90% considered it to be Excellent to Good. We will strive to maintain this standard. The fact that we are a head water reservoir lake has always helped maintain the water quality and our fish stocks. Our Lake Steward's Committee will be looking at all results, and will address questions about bacteria and algae. (see question 5)

Development

Question 4 asks how you feel the shoreline appearance has changed in relation to the following criteria.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS of 2011 DSLPOA SURVEY

Shoreline Appearance



Analysis

Owners observe that the greatest changes have been increased residential development: 64%. (see questions 10 & 11)

SUMMARY OF RESULTS of 2011 DSLPOA SURVEY

Question 5 – Shoreline Residences – 3 questions

A) Is the shoreline setback of 30 metres from the high water mark for new buildings and structures adequate?

	YES	NO	NO OPINION
%	80	10	4

B) Should a cottage that is close to the water be permitted to be rebuild at the same location?

	YES	NO	NO OPINION
%	50	36	4

C) Is the minimum lot width of 60 metres (200 ft.):

	TOO SMALL	TOO LARGE	OKAY
%	20	3	64

Analysis

While some of these numbers are already included in Municipal and County by-laws, the responses give us a guide if future input is required.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS of 2011 DSLPOA SURVEY

Question 6 – Shoreline Buffer Zone

Municipalities are considering a shoreline buffer strip of natural vegetation of from 8 to 15 metres for new development. Do you like this idea?

	Yes	No	No Opinion
%	58	27	9

Question 7 - Should Dysart et al regulate shoreline alteration (i.e. restrict the removal of native trees or vegetation)?

	Yes	No	No Opinion
%	64	33	3

Analysis

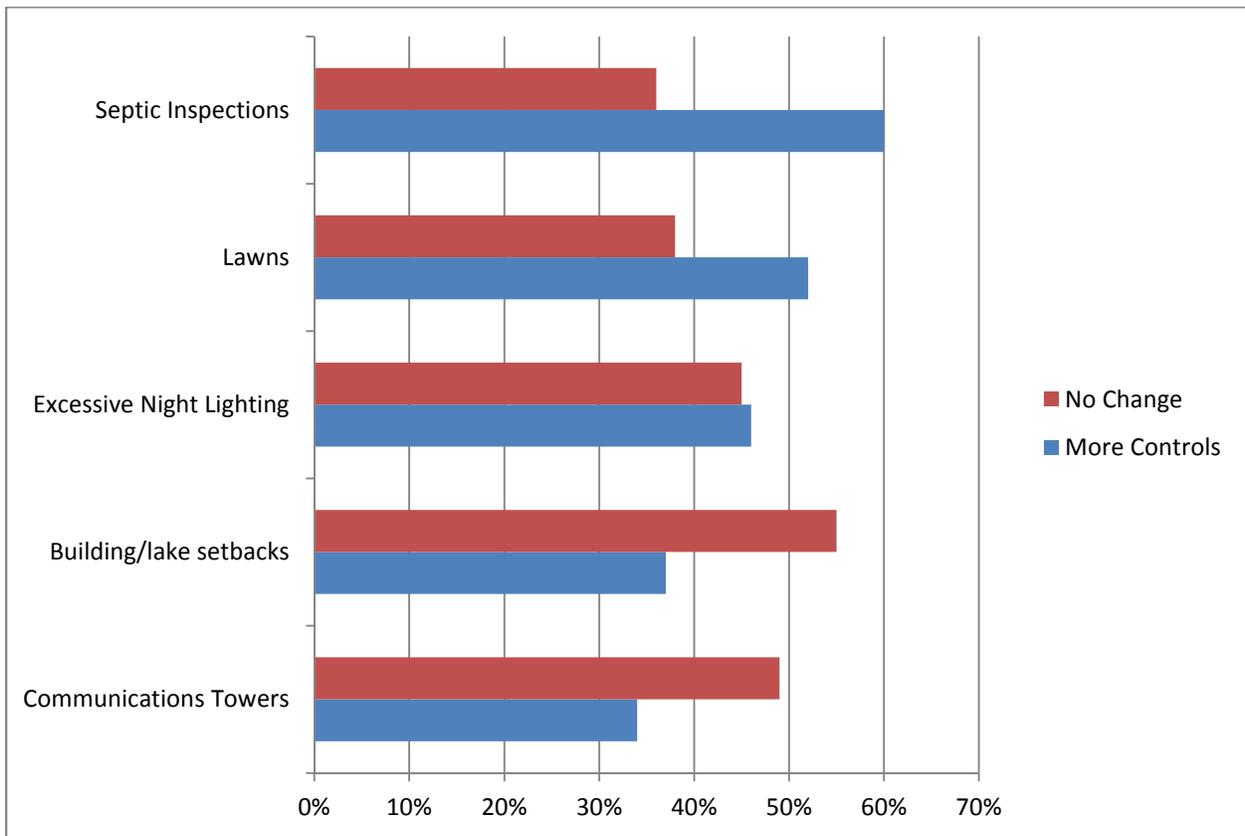
The issue here is the desirability and priority of a riparian zone for a filter of natural vegetation to improve/preserve lake quality and fish habitats. Water quality has been shown to be a major priority, and maintaining the natural shoreline is a way to accomplish this. The Draft Tree Preservation By-Law is one way to do this.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS of 2011 DSLPOA SURVEY

Question 8 -Lake Stewardship

What are your views regarding the following stewardship actions to educate, monitor and enforce good development practices?

Need for Controls

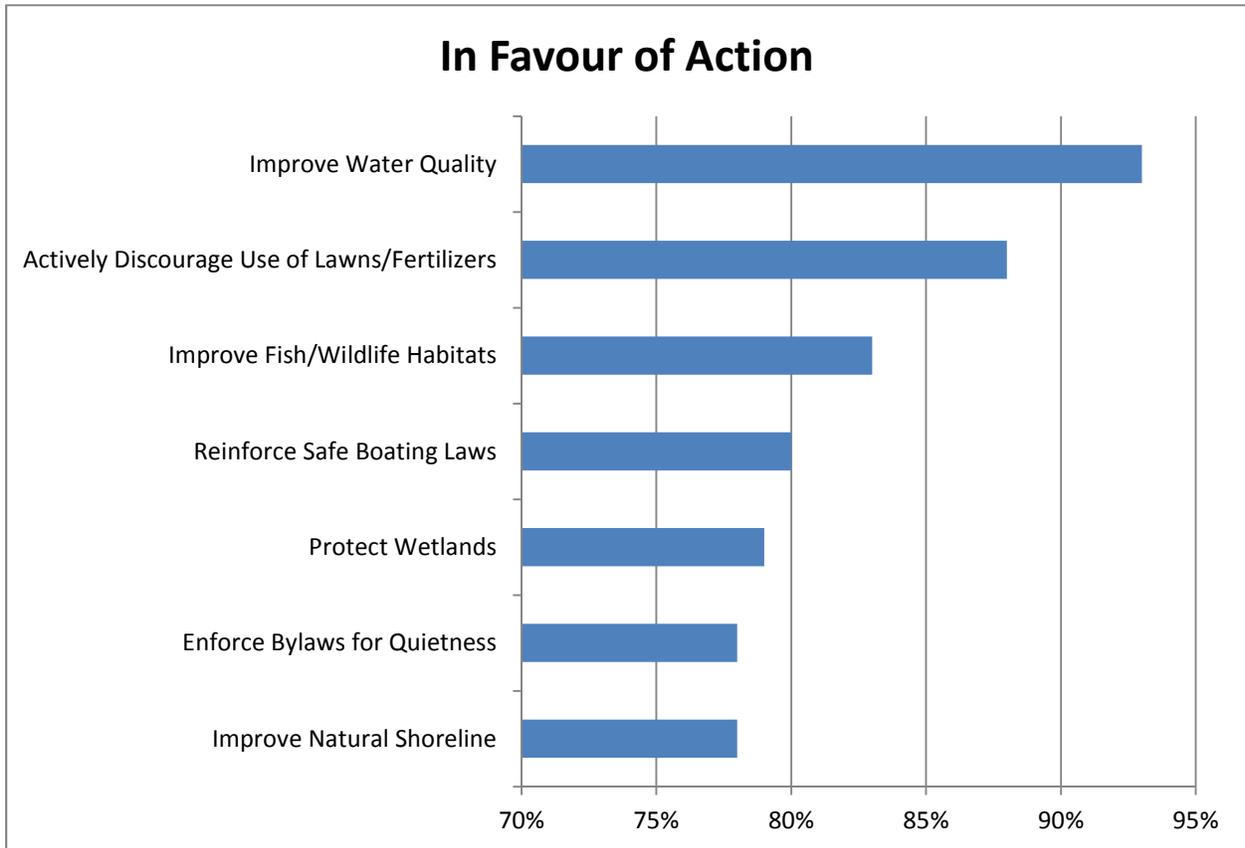


Concerns for water quality seem to be reflected in the responses regarding the need for more controls related to septic systems and lawns. Some owners are concerned about excessive night lights, and this could be addressed through education.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS of 2011 DSLPOA SURVEY

Question 9 – The Natural Environment

We asked you for guidance regarding your priorities for future action.



Analysis

Respondents indicated that all these areas need to be taken seriously, but the priorities most emphasized stress water quality, again through reducing lawns and fertilizers and protecting habitats.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS of 2011 DSLPOA SURVEY

Question 10 – Do you favour commercial development on our waterways?

- a) **A marina** – YES 14% NO 77% No Opinion 8%
- b) **Condominiums** – YES 4% No 82% No Opinion 2%
- c) **Stores** - Yes 2% No 79% No Opinion 6%
- d) **Internet services** - Yes 42% No 34% No Opinion 20%
- using sight of line towers**
- e) **Other** – no commercial development
- No camps or lodges
 - Small destination patio/restaurant

Analysis

There is a strong indication that commercial development is not wanted or desired on our waterways. Some members would like better internet through towers, but with the increase and improvement in satellite internet this may not be necessary.

Question 11- The Physical Environment; would you favour setting limits for:

- a) **Number of buildings on a lot** – Yes 69% No 27%
- b) **Size of buildings** - Yes 69% No 28%
- c) **Types of buildings** - Yes 44% No 46%
- d) **Trailer Parks** - Yes 78% No 11%
- e) **Backlot Development** - Yes 74% No 23%
- f) **Logging Rights**- Yes 79% No 19%
- g) **Mining/Quarry Rights** - Yes 79% No 14%
- h) **Docks/Ramps**- Yes 50% No 46%

SUMMARY OF RESULTS of 2011 DSLPOA SURVEY

Analysis

While a slightly larger percentage of respondents do not want limits placed on the types of buildings on their property, most overwhelmingly want to see limits on the remainder of these development areas.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Two questions ask respondents to identify anything we may have missed and to identify the top 3 priorities for action. The raw data on the website will include all these statements, some of them grouped if similar. For the purpose of summarizing, they were grouped under the following criteria:

- Water Levels- need for controls and monitoring, keeping levels up after Labour Day, marking channels, and habitats
- Water Quality – improve/maintain/protect water quality, natural shorelines, enforce maintenance of septic systems,
- Development- limit or stop new development, especially commercial, more restrictions on size of buildings, minimize clearing of new properties, preserve wildlife and natural
- Peace and Quiet – limit noise levels of motorized boats/personal water craft (jet skis, sea-doo's), encourage peace & quiet,
- Renters - educate cottagers who rent their cottages on how to be respectful to your lake neighbours.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS of 2011 DSLPOA SURVEY

Background Information

Please note that some of the following numbers/responses are not a percentage but the actual number out of 91 surveys returned.

Question 11 – Internet Usage

Do you have internet connection at your waterfront property?

Yes – 51 NO- 31 Dial Up – 11

Hub or Stick - 20 Bell- 29 Rogers – 6 Telus - 1

Here are some interesting figures that came out of the background information. For all the responses, see the raw data on our website.

- About 20% of respondents are permanent residents, and another 16% plan to be in the future
- More than 40 respondents have owned their property more than 30 years (think of the memories and stories)
- 62 respondents (68%) do not plan to **ever** sell their property
- There are a lot of canoes/kayaks/paddleboats/swimmers and sailboats on our waterways – handle your motorized and non-motorized boat safely, and always have a spotter

There were some very useful suggestions made that will be considered and/or passed on to those responsible, or to other associations dealing with similar issues. We appreciated suggestions that will help the association with our activities.

Thank you for your ongoing support. While time is limited today for more input, there are other ways to share your thoughts, before the executive does more planning later in the summer:

SUMMARY OF RESULTS of 2011 DSLPOA SURVEY

- Use the attached response form and give it to your Area Director, or mail to DSLPOA, Box 603 Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0
- Send an email to the association address dragandsprucelakes@gmail.com
- Attend a meeting on **Saturday, August 11th at 10:15AM at the Haliburton Library meeting room** to discuss possible actions, make suggestions, answer any questions, and have input.

Thank you again for all your information and suggestions; we will consider every suggestion. We all want to keep our waterways, cottages and homes our own special piece of paradise now and for the future!