

Township of Lake of Bays

PRESS RELEASE

September 28, 2009

Lake of Bays Residents Making a Difference

Residents of Lake of Bays are gathering on October 16th to set practical goals for their new Community-Based Strategic Plan. Having created seven strategies over the summer, residents are eager to take real action that will move the whole community in the direction of the Vision.

Join friends, neighbours and family at the Dwight Community Centre from 9:00 to 4:00 on **Friday October 16th**. Pick the Strategy you want to work on, join a team with the same passion, brainstorm ways to achieve it, and pick the goals you and your team will achieve to make a positive difference in the community.

Here are the Strategies:

- Engage and communicate openly with the community
- Develop a sustainable local economy that supports our vision
- Ensure sound, innovative, transparent financial planning
- Develop long-term land, lake, and community plans that are balanced and adaptive
- Protect, preserve, and promote our healthy natural environment
- Work in collaborative partnerships.
- Develop our capacity to provide social services.

Volunteers are still needed to help organize this event and to facilitate future teamwork. Please contact Stefan Szczerbak, Township Planner, immediately if you can help out somehow. A light lunch and refreshments will be provided and there will be additional details at www.lakeofbays.on.ca closer to the date.

The Community-Based Strategic Plan was developed with input from residents across the community. Over 300 people shared their ideas for the future of Lake of Bays at interactive public meetings and in a detailed questionnaire. As a result, the Township's Vision, originally developed in 1996, was re-affirmed with some additions, and seven new strategies were developed to give direction. The Township government has already started embedding the strategic plan into the initial work on the organization's business plans.

The Township is committed to ensuring that the new Strategies truly reflect the whole community's sense of direction. The Strategies can be downloaded from the Township website along with a demographic research paper that will be of interest to businesses, organizations, and individuals.

The Plan is being presented for adoption at the Township Council meeting scheduled for Tuesday October 13, 2009 at 1:00 pm. The public is welcome to attend, learn more and show support.

General inquiries about the strategic planning process can be made to Stefan Szczerbak at the Lake of Bays Township offices, at 635-2722, and at planner@lakeofbays.on.ca