## Eau Claire Lakes Survey Results

The Barnes/Eau Claire Lakes Property Owners Association conducted a survey of property owners within the three watersheds that drain into the Eau Claire Lakes to assess the present perceptions of the Eau Claire Lakes and use this information in its plan for the future.

Approximately 970 surveys were sent out with 438 returned for a $45 \%$ return rate. Some questions are not included in these results because the survey asked for comments.

| 1. Which Lake do you live on or nearest to? |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
|  | Count | Percent |
| Sweet Lake | 18 | 4.1 |
| Upper Eau Claire Lake | 107 | 24.4 |
| Bony Lake | 34 | 7.8 |
| Lower Eau Claire Lake | 76 | 17.4 |
| Shunenberg Lake | 8 | 1.8 |
| Robinson | 31 | 7.1 |
| Middle Eau Claire Lake | 119 | 27.2 |
| Smith Lake | 4 | 0.9 |
| Birch Lake | 31 | 7.1 |
| Cranberry Lake | 3 | 0.7 |
| Blank Responses | 7 | 1.6 |
| TOTAL | 438 | 100 |


| 2. Which Lake do you spend the most time on? |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
|  | Count | Percent |
| Sweet Lake | 17 | 3.9 |
| Upper Eau Claire Lake | 119 | 27.2 |
| Bony Lake | 30 | 6.8 |
| Lower Eau Claire Lake | 78 | 17.8 |
| Shunenberg Lake | 5 | 1.1 |
| Robinson | 35 | 8 |
| Middle Eau Claire Lake | 119 | 27.2 |
| Smith Lake | 2 | 0.5 |
| Birch Lake | 20 | 4.6 |
| Cranberry Lake | 4 | 0.9 |
| Blank Responses | 9 | 2.1 |
| TOTAL | 438 | 100 |


3. How many years have you been living on and/or visiting the lake (circled in question \#2)?

|  | Count | Percent |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Less than 1 year | 3 | 0.7 |
| 1-5 years | 32 | 7.3 |
| $6-10$ years | 48 | 11 |
| $11-15$ years | 44 | 10 |
| $16-20$ years | 37 | 8.4 |
| over 20 years | 268 | 61.2 |
| Blank Responses | 6 | 1.4 |
| TOTAL | 438 | 100 |



| 4. What is your opinion of the use of the lake (circled in question \#2) this |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| summer? |  |  |
|  | Count | Percent |
| under used | 33 | 7.5 |
| don't know | 33 | 7.5 |
| used at the right level | 298 | 68 |
| over used | 66 | 15.1 |
| Blank Responses | 8 | 1.8 |
| TOTAL | 438 | 100 |


$|$| 5. What term best describes the water clarity of the lake (circled in |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :---: |
| question \#2)? |  |  |  |
|  | Count | Percent |  |
| clear | 342 | 78.1 |  |
| cloudy | 43 | 9.8 |  |
| other | 43 | 9.8 |  |
| Blank Responses | 10 | 2.3 |  |
| TOTAL | 438 | 100 |  |



| 6. What factors prompted your answer to \#5? |  |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | :---: |
| (Check all that apply) | Count | Percent |  |
|  | 109 | 25.8 |  |
| amount of algae | 367 | 86.8 |  |
| ability to see the lake bottom | 63 | 14.9 |  |
| thickness of the sediment | 15 | 3.5 |  |
| Blank Responses | 423 | 100 |  |
| TOTAL |  |  |  |


| 7. During your visits to the lake (circled in question \#2), in which of the <br> following activities have you participated? (Check all that apply) Count |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Percent |  |  |
| swimming | 351 | 80.9 |
| boating (motor/pontoon) | 369 | 85 |
| jet skiing | 60 | 13.8 |
| other | 32 | 7.4 |
| canoeing/rowing/kayaking | 254 | 58.5 |
| fishing/ice fishing | 332 | 76.5 |
| ice skating | 64 | 14.7 |
| winter cross-country skiing | 112 | 25.8 |
| wildlife observation | 289 | 66.6 |
| hunting | 57 | 13.1 |
| Blank Responses | 4 | 0.9 |
| TOTAL | 434 | 100 |



$|$| 8. To what extent does water quality affect your decision to |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | ---: |
| use the lake? |  |  |
|  | Count | Percent |
| little to no effect | 43 | 9.8 |
| some effect | 100 | 22.8 |
| great effect | 282 | 64.4 |
| Blank Responses | 13 | 3 |
| TOTAL | 438 | 100 |


| 9a. If you fish, how would you rate the quality of fishing this |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| past season compared to over the last 5 years? |  |  |
|  | Count | Percent |
| better | 28 | 6.4 |
| worse | 110 | 25.1 |
| about the same | 158 | 36.1 |
| don't know | 30 | 6.8 |
| didn't fish | 64 | 14.6 |
| Blank Responses | 48 | 11 |
| TOTAL | 438 | 100 |

9b. If you fish, how would you rate the quality of fishing this past season compared to over the last 10 years?

|  | Count | Percent |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| better | 27 | 6.2 |
| worse | 157 | 35.8 |
| about the same | 93 | 21.2 |
| don't know | 49 | 11.2 |
| didn't fish | 56 | 12.8 |
| Blank Responses | 56 | 12.8 |
| TOTAL | 438 | 100 |

9c. If you fish, how would you rate the quality of fishing this past season compared to over the last 20 years?

|  | Count | Percent |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| better | 20 | 4.6 |
| worse | 161 | 36.8 |
| about the same | 43 | 9.8 |
| don't know | 100 | 22.8 |
| didn't fish | 51 | 11.6 |
| Blank Responses | 63 | 14.4 |
| TOTAL | 438 | 100 |


| 10a. How would you rate the health of the lake (circled in |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| question \#2) this past summer compared to last year? |  |  |
|  | Count | Percent |
| better | 11 | 2.5 |
| worse | 131 | 29.9 |
| about the same | 247 | 56.4 |
| don't know | 38 | 8.7 |
| Blank Responses | 11 | 2.5 |
| TOTAL | 438 | 100 |



| 10b. How would you rate the health of the lake (circled in <br> question \#2) this past summer compared to the past 5 <br> years? |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
|  | Count | Percent |
| better | 13 | 3 |
| worse | 154 | 35.2 |
| about the same | 218 | 49.8 |
| don't know | 37 | 8.4 |
| Blank Responses | 16 | 3.7 |
| TOTAL | 438 | 100 |

10c. How would you rate the health of the lake (circled in question \#2) this past summer compared to the past 10 years?

|  | Count | Percent |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| better | 14 | 3.2 |
| worse | 164 | 37.4 |
| about the same | 173 | 39.5 |
| don't know | 64 | 14.6 |
| Blank Responses | 23 | 5.3 |
| TOTAL | 438 | 100 |


| 10d. How would you rate the health of the lake (circled in question \#2) <br> this past summer compared to the past 20 years?$\|$\# |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| better | 19 | Percent |
| worse | 153 | 4.3 |
| about the same | 112 | 34.9 |
| don't know | 117 | 25.6 |
| Blank Responses | 37 | 26.7 |
| TOTAL | 438 | 8.4 |


| 11. Do you or any member of your household belong to Barnes/Eau Claire Lakes Property Owners Association? |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Count | Percent |
| yes | 201 | 45.9 |
| no | 227 | 51.8 |
| Blank Responses | 10 | 2.3 |
| TOTAL | 438 | 100 |



| 15. Which term best describes the lake's public access? |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
|  | Count | Percent |
| good | 282 | 64.4 |
| fair | 99 | 22.6 |
| poor | 32 | 7.3 |
| Blank Responses | 25 | 5.7 |
| TOTAL | 438 | 100 |


| 16a. Does your property have a landscaped vegetative <br> barrier to reduce erosion or runoff? |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
|  | Count | Percent |
| Yes | 206 | 47 |
| No | 128 | 29.2 |
| I'm Not Sure | 24 | 5.5 |
| Blank Responses | 80 | 18.3 |
| TOTAL | 438 | 100 |



| 16b. Does your property have undeveloped, natural <br> vegetation to reduce erosion or runoff? |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
|  | Count | Percent |
| Yes | 351 | 80.1 |
| No | 36 | 8.2 |
| I'm Not Sure | 20 | 4.6 |
| Blank Responses | 31 | 7.1 |
| TOTAL | 438 | 100 |


| 16c. Does your property have a grass drainage ditch to reduce erosion or runoff? |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Count | Percent |
| Yes | 54 | 12.3 |
| No | 216 | 49.3 |
| I'm Not Sure | 33 | 7.5 |
| Blank Responses | 135 | 30.8 |
| TOTAL | 438 | 100 |


| 16d. Does your property have a rain garden to reduce |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| erosion or runoff? | Count | Percent |
|  | 20 | 4.6 |
| Yes | 241 | 55 |
| No | 42 | 9.6 |
| I'm Not Sure | 135 | 30.8 |
| Blank Responses | 438 | 100 |
| TOTAL |  |  |


| 16e. Does your property have rain water collection to reduce <br> erosion or runoff? |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
|  | Count | Percent |
| Yes | 37 | 8.4 |
| No | 244 | 55.7 |
| I'm Not Sure | 26 | 5.9 |
| Blank Responses | 131 | 29.9 |
| TOTAL | 438 | 100 |


| 17. How would you feel about "stricter" enforcement of the current <br> lakeshore ordinance requiring lake shore property owners to <br> have a vegetative buffer along the shoreline? |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
|  | Count | Percent |
| Strongly support | 129 | 29.5 |
| Support | 103 | 23.5 |
| Neutral | 72 | 16.4 |
| Oppose | 58 | 13.2 |
| Strongly oppose | 44 | 10 |
| Don't know | 17 | 3.9 |
| Blank Responses | 15 | 3.4 |
| TOTAL | 438 | 100 |


19. Which, if any, of the following do you think causes or may cause problems for surface waters nearest you?
(Check all that apply)

|  | Count | Percent |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| fertilizers/pesticides from lake homes | 251 | 67.8 |
| Improper disposal of chemicals | 83 | 22.4 |
| Farm fertilizers | 26 | 7 |
| Erosion from crop fields | 13 | 3.5 |
| Storm water runoff | 107 | 28.9 |
| High density development | 204 | 55.1 |
| Manure from barn yards | 11 | 3 |
| Septic systems | 212 | 57.3 |
| Erosion from construction site | 50 | 13.5 |
| Grass clippings and/or leaves | 74 | 20 |
| Pollution from roads/highways | 51 | 13.8 |
| Lawns mowed to water | 219 | 59.2 |
| Blank Responses | 68 | 18.4 |
| TOTAL | 370 | 100 |


20. What do you feel should be the permitted density of dwelling units per 150 feet of shoreline for "Planned Unit Developments"?

|  | Count | Percent |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| 4 per 150 feet | 24 | 5.5 |
| 3 per 150 feet | 9 | 2.1 |
| 2 per 150 feet | 48 | 11 |
| 1 per 150 feet | 322 | 73.5 |
| Blank Responses | 35 | 8 |
| TOTAL | 438 | 100 |

21. Would you support ordinances that would restrict the use of phosphorus-based fertilizers?

|  | Count | Percent |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| yes | 373 | 85.2 |
| no | 30 | 6.8 |
| Blank Responses | 35 | 8 |
| TOTAL | 438 | 100 |


22. Which group or groups do you feel should be responsible for lake improvements? (Check all that apply)

|  | Count | Percent |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| local watershed residents | 75 | 18.7 |
| non-resident users | 30 | 7.5 |
| Township and County government | 194 | 48.4 |
| other | 20 | 5 |
| individual lakeshore property owners | 166 | 41.4 |
| Barnes/EC Lakes Prop Owners Assoc | 127 | 31.7 |
| State and Federal government | 98 | 24.4 |
| Blank Responses | 37 | 9.2 |
| TOTAL | 401 | 100 |



| 24a. How often do you use the lake to entertain friends? |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
|  | Count | Percent |
| 1-5 times per year | 141 | 32.2 |
| $6-10$ times per year | 106 | 24.2 |
| 11-20 times per year | 60 | 13.7 |
| More than 20 times per year | 43 | 9.8 |
| Blank Responses | 88 | 20.1 |
| TOTAL | 438 | 100 |

24b. How often do you use the lake for fishing?

|  | Count | Percent |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| 1-5 times per year | 98 | 22.4 |
| $6-10$ times per year | 71 | 16.2 |
| 11-20 times per year | 69 | 15.8 |
| More than 20 times per year | 96 | 21.9 |
| Blank Responses | 104 | 23.7 |
| TOTAL | 438 | 100 |


| 24c. How often do you use the lake for ice fishing? |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
|  | Count | Percent |
| 1-5 times per year | 101 | 23.1 |
| $6-10$ times per year | 28 | 6.4 |
| 11-20 times per year | 19 | 4.3 |
| More than 20 times per year | 17 | 3.9 |
| Blank Responses | 273 | 62.3 |
| TOTAL | 438 | 100 |


| 24d. How often do you use the lake for snowmobiling? |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
|  | Count | Percent |
| 1-5 times per year | 43 | 9.8 |
| 6-10 times per year | 18 | 4.1 |
| 11-20 times per year | 12 | 2.7 |
| More than 20 times per year | 9 | 2.1 |
| Blank Responses | 356 | 81.3 |
| TOTAL | 438 | 100 |


| 24e. How often do you use the lake for swimming? |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
|  | Count | Percent |
| 1-5 times per year | 64 | 14.6 |
| 6-10 times per year | 71 | 16.2 |
| 11-20 times per year | 67 | 15.3 |
| More than 20 times per year | 145 | 33.1 |
| Blank Responses | 91 | 20.8 |
| TOTAL | 438 | 100 |


| 24f. How often do you use the lake for boating? |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
|  | Count | Percent |
| 1-5 times per year | 50 | 11.4 |
| 6-10 times per year | 64 | 14.6 |
| 11-20 times per year | 93 | 21.2 |
| More than 20 times per year | 144 | 32.9 |
| Blank Responses | 87 | 19.9 |
| TOTAL | 438 | 100 |

24 g . How often do you use the lake for non-motorized boating (canoe/kayak)?

|  | Count | Percent |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| 1-5 times per year | 100 | 22.8 |
| $6-10$ times per year | 75 | 17.1 |
| 11-20 times per year | 50 | 11.4 |
| More than 20 times per year | 70 | 16 |
| Blank Responses | 143 | 32.6 |
| TOTAL | 438 | 100 |


| 24h. How often do you use the lake for appreciating peace and tranquility? |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Count | Percent |
| 1-5 times per year | 30 | 6.8 |
| 6-10 times per year | 35 | 8 |
| 11-20 times per year | 48 | 11 |
| More than 20 times per year | 260 | 59.4 |
| Blank Responses | 65 | 14.8 |
| TOTAL | 438 | 100 |

24i. How often do you use the lake for observing wildlife?

|  | Count | Percent |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| $1-5$ times per year | 29 | 6.6 |
| 6 -10 times per year | 34 | 7.8 |
| $11-20$ times per year | 50 | 11.4 |
| More than 20 times per year | 249 | 56.8 |
| Blank Responses | 76 | 17.4 |
| TOTAL | 438 | 100 |


| 24j. How often do you use the lake for campfires/picnics |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
|  | Count | Percent |
| 1-5 times per year | 88 | 20.1 |
| 6-10 times per year | 71 | 16.2 |
| 11-20 times per year | 48 | 11 |
| More than 20 times per year | 64 | 14.6 |
| Blank Responses | 167 | 38.1 |
| TOTAL | 438 | 100 |


| 24k. How often do you use the lake for other activities? |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
|  | Count | Percent |
| 1-5 times per year | 16 | 3.7 |
| $6-10$ times per year | 7 | 1.6 |
| 11-20 times per year | 6 | 1.4 |
| More than 20 times per year | 16 | 3.7 |
| Blank Responses | 393 | 89.7 |
| TOTAL | 438 | 100 |


| 26. Which actions would you support as a way to help improve water quality of the lake (circled in question \#2)? |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| (Check all that apply) |  |  |
|  | Count | Percent |
| enforcement of fertilizer ordinance | 327 | 81.3 |
| enforce zoning and ordinances | 296 | 73.6 |
| enforce shoreland buffer ordinance | 204 | 50.7 |
| keep everyone informed | 296 | 73.6 |
| build/improve grass swales | 166 | 41.3 |
| monitor lake quality | 321 | 79.9 |
| watch for/report exotic plants | 315 | 78.4 |
| financially support lake improvement projects | 225 | 56 |
| other ideas | 23 | 5.7 |
| Blank Responses | 36 | 9 |
| TOTAL | 402 | 100 |


27. I feel there is a problem with the amount of green algae on the lake (circled in question \#2)?

Count Percent

| Strongly agree | 47 | 10.7 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Agree | 83 | 18.9 |
| Neutral | 97 | 22.1 |
| Disagree | 102 | 23.3 |
| Strongly disagree | 32 | 7.3 |
| Don't know | 48 | 11 |
| Blank Responses | 29 | 6.6 |
| TOTAL | 438 | 100 |



| 28. The lake (circled in question \#2) is an important resource |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| to the Town of Barnes and surrounding communities. |  |  |
|  | Count | Percent |
| Strongly agree | 295 | 67.4 |
| Agree | 105 | 24 |
| Neutral | 8 | 1.8 |
| Disagree | 3 | 0.7 |
| Strongly disagree | 0 | 0 |
| Don't know | 6 | 1.4 |
| Blank Responses | 21 | 4.8 |
| TOTAL | 438 | 100 |



| 29. I would like to see some control over use of personal watercraft (jet-skis). |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Count | Percent |
| Strongly agree | 190 | 43.4 |
| Agree | 111 | 25.3 |
| Neutral | 55 | 12.6 |
| Disagree | 22 | 5 |
| Strongly disagree | 28 | 6.4 |
| Don't know | 5 | 1.1 |
| Blank Responses | 27 | 6.2 |
| TOTAL | 438 | 100 |


$|$| 30. I feel the water quality of the lake (circled in question \#2) |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | ---: |
| has improved in recent years? | Count | Percent |
|  | 0 | 0 |
| Strongly agree | 25 | 5.7 |
| Agree | 163 | 37.2 |
| Neutral | 138 | 31.5 |
| Disagree | 51 | 11.6 |
| Strongly disagree | 40 | 9.1 |
| Don't know | 21 | 4.8 |
| Blank Responses | 438 | 100 |
| TOTAL |  |  |


31. There should be a limit on the maximum horsepower and type of motor used to power boats.

|  | Count | Percent |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Strongly agree | 108 | 24.7 |
| Agree | 86 | 19.6 |
| Neutral | 65 | 14.8 |
| Disagree | 73 | 16.7 |
| Strongly disagree | 73 | 16.7 |
| Don't know | 13 | 3 |
| Blank Responses | 20 | 4.6 |
| TOTAL | 438 | 100 |



| 32. Are you a Town of Barnes........? |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
|  | Count | Percent |
| Seasonal resident | 144 | 32.9 |
| Year-round resident | 105 | 24 |
| Non-resident property owner | 174 | 39.7 |
| Blank Responses | 15 | 3.4 |
| TOTAL | 438 | 100 |


33. Activities you are aware of that the Lake Association has been involved in.

| (Check all that apply) | Count |  |  | Percent |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 198 | 48.6 |  |  |
| water quality testing | 95 | 23.3 |  |  |
| supported grant received | 135 | 33.2 |  |  |
| received grant to study EWM | 186 | 45.7 |  |  |
| not aware of activities | 31 | 7.6 |  |  |
| Blank Responses | 407 | 100 |  |  |
| TOTAL |  |  |  |  |


| $\left.\left\lvert\, \begin{array}{l\|l\|}\hline \text { 34. What is the best way for the Barnes/Eau Claire Lakes } \\ \text { Property Owners Association to communicate with you? } \\ \hline \text { (Check all that apply) } & \text { Count } \\ \hline & \text { Percent } \\ \hline \text { meetings } & 78 \\ \hline \text { phone call } & 40 \\ \hline \text { newsletter } & 355 \\ \hline \text { newspaper articles } & 55 \\ \hline \text { e-mail } & 110\end{array}\right.\right) .9 .7$ |
| :--- |
| Blank Responses |
| TOTAL |



| 35. Do you have special skills that could assist the Lake |  |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | :---: |
| Property Owners Association? | Count | Percent |  |
|  | 312 | 71.2 |  |
| No, I don't think so | 66 | 15.1 |  |
| Yes, I believe so | 60 | 13.7 |  |
| Blank Responses | 438 | 100 |  |
| TOTAL |  |  |  |


| 36. Would you be willing to volunteer for a role in the <br> Barnes/Eau Claire Lakes Property Owners Association?$\|$Count |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| No, I don't think so | 278 | Percent |
| Yes, I believe so | 95 | 63.5 |
| Blank Responses | 65 | 21.7 |
| TOTAL | 438 | 14.8 |



| 37. Which category best describes your age? |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
|  | Count | Percent |
| $18-30$ | 1 | 0.2 |
| $31-40$ | 8 | 1.8 |
| $41-50$ | 81 | 18.5 |
| $51-60$ | 111 | 25.3 |
| $61-70$ | 140 | 32 |
| 71 and older | 90 | 20.5 |
| Blank Responses | 7 | 1.6 |
| TOTAL | 438 | 100 |



