

MULDREW LAKES LAKE PLAN - LAND USE POLICY

PROPOSED LAKE-SPECIFIC UPDATES TO THE GRAVENHURST OFFICIAL PLAN (GOP) & ZONING BY-LAW

Introduction

The Gravenhurst Official Plan (GOP) encourages lake communities to develop lake-specific policies to ensure that the unique social, ecological and cultural attributes of the lakes in the municipality are protected. The Muldrew Lakes' Lake Plan was first completed in 2009. The Lake Plan was meant to be updated and revised every 5 years to assess the relevance and effectiveness of the plan to ensure it continues to reflect the community's vision and priorities.

The MLCA began the process of updating the Lake Plan in 2017. It engaged EcoVue Consulting Services, a land use planning firm that: (a) conducted community consultations, including a survey that was conducted in 2020 and was completed by 188 individuals (referred to below as the "2020 Survey") and two workshops attended by over 50 individuals; (b) prepared a Feasibility Report with policy recommendations based on community consultations and policy review; (c) drafted lake-specific amendments to the policies in the GOP and provisions of the Gravenhurst Zoning By-Law; and d) conducted three more rounds of community consultation and policy revisions resulting in the final draft of proposed lake-specific amendments to the GOP and Zoning By-law (presented herein).

The first draft of the lake-specific amendments was circulated in the 2022 dock drop. Further community consultation took place throughout the summer of 2022. Members of the community provided their feedback through a Lake Plan Town Hall held in July 2022, discussions at the 2022 AGM, and by email and on social media.

The second draft of lake-specific amendments was circulated in the fall of 2022 and follow-up consultation was conducted at a Town Hall session in November of 2022. Comments were also received by email, social media, by telephone, and in-person. Following this, a second community survey (referred to below as "2023 Survey") was generated to ask detailed questions pertaining to the most contentious issues to date, to ensure that the final draft reflected the majority opinion of the lake community. The third draft of lake-specific amendments was completed in the spring of 2023 following the analysis of the 2023 Survey data.

The final Town Hall was held on July 16, 2023 where the third draft was presented and members of the Muldrew Lakes Cottagers' Association (MLCA) had the opportunity to provide final comments for consideration by the Lake Plan Committee and Board of Directors. The third draft was revised to increase the maximum gross floor area for cottages located at 30 or more metres from the shoreline from 3,500 square feet to 4,000 square feet (which increased the graduated maximum gross floor areas based on setback from the shoreline). The draft lake-specific policies and provisions presented herein reflect the consideration of all community consultation to date, including the 2020 survey, the five town hall events, the 2023 survey, the emails the MLCA received, as well as all of the comments the MLCA gathered on various social media sites. For more information please see the Lake Plan website: <https://muldrewlakes.ca/>.

Background - What is an Official Plan?

An Official Plan sets out general policies for future land use within a municipality, which reflect a vision for the future (e.g., the next 25 years). Official Plans are prepared with community input, which helps to ensure that future planning and development will meet the specific needs of the community.

What are Zoning By-laws?

Zoning By-laws put the policies of the Official Plan into effect by providing specific requirements that are legally enforceable (e.g., minimum lot sizes or maximum building heights). Construction or new development that does not comply with a zoning by-law is not allowed, and the municipality will refuse to issue a building permit. To develop property in a way that does not comply with Gravenhurst's Zoning By-law, one must apply for a rezoning or Zoning By-law Amendment (ZBA). Only ZBAs that conform to the Official Plan policies are granted.

The following table sets out the revisions and additions to the GOP and Zoning By-law that the MLCA is proposing to include in applications to the Town of Gravenhurst to amend Muldrew Lakes-specific policies/provisions in the GOP and Zoning By-Law. The proposed amendments are highlighted in **yellow** and are divided into the following Sections/Subsections for clarity:

- A. Lake Character & Vision
- B. Shoreline Development
 - i. Guiding Policy for Shoreline Development
 - ii. Maximum Dwelling Size for New Dwellings and Legally Non-Complying Dwellings
 - iii. Exceptions to required 30-metre shoreline setback
 - iv. Maximum Gross Floor Area: New dwellings that cannot meet the required 30-metre setback
 - v. Maximum Gross Floor Area: Existing Legal Non-Complying Structures (i.e., pre-existing dwellings that do not meet the current required 30- metre setback)
- C. Site Evaluation Report
- D. Boathouses and Boatports
- E. Sleeping Cabins
- F. Recreational Carrying Capacity and Boating Impact Studies for major development applications
- G. Commercial Property
- H. Conservation
- I. Lot Creation
- J. Housekeeping Amendments

All of the proposed GOP policies are guiding in nature and where the proposed GOP policy has a corresponding provision in the Zoning By-law, the provisions are presented together. In some cases, however, the proposed provision in the GOP does not have any corresponding proposed Zoning By-law provisions.

Please also do not hesitate to contact us at secretary@muldrewlakes.ca if you need any help understanding the proposed amendments.

A. Lake Character & Vision

The following changes are being proposed to the GOP. There are no corresponding changes to the Zoning By-law.

Issue	Proposed update to the Lake-specific Policy in the GOP	Current Lake-specific Policy in the GOP	Explanation of update
<p>Lake Character & Vision</p>	<p>1. The shorelines of the Muldrew Lakes are characterized by trees, natural vegetation and modest-sized cottages with very few boathouses. The unique environmental and cultural qualities of the Muldrew Lakes shall be maintained by preserving the natural environment as the dominant landscape feature. Disturbance to natural vegetation shall be minimized to the greatest extent possible to maintain and enhance the environmental health, water quality and visual character of the lakes.</p> <p>2. The special character of the Muldrew Lakes (North, South and Middle) as a series of long, relatively narrow channels is recognized. The confined nature of long and narrow waterbodies results in a perception of increased density on the shoreline and also provides less space, per dwelling, for recreational activities on the water. These factors raise compatibility issues related to the location of shoreline structures, visual impacts, noise, lighting, privacy, safety and navigation.</p> <p>The narrow waterbodies of the Muldrew Lakes need to be treated differently from other lands within the Waterfront Area designation in the Town of Gravenhurst to protect the natural</p>	<p>The special character of the Muldrew Lakes (North, South and Middle) as a series of long, relatively narrow channels are recognized. This contributes to a natural visual appearance when looking down the lakes, with a shoreline predominated by trees and natural vegetation and modest-sized cottages with very few boathouses. The unique qualities of the Muldrew Lakes, environmental health, and water quality of the lakes is to be maintained and enhanced, while allowing for modest development and reasonable redevelopment, in keeping with the character of the lake (D17.3).</p>	<p>The revisions separate the current policy into three distinct sections, which focus on 1) natural environment; 2) narrow waterbodies and 3) shoreline development.</p> <p>The proposed revisions also provide much greater detail regarding lake character by describing the unique qualities of the Muldrew Lakes. The revised policies explain why the Muldrew Lakes need to be treated differently than other (particularly larger and wider) lakes in the Town of Gravenhurst. This policy will provide guidance to individuals building on Muldrew Lakes, planners and Council when planning for and considering development on the Muldrew Lakes.</p>

	<p>environment, attain land use compatibility and retain community character.</p> <p>3. Only modest development and reasonable redevelopment, in keeping with the character of the lakes, the policies of this Official Plan, and the implementing Zoning By-law shall be permitted.</p>		
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B. Shoreline Development

The proposed amendments to the GOP policies and Zoning By-law primarily respond to the concerns expressed by the Muldrew Lakes community on the 2020 Survey regarding shoreline development - specifically concerns regarding a perceived trend of new dwellings being built on the lake that are very large (e.g. 5,000-8,000 square feet) and out of character for the lake, as well as concerns about older/smaller buildings within the 30-metre setback being expanded or rebuilt into much larger dwellings close to the water. Community members are concerned that very large building footprints are negatively impacting the sensitive ecology of the shoreline environment, as well as the natural visual appearance of the lake. Further, the community has expressed concern that there have been many instances where Zoning By-Law Amendments and Minor Variance Applications have been permitted that are unjustified or do not comply with the existing GOP and Zoning By-laws. Based on the community consultation undertaken over the last several years as part of the review of the Lake Plan, it is clear that the GOP policies and Zoning By-laws do not reflect the vision and values of the majority of those who have voiced their concerns through the surveys, town hall events, emails, conversations, etc.

In addition to supporting the preservation of the character and natural beauty of the shoreline on the lakes, these amendments also respond to the concerns of the community regarding the environmental impact of shoreline development. By removing and fragmenting natural habitats, particularly within the first 30 metres of the shoreline, development contributes to four of the most important environmental issues facing the lakes in Muskoka: 1) increased incidence and severity of flooding; 2) increased erosion and siltation; 3) existing and emerging threats to water quality (e.g., hazardous algal blooms and calcium decline); and 4) existing and emerging threats to biodiversity and natural habitat. Limiting development and redevelopment helps to maintain natural vegetation, which will mitigate the risk of floods and erosion, minimise disruption to native species, support biodiversity, and help to moderate the temperature of our lakes. Warmer waters contribute to many water quality problems, including algal blooms, which are positively correlated to decreases in property values, and are a potential health threat for recreational activities.

It is primarily for the above-mentioned reasons that 73% of the 188 respondents who completed the 2020 Survey, and 74% of the 176 respondents on the 2023 Survey stated they would like to see a limit on the size of new builds as well as re-builds, add-ons, renovations, etc.

The Lake Plan update is an opportunity to address these concerns. The Official Plan policies and Zoning By-Laws for the Town of Gravenhurst are generalized for all of the lakes in its jurisdiction (whether heavily developed, large and wide open, small and narrow, or remote and undeveloped). Creating lake-specific policies and zoning by-laws that address the community's concerns regarding lake character and environmental protection are pro-active steps, which will better protect the character, beauty and ecological health of our lakes, and should also help to reduce the number of applications for amendments and variances which are submitted to the Town, as well as the number of approvals for applications that do not conform to the vision and values of the community.

i. Guiding Policy for Shoreline Development

Proposed change to the Muldrew Lakes section of the Gravenhurst Official Plan (GOP)			
Issue	Proposed Lake-Specific Policy	Current Policy (general for all lakes)	Explanation
Shoreline Development & Protection of Visual Character and Natural Environment	To reduce environmental impact and preserve the unique character described in the Muldrew-specific policies of the Official Plan, the implementing Zoning By-law shall limit the maximum gross floor area of the principal dwelling on a lot.	Section D12.1: “Buildings in the Waterfront Area will be designed and constructed to blend into the natural environment and preserve the historic architectural characteristics of the area” (GOP, p. 61).	<p>In order to limit the size of dwellings on the Muldrew Lakes to protect the natural environment and visual character, the GOP must be amended to include a guiding policy specific to the Muldrew Lakes. The regulations associated with this policy will be implemented through the Zoning By-law.</p> <p>Currently, the GOP contains some guiding policies related to preserving character, but they are general in nature and do not have any associated provisions in the Zoning By-law and are thus difficult to enforce. The general policies in Section D12.1 would continue to apply to the Muldrew Lakes in addition to the proposed lake-specific policy.</p>

ii. Maximum Dwelling Size for New Dwellings and Legally Non-Complying Dwellings

Currently, there are no limits on dwelling size for new dwellings being built on the lake and older dwellings that are being renovated or rebuilt, other than: (a) a maximum height, (b) maximum lot coverage (which is 13% within the first 60 metres from the shoreline), (c) a width provision (“Illustration 6” in the Zoning By-law) for rebuilds of existing non-complying dwellings within their original footprint; and (d) a provision requiring that 75% of the first 20 metres from the water be maintained in a naturalized state. Due to concerns about environmental impacts and changing lake character, 73% of 188 respondents to the 2020 Survey and 74% of 176 respondents on the 2023 Survey stated that they would like to see building size regulated on the lake.

Other lakes have a maximum dwelling size enforced through Official Plan policy and Zoning By-law provisions. For example, Three Mile Lake has recently imposed a limit of 325 m² (approx. 3,500 sq. Ft) which was approved as part of the new Township of Muskoka Lakes Official Plan), Kahshe Lake has a maximum of 375 m² (approx. 4,000 sq. ft), while other lakes (e.g., the Township of Georgian Bay) have placed even smaller limits on shoreline dwellings.

We have proposed a 372 m² (4,000 sq. ft) limit as a value that represents the upper-limit of the majority opinion expressed by respondents to the 2020 Survey and 2023 Survey.

Proposed change to the Zoning By-Law			
Issue	Proposed lake-specific provision for the Gravenhurst Zoning By-law	Current (General) Provision in the Zoning By-law	Explanation of update
Regulations for lots zoned RW-6B on the Muldrew Lakes	<p>Except for the provisions indicated below, the regulations for a RW-6B Zone on the Muldrew Lakes shall be in accordance with the requirements of Section 14.2 of this By-law:</p> <p>Minimum Lot Frontage: 120.0 metres (394 ft) Maximum Dwelling Size: 372 square metres gross floor area (approx. 4,000 ft²)</p> <p>When a proposed dwelling cannot meet the required 30-metre (98 ft) shoreline setback from the OSWL, and conforms to Section X (see below – “exceptions to shoreline setback”) of the lake-specific policies of the Gravenhurst Official Plan, the maximum gross floor area of the dwelling shall comply with the provisions in Table 1.</p>	<p>Section 14.4: Except for the provision indicated below, the regulations for a RW-6B Zone shall be in accordance with the requirements of Section 14.2 of this By-law:</p> <p>Minimum Lot Frontage: 120.0 metres (394 ft).</p>	<p>The proposed changes are specific to dwellings located within the RW-6B Zone and include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) A maximum gross dwelling size of 372 m², which is equivalent to approximately 4,000 square feet for new dwellings at or beyond 30 metres from the shoreline; and 2) Table 1 – provisions for dwellings that cannot meet the required 30 metre setback.
Regulations for lots zoned RW-6C on the Muldrew Lakes	<p>Except for the provisions indicated below, the regulations for a RW-C Zone on the Muldrew Lakes shall be in accordance with the requirements of Section 14.2 of this By-law:</p> <p>Minimum Lot Frontage: 150.0 metres (492 ft)</p>	<p>Section 14.5: Except for the provision indicated below, the regulations for a RW-6C Zone shall be in accordance with the requirements of Section 14.2 of this By-law:</p>	<p>The proposed changes are specific to dwellings located within the RW-6C Zone. The changes proposed to this provision include:</p>

	<p>Maximum Dwelling Size: 372.0 square metres gross floor area (approx. 4,000 ft²)</p> <p>When a proposed dwelling cannot meet the required 30-metre (98 ft) shoreline setback from the OSWL, and conforms to Section X (see below – “exceptions to shoreline setback”) of the lake-specific policies of the Gravenhurst Official Plan, the maximum gross floor area of the of the dwelling shall comply with the provisions in Table 1.</p>	<p>Minimum Lot Frontage: 150.0 metres (492 ft).</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The addition of a maximum gross dwelling size of 372 m², which is equivalent to approximately 4,000 square feet for new dwellings at 30 metres or more from the shoreline; and; 2) Table 1 – provisions for new dwellings that cannot meet the required 30 metre setback.
<p>Regulations for lots zoned RI-8D on the Muldrew Lakes</p>	<p>Except for the provisions indicated below, the regulations for an RI-8D Zone on the Muldrew Lakes shall be in accordance with the requirements of Section I6.2 of this By-law.</p> <p>Minimum Lot Area – As existed on the date of the passing of this By-law, provided the lot and buildings are in accordance with the requirements of Section 5.7.1.1 of this By-law.</p> <p>Minimum Lot Frontage- As existed on the date of passing of this By-law, provided the lot and buildings are in accordance with the requirements of Section 5.7.1.1 of this By-law.</p> <p>Maximum Dwelling Size – 372 square metres gross floor area (approx. 4,000 ft²).</p> <p>When a proposed dwelling cannot meet the required 30-metre (98 ft) shoreline setback from the OSWL, and conforms to Section X (see below – “iii. exceptions to shoreline setback”) of the lake-specific policies of the Gravenhurst Official Plan, the maximum gross floor area of the of the dwelling shall comply with the provisions in Table 1.</p>	<p>Section 16.6: Except for the provisions indicated below, the regulations for an RI-8D Zone shall be in accordance with the requirements of Section I6.2 of this By-law.</p> <p>Minimum Lot Area - As existed on the date of the passing of this By-law, provided the lot and buildings are in accordance with the requirements of Section 5.7.1.1 of this By-law.</p> <p>Minimum Lot Frontage- As existed on the date of passing of this By-law, provided the lot and buildings are in accordance with the requirements of Section 5.7.1.1 of this By-law.</p>	<p>The proposed changes are specific to dwellings located within the RI-8D Zone. The changes proposed to this provision include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Adding a maximum gross dwelling size of 372 m², which is equivalent to approximately 4,000 square feet for new dwellings at or beyond 30 metres from the shoreline and; 2) Table 1, which outlines provisions for new dwellings that cannot meet the required 30 metre setback

iii. Exceptions to required 30-metre shoreline setback

Proposed change to the GOP			
Issue	Proposed Lake-specific policy for the GOP	Current Policy in GOP	Explanation of Change
Exceptions to Shoreline Setback	<p>A setback less than 30.0 metres (98 ft) may be permitted on existing lots of record in the following circumstances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Sufficient lot depth is not available to meet the setback requirement of 30 metres; or b) Terrain or soil constraints exist that physically do not allow for compliance with the 30-metre setback without significant or damaging site alteration (such as blasting or extensive removal of mature trees or other sensitive ecosystems), which make other locations on an existing lot more suitable. <p>In either circumstance, a Site Evaluation Report shall be completed to demonstrate the most appropriate location for a building envelope which maximizes the setback from the lake while minimizing negative impact to the natural environment and visual impact of the dwelling. The report shall also include recommendations to preserve the remainder of the shoreline buffer area in a natural state, and wherever possible, include recommendations to achieve Environmental Net Gain, as described in the Muldrew lakes-specific policies of this Official Plan.</p>	<p>Where the 30-metre setback cannot be met, e.g., for redevelopment of existing properties, where site characteristics preclude meeting the setback, where sufficient lot depth is not available, or where there are terrain or site constraints, the setback shall be as large as practical, providing the existing setback is not further reduced, and a net improvement in vegetation coverage can be achieved (D11.2).</p>	<p>This policy provides specific criteria that must be met by applicants applying for a zoning amendment or minor variance. The 2023 Survey demonstrated that 69.3% of respondents are in favour or imposing more specific criteria in the Official Plan to determine whether relief should be granted from the 30-metre setback requirement.</p> <p>Although the current required setback is 30 m (98 ft), the Town receives many applications for Zoning amendments and minor variances to approve lesser setbacks. Many survey respondents voiced concern regarding these approvals for lesser setbacks. The MLCA has observed the community fighting these applications over many years.</p> <p>This provision will provide more guidance to applicants and the Town in an effort to limit the number of applications/approvals for a lesser setback. Additionally, the added requirement of a Site Evaluation Report will ensure that the proponent contracts a qualified professional to determine the most appropriate building location on the site, which minimizes environmental disturbance and visual impact, while maximizing the setback from the shoreline.</p> <p>These policies have been added to reflect the values and support the long-term vision of the lake community in maintaining a healthy natural environment as well as the natural visual character of the lake.</p>

iv. Maximum Gross Floor Area: New dwellings that cannot meet the required 30-metre setback

Proposed change to the GOP			
Issue	Proposed Lake-specific policy for the GOP	Current Policy in GOP	Explanation of Change
<p>Size Limit for Dwellings which cannot meet the 30-metre setback</p>	<p>To preserve the unique character of the Muldrew Lakes and minimize negative impact to the physical, chemical and ecological function of the shoreline buffer area, the implementing Zoning By-law shall limit maximum gross floor area of the principal dwelling based on proximity to the Optimal Summer Water Level (OSWL) for all proposed development which cannot meet the required 30-metre (98 ft) shoreline setback, and are permitted pursuant to the lake-specific policy of this Plan (see above (iii)).</p>	<p>No specific size limitations for dwellings are contained in the GOP. The Zoning By-law allows for a maximum lot coverage of 13% within 60 metres of the water.</p>	<p>There are currently no size limits for the development of new dwellings, except that the Zoning By-law allows for a specific maximum height and maximum lot coverage of 13% within 60 metres of the water.</p> <p>These provisions provide that the Zoning By-law (set out below) will limit the size of new builds that cannot meet the required 30-metre setback based on proximity to the shoreline (larger builds permitted with increasing distance from the lake).</p> <p>The purpose of these policies is to protect the shoreline environment and visual character of the lake.</p>

Maximum Gross Floor Area: New dwellings that cannot meet the required 30-metre setback (cont'd)

Proposed change to the Zoning By-Law						
Issue	Proposed lake-specific provision for the Gravenhurst Zoning By-law	Current (General) Provision in the Zoning By-law	Explanation of update			
<p>Maximum Dwelling Size for New Builds which cannot meet the required 30-metre shoreline setback.</p>	<p>When a proposed dwelling cannot meet the required 30-metre (98 ft) shoreline setback from the OSWL, and conforms to Section X (see above (iii)– “exceptions to shoreline setback”) of the lake-specific policies of the Gravenhurst Official Plan, the maximum gross floor area of the of the dwelling shall comply with the provisions in Table 1:</p>	<p>Section 14.2: Maximum Lot Coverage of Principal Building and Accessory Buildings:</p> <p>Where buildings or structures are located wholly or partially within 60 metres of the shoreline, 13.0 percent of the lot area within 60 metres of the shoreline.</p>	<p>To address concerns in the lake community regarding protection of the shoreline environment as well as the visual beauty and character of the lake, these provisions require a smaller gross floor area based on proximity to the shoreline. These provisions would apply to new builds that cannot meet the required 30 metre (98 ft) setback and have demonstrated conformity with the lake-specific policies of the GOP (see (iii) above). The 2023 Survey demonstrated that 64.8% of respondents would like a maximum dwelling size for new builds that cannot meet the 30-metre setback that is less than the maximum building size they indicated for new builds that can meet the 30-metre setback. Of those who desire smaller maximum building size within the setback area, 71% believe that the maximum building size should vary with proximity to the lake (smaller closer to the lake and larger as they approach the required 30 metre setback).</p> <p>The current provisions limiting lot coverage of the principal building to 13% within the first 60 metres from the</p>			
	<p>Table 1. Maximum Gross Floor Area (GFA) for new dwellings on vacant lots that cannot meet the required 30-metre shoreline setback.</p>					
	Setback from OSWL (metres)			Max GFA (m²)	Setback from OSWL (metres)	Max GFA (m²)
	0			93 (1000 sq ft)	15	232 (2500 sq ft)
	1			102 (1100 sq ft)	16	242 (2600 sq ft)
	2			111 (1200 sq ft)	17	251 (2700 sq ft)
	3			121 (1300 sq ft)	18	260 (2800 sq ft)
	4			130 (1400 sq ft)	19	269 (2900 sq ft)
	5			139 (1500 sq ft)	20	279 (3000 sq ft)
	6			149 (1600 sq ft)	21	288 (3100 sq ft)
	7			158 (1700 sq ft)	22	297 (3200 sq ft)
8	167 (1800 sq ft)	23	307 (3300 sq ft)			
9	177 (1900 sq ft)	24	316 (3400 sq ft)			

	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>10</td> <td>186 (2000 sq ft)</td> <td>25</td> <td>325 (3500 sq ft)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td>195 (2100 sq ft)</td> <td>26</td> <td>334 (3600 sq ft)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12</td> <td>204 (2200 sq ft)</td> <td>27</td> <td>344 (3700 sq ft)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13</td> <td>214 (2300 sq ft)</td> <td>28</td> <td>353 (3800 sq ft)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14</td> <td>223 (2400 sq ft)</td> <td>29</td> <td>362 (3900 sq ft)</td> </tr> </table>	10	186 (2000 sq ft)	25	325 (3500 sq ft)	11	195 (2100 sq ft)	26	334 (3600 sq ft)	12	204 (2200 sq ft)	27	344 (3700 sq ft)	13	214 (2300 sq ft)	28	353 (3800 sq ft)	14	223 (2400 sq ft)	29	362 (3900 sq ft)		lake do not provide any meaningful limitations to the size of dwellings (especially on larger lots), nor do they ensure protection of the shoreline environment.
10	186 (2000 sq ft)	25	325 (3500 sq ft)																				
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13	214 (2300 sq ft)	28	353 (3800 sq ft)																				
14	223 (2400 sq ft)	29	362 (3900 sq ft)																				
	<p>Footnote for Table 1:</p> <p>(1) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this By-law to the contrary, an enclosed porch or screened porch attached to a dwelling shall be included in the maximum gross floor area for the purposes of applying the provision for Maximum GFA in Table 1.</p>																						

v. **Maximum Gross Floor Area: Existing Legal Non-Complying Structures (i.e., pre-existing dwellings that do not meet the current required 30- metre setback)**

The proposed provisions limit the extent to which existing dwellings on the lake that are closer than 30 metres to the shoreline may be enlarged or replaced. This proposed policy directly addresses the concerns of the majority of the respondents to both the 2020 and 2023 Surveys regarding protection of the shoreline environment, the natural visual appearance of the lake and lake character. Similar provisions have been implemented in many jurisdictions including the Township of Douro-Dummer, the Township of Georgian Bay, the Township of Seguin and the Township of Muskoka Lakes. In fact, some municipalities have much more restrictive provisions which only allow the reconstruction of a non-complying building within the same footprint with no increases in height or floor area. Restricting redevelopment within the shoreline buffer area (within 30 metres of the shoreline) is particularly important from an environmental perspective. The scientific literature states that preserving a natural (forested or vegetated) shoreline buffer is essential to the survival of a lake. As a result, the natural transition between the water (aquatic) and upland (terrestrial) ecosystems is referred to in the literature as the “ribbon of life”¹.

Proposed change to the Muldrew Lakes section of the Gravenhurst Official Plan (GOP)			
Issue	Proposed Lake-specific Section of the GOP	Current (General) Policy in GOP (applicable to all lakes)	Explanation of update
<p>Size Limit for Redevelopment of Existing Legal Non-Complying Dwellings</p>	<p>1. Where an existing legal non-complying dwelling encroaches into the required setback (30 metres or 98 ft) from the Optimal Summer Water Level (OSWL), the dwelling may only be replaced, enlarged, repaired, or renovated provided that the enlargement, repair, or renovation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Does not further increase a situation of non-compliance; b) Complies with all other provisions of this Plan and the implementing Zoning By-law, including the Muldrew-specific policies and provisions limiting the redevelopment of non-complying buildings and structures; and c) Will not pose a threat to public health and safety. <p>2. Where an existing legal non-complying dwelling is being replaced, enlarged, repaired or renovated, property owners are</p>	<p>A non-complying building or structure may be enlarged, repaired or renovated, provided that the enlargement, repair or renovation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Does not further increase a situation of non-compliance; b) Complies with all other provisions of this Plan and the implementing Zoning By-law; c) Does not increase the amount of floor area in a required yard or setback area; and d) Will not pose a threat to public health or safety (K3.6.2). 	<p>The GOP currently prohibits building any closer to the lake than the existing structure and the implementing Zoning By-law restricts the overall width of an extension/enlargement/rebuild.</p> <p>Although the GOP also provides that the floor area of non-complying dwellings cannot be increased, there is no implementing Zoning By-law and therefore this provision is <u>not enforced</u>.</p> <p>The proposed amendment provides for the Zoning By-law to have lake-specific provisions for limiting the size of rebuilds within the 30-metre shoreline setback area. The 2023 Survey demonstrated that a majority (55%) of respondents believe that the Muldrew Lakes require additional lake-specific provisions to regulate the extent to which existing legal non-complying dwellings within the 30-metre buffer</p>

¹ Shoreline Vegetative Buffers (2003). Prepared by the District of Muskoka Planning and Economic Development Department. Retrieved from <https://muskoka.civicweb.net/document/4844/#:-:text=Shoreline%20buffers%20refer%20to%20forested,from%20various%20nearby%20land%20uses.>

	<p>encouraged to minimize expansions of the building footprint within the regulated setback area.</p> <p>3. To protect the ecological function of the land and adjacent water, any development that occurs within the regulated shoreline setback area (the first 30 metres from the water) shall strive to improve vegetative cover on the site (as per Section D11.2) and achieve Environmental Net Gain (as defined below).</p> <p><i>Environmental Net Gain (ENG)</i> is an approach to ensure that (re)development leaves the natural environment in a measurably improved state compared to prior conditions. ENG includes any actions that can be made on a property to improve the natural environment (namely the shoreline and lake) as a result of the development plan. This includes properties where the existing development no longer meets the legal standards of the municipality (e.g., legally non-complying buildings and structures).</p> <p>This policy does not replace or remove the requirement of the GOP for applications associated with the redevelopment of legally non-complying structures to increase vegetative cover within the buffer area.</p> <p>Examples of Environmental Net Gain Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choosing a permeable driveway surface and installing stormwater detention measures (e.g., rain garden, rain barrels, infiltration pits, etc.) • Restoring an area of mowed lawn with a “no-mow” area planted with native shoreline species • Updated waste water treatment system away from the lake • Replacing a hard surface path with a curved, <1.5-metre wide permeable path • Native plants added to increase the vegetated shoreline buffer covering >75% of the property frontage • Adding native vegetation to an area where any existing concrete retaining walls are deteriorating • Replacing an old dock with a floating dock • Maintaining aquatic vegetation and fallen trees for wildlife habitat 		<p>area can be enlarged or replaced. Though a majority expressed this opinion, the Lake Plan committee decided there was not enough support to introduce an <u>additional</u> provision such as those currently implemented in many other jurisdictions including Trent Lakes and the Township of Georgian Bay (e.g., a provision that allows an existing non-complying dwelling to increase by a certain percentage), and instead, have proposed the same model for limiting the size of extensions/rebuilds of non-complying structures as is proposed for new builds (smaller maximum size with increasing proximity to the lake).</p> <p>The purpose of this policy is to protect the vital function of the shoreline buffer area as well as the natural visual character of the lake.</p>
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Proposed change to the Zoning By-Law

Issue	Proposed Lake-specific Amendment to Section 5.7.2.1 of the Zoning By-law	Current Provision for all lakes (Section 5.7.2.1) of the Zoning By-law	Explanation of update																																				
<p>Size Limit for the Redevelopment of Existing Legal Non-Complying Dwellings</p>	<p>In addition to the provisions outlined in Section 5.7.2.1 of this Zoning By-law, the following shall apply on the Muldrew Lakes:</p> <p>a) The provision limiting width (Illustration '6') shall apply within the required setback area regardless of whether the setback of the replacement dwelling improves the situation of non-compliance as compared to the existing non-complying dwelling; and</p> <p>b) The gross floor area (GFA) of the dwelling shall comply with the provisions outlined in Table 2 (below).</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="497 641 1306 1430"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="4" data-bbox="505 657 1298 743">Table 2. Provisions for enlargement, repair, replacement or renovation of existing legal non-complying dwellings encroaching on the required front yard or shoreline setback.</th> </tr> <tr> <th data-bbox="513 760 639 889">Setback from OSWL (metres)</th> <th data-bbox="647 760 809 889">Max GFA (m²)</th> <th data-bbox="817 760 943 889">Setback from OSWL (metres)</th> <th data-bbox="951 760 1298 889">Max GFA (m²)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="513 894 639 959">0</td> <td data-bbox="647 894 809 959">93 (1000 sq ft)</td> <td data-bbox="817 894 943 959">15</td> <td data-bbox="951 894 1298 959">232 (2500 sq ft)</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="513 964 639 1029">1</td> <td data-bbox="647 964 809 1029">102 (1100 sq ft)</td> <td data-bbox="817 964 943 1029">16</td> <td data-bbox="951 964 1298 1029">242 (2600 sq ft)</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="513 1034 639 1099">2</td> <td data-bbox="647 1034 809 1099">111 (1200 sq ft)</td> <td data-bbox="817 1034 943 1099">17</td> <td data-bbox="951 1034 1298 1099">251 (2700 sq ft)</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="513 1104 639 1169">3</td> <td data-bbox="647 1104 809 1169">121 (1300 sq ft)</td> <td data-bbox="817 1104 943 1169">18</td> <td data-bbox="951 1104 1298 1169">260 (2800 sq ft)</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="513 1174 639 1239">4</td> <td data-bbox="647 1174 809 1239">130 (1400 sq ft)</td> <td data-bbox="817 1174 943 1239">19</td> <td data-bbox="951 1174 1298 1239">269 (2900 sq ft)</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="513 1243 639 1308">5</td> <td data-bbox="647 1243 809 1308">139 (1500 sq ft)</td> <td data-bbox="817 1243 943 1308">20</td> <td data-bbox="951 1243 1298 1308">279 (3000 sq ft)</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="513 1313 639 1378">6</td> <td data-bbox="647 1313 809 1378">149 (1600 sq ft)</td> <td data-bbox="817 1313 943 1378">21</td> <td data-bbox="951 1313 1298 1378">288 (3100 sq ft)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Table 2. Provisions for enlargement, repair, replacement or renovation of existing legal non-complying dwellings encroaching on the required front yard or shoreline setback.				Setback from OSWL (metres)	Max GFA (m ²)	Setback from OSWL (metres)	Max GFA (m ²)	0	93 (1000 sq ft)	15	232 (2500 sq ft)	1	102 (1100 sq ft)	16	242 (2600 sq ft)	2	111 (1200 sq ft)	17	251 (2700 sq ft)	3	121 (1300 sq ft)	18	260 (2800 sq ft)	4	130 (1400 sq ft)	19	269 (2900 sq ft)	5	139 (1500 sq ft)	20	279 (3000 sq ft)	6	149 (1600 sq ft)	21	288 (3100 sq ft)	<p>5.7.2.1 iii): Where an existing legal dwelling encroaches into the required setback from the Optimal Summer Water Level, the dwelling may only be replaced, enlarged or extended provided:</p> <p>a) The situation of non-compliance with the setback from the Optimal Summer Water Level is not further increased;</p> <p>b) The height of the dwelling located within 10.0 metres of the Optimal Summer Water Level does not exceed the maximum height of the existing dwelling that is located within 10.0 metres of the Optimal Summer Water Level;</p> <p>c) The width of the dwelling at any point does not exceed a dimension equal to 5.0 metres + (0.7 metres multiplied by the distance of the dwelling in metres from the Optimal Summer Water Level at that point) (for convenience, this formula is illustrated in graphical and tabular format as Illustration "6" to this By-law); and,</p> <p>d) All other provisions of the By-law are complied with.</p>	<p>The general provisions in the Gravenhurst Zoning By-law limit the size of rebuilds with a maximum width formula. They also prohibit a rebuild or extension from being built closer to the lake than the original location. However, the lake community has expressed that these provisions, as implemented by the Town of Gravenhurst, are proving ineffective in preserving the character and ecological health of the shoreline environment.</p> <p>The proposed changes to Section 5.7.2.1 ensure that the width formula applies to any rebuild located in any area of the required shoreline setback area. Currently, the width formula is only enforced by the Town if a rebuild is located within the same footprint as the existing non-complying building. This means that if a rebuild is moved back but is still within 30 metres of the water, the Town is currently not imposing the width formula. The 2023 Survey proposed replacing the Town's width formula with a permitted percentage increase but only 50% of respondents were in support. The Lake Plan Committee has decided against introducing a new width provision (%) and instead to recommend an amendment to ensure the current width provision is enforced as originally intended.</p> <p>Table 2 proposes size limits for the reconstruction of old cottages within the regulated shoreline setback area. These size limits are based on proximity to the shoreline (as preferred by the majority of survey</p>
	Table 2. Provisions for enlargement, repair, replacement or renovation of existing legal non-complying dwellings encroaching on the required front yard or shoreline setback.																																						
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7	158 (1700 sq ft)	22	297 (3200 sq ft)
8	167 (1800 sq ft)	23	307 (3300 sq ft)
9	177 (1900 sq ft)	24	316 (3400 sq ft)
10	186 (2000 sq ft)	25	325 (3500 sq ft)
11	195 (2100 sq ft)	26	334 (3600 sq ft)
12	204 (2200 sq ft)	27	344 (3700 sq ft)
13	214 (2300 sq ft)	28	353 (3800 sq ft)
14	223 (2400 sq ft)	29	362 (3900 sq ft)

Footnotes for Table 2:

- (1) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this By-law to the contrary, an enclosed porch or screened porch attached to a dwelling shall be included in the maximum gross floor area for the purposes of applying the provision for Maximum GFA in Table 2.
- (2) Notwithstanding the provisions for Maximum GFA in Table 2 above, an existing legal non-complying dwelling located more than 10 metres from the OSWL may be permitted to add a second storey to the footprint of the building existing on the date of passing of this By-law, as long as all other provisions of the Zoning By-law are adhered to (including maximum height for the applicable zone). In no case shall any building exceed a gross floor area (GFA) of 372 m² or 4,000 sq ft.

respondents). Table 2, Columns 2 & 4 outline the total gross floor area of a building that would be permitted based on proximity to the shoreline.

Footnote (2), Table 2, ensures that the limits on GFA do not prevent the addition of a second storey to an existing building footprint. This responds to concerns expressed by the community through the 2023 survey and in the 2022 Town Hall.

If a property owner does not wish to build within the limits of these provisions, they could build a dwelling of up to 4,000 square feet 30 or more metres from the shoreline.

C. Site Evaluation Report

Changes to the requirements for a Site Evaluation Report are being proposed for the Muldrew Lakes section of the GOP to enhance protection of the natural environment and water quality of the Muldrew Lakes. There are no corresponding Zoning By-laws for these provisions.

A Site Evaluation Report is a comprehensive evaluation of a proposed development on a site. A Site Evaluation Report provides information, an analysis, as well as suggested methods for mitigation of impacts. A Site Evaluation Report is comprehensive, focusing on both abiotic (non-living) factors (e.g., steep slopes, soil stability, lot size) as well as biotic factors (e.g., wetlands, vegetation, Species at Risk, fish habitat, etc.). Site Evaluation Reports provide an analysis that determines how a development can be completed with the least impact to environmentally-sensitive features located both on, and adjacent to the site.

Proposed change to the GOP

Issue	Proposed Policy Additions for the Muldrew Lakes-specific of the GOP	Current Policy in GOP	Explanation of update
<p>Site Evaluation Report</p>	<p>In addition to the applicable policies of Section I (Natural Heritage and Environment), a Site Evaluation Report consistent with Section I6.28 and all applicable lake-specific policies and provisions for the Muldrew Lakes) is required for all development which is not considered minor (as defined below). The Site Evaluation Report shall evaluate a development proposal in the context of the site and provide appropriate recommendations to ensure that all potential on-site and off-site impacts (including to the lake itself) are minimized to the greatest extent possible (e.g., recommend the most appropriate location (and size) for a building envelope). The Site Evaluation report shall include recommendations to preserve the shoreline buffer area in a natural state, and wherever possible, include recommendations to achieve Environmental Net Gain, as described in the Muldrew Lakes-specific policies of this Official Plan. The Site Evaluation Report must be prepared by a qualified professional(s) and must be prepared to the satisfaction of the Town. As part of any pre-consultation, the Town and/or District may waive the requirement for a Site Evaluation Report or recommend a scoped Site Evaluation Report where the development is considered appropriate. Minor residential development includes but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Decks; ii. Docks; iii. Sheds; i. Sleeping cabins of less than 20 square metres (200 square feet of Gross Floor Area); and 	<p>Current General Policies (applicable to all lakes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -May be required for development in narrow waterways (Section I6.10) -Required where development is proposed on slopes between 20-40% where vegetation is removed (Section I6.9b) -Required where development is proposed on slopes greater than 40% (Section I6.9c) <p>Current Lake-specific Policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Required for an expansion of the “trailer park” on North Muldrew (Section D17.3.4) -Required for any expansion or change in use of the landing/car parking area on Middle Muldrew (Section D17.3.4) 	<p>This policy is proposed to require a Site Evaluation Report for all proposed development (other than minor development) to ensure mitigation of impacts to the shoreline environment including the lake itself. This policy provides an opportunity for Town planning staff to waive the requirement to obtain a Site Evaluation Report where the development is minor, or scope the required study where appropriate.</p> <p>When a property owner is planning a major development, a requirement for a Site Evaluation Report provides a practical way for Town staff as well as the lake community to understand proposed development, and to ensure the impact of development is minimized through proper site design and mitigation strategies/best practices, as recommended by a qualified professional.</p> <p>The Town of Gravenhurst currently requires Site Evaluation Reports when development is proposed on steep slopes, and sometimes requires them when development is proposed on narrow waterways. The requirements for a Site Evaluation Report are found in Section I6.28 in the GOP.</p> <p>Site Evaluation Reports are also used by other municipalities to minimize the impact of development on shorelines. For example, the Town of Seguin requires Site Evaluation Reports for all shoreline development.</p> <p>The 2023 Survey demonstrated that approximately 56.8% of respondents are in favour of the requirement for a Site</p>

	ii. Minor renovations and extensions.		Evaluation Report for development that is not considered "minor" in nature.
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D. Boathouses and Boat Ports

Proposed change to the GOP			
Issue	Proposed Revised Muldrew Lakes Specific Policy in the GOP	Current Muldrew Lakes Specific Policy in GOP (Section D17.3.6)	Explanation of update
Boathouses and Boatports	<p>Only one boathouse or boatport that conforms to the following shall be permitted on a lot:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The structure is one storey with no attic, dormers, sanitary facilities or human habitation; and b) The lot is not located within a narrow waterway (a waterway less than 120 metres across). <p>The implementing Zoning By-law may prescribe lake-specific boathouse and boatport provisions in addition to and in excess of those found in Section 5.2.4.2 of the Zoning By-law, including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) A required minimum lot frontage; b) Provisions for maximum width; c) Provisions for maximum height; d) Provisions for maximum projection; and e) Required setbacks from the side lot line. 	<p>Boathouses are subject to the following provisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the property has a minimum lot frontage of 90.0 metres (295 ft) and is not located in a narrow waterway; b) the structure is one storey with no attic, dormers, or human habitation; c) the boathouse has a maximum width of 15% of the frontage of the lot or 10 metres (33 ft), whichever is the lesser; d) the maximum height of a boathouse shall be 3.9 metres (13 ft) as measured from the Optimal Summer Water Level (OSWL) to the roof ridge and the structure has a sloped roof; and; e) there is a minimum side-yard setback of 6.0 metres (20 ft). 	<p>The proposed changes primarily clean up the current Muldrew Lakes-specific boathouse policies in the GOP.</p> <p>The current policy refers to boathouses only, while the more general Gravenhurst policy (D5.5) refers to both boathouses and boatports. The 2023 Survey demonstrated that 72.2% of respondents are in favour of applying the current provisions to both boathouses and boatports.</p> <p>Finally, it is good practice to only include specific regulations (such as required frontages, widths, heights, etc.) in the Zoning By-law. The Official Plan is meant to be broad and guiding in nature. This information has therefore been moved from the policy in the GOP to the implementing Zoning By-law, which is enforceable and will be implemented by the Town.</p>

Proposed change to the Zoning By-Law

Issue	Proposed update of the Zoning By-law	Current Provision in the Zoning By-law	Explanation of update
<p>Boathouses and Boatports</p>	<p>Except for the provisions indicated below, the regulations for boathouses and boatports on a lot with frontage on the Muldrew Lakes shall be in accordance with the requirements of Section 5.2.4.2:</p> <p>i) Shall only be permitted on lots with a minimum of 90.0 metres (295 ft) of lot frontage and are not permitted in narrow waterways;</p> <p>ii) Shall not exceed one storey or 3.9 metres (12.8 ft) in height (measured from the OSWL to the peak of the roof);</p> <p>iii) The maximum width of a boathouse or boatport shall be 15% of the frontage of the lot, or 10.0 metres (32.8 ft), whichever is lesser;</p> <p>iv) The maximum projection of a boathouse or boatport into the water shall be 10.0 metres (32.8 ft) from the OSWL.</p> <p>v) A minimum side yard of 6.0 metres (20 ft) is maintained both on land and in the water when the side lot line boundaries are extended from the shore into the water; and</p> <p>vi) Shall not include human habitation, sanitary facilities, an attic, rooftop deck or dormer.</p>	<p>Section 5.2.4.4: Except for the provisions indicated below, the regulations for a shoreline storage building on a lot with frontage on Muldrew Lake shall be in accordance with the requirements of Section 5.2.4.2:</p> <p>i) Boathouses shall not exceed one storey in height and shall not include an attic or dormers;</p> <p>ii) The maximum height of a boathouse shall be 3.9 metres (12.8 ft) measured from the OWSL to the peak of the roof;</p> <p>iii) Boathouses shall not contain rooftop decks; and</p> <p>iv) Boathouses shall only be permitted on lots with a minimum of 90.0 metres (295 ft) of frontage.</p>	<p>The current language used in the lake-specific section of the Zoning By-law regarding boathouses is confusing for the general public as well as Town staff (e.g., reference to “shoreline storage buildings” and “boathouses”).</p> <p>The proposed revisions include some housekeeping changes to ensure the terminology is consistent (i.e., removed the term “shoreline storage building” and added “boatports”), and ensures the provisions limiting height, width, lot frontage, etc. are in the Zoning By-law instead of the GOP (where they can be enforced).</p> <p>An additional Muldrew-specific provision is introduced here to limit the projection of a boathouse or boatport to 10 metres due to the nature of the Muldrew Lakes being a series of long and narrow channels. Limiting the projection of these structures will increase safety and help to preserve the visual character of the lakes. Approximately 76% of the 2023 Survey respondents are in favour of introducing a provision limiting the projection of boathouses/boatports. Approximately 63.7% of respondents prefer a 10-metre limit while 12.5% prefer a 12-metre limit.</p>

E. Sleeping Cabins

Proposed change to the GOP			
Issue	Proposed Muldrew Lakes Specific update of the GOP	Current Policy in GOP	Explanation of update
Sleeping Cabins	<p>A maximum of two (2) sleeping cabins are permitted as accessory to a residential dwelling on a lot, provided development on the lot meets all other applicable provisions of the implementing Zoning By-law. The addition of a sleeping cabin(s) may constitute the requirement for a septic suitability study to determine whether an existing septic system can accommodate additional development or requires an upgrade.</p> <p>The implementing Zoning By-law shall limit the total aggregate gross floor area of sleeping cabins permitted on a lot.</p>	<p>A maximum of one Sleeping Cabin shall be permitted for each property that contains a principal dwelling (D17.3.7).</p>	<p>The proposed lake-specific policy responds to feedback from the lake community that the current policy encourages larger single structures that may have a more significant impact on visual character and the shoreline environment. A total gross floor area for all sleeping cabins on a lot is prescribed in the implementing Zoning By-law.</p> <p>The proposed lake-specific GOP policies include a requirement for the Town to assess whether a septic suitability study should be required to accommodate any additional sleeping areas.</p> <p>The 2023 Survey demonstrated that 70.5% of respondents are in favour of the proposed policy change.</p>
Proposed change to the Zoning By-Law			
Issue	Proposed Muldrew Lakes Specific update of the Zoning By-law	Current Provision in the Zoning By-law	Explanation of update
Sleeping Cabins	<p>Maximum Number and Size for a Sleeping Cabin-</p> <p>Two for each residential waterfront property which contains a principal dwelling. The total floor area in the aggregate of all sleeping cabins on a waterfront lot on the Muldrew Lakes shall not exceed 46.5 square metres (approx. 500 ft²), all of which shall be situated at the ground floor level.</p>	<p>Section 14.2: Maximum Number and Size for a Sleeping Cabin-</p> <p>One for each residential waterfront property which contains a principal dwelling. The maximum building floor area of such cabin shall be 46.5 square metres, all of which shall be situated at the ground floor level.</p>	<p>This proposed provision responds to feedback from the lake community that the current provisions encourage larger single structures that may create a more significant impact on visual character and the shoreline environment. The revision allows the same total gross floor area of a sleeping cabin to be developed (500 ft²), but allows for this floor area to be divided between two sleeping cabins instead of one.</p>

F. Recreational Carrying Capacity and Boating Impact Studies for major development applications

Changes are being proposed to the GOP. There are no corresponding changes to the implementing Zoning By-law.

Issue	Proposed Muldrew Lakes Specific Policy in the GOP	Current Policy in GOP	Explanation of change
<p>Recreational Carrying Capacity</p>	<p>Recreational Carrying Capacity is defined as an estimate of the number of watercrafts that can utilise the surface of a lake while still enjoying the amenity provided by the waterbody.</p> <p>The calculation of Recreational Carrying Capacity of the Muldrew Lakes is derived based on the following formula:</p> <p>i) Net surface area is calculated by reducing the total waterbody surface area by the surface area within 30 metres of the shoreline; and</p> <p>ii) A density of one residential unit for every 1.6 hectares net lake surface area is then applied.</p> <p>Based on the above model, the Recreational Carrying Capacity of the Muldrew Lakes is approximately 160 dwellings. The Muldrew Lakes currently have over 400 dwellings and are therefore considered over-capacity from a recreational standpoint. As such, any applications for multiple residential (three (3) or more units), subdivision or resource-based recreational uses shall submit a boating impact study to:</p> <p>a) Ensure that the proposed development does not contribute to the overcrowding of the lake surface area; and</p> <p>b) Minimizes the overall social impacts resulting from the additional development on the lot.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>A significant number of respondents to the 2020 Survey (72%) indicated their concern regarding increasing boat traffic on the Muldrew Lakes and 90% of respondents stated that they are in support of a Muldrew-specific policy regarding the social or recreational carrying capacity of the lake. Specific concerns include the impacts of large wakes to the shoreline and personal property, noise, and safety.</p> <p>Stating that the Muldrew Lakes have exceeded their recreational capacity in the lake-specific policies of the GOP provides a basis for requiring mitigation of boating impacts resulting from any future major development applications (e.g., redevelopment of the Inn on the Lake property or development of any Crown Lands).</p> <p>The requirement for boating impact studies <u>would not</u> affect the current use of the lake, the recreational use of the lake by property owners or property owners making applications with respect to a single-detached dwelling (cottage or house). Rather, it is meant to be pro-active, to prevent any future impact from major development or redevelopment of commercial properties or Crown Lands.</p> <p>The 2023 Survey demonstrated that 88.6% of respondents are in favour of this proposed policy.</p>

G. Commercial Property

Changes are being proposed to the GOP. There are no corresponding changes to the implementing Zoning By-law.

Issue	Proposed Muldrew Lakes Specific Section of the GOP	Current Policy in GOP	Explanation of change
<p>Commercial Property</p>	<p>The existing commercial property on the Muldrew Lakes has been serving the public interest for many years and is expected to continue to do so in its present form.</p> <p>Any application to expand the campground located at Lots 28 and 29, Concession 2 Muskoka (known municipally as 1323 North Muldrew Lake Road), will require a Zoning By-law Amendment and Site Evaluation Report (as detailed in Section I6.30), including careful consideration of the impact of the proposal on the natural environment and character of the lake. Any redevelopment to another form of land use will require an Official Plan Amendment.</p> <p>Any expansion or redevelopment of the above-noted property shall also require a boating impact study to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Ensure that the proposed development does not contribute to the overcrowding of the lake surface area; and b) Minimizes the overall social impacts resulting from the additional development on the lot. 	<p>The two existing commercial properties on the Muldrew Lakes have been serving the public interest for many years and are expected to continue to do so in their present form. However, any application to expand the trailer park on North Muldrew Lake will require a Site Evaluation Report (as detailed in Section I6.30) and a careful consideration of the impact of the proposal on the natural environment, character, and existing lake population. An amendment to the Zoning By-law will also be required. Any redevelopment to another form of land use will require an Official Plan Amendment (D17.3.4).</p>	<p>The proposed revisions refine the terminology used to describe the current land use on the commercial property on North Muldrew Lake (change “trailer park” to “campground”) and provide more detailed and specific descriptions of the property location referenced in the policy. Campground (not trailer park) is the term used in the Zoning By-law to describe the existing land use at this address.</p> <p>In addition, the policy has been amended to require a boating impact study, should the commercial property be proposed for an expansion or redevelopment to another form of land use.</p>

H. Conservation

Changes are being proposed to the GOP. There are no corresponding changes to the implementing Zoning By-law.

Issue	Proposed Muldrew Lakes Specific Policy in the GOP	Current Muldrew Lakes Specific Policy in the GOP	Explanation of change
Conservation	<p>The use of innovative forms of tenure, ownership and interests of properties is encouraged for their long-term conservation. These may include conservation easements, property acquisition by land trusts such as the Muskoka Conservancy, and use of available tax incentive programs.</p> <p>Where a property owner proposes to convey lake front land for conservation purposes, shoreline lots with smaller frontages than those required in Section D17.3.6 may be recognized, where in exchange a significant area of land is preserved in perpetuity for conservation purposes and conveyed to a public authority or private foundation. A minimum lot frontage of 45.0 metres (148 ft) would be required for any residential lot considered in this instance as long as an equal minimum 45.0 metres (148 ft) is conveyed for conservation.</p>	None.	<p>This new policy states that if a property owner proposes to transfer the title of a portion of their lands for conservation, the minimum lot frontage can be 45 m (147 ft), which is significantly less than what is otherwise required, as long as a minimum of 45 m (147 ft) is transferred to a conservation organization.</p> <p>The intent of this policy is to facilitate and encourage landowners to support long-term protection of shoreline habitat. The benefits include improved overall lake health, water quality, biodiversity, etc.</p>

I. Lot Creation

Changes are being proposed to the GOP. There are no corresponding changes to the implementing Zoning By-law.

Issue	Proposed Muldrew Lakes Specific Policy in the GOP	Current Muldrew Lakes Specific Policy in the GOP	Explanation of change
<p>Lot Creation</p>	<p>The creation of a new lot on Muldrew Lake is subject to the following policies:</p> <p>a)-d) No change (see next column)</p> <p>e) Where a lot being created will be dedicated to a public authority or registered Trust (such as the Muskoka Conservancy), or where a conservation easement will be granted over otherwise developable land to ensure the land is kept in a natural state in perpetuity, lots with frontages and/or areas that are smaller than those otherwise required in Section 17.3.2 b) and c) may be permitted (as outlined in the lake-specific policies of this Plan). In these circumstances a Zoning By-Law amendment will be required.</p>	<p>The creation of a new lot on Muldrew Lake is subject to the following policies:</p> <p>a) Backlot development shall not be permitted on the peninsulas between parts of the lake;</p> <p>b) The minimum lot frontage shall be 120.0 metres (394 ft);</p> <p>c) Where the lot is abutting a narrow waterway, the minimum lot frontage shall be 150.0 metres (492 ft);</p> <p>d) The creation of a new lot to divide existing residential dwellings may be permitted provided that each lot meets the requirements of Section D5 and D14 (D17.3.2).</p>	<p>The proposed change is to add subsection e) to the pre-existing policy that addresses lot creation. Part (e) addresses lots created for conservation easements/donations (see above).</p>

J. Housekeeping amendments

Changes are being proposed to the GOP to clarify two provisions in the Muldrew Lakes-specific section of the GOP. There are no corresponding changes to the Zoning By-law.

1. Landings and Parking

Issue	Proposed Muldrew Lakes Specific Policy in the GOP	Current Muldrew Lakes Specific Policy in the GOP	Explanation of change
Landings and Parking	The existing landing and car parking area located at Lot 30, Concession 12 (Morrison) on Middle Muldrew Lake (known Municipally as 1160 South Muldrew Lake Road), will require a Site Evaluation Report (as outlined in Section I1.4.30) prior to any expansion or change in use because of its small size and close relation to adjacent residential development.	The existing landing and car parking area on Middle Muldrew Lake will also require a Site Evaluation Report (as outlined in Section I1.4.30) prior to any expansion or change in use because of its small size and close relation to adjacent residential development (D17.3.4) .	The revision to this policy is technical in that it has been updated to include a specific address for the landing. Further, the pre-existing policy pertaining to the landing was previously included in the policy governing existing commercial land uses (above). The policy regarding the landing was moved into its own section since it is unrelated to the policy governing existing commercial land use.

2. Permitted Land Use

Issue	Proposed Muldrew Lakes Specific Policy in the GOP	Current Muldrew Lakes Specific Policy in the GOP	Explanation of change
Permitted Land Use	The permitted uses for lands within the Waterfront Area Designation on the Muldrew Lakes shall be limited to single-detached dwellings, mainland waterfront landings for water access, and existing commercial uses.	The permitted uses for lands within the Muldrew Lake designation shall be limited to single detached dwellings, mainland waterfront landings for water access and existing commercial uses (D17.3.5) .	The proposed revision changes “Muldrew Lake” designation to “Waterfront Area” designation, since a “Muldrew Lake” designation does not actually exist within the GOP and is therefore meaningless from a policy perspective.