

Beach Associations within the Lake Drive Shoreline Action Plan Area



About the Action Plan

The Town of Georgina is moving forward with the Lake Drive Shoreline Action Plan (Action Plan) with the goal of resolving longstanding shoreline title issues along Lake Drive North and East. Through the process, the Town's goal is to provide about 350 eligible property owners with the opportunity to gain clear title to the shoreline land adjacent to their residential property.

Beach Associations within the Action Plan Area

Beach associations are vital community groups involved in maintaining and conserving shoreline land along Lake Drive.

In addition to eligible property owners, the Town has identified about 27 beach associations that exclusively use shoreline land within the Action Plan Area. Ownership uncertainties around exclusive shoreline use can pose significant challenges. Without clear title, the Town cannot issue building permits in most cases. Unclear ownership can also present a liability risk. The simplest example is matters involving personal injury.

In September 2023, Town staff shared a report with Council that set out several possible approaches to land used by beach associations within the Action Plan Area. Following an engagement process with beach association members, Council will determine how to move forward.

Engaging with Beach Association Members

The Town is engaging with beach association members to provide information about land management approaches within the Action Plan Area, and to listen to and collect feedback and concerns. This feedback will significantly influence and guide Council's decisions moving forward.

There are several opportunities to share feedback, including a virtual meeting held on December 7, open house events on December 12 and 15, and an online survey. **We strongly encourage beach association members to share feedback through the online survey by scanning the QR code.**



Staff will compile all feedback collected and share it with Council members in Q1 2024. Council will then determine next steps.



Exploring Land Management Options

Varied approaches were presented to Council in September 2023. One option may work for some, but not others. We understand that each beach association is unique. Note that there is no set number of options, or set number of times one options can be used. The Town appreciates that different approaches may work for different beach associations.

Land Management Options

Long-Term Leases*

- The Town would retain ownership of shoreline land and enter into long-term lease agreements with beach associations.
- Beach associations would continue to exclusively use, manage, and maintain land, while building a lasting relationship with the Town.
- This option would help foster responsible, long-term engagement between the Town and beach associations.

Selling of Land*

- The Town would transfer ownership of land not needed for the road allowance to beach associations.
- Beach associations would have control over the land and be responsible for its long-term management and maintenance.
- This option would create opportunities for positive changes and community investment, encouraging community involvement and pride in ownership.

**Note that both long-term leases and selling of land would require beach associations to be incorporated as not-for-profits.*

Federation of Beach Associations

- A beach association federation would involve the formation of a unified entity that brings together all beach associations operating within the Action Plan Area.
- The federation could be overseen by the Town and would serve as a collective body to manage and maintain shoreline areas.
- A federation would either collectively own the land or lease it from the Town, creating unity and collaboration amongst associations.

Public Parkland

- The Town would retain ownership of shoreline land within the Action Plan Area and be responsible for its management and maintenance.
- This would allow the Town to address limited public access to the lake, creating accessible and communal spaces for all to enjoy.

Status Quo

- Maintaining the status quo would mean keeping things as they are currently.
- This would uphold familiar practices and arrangements, however, confusion around land ownership would remain.

