

**Summary of Bridge Lake Park Management Planning meeting
Interlakes Community Centre, October 7, 2015**

Values expressed by participants:

- The area has a high diversity of birds.
- Archaeology sites are located on at least two of the islands, and likely more sites on other islands or mainland, with need for protection.
- Geology of the lake area is different from other lakes, with the potential for summary, interpretation and study.
- Hiking trails: there is a need for more continuous trails; clear windfall; bring up to standards; direction signs needed; multi-use trails for hiking, horse and biking, with consideration for restricting all or some trails to hiking only.
- Education: There is opportunity for interpretation, signs, kiosk, self-interpretive trails.
- Access to Stack Lakes for kayak and canoe by providing a portage trail from Bridge Lake; also hiking trails to the lakes.
- The park has good sites to provide a picnic area.
- Leave park largely undeveloped, with trails only on mainland, not on islands; consider park within the context of the larger area that is almost all private land and subject to development, making park more valuable as undeveloped and wild within this matrix.
- Park would have value as a “wilderness” on the lake, maintaining a remote feeling and viewscape within surrounding private lands

Issues identified:

- Hunting: Not safe due to trails, visitors and nearby residential areas. The park should be no hunting and posted with appropriate signs.
- Winter access to park and Crystal Lake (not in park) to the south; the park should have gate open and road plowed so there is access to parking and snowmobiles.
- Drinking water: This is a high priority, with the need for a new water system; or at least use the existing water system for non-potable water; what is the lake water quality; can drinking water be taken directly from lake?
- Enforcement: Need more of a presence by Cos and BC Parks.
- Tree cutting and fires; risk of fires on local community needs to be assessed.
- ATVs and snowmobiles: Opportunities exist elsewhere nearby, so no need to have in park.
- Consider length of campground season (now May 15 to Oct. 1).
- Swimming area should be provided at a site other than the boat launch, with dedicated wharf and change room; there is also potential for swimming at Centennial area.

- Need promotion of Bridge Lake area, with the park highlighted as a resident and tourist asset.
- Consider opportunities for community involvement in park management.
- Need for garbage containers, outhouses.
- Protection of wildlife sites (nests, denning, feeding and wintering areas), habitat and potential disturbance needs to be considered.
- Disturbance on islands needs to be addressed; consider impact of activities on water birds.
- BC Parks input to maintaining fisheries values (habitat preservation, angling opportunities).
- Boat launch ramp should be repaired and improved; parking for boat launch and access needs improvement. Consider in relation to other potential boat launches provided on MOTI access points.