Foundations of Cottage Culture

Methodology Report
from a Survey of Cottage Owners at Norman Lake, British Columbia

Prepared by

Julia Schwamborn and Greg Halseth
Community Development Institute
University of Northern British Columbia

December 2010
# Table of Contents

List of Figures ................................................................................................................. ii
Acknowledgements ........................................................................................................... iii
Availability ......................................................................................................................... iv
Contact Information ......................................................................................................... iv

1.0 Project Description ................................................................................................. 1
2.0 Methodology ............................................................................................................. 6

References ....................................................................................................................... 8
Appendix A – Questionnaire Cover Letter ..................................................................... 9
Appendix B – Questionnaire .......................................................................................... 11

# List of Figures

Figure 1.1: Map of Norman Lake ................................................................................... 2
Figure 1.2: Norman Lake – Dahl Lake ........................................................................... 3
Figure 1.3: Dahl Lake Provincial Park ............................................................................. 4
Figure 1.4: Cluculz Lake Watershed .............................................................................. 5
Acknowledgements

This summer, a research team from the Community Development Institute (CDI) at the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC) distributed surveys among the cottage property owners of Norman Lake, British Columbia with the purpose of addressing two research questions. The first explores “what ‘human-nature’ relationships attract cottagers to their second home properties”; the second examines “changing and conflicting cottage cultures”.

We wish to thank the Norman Lake cottagers who took the time to fill out the questionnaire and return it to us. Their response and enthusiasm demonstrate the importance which the issues addressed in the survey have within the community.

Special thanks to George and Shannon MacKay, who personally distributed the surveys and supported the development of this study, to Rosemary Raygada for her assistance with entering data, to Laura Ryser for assisting with the preparation of the survey and the database, and to Kyle Kusch for providing the map of Norman Lake and the surrounding area.

Greg Halseth and Julia Schwamborn
Prince George, BC
December 2010
Availability

Copies of the Summary Report “Foundations of Cottage Culture” have been deposited at the UNBC Geoffrey Weller Library and have been distributed to the Norman Lake Association and the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George.

All related reports can also be accessed on the CDI website:
http://www.unbc.ca/cdi/research.html


Contact Information

For further information or questions about this topic and the project, feel free to contact Greg Halseth, Acting Director of UNBC’s Community Development Institute.

Greg Halseth
Geography Program
University of Northern BC
Prince George, BC
V2N 4Z9

Phone: 250-960-5826
Fax: 250-960-6533
Email: halseth@unbc.ca
http://web.unbc.ca/geography/faculty/greg
http://www.unbc.ca/cdi
1.0 Project Description

Recreational cottage properties are a common part of the rural Canadian landscape. This study is interested in understanding the changing nature of cottage property development and use. The goal of this study is to gain a better understanding of the human and natural landscape connections that attract cottagers to their recreational properties, and also of the changing nature of cottaging communities. In addition to this study at Norman Lake, a companion study is underway in the ‘Cottage Country’ lakes area of central Finland.

Surveys were distributed among cottage residents of Norman Lake with the purpose of addressing two research questions. The first explores what ‘human-nature’ relationships attract cottagers to their second home properties; the second examines changing and conflicting cottage cultures.

The work was carried out by a research team from the Community Development Institute (CDI) at UNBC with the goal to understand the changing nature of cottage property development and nascent land use conflicts that may result. Funding was provided by the CDI.

Table 1.1 Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 2010</td>
<td>Project planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>UNBC Research Ethics Board process completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2010</td>
<td>Questionnaires hand-delivered to all cottage properties along Norman Lake, BC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 2010</td>
<td>Cut-off date for acceptance of completed questionnaires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Data compilation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Data analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 2010</td>
<td>Data analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 2010</td>
<td>Draft Final Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 2010</td>
<td>Review and editing process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 2010</td>
<td>Publication of Final Report</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Figure 1.1: Map of Norman Lake
Map Credit: Kyle Kusch
Case Study Introduction

Figure 1.1 shows the location of Norman Lake within the Province of British Columbia and specifically between Prince George and Vanderhoof. It is part of the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George, Electoral Area C.

According to 2006 BC Statistics census data, Prince George has a population of 70,981, and the Vanderhoof population is at 4,064. The driving distances from downtown Prince George as well as from downtown Vanderhoof to Norman Lake are 64km respectively (Google Maps).

Year-round road access to Norman Lake is limited to Norman Lake Road connecting to Highway 16 about 43km west of Prince George, leading approximately 20km south from the highway, then west along the north shore of the lake, and connecting to the Forest Service road system approximately 4km northwest of Norman Lake (Google Maps; BC Parks DL). Norman Lake Road is featured in Figure 1.1 showing the connection to the Highway, as well as in Figures 1.2 and 1.3 situated along the north shore of the lake. There is no public transportation to the lake. The nearest VIA Rail station is located in downtown Prince George. The closest public airport is YXS in Prince George, which provides passenger services mostly for in-province air travel (Prince George Airport Authority).

Figure 1.2 Norman Lake – Dahl Lake
Source: Digital Topo-Maps
Dahl Creek connects the eastern end of Norman Lake to Dahl Lake (Figure 1.2; iMapBC). Figure 1.3 shows that the southeast shore of Norman Lake is adjacent to Dahl Lake Provincial Park, a 1,583 ha day-use park established in 1981 (BC Parks 2003).

**Figure 1.3 Dahl Lake Provincial Park**
Source: iMapBC

In a 1992 study, Carmichael reports 138 residences along the north shore of Norman Lake and recommends no further development of the lake area. The 2004 Lakeshore Guidelines of the Regional District classify Norman Lake as _Limited Development_ for its “high aesthetic, recreational, or an ecological importance such as fish or wildlife values that could be negatively impacted by significant development but can handle a limited amount of subdivision. Generally, these lakes have road access (may be seasonal) and no electricity is available” (p.31 & 36). An additional comment points out that development has reached its maximum.
Approximately 19km west of Norman Lake and just south of Highway 16, Cluculz Lake is the closest lake with lakefront property development. Cluculz Lake is roughly 20km long and has a shoreline of approximately 53km (BC Volunteer Lake Monitoring). Land use in the Cluculz Lake watershed area “includes lakeshore development, forestry and agriculture” (p.2). Of 659 lakeshore lots reported in 1999, close to 460 featured summer or permanent residences. Like Norman Lake, Cluculz Lake attracts Prince George and Vanderhoof residents for recreational activities. See Figure 1.4 for land use around Cluculz Lake and in its entire watershed.

Figure 1.4 Cluculz Lake Watershed
Source: BC Volunteer Lake Monitoring, p.2.
2.0 Methodology

This research involved a questionnaire survey of cottage property owners along Norman Lake, west of Prince George, BC. The purpose of the questionnaire was to collect information to address the core research questions noted in the project description.

Survey Implementation

The survey was developed in the spring of 2010 in concert with a research team at the University of Eastern Finland. The 106 questionnaires were hand delivered to all properties along Norman Lake early in June 2010. Completed surveys could be returned by mail through an enclosed postage paid envelope or dropped into a locked return mailbox at a designated property along the lake. The survey was accompanied by a cover letter that described the purpose of the project and outlined the Research Ethics Board issues (Appendix A). This included outlining the voluntary nature of participating in the study, as well as issues of confidentiality and anonymity.

A total of 50 surveys were completed and returned. This results in a response rate of approximately 47 percent (Table 2.1). For a survey of this type, this response rate is considered very good. In statistical terms, a response rate of approximately 50 percent in a sample of this size yields a typical error rate of +/- 6 to 9 percent, 19 times out of 20.

Table 2.1 Response Rate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Distributed surveys</th>
<th>106</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total completed surveys</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Response rate</td>
<td>47.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Survey Content

The survey addressed two research questions exploring the relationships between humans and nature which influence and attract cottagers, and the changes arising within cottage culture (Appendix B).

The survey was divided into six thematic parts. Part A asked for information on cottage property features and the respondents’ use of their property. Status and duration of ownership, property and cottage size, built-in services and amenities, as well as the respondents’ ties to the area, place of permanent residency, and frequency of their
cottage property visits were explored. For most questions in this part, respondents were
given a selection of options to choose from with opportunities to further elaborate on
their answers.

Part B contained more open ended questions about environmental services and
impacts of cottaging. Respondents were prompted to give information on their use of,
and rate their satisfaction with, water, sewage, and waste disposal services, and about
their employment of environmentally friendly activities and features at their cottage.

In Part C, respondents were asked to rate the importance of cottage activities as well as
their personal connections with the area. They were also given a chance to describe
their favourite activities, name cottage activities that are missing, and list negative
issues that impact their ability to enjoy their cottage setting.

Part D of the survey focused on the cottage community, community activities,
community composition and cohesion, use of local community services, and conflicts
within the community.

Part E collected information about the gender, age, marital status, education, income
and employment status of the respondents, while Part F provided an open ended
opportunity for respondents to address any issues that were not covered in the survey.

Analysis

In general, the reported results give totals for respondent answers to various questions.
Responses to closed ended questions were entered into an SPSS database in order to
complete a quantitative analysis. In undertaking an analysis of these responses, it is
typical to explore facets that may explain possible differences in responses across the
survey sample. As a result, the analysis used a set of evaluative variables, including
household income and employment status. These differences are highlighted in the text.
For household income, we compared households reporting annual incomes of less than
$45,000, households reporting an annual income between $45,000 and $95,000, and
those reporting more than $95,000. For employment status, we contrasted those
respondents who were retired with those still in the labour force. Throughout the report,
reference is made to these evaluative variables where they point out differences from
the ‘overall’ pattern of responses.

For open ended questions, a qualitative analysis was done to identify, code, and
categorize themes from the data. Once themes were identified, responses were tallied
and entered into qualitative tables consisting of theme headings and sub-headings. The
theme headings are bolded and have a numerical count beside them of the total
number of comments received for that particular topic. Under each theme are sub-
headings with a numerical count of the total number of respondents who raised a
specific issue.
References


Hello,

Recreational cottage properties are a common part of the rural Canadian landscape. This study is interested in understanding the changing nature of cottage property development and use. The goal of this study is to gain a better understanding of the human and natural landscape connections that attract cottagers to their recreational properties, and also the changing nature of cottaging communities. In addition to this study at Norman Lake, a companion study is underway in the ‘Cottage Country’ lakes area of central Finland. To accomplish this task, we need your help in completing the enclosed questionnaire.

You will find that the questionnaire is divided into several parts. Your participation in this study is entirely voluntary and, as such, you may choose not to participate. If you do participate, you may choose to not answer any questions that make you uncomfortable. Ideally, I would like you to answer all of the questions which apply to you.

I would like to stress that any information you provide will be kept confidential. If you examine the questionnaire you will see that there is no way to identify individual respondents and no information will be published which may be used to identify individuals. All information shared in this questionnaire will be held in strict confidence by the research team. All records will be kept in a locked room at UNBC and will be accessible only to the research team. The information will be kept until the final project report is complete. After this time, all questionnaire materials will be destroyed.

The questionnaire is being hand delivered to all properties along Norman Lake early in June 2010. This study is being conducted by the UNBC Community Development Institute. The questionnaire will take about 20 minutes to complete. A pre-paid return envelope is enclosed for your convenience – or you can drop the completed survey into the locked reply box at cottage property 100.

I would like to thank you for taking the time to help us with our research, your response will be of great assistance. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. This project has been assessed by the UNBC Research Ethics Board. The project team does not consider there to be any risks to participation. Any complaints about this project should be directed to the Office of Research, UNBC (250) 960-5820; email is reb@unbc.ca.

Upon completion of the project, we will provide a summary report to all who received the blank questionnaire package.

Sincerely,

Greg Halseth
Professor, Geography Program
Canada Research Chair in Rural and Small Town Studies
Director, Community Development Institute at UNBC
University of Northern British Columbia
3333 University Way
Prince George, B.C. V2N 4Z9
tel: (250) 960-5826 fax: (250) 960-6533 email: halseth@unbc.ca
Appendix B – Questionnaire
This questionnaire explores issues related to cottage properties. All properties along Norman Lake received a hand delivered questionnaire package. While your participation is voluntary, your assistance in answering the following questions would be greatly appreciated.

The survey has six sections. Most of the questions may be answered by simply placing an “X” in the appropriate box; other questions ask for written answers.

All responses are confidential.

The survey should take about 20 minutes.
Once completed, please use the reply envelope or drop at cottage lot #100.

Part A: Cottage property description and use

These first questions are about your cottage property and its use.

Do you own or rent your cottage property?

[ ] Own
[ ] Rent
[ ] Other explain: ________________________________

If the property is owned, is it held:
[ ] By your household
[ ] By a group of households
[ ] Other explain: ________________________________

Did you build the cottage yourself?

[ ] Yes
[ ] No
[ ] Other explain: ________________________________

How long have you owned your cottage? ____________ years

Are you originally from the area?

[ ] Yes
[ ] No
Is your spouse/partner originally from the area?
   [ ] Yes
   [ ] No

How many years have you been coming to Norman Lake?
   __________ years

Why did you choose this area? How important were the following reasons?

   1=not important at all
   2=not very important
   3=somewhat important
   4=quite important
   5=very important

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friends/relatives in the area</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attractive natural landscape/area</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Possibility to engage in certain activities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good supply of services</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friendly community/neighbourhood</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Born in the area/roots in the area</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inheritance</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good location/accessibility from permanent residence</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attractive property/good price-quality ratio</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good investment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous experiences of/visits in the area as a tourist</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other, please specify</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Do you (does your household) own or use other second homes/leisure properties?
   [ ] Yes Where: ________________________
   [ ] No

Do you own RVs / boats / ATVs?
   [ ] Yes
   [ ] No

Location (town) of your permanent residence:
   ____________________________
How many days per month (on average) do you spend at your cottage?

January   days/month
February  days/month
March     days/month
April     days/month
May       days/month
June      days/month
July      days/month
August    days/month
September days/month
October   days/month
November  days/month
December  days/month

How many people regularly use your cottage?   

Do you or a member of your household do distance work at the cottage?

[   ] Yes, regularly
[   ] Yes, occasionally
[   ] No

How do you think you’ll be visiting your cottage during the next 5-10 years (choose one)

[   ] I’ve plans/I’ve decided to move there permanently
[   ] I’d like to move there permanently
[   ] I’ll use the cottage more often
[   ] I’ll use the cottage like now
[   ] I’ll use the cottage less
[   ] I’ll give up the place
[   ] Cannot say

What is the approximate size of this cottage property (acres)?  

What is the cottage floor area (sq. ft.)?  

Lake cottage survey 2010
Over the last 5 years, have you made any improvements/major investments in the cottage structure?
[ ] Yes
[ ] No
If yes, please list:
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Is your cottage winterized/can the cottage be used year-round?
[ ] Yes
[ ] No
[ ] No, but I am planning to winterize it

Services / equipment at the cottage (mark all that apply)
[ ] Electricity
[ ] Running water
[ ] Sewerage
[ ] Indoor Bathroom
[ ] TV
[ ] Computer with Internet access
[ ] Washing machine
[ ] Dishwasher
[ ] Boat dock

What is the distance from your cottage to your permanent residence (kilometers and/or meters):
Part B: Environmental Services and Impacts

This next set of questions asks about environmental issues at the cottage

Do you think cottaging (in general or as a way of life) poses negative environmental impacts?

[ ] Yes
[ ] No
[ ] Cannot say

If yes, please explain why?

________________________________________________________________________________________

Have you noticed any environmental problems in the cottage area?

[ ] Yes
[ ] No

If yes, please identify the problems and who is responsible for them?

_____________________________________________________________________________________

Please ‘rate’ how environmentally sound you consider your own cottage lifestyle?

[ ] not at all environmentally sound
[ ] not very environmentally sound
[ ] somewhat environmentally sound
[ ] environmentally sound
[ ] very environmentally sound

Explain why? ________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________________

How do you normally travel to your cottage property (i.e.: private car, car pool, taxi etc.)?

___________________________________________________________________________________

When do you usually visit your cottage (choose all appropriate options)

[ ] Occasionally
[ ] Weekends
[ ] Weekdays
[ ] Holidays
[ ] Summer vacation
What is the principal source of water supply on the property?

________________________________________________________________________

What is the method of sewage waste disposal on this property?

________________________________________________________________________

What is the method of solid waste disposal on this property / in this area?

________________________________________________________________________

How satisfied are you with the following services? Please circle one.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Very Dissatisfied</th>
<th>Dissatisfied</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Satisfied</th>
<th>Very Satisfied</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Water supply</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sewage waste disposal</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solid waste disposal</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional District services to cottagers</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Do you have / do you use any of the following at your cottage?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Compost</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recycling</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solar panels</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy-efficient cottage design</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy-efficient windows</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy-efficient appliances</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water saving technology (i.e. shower / toilet)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use locally grown vegetables</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avoid use of pesticides / herbicides</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lake cottage survey 2010
Part C: “Human-nature” relationships that attract cottagers

This set of questions explores how you use the cottage and the landscape. They also ask about what attracts you to your cottage property.

How important are the following activities at the cottage?
1 = not important at all
2 = not very important
3 = somewhat important
4 = quite important
5 = very important

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Garden, lawn, vegetable garden</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building/renovation/maintenance</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firewood, forest work</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing/hunting</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picking berries/mushrooms</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Being outdoors in the nature</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snowmobiles, ATVs, mopeds</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waterskiing, jet skis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motorboating</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hiking</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canoeing, rowing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jogging, walking</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skiing/snowshoeing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eating and drinking, barbecue etc.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watching TV</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Being idle</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What kind of activities would you like to engage in at the cottage / what kind of opportunities for activities are missing in the area?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

What is the best and most important reason for spending time at the cottage?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Are there any issues that negatively impact your ability to enjoy your cottage property?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

How much do you feel “at home” in the following places? (Please mark the number below that best corresponds to your answer).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Strongly not at home</th>
<th>Not at home</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>At home</th>
<th>Strongly at home</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Your cottage</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cottage community/village</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanent residence</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of your permanent residence</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reflect on your personal relationship with the cottage area/place. Mark the number that best corresponds to your answer.

1 = totally disagree
2 = somewhat disagree
3 = do not disagree or agree
4 = somewhat agree
5 = totally agree

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This is the best place for what I like to do</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No other place can compare to this area</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This place is very important to me</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I would be sad if I couldn’t come here any longer</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Here I can be myself</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This place expresses who I am</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I feel like I belong here</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I’d be ready to make sacrifices to help to protect this place</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have no particular feelings for this place</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There are sad memories related to this place</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I get bored here</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Part D: Cottage community**

This set of questions ask about your cottage “community”.

Do you or your spouse/partner have relatives/friends in the cottage area?
- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No

Do you know most of your neighbours (including permanent residents and other cottagers)?
- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No

Do you participate in the local associations (such as…)?
- [ ] Yes, please name: __________________________
- [ ] No

How often do you use the following local services?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Never</th>
<th>Sometimes</th>
<th>Nearly every time I visit the cottage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grocery store</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks and other natural sights</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snowplow service</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renovation and construction services</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plumbing and electrical services</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health services</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local events</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restaurant services</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buying firewood</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How active are your contacts with the following groups in the area? How often are you on average in contact with the following groups in the area?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Never</th>
<th>Sometimes</th>
<th>Time-to-time</th>
<th>Often</th>
<th>Very Often</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Permanent residents</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cottagers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tourists</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visiting friends</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relatives living in the area</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Would you like to have more contacts/socialize more with the following groups?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much Less</th>
<th>Less</th>
<th>Same</th>
<th>More</th>
<th>Much More</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanent residents</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cottagers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tourists</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visiting friends</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How would you describe your relationship with the following groups?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Very Bad</th>
<th>Bad</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Very Good</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanent residents</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cottagers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tourists</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How important is it for you to have good contacts with the following groups?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Not at all Important</th>
<th>Not very Important</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Quite Important</th>
<th>Very Important</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanent residents</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cottagers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tourists</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In case you have been in contact with the local residents, please evaluate how much it has been about the following things:

1=not at all
2=a little
3=somewhat
4=mostly
5=very much

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>They've visited me/I've visited them</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighbourly help</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local events</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Through hobbies/activities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Through collective water supply, sewer, or waste disposal services</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Through collective road maintenance</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saying hello occasionally</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other, please specify_________________________________________</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Do you know if there is discontent between certain groups/people in the cottage area?

[   ] Yes
[   ] No

If yes, what is/was the dispute over (e.g. road maintenance, property borders, land use):

__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

Have you personally had disagreement/discontent/conflict with somebody or have you been disturbed by other’s behaviour or plans in the area (e.g. road maintenance, property borders...)?

[   ] Yes
[   ] No

If yes, what is/was the dispute over:

__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

Has cottage/second home tourism become more important/significant in the area?

[   ] Yes
[   ] No

If the amount of cottages was to increase in the area, how do you think it would affect the following things?

Business opportunities
Crime
Noise and pollution
Community cohesion
Road & infrastructure maintenance
Recreation facilities/opportunities
My own attachment to the area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Make Much Worse</th>
<th>Make Worse</th>
<th>No Change</th>
<th>Improve</th>
<th>Considerably Improve</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Part E: Socio-demographic information

*In this section we would like to ask some questions about you and your family. They are very much like the questions asked in the Canada Census and they help to create a profile of the cottager community. As a reminder, the answers are completely confidential.*

Members of the household (mark details of children who live with you)

Person 1:  
[ ] Female  
[ ] Male  
Year of birth:_________________

Person 2:  
[ ] Female  
[ ] Male  
Year of birth:_________________

Person 3:  
[ ] Female  
[ ] Male  
Year of birth:_________________

Person 4:  
[ ] Female  
[ ] Male  
Year of birth:_________________

Person 5:  
[ ] Female  
[ ] Male  
Year of birth:_________________

Person 6:  
[ ] Female  
[ ] Male  
Year of birth:_________________

(if there are more than six people, you can continue on the reverse side)

What is your marital status?  
[ ] Single (never married)  
[ ] Married/Common-law  
[ ] Separated/Divorced  
[ ] Widowed  
[ ] Other: Please specify _________________________________

What is your highest level of educational attainment?  
[ ] High school diploma/GED  
[ ] Trade/vocational/technical institute certificate or diploma  
[ ] Community college/ diploma  
[ ] University degree  
[ ] Post-university studies

What is your spouse/partner’s highest level of educational attainment?  
[ ] High school diploma/GED  
[ ] Trade/vocational/technical institute certificate or diploma  
[ ] Community college/ diploma  
[ ] University degree  
[ ] Post-university studies

What is your annual household income (before taxes), including income from all members of your household? (*Please mark ONE*).  
[ ] Up to $20,000  
[ ] $20,000 to $44,999  
[ ] $45,000 to $69,999  
[ ] $70,000 to $94,999  
[ ] $95,000 to $119,999  
[ ] $120,000 to $144,999  
[ ] $145,000 or more
What is your **primary** employment status? *(Please mark ONE).*

- [ ] Working full-time
- [ ] Working part-time
- [ ] Self-employed full-time
- [ ] Self-employed part-time
- [ ] Not employed
- [ ] Student (including students who are working part-time)
- [ ] Homemaker
- [ ] Retired

- [ ] Other ____________________

Profession: ____________________

What is your spouse/partner’s **primary** employment status? *(Please mark ONE).*

- [ ] Working full-time
- [ ] Working part-time
- [ ] Self-employed full-time
- [ ] Self-employed part-time
- [ ] Not employed
- [ ] Student (including students who are working part-time)
- [ ] Homemaker
- [ ] Retired

- [ ] Other ____________________

Profession: ____________________

**Type of permanent residence**

- [ ] Detached house
- [ ] Apartment building
- [ ] Row house
- [ ] Other

Floor area

[ ]
Part F: Concluding Questions

From your experiences as the owner/user of a cottage property, do you have anything else on this topic that has not been touched on here that you would like to comment on?