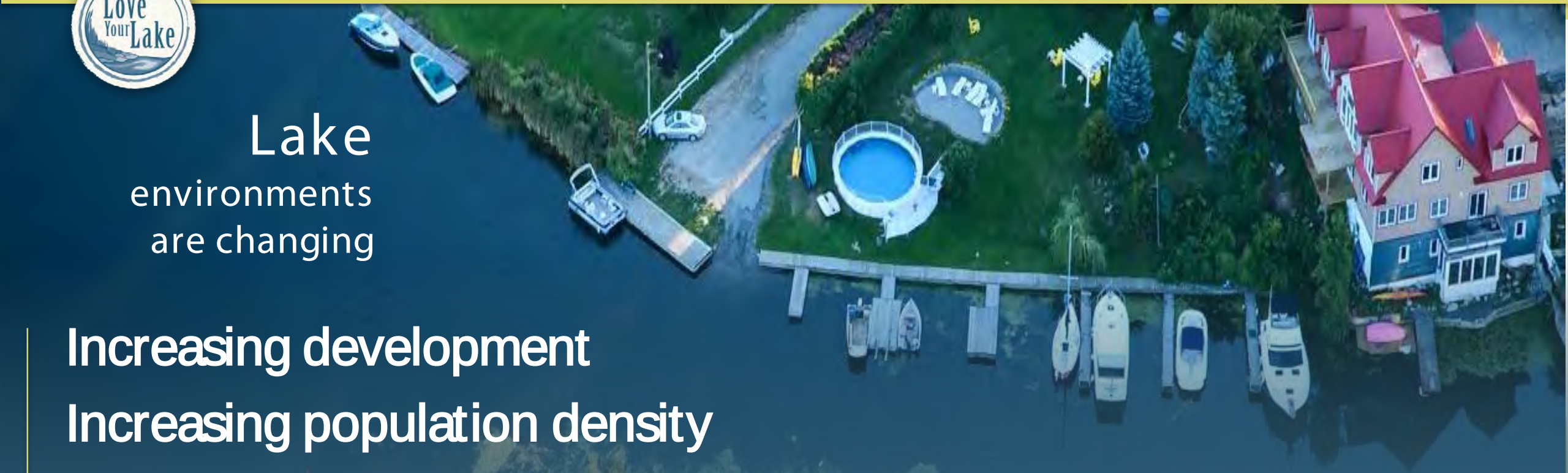
Healthy Shorelines for Healthy Lakes

Lakes are Facing Challenges



Lake environments are changing

- Increasing development
- Increasing population density
- Increasing resource & recreation use
- Decreasing wildlife habitat
- Concern about water quality

Lakes are Facing Challenges

Climate and Chaos

- More frequent floods
- Increasing risk of erosion
- Property damage

Shoreline Management Framework

Legislation:

- Federal: Fisheries Act, Navigable Waters Act
- Provincial: Riparian Areas Protection Act, Water Sustainability Act
- Local Government: Official Community Plans and Bylaws

Non-Regulatory Mechanisms:

- Stewardship

Shoreline Management Framework (Okanagan)

Okanagan Basin Water Board:

- Okanagan Basin coordination and leadership
- LIDAR Floodplain mapping project
- Working with others to develop a consistent approach to shoreline development e.g. consistent flood construction level
- Water Stewardship Council – a multi-party network focussed on water sustainability

Shoreline Management Framework

Research and Restoration:

- BC Lake Stewardship Society
- Foreshore Inventory Mapping
- Greenshores; Stewardship Centre for BC
- Variety of generalized stewardship and outreach products: e.g. Lakeshore Living Guide; BC Nature's Living by Water
- Okanagan-Similkameen Stewardship Society
- Love Your Lake – a Natural Niche

What Is Love Your Lake?

- Packaged program transferable to any lake
- Encourages lake level action for healthier shorelines
- Includes marketing and communications materials

What is Love Your Lake?

- Shoreline owner contact
- Shoreline assessments
- Personalized property reports
- Lake summary report
- Online resources at LoveYourLake.ca

Who is Involved?

Watersheds Canada/ Canadian Wildlife Federation

Develop the program / Provide training / Create materials / Provide secure database

Regional Organizations
Deliver the program / Hire staff & volunteers
Perform assessments / Enter data and edit reports

Lake Groups & Shoreline Property Owners
Volunteer / Participate in shoreline naturalizations

Who is involved in the Okanagan? (so far)

Love Your Lake

Southern Interior Land Trust

CANADIAN WILDLIFE FEDERATION

Watersheds CANADA

VASEUX LAKE STEWARDSHIP ASSOCIATION
vaseuxsa@gmail.com
http://vaseuxlake.com

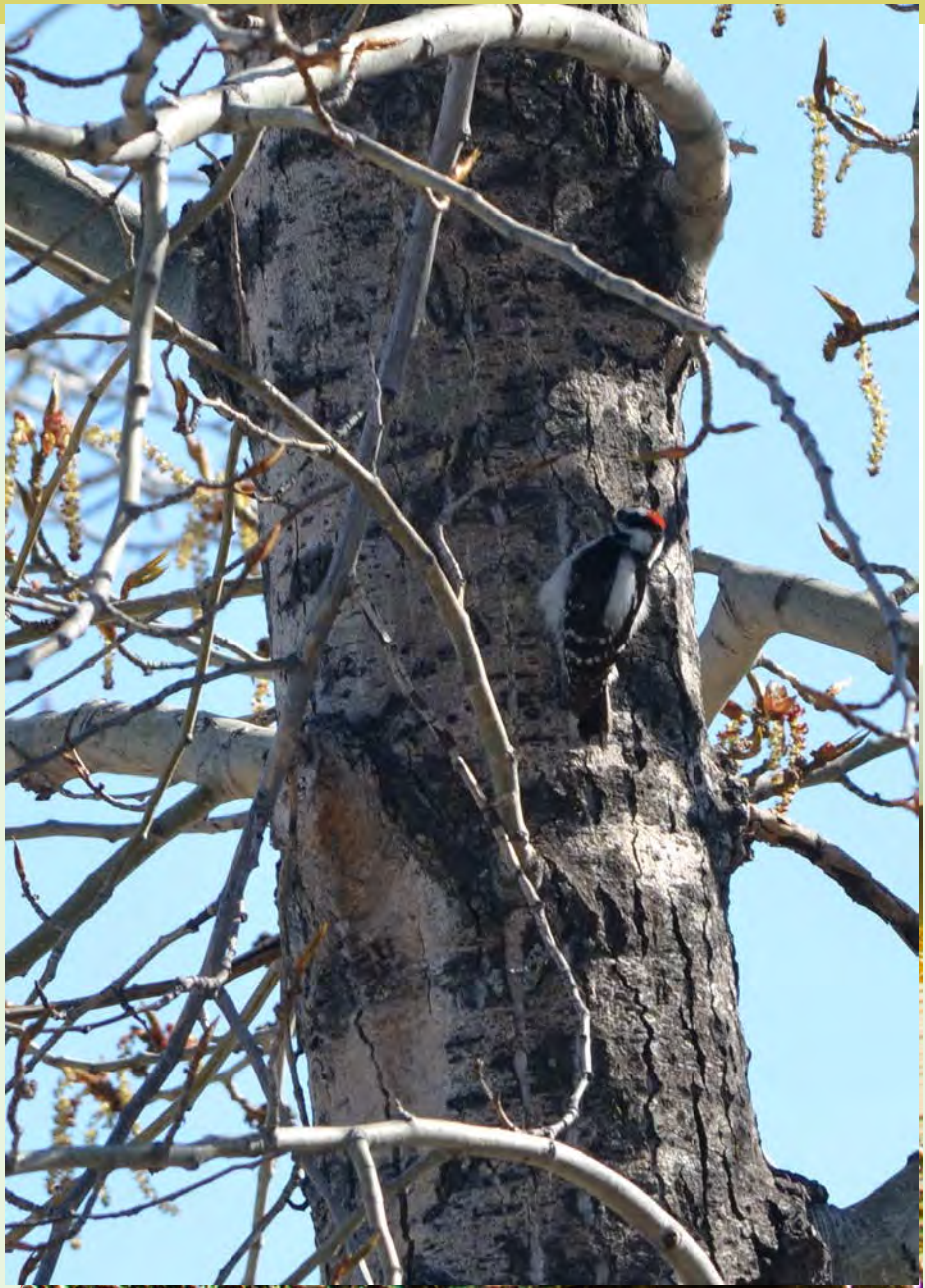
OSOYOOS LAKE WATER QUALITY SOCIETY

DISTRICT OF SUMMERLAND

SOUTH OKANAGAN CONSERVATION FUND

REGIONAL DISTRICT RDOS OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN

Okanagan Similkameen Stewardship

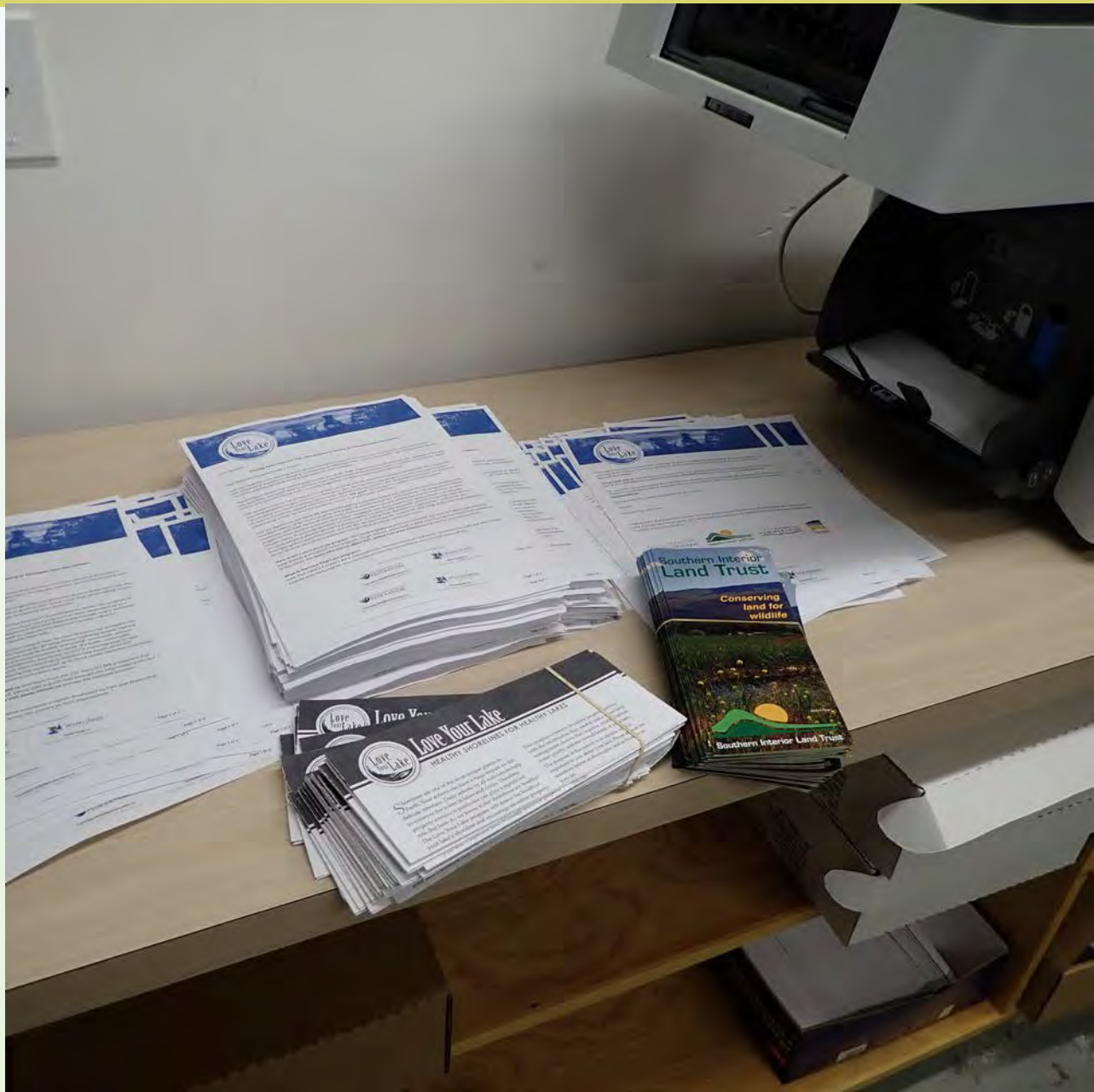


Benefits to Lake Associations, Regulators, Critters

- All shoreline property owners contacted
- Customized communications
- Access to lake summary report
- Property specific suggestions support action by individual property owners
- Enables shoreline property owners to reduce their reliance on government
- Suggests community-level stewardship activities that benefit lake health and wildlife

Love Your Lake Project Components

- Partnership agreements
- Introductory letter & values survey
- Shoreline assessments
- Data entry
- Values survey evaluation
- Personalized property reports
- Owner access code mailout
- Lake summary report
- On-the-ground engagement



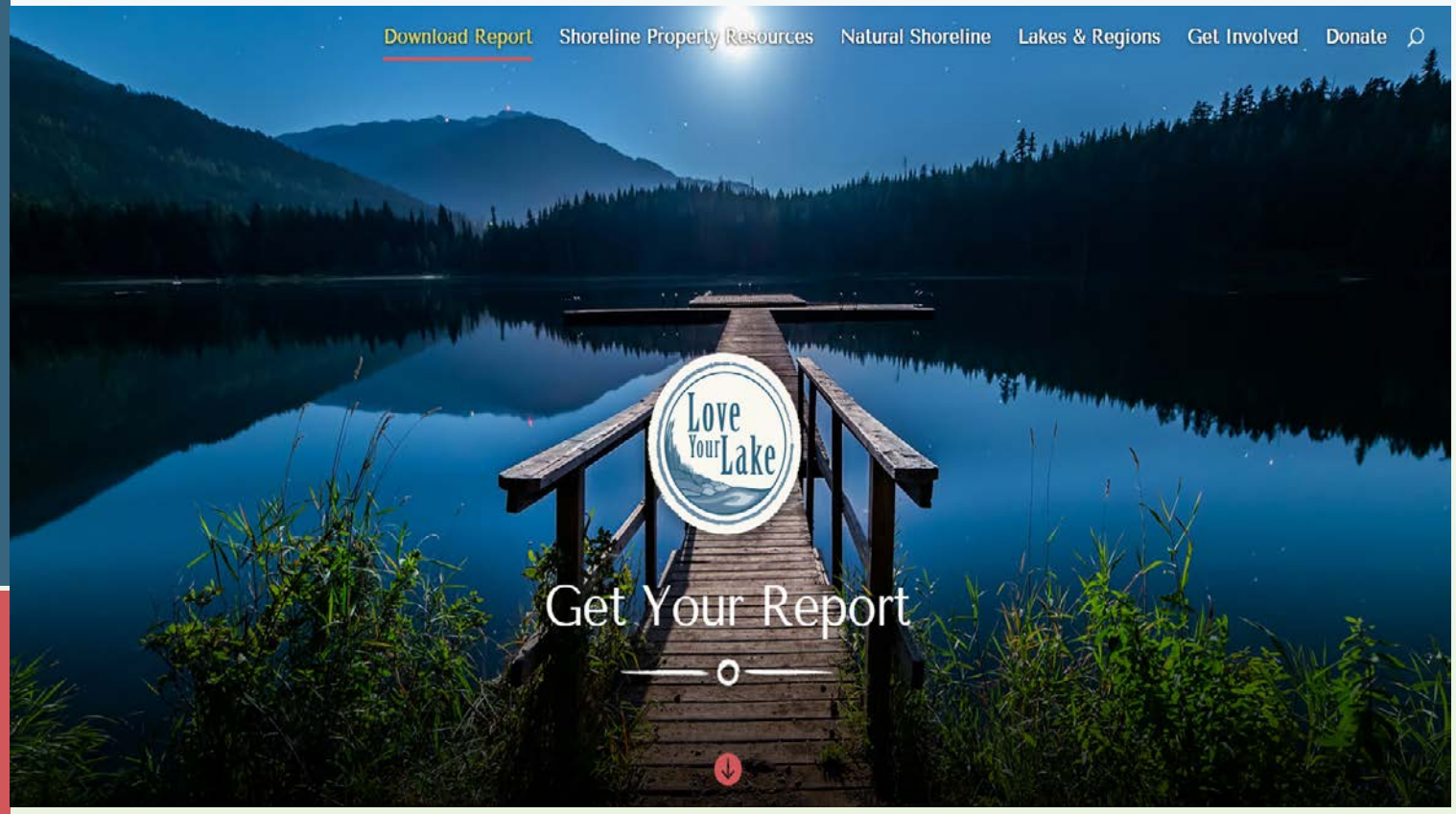
Survey Method

- Trained staff and volunteers
- Standardized protocol & datasheet
- From a boat – no disruption to shoreline property owners
- Observations only
  - Structures & docks
  - Erosion control structures
  - Vegetation
  - Habitat features
- Photograph for owner report

Personalized Shoreline Property Report

- Generated from the assessment data
- Personalized summary of observations
- Suggestions for voluntary actions
- Additional local resources to help with understanding issues and making responsible changes to property
- Educational, Not Regulatory

Report for Shoreline Landowners



- Unique Access Code delivered to each property
- Owner may download free PDF or order a bound hardcopy for $20.00
- Visit LoveYourLake.ca – to Download Report and learn more

Contributing Broadly to Watershed Benefits

- Targeted education & stewardship for lake health
- Wildlife habitat improvement and protection
- Data can be compared over time
- Long-term outcomes can easily be evaluated on a property-by-property basis

Contributing Broadly to Watershed Benefits

More Naturalized Shorelines

A naturalized shoreline is easy, cost-effective and low maintenance, and will conserve lake health and help wildlife to thrive—all while providing wonderful waterfront views.

Learn More at the The Love Your Lake Website

LoveYourLake.ca:

- Info about the program
- Info about shorelines
- Action checklist
- Regional contacts
- How to get involved
- And more!

Southern Interior Land Trust
www.siltrust.ca
Donate today!
Thank You