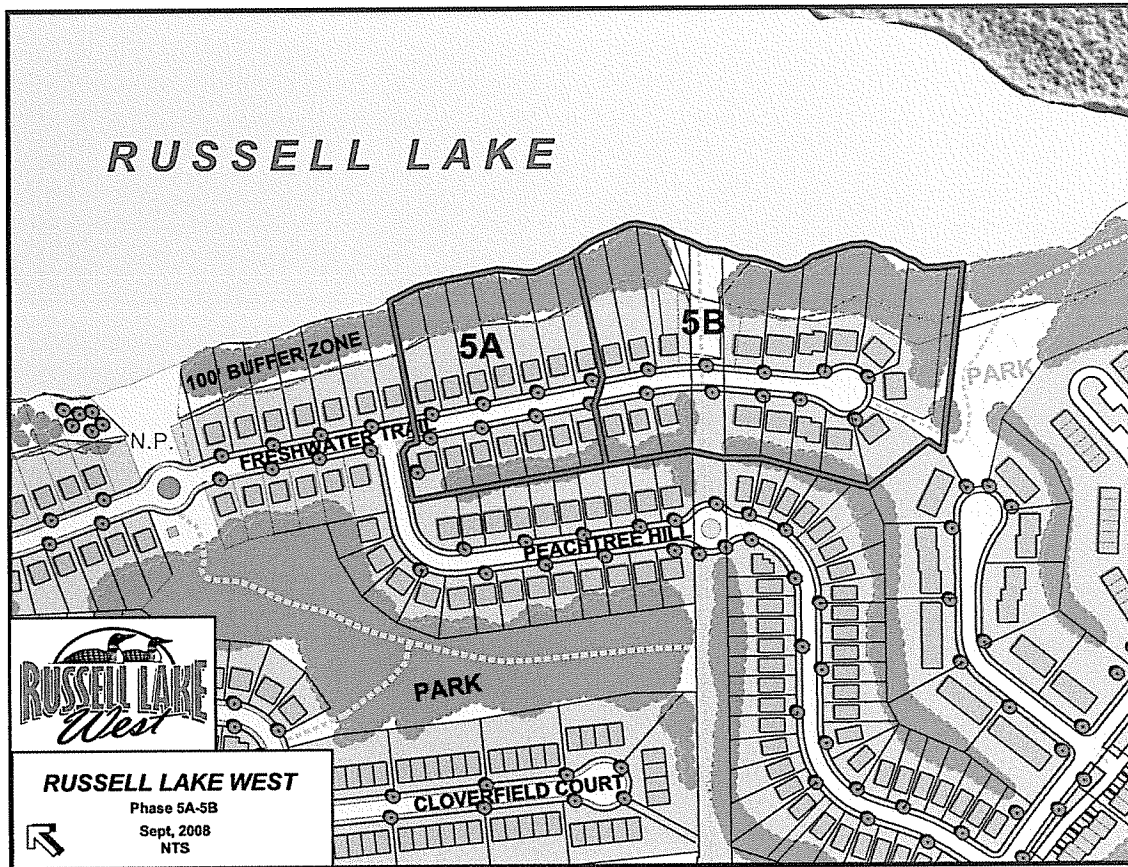


Russell Lake West Buffer Zone Management Plan Phase 5



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This is our third report on the Clayton Developments residential properties along Russell Lake West extending along the Freshwater Trail section to its terminus and comprises the areas shown on the map on the cover page. This report includes observations from site visits, July 10 and August 15, 2008 when pictures were taken to demonstrate the effectiveness of the Buffer Zone Management Plan to date

Scope of Project

The project was initiated in the spring of 2005 when Clayton Developments Ltd commissioned Environova Planning Group Inc. to prepare a Buffer Zone Management Plan to protect the important 100 ft. vegetation zone along the residential housing sites bordering the Russell Lake West lakefront. This report was Phase One followed by a second report in June of 2007, which covered the Phase Three section of Lake frontage properties. The work in both reports and this one as well involved identifying key trees both deciduous and coniferous species to be preserved, trees for selective thinning to allow better development of the remaining species. Trees that were windblown mostly left over from the aftermath of Hurricane Juan and not possible to reinstate were tagged for removal. A number of dead or dying trees were preserved to provide wildlife habitat.



100 ft. Buffer zone along Russell Lake West

General Comments and Site Observations

- On the July 10, 2008 visit, Andrew Alcorn, Coordinator of Construction Services at Clayton Developments and I trekked the remaining waterside Properties to the end of Freshwater Trail marking trees for removal (dead trees or selective thinning). The wood area bordering the lakefront comprises the section for Russell Lake West Buffer Zone Management Plan for Phase 5

• On August 15, 2008 I returned to the site to inspect the work of the woods contractor to date and to take some pictures. The clearing of selected trees was pretty well completed, and the vegetation had been chipped and spread throughout the ground area. There is a good quantity of hardwood species including native White Birch, Grey Birch, River Birch, Serviceberry, and Mountain Ash Red Oak, Red Maple and White Ash with sufficient growth space to develop better tree crowns.



After clearing on Phase five Section

As you can see from the above picture, there is pretty good visibility of the lake from this future residential lot. The picture below shows the forest bottom after clearing and chipping and spread over the forest ground.

With respect to the remaining softwood species there is a good selection of Native White Pine, Hemlock, Black and White spruce. These have had selected thinning of vegetation around them to allow better crown development. There are some examples shown on the two pictures located on the following page.

There appears to have been a good effort to preserve as much of the native ground covers (ferns, Bunchberries and wild Azaleas with good regeneration coming up through the mulched areas.



Buffer Zone after clearing and chipping completed



View from the top showing remaining hardwoods and conifers preserved after selected thinning and cleanup

Conclusions & Recommendations

The new homeowners along Phases One and Three have enjoyed the benefits of the Buffer Zone Management Plan. There have been a few major intrusions by overzealous persons desiring to open up their view. Protection of this 100 ft. buffer zone will require more monitoring by HRM staff to prevent any further serious intrusions. It is our understanding that these particular homeowners are being dealt with HRM representatives according to the applicable by-laws and enforcement regulations. As in our previous report, the recommendations outlined should continue to be followed with particular emphasis on monitoring the remaining work by an arborist. As before, disposal of diseased spruce wood possibly infected by the Brown Spruce Longhorn Beetle will have to be evaluated by the CFIA representatives.

The contractor that Clayton Developments has engaged to carry out the selective thinning and cleanup work has done an excellent job to date.



Along the water's edge on Phase Five below Freshwater Trail

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