

DOLOMITE LAKE “What We Heard”

*Summary of findings from the public
engagements held February 7th and 8th*



March 9th, 2018

Summary

The purpose of the open house sessions was to gather as much information about both the Dolomite Lake area itself and how people are currently using it. People were asked to mark up large maps of the area to show the location of areas of environmental interest and concerns, trails, structures, use, and other points of interest. People were also asked how often they used the area, for what purpose, what they liked and disliked, and what sort of improvements they envisioned.

Of the twenty-three (23) people who attended the three open house sessions, twenty-one (21) self-identified as Dolomite Lake cabin owners while two (2) were general interest attendees.

The sessions were led by two GNWT Department of Lands representatives and a consultant from Dillon Consulting Limited.



What people said about

A) *The Physical Elements of the Property*

- **The Lake is:**
 - prone to flooding when the Mackenzie River backflows – up to 10 feet in the spring
 - shallow on the northwest side / northwest side but deeper in the center
 - quiet when the water level at access point from the Mackenzie River is low
 - has a strong current
 - cloudy in the summer due to runoff from the quarry
- **Land areas in:**
 - the southwestern portion of the property are bare and not a good place for additional cabins
 - the southeast portion of the property is seldom used due to terrain and steep slopes
- **Area where Mackenzie enters Dolomite Lake can have thin ice in winter**
- **Shoreline around the lake is rocky**

B) *Wildlife, Fish, and Birds*

- **Known birds species include:**
 - Various ducks, geese and swans
 - Birds of prey – ospreys, eagles and falcons
- **Fish species include:**
 - Jackfish, Lake Trout and Inconnu
 - Some restrictions on fishing are in effect
- **Wildlife species include:**
 - Moose, caribou, fox and wolves



What people said about

C) Winter Uses

- **Snowmobiles**
 - Often used as a route rather than a destination
 - Annual Poker Rally hosted by the Legion
- **Cross country skiing**
- **Sled dogs**
 - Groomed trails leading from near Inuvik to Dolomite Lake Area
 - Groomed trails are used for walking and skiing
- **Snowshoeing**
- **New Year's bonfire on lake organized by cabin owners**
- **Tour company uses the area for winter picnics and overnight outings**



D) Summer Uses

- **Boating – many boats get to lake from the Mackenzie River**
 - Boating reaches a maximum number of 20-30 boats per day in the summer
- **Swimming**
 - Water in front of cliffs near quarry is deep for diving / swimming
- **Fishing – 1 fish per person per day allowed**
- **Berry picking near waterway from Mackenzie River**
- **Picnicking**
- **Dog walking**
- **Hiking but no developed/marked trails**
- **Tours – cabin owners take friends and family out to view wildlife and geology**
- **Parties – in the quarry area and along the cliff facing the waterfront**
- **Cut lots – people are harvesting wood in burned areas for personal use**



What people said about

E) The improvements they would like to see

- Improved road maintenance and grading
- Wildlife resistant garbage bins
- An expanded parking area – currently only 4 to 6 vehicles can be accommodated near the lake. Additionally it is difficult to turn trucks and trailers around – people have to back down the road
- Washrooms and pit toilets
- Rocky outcrop along the shoreline below the airport has potential for a BBQ area
- Some cabin owners want to put in more docks
- Floating dock near ‘boat launch’ area to use for swimming / fishing
- Signage about fishing restrictions

F) Issues

- Lack of enforcement
- Water run-off / underground creeks are eroding access road – culverts needed
- Southern inlet has started to experience slumping along the higher ridgeline
- Garbage, mainly from party -goers, is left on the ground, on ice roads in the winter months, and thrown into the lake
- Industrial waste in and around the lake from when the Airport was built
- Concerns the quarry may be exceeding its permit limit
- Quarry pushing material towards inlet; material is ending up in the lake
- People are parking on the narrow access road
- Graffiti on rock face below the quarry
- Vandalism
- Argos are creating deep rutted trails to cabins from the quarries
- Many informal trails have been created damaging land



What people said about

Other Comments

- Historically cabin turn-over has been infrequent but that has changed in recent years
- Inuvialuit and Gwich'in can set up camps elsewhere; many of the cabin owners are non-Indigenous
- There is a demand for cabins among the local Inuvik population
- Airport access roads are closed to the public e.g. locked gates
- Area not used much for day use because Campbell Lake has a camping area and beach
- Good view points in the southeast area
- The new Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk highway may draw day users from Dolomite Lake (e.g. better fishing, larger areas to snowmobile or ATV)
- Junior Rangers is restarting – Department of National Defence may want to use their reserve property more intensely

