

Foundations of Cottage Culture

Summary Report

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

Prepared by

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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>

Halseth, G. and J. Schwamborn. 2010. *Foundations of Cottage Culture: Master Report from a Survey of Cottage Owners at Norman Lake, British Columbia*. Prince George, BC: Community Development Institute, University of Northern British Columbia.

Halseth, G. and J. Schwamborn. 2010. *Foundations of Cottage Culture: Summary Report from a Survey of Cottage Owners at Norman Lake, British Columbia*. Prince George, BC: Community Development Institute, University of Northern British Columbia.

Schwamborn, J. and G. Halseth. 2010. *Foundations of Cottage Culture: Methodology Report from a Survey of Cottage Owners at Norman Lake, British Columbia*. Prince George, BC: Community Development Institute, University of Northern British Columbia.

Contact Information

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Foundations of Cottage Culture – Norman Lake, British Columbia

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

May 2010	Project planning UNBC Research Ethics Board process completed
June 2010	Questionnaires hand-delivered to all cottage properties along Norman Lake, BC
August 2010	Cut-off date for acceptance of completed questionnaires Data compilation Data analysis
September 2010	Data analysis
October 2010	Draft Final Report
November 2010	Review and editing process
December 2010	Publication of Final Report

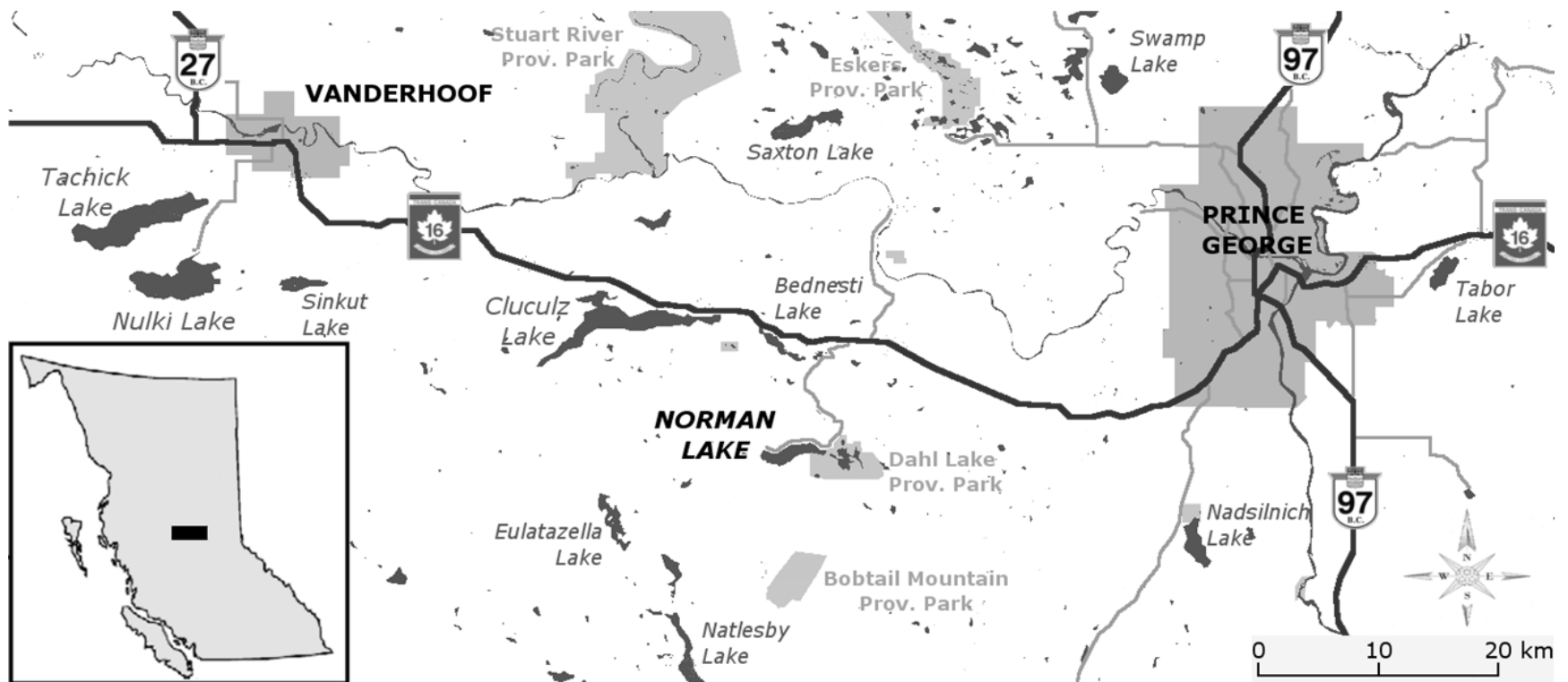


Figure 1.1 Map of Norman Lake
 Map Credit: Kyle Kusch

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).

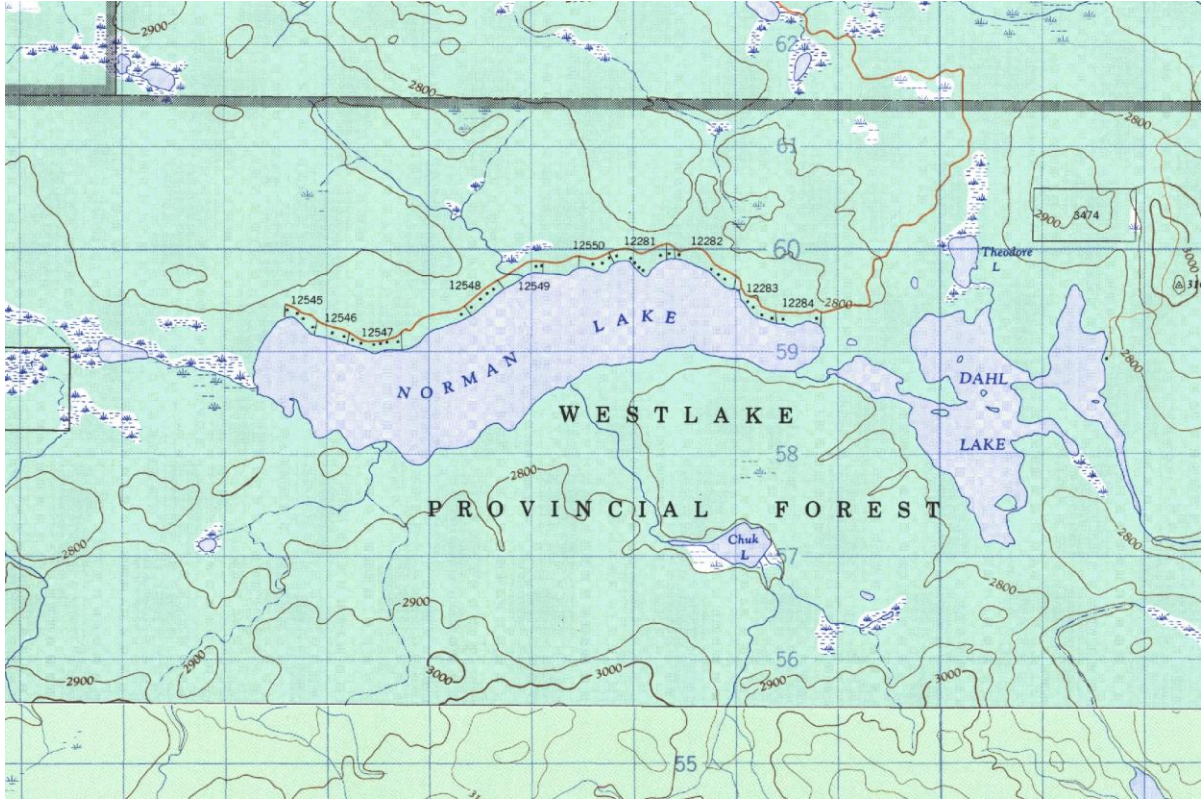


Figure 1.2 Norman Lake – Dahl Lake
Source: Digital Topo-Maps

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).

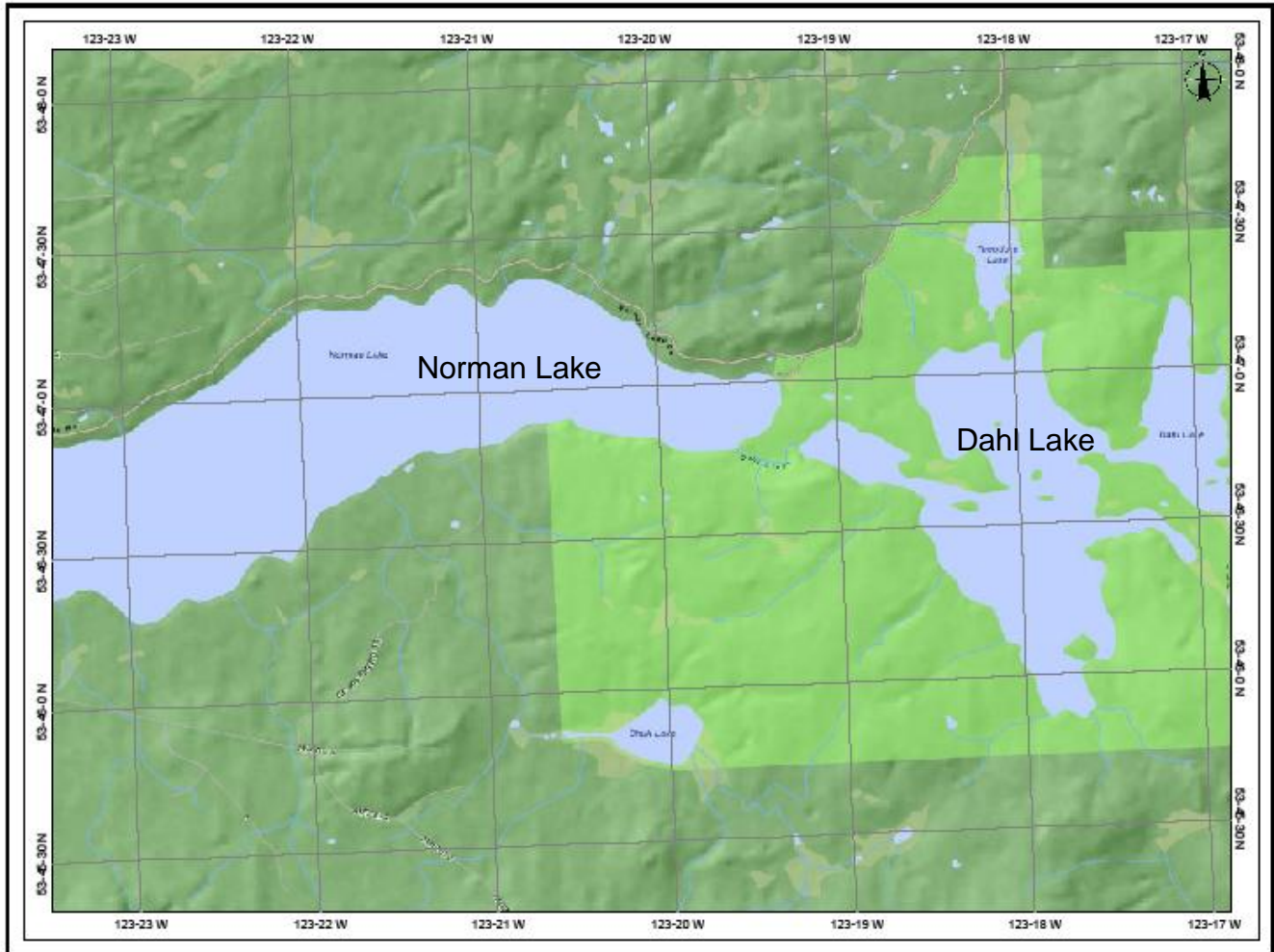


Figure 1.3 Dahl Lake Provincial Park

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.

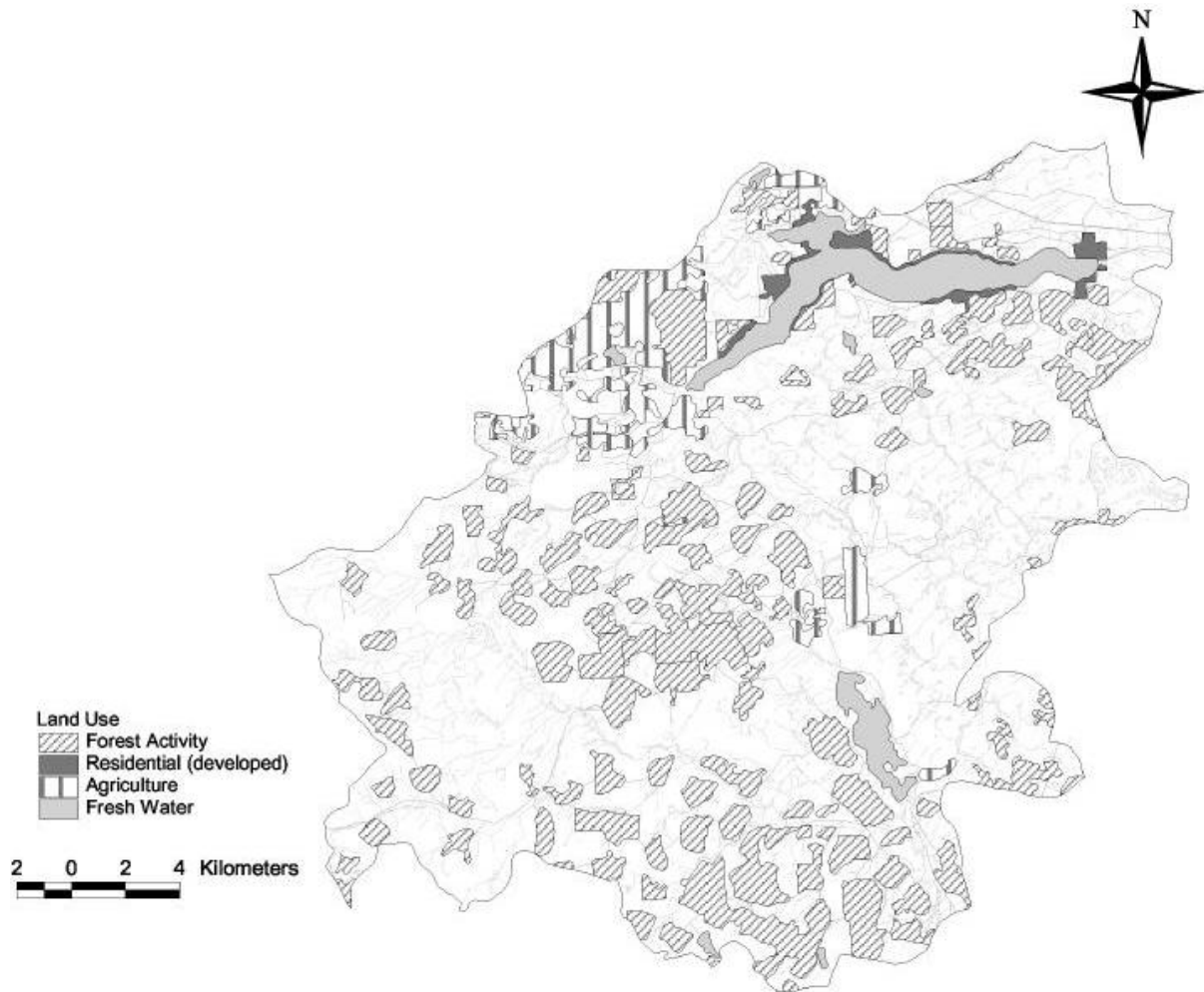


Figure 1.4 Cluculz Lake Watershed

Source: BC Volunteer Lake Monitoring, p.2.

Summary Report

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 above.

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

Distributed surveys	106
Total completed surveys	50
Response rate	47.2%

Source: Norman Lake Survey “Foundations of Cottage Culture”, 2010.

Section A: Cottage Property Description and Use

The first part of the report covers cottage property use and cottage property characteristics. As noted in Table A1, nearly all of the respondents reported that they own their cottage property at Norman Lake. For those owners, the properties were almost entirely owned by the household. In only a couple of circumstances were there other forms of tenure noted.

Table A1: Do you own or rent your cottage property?

	Total # of Respondents	Survey Percent
Own	47	94.0
Rent	1	2.0
Other	2	4.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: Norman Lake Survey “Foundations of Cottage Culture” 2010.

As shown in Table A2, about one-third of the cottage property owners built the cottage themselves. In this case, one of the first notable differences with regards to our evaluation variables is highlighted as more than half of those households reporting an income below \$45,000 reported building their own cottage. For those households reporting household incomes above \$95,000, more than half reported that they did not build the cottage themselves.

Table A2: Did you build the cottage yourself?

	Total # of Respondents	Survey Percent
Yes	16	32.0
No	29	58.0
Other	5	10.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: Norman Lake Survey “Foundations of Cottage Culture” 2010.

When asked about how long they owned the cottage, it is clear that properties at Norman Lake are owned by households for long periods of time. In this case, about one-third of the properties were owned for less than ten years, but just over one quarter had been owned by the same household for more than 30 years (Table A3). With respect to household income, nearly half of those reporting household incomes of less than \$45,000 per year reported owning their cottage for more than 30 years. In contrast, just over 40% of households with an income over \$95,000 per year reported owning their cottage property for ten years or less. Given the rising value of cottage properties across northern BC, the need for a higher income in order to “buy into” the cottage property market may explain some of those differences.

Table A3: How long have you owned your cottage?

	Total # of Respondents	Survey Percent
10 years or less	16	32.7
11 to 20 years	11	22.4
21 to 30 years	9	18.4
31 years or more	13	26.5
Total	49	100.0

Source: Norman Lake Survey “Foundations of Cottage Culture” 2010.

When asked about familiarity with the Prince George and Norman Lake areas, it turned out that about half of the respondents were originally from the area, and more than 40% of respondents had a spouse who was originally from the area (Table A4).

**Table A4: Are you or your spouse originally from the area?
% of respondents**

	% yes	n=
Respondent	51.0	49
Spouse	41.7	48

Source: Norman Lake Survey “Foundations of Cottage Culture” 2010.

When asked about the number of years that they had been coming to a cottage property at Norman Lake, about one-third of respondents reported coming to Norman Lake for more than 30 years (Table A5). This result follows the pattern noted above with respect to cottage property ownership. As expected, households with incomes below \$45,000 had been coming to the lake for a much longer period of time. Nearly two thirds of this income group had been coming to Norman Lake for more than 30 years. Part of this result is explained by the fact that a large number of these respondents are also retired from the labour force, and this affects their household income level as well as the number of years that they could possibly have enjoyed cottage property ownership.

Table A5: How many years have you been coming to Norman Lake?

	Total # of Respondents	Survey Percent
10 years or less	11	22.4
11 to 20 years	11	22.4
21 to 30 years	11	22.4
31 years or more	16	32.7
Total	49	99.9

Source: Norman Lake Survey “Foundations of Cottage Culture” 2010.

Respondents were asked about the various reasons that may have been important to them in choosing to acquire a cottage property at Norman Lake. As shown in Table A6, a range of reasons are highlighted. Respondents emphasized that the two most important reasons for choosing a cottage property at Norman Lake involved its close proximity to a permanent residence in the Prince George region as well as its attraction as a property investment opportunity. Also important were the characteristics of an appealing natural landscape and the types of recreational activities that could be undertaken in that landscape. The third key set of factors why respondents had chosen to acquire a cottage property at Norman Lake was in connection to their family and friends who also had properties in the area.

In looking at the characteristics of respondents, it was clear that those who had owned their cottage property at Norman Lake longer were more likely to identify the attractiveness of the natural landscape as well as the proximity of family and relatives as more important reasons for choosing their properties here. Furthermore, those with a household income below \$45,000, and those who were retired, were more likely to identify the attractive natural landscape and activities that one can do in that landscape to be of significance for buying Norman Lake cottage property. In contrast, households reporting an annual income above \$95,000 were more likely to highlight the importance

of accessibility from their permanent residence and the attractive price-quality ratio of this investment.

Table A6: Reasons for choosing this area

	Score	n=
Good location/accessibility from permanent residence	4.24	46
Attractive property/good price-quality ratio	4.23	43
Attractive natural landscape/area	4.11	44
Possibility to engage in certain activities	3.67	42
Good investment	3.48	42
Friendly community/neighbourhood	3.17	42
Family/relatives in the area	2.56	45
Previous experiences of/visits in the area as a tourist	2.40	42
Born in the area/roots in the area	1.95	42
Good supply of services	1.77	43
Inheritance	1.51	37

Source: Norman Lake Survey “Foundations of Cottage Culture” 2010.

Notes: 1=Not important at all, 2=Not very important, 3=Somewhat important, 4=Quite important, 5=Very important

When asked if they owned other second homes or leisure properties, only 12 of 49 respondents identified that they did so (Table A7).

Table A7: Do you own other second homes / leisure properties?

	Total # of Respondents	Survey Percent
Yes	12	24.5
No	37	75.5
Total	49	100.0

Source: Norman Lake Survey “Foundations of Cottage Culture” 2010.

Following through with the reasons for purchasing a cottage property at Norman Lake, nearly all the respondents identified that they owned a recreational vehicle, a boat, or an

ATV (Table A8). Most respondents indicated that they owned these recreational tools in order to enjoy the landscape and wilderness in the region.

Table A8: Do you own RVs / boats / ATVs?

	Total # of Respondents	Survey Percent
Yes	46	93.9
No	3	6.1
Total	49	100.0

Source: Norman Lake Survey “Foundations of Cottage Culture” 2010.

Table A9 highlights the location of the Norman Lake respondents’ permanent residence. Nearly 90% had their permanent residence in Prince George and most of the remaining 10% lived within a 200km radius of Prince George.

Table A9: Location / town of your permanent residence

	Total # of Respondents	Survey Percent
Prince George, BC	44	89.8
Prince George Region (200km radius)	3	6.1
Other	2	4.1
Total	49	100.0

Source: Norman Lake Survey “Foundations of Cottage Culture” 2010.

Respondents were also asked how many days per month on average they spend at their cottage property. As shown in Table A10, most of the respondents spend time at their cottage in the summer months of June, July, and August. There are also a large number of respondents who use the cottage for up to two weeks each year in the “shoulder months” of April and May, and September and October. In the winter months, between one third and one half of respondents continue to go to their cottage property

at least one day during the winter months of January and February, and November and December.

**Table A10: How many days (on average) do you spend at your cottage?
% of respondents**

	None	1-7	8-14	15-21	22+	n=
January	40.0	50.0	6.0	2.0	2.0	50
February	56.0	40.0	2.0	0.0	2.0	50
March	38.0	52.0	8.0	0.0	2.0	50
April	14.0	60.0	22.0	2.0	2.0	50
May	2.0	46.9	36.7	6.1	8.2	50
June	2.0	24.0	50.0	14.0	10.0	50
July	0.0	4.0	50.0	26.0	20.0	50
August	0.0	4.0	40.0	36.0	20.0	50
September	2.0	34.0	46.0	10.0	8.0	50
October	14.0	62.0	14.0	6.0	4.0	50
November	50.0	46.0	2.0	0.0	2.0	50
December	48.0	36.0	12.0	2.0	2.0	50

Source: Norman Lake Survey “Foundations of Cottage Culture” 2010.

It is also interesting to note that there are a small number of respondents who report living year-round at their cottage property. Some responses suggested that other property owners are currently looking at winterizing their cottage property so that it can be used more comfortably throughout the year. In some cases, especially for those respondents approaching retirement age, such property improvements may be a first step to a permanent move to living at the lake.

When asked how many people regularly use their cottage property at Norman Lake, over half of the respondents reported that only two or fewer people routinely use their cottage property. In about 20% of cases, it was stated that cottage properties were regularly used by six or more people. In this case, the emerging result that cottage properties are very important for retirement age households highlights a use pattern dominated by one and two adult cottage property users. Despite this, use by larger groups and families also continues to be important for nearly half of Norman Lake cottage property respondents.

Table A11: How many people regularly use your cottage?

	Total # of Respondents	Survey Percent
2 or less	25	51.0
3 to 5	13	26.6
6 or more	11	22.4
Total	49	100.0

Source: Norman Lake Survey "Foundations of Cottage Culture" 2010.

When respondents were asked about whether a member of the household participates in distance work while at the cottage, only 10% reported that this happened occasionally, and only 4% held that this happened regularly (Table A12). A number of respondents noted that when they go to the cottage, they leave all of their work (and some of the associated electronic communication devices) purposefully behind.

Table A12: Do you do distance work at the cottage?

	Total # of Respondents	Survey Percent
No	40	85.1
Yes, regularly	2	4.3
Yes, occasionally	5	10.6
Total	47	100.0

Source: Norman Lake Survey "Foundations of Cottage Culture" 2010.

Table A13 asks about how respondents expect to be visiting their cottage in the near future. As shown, nearly half of respondents anticipate to be using their cottage property with the same intensity, with nearly an additional one-third of respondents highlighting that they expect to use their cottage property more intensely than they do at present. Respondents who were active in the labour force identified an expectation that they will be using the cottage property more in the coming five to ten years as did those households with a reported annual income of more than \$95,000.

Table A13: How may you be visiting your cottage during the next 5 to 10 years?

	Total # of Respondents	Survey Percent
I've plans/decided to move there permanently	2	4.0
I'd like to move there permanently	2	4.0
I'll use the cottage more often	18	36.0
I'll use the cottage like now	23	46.0
I'll use the cottage less	2	4.0
I'll give up the place	2	4.0
Cannot say	1	2.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: Norman Lake Survey "Foundations of Cottage Culture" 2010.

Respondents were also asked about some of the characteristics of the cottage and the cottage property. As shown in Table A14, just over 43% of respondents reported that their cottage property was one half of an acre or less, while approximately 42% reported that their cottage property was between one half and one acre in size. Only a small number of respondents reported that their cottage property was larger than one acre.

Table A14: Approximate size of this cottage property (acres)

	Total # of Respondents	Survey Percent
0.50 or less	21	43.8
0.51 to 1.00	20	41.7
More than 1.00	7	14.6
Total	48	100.1

Source: Norman Lake Survey "Foundations of Cottage Culture" 2010.

With respect to the size of the cottage itself, Table A15 lists responses relative to cottage floor area. In this case, very few cottages were larger than 1,000 square feet, and most were between 500 and 1,000 square feet in floor area size.

Those who had owned their cottage property longer were more likely to have smaller property sizes and smaller cottage floor area sizes. Households reporting income over \$95,000 were more likely to report owning a property of more than one acre and a cottage size of more than 1,000 square feet.

Table A15: Cottage floor area (sq. ft.)

	Total # of Respondents	Survey Percent
500 or less	7	14.6
501 to 750	16	33.3
751 to 1,000	18	37.5
More than 1,000	7	14.6
Total	48	100.0

Source: Norman Lake Survey “Foundations of Cottage Culture” 2010.

When asked, nearly two thirds of respondents reported that they had undertaken improvements and major investments in their cottage over the last five years. These improvements focused upon exterior accessories including a deck and outbuildings on the cottage and cottage property as well as replacements of doors, windows, siding, and paint. A number of property improvements were made to assist with enjoying the cottage property, and a variety of interior renovations including redesign, flooring, and winterizing were also undertaken (Table A16).

Respondents who were still working in the labour force, as well as respondents with household incomes over \$95,000, were more likely to be undertaking renovations and improvements to the cottage.

Table A16: Improvements / major investments over the last 5 years

Exterior:		Interior:
Deck (9)	New cabin (2)	Fire place (1)
Roof (6)	Additions (1)	Flooring (3)
New outbuildings (5)	Fire pit (1)	Interior design (3)
Siding (4)	General maintenance (1)	
Yard (4)	General repairs (1)	
Doors and/or windows (3)	New trailer (1)	
Paint (3)	Solar panels (1)	
Road/driveway (3)	Understructure (1)	
Stairs (3)	Winterized (1)	
Dock (2)		

Source: Norman Lake Survey "Foundations of Cottage Culture" 2010.

When asked if the cottage is winterized or if it can be used year-round, approximately two-thirds of respondents agreed (Table A17).

Table A17: Is your cottage winterized / can it be used year-round?

	Total # of Respondents	Survey Percent
Yes	33	67.3
No, but I am planning to winterize it	2	4.1
No	14	28.6
Total	49	100.0

Source: Norman Lake Survey "Foundations of Cottage Culture" 2010.

When asked about services or equipment use at the cottage, approximately one quarter of respondents answered that their cottage was served with running water, and an additional 18% reported that their cottage had electricity. Access to electricity was important for those who identified that they had electrical appliances including a television. A small number of cottages reported having a washing machine and dish washer but this was quite unique in the sample. Commensurate with one of the

underlying rationales for owning a cottage at the lake, nearly all respondents reported that they had a boat dock on the lake in front of their cottage property (Table A18).

The only notable differences in services and equipment availability included that households reporting an annual income of more than \$95,000 were more likely to have electricity at their cottage.

Table A18: Services / equipment at the cottage

	% yes	n=
Electricity	18.0	50
Running water	26.0	50
Sewerage	4.0	50
Indoor bathroom	10.0	50
TV	24.0	50
Computer w. Internet Access	0.0	50
Washing machine	6.0	50
Dishwasher	2.0	50
Boat dock	82.0	50

Source: Norman Lake Survey “Foundations of Cottage Culture” 2010.

The final question in this section asked about the commuting distance between the permanent residence and the cottage. Fitting with the description from earlier in the report that most of the cottage property owners lived within the Prince George region, the vast majority reported commuting distances of 70km or less (Table A19). The only notable difference among the evaluative variables includes that households with an annual income of more than \$95,000 are more likely to have shorter commuting distances and thus live closer to their cottage property.

Table A19: Distance between permanent residence and cottage (km)

	Total # of Respondents	Survey Percent
50km or less	12	26.1
51 to 60km	11	23.9
61 to 70km	14	30.4
71 to 80km	6	13.0
More than 80km	3	6.5
Total	46	99.9

Source: Norman Lake Survey "Foundations of Cottage Culture" 2010.

Section B: Environmental Services and Impacts

The next set of questions in the survey explored environmental services and issues at the cottage. When asked, approximately two-thirds of survey respondents reported that their cottage likely does not pose negative environmental impacts. Only one-quarter of respondents thought that their cottage property did have negative environmental impacts (Table B1a). Respondents who were still active in the labour force as well as households with an annual income of more than \$95,000 were more likely to identify that there were negative environmental impacts associated with their cottage property.

Table B1a: Do you think cottaging poses negative environmental impacts?

	Total # of Respondents	Survey Percent
Yes	12	25.0
No	32	66.7
Not sure	4	8.3
Total	48	100.0

Source: Norman Lake Survey “Foundations of Cottage Culture”, 2010.

Among the suggested potential negative environmental impacts were waste water or septic disposal, the leakage of engine oil and gas into the lake, shoreline erosion and wildlife disturbance from activities on the lake, as well as the impacts of commuting between the cottage property and their permanent residence (Table B1b).

Table B1b: Reasons why cottaging poses negative environmental impacts

Wastewater/septic disposal (3)	Clear cutting (1)
Engine oil/gas in water (2)	Gas usage traveling to cottage (1)
Shoreline erosion (2)	Too much development/landscaping (1)
Wildlife disturbance (2)	

Source: Norman Lake Survey “Foundations of Cottage Culture”, 2010.

When asked if they had noticed any specific environmental problems in the Norman Lake cottage area, nearly two-thirds of respondents reported “no” (Table B2). For those who did identify environmental problems, the ones listed included shoreline erosion,

sewer and grey water leakage into the lake, and increased weed growth both in the water and along the shoreline. Other environmental issues in the area include pollution and erosion through boat use, the use of lawn fertilizer, generator use and noise, and the impacts of the mountain pine beetle epidemic on the region in general.

Table B2: Have you noticed any environmental problems in the cottage area?

	Total # of Respondents	Survey Percent
Yes	18	37.5
No	30	62.5
Total	48	100.0

Source: Norman Lake Survey “Foundations of Cottage Culture”, 2010.

Respondents were also asked to rate how environmentally sound they considered their own cottage lifestyle. As shown in Table B3a, most respondents feel that their cottage lifestyle is environmentally sound. Some of the reasons given for this include that they limit the use of electricity or electrical appliances at the lake, they manage their own sewage and garbage disposal in an environmentally sound way, they participate in recycling and waste mitigation programs, they limit their use of fertilizers or changes to the natural landscape, and they have been active in assisting with shoreline stabilization and sustaining ground cover. Additionally, some respondents suggested that they have substituted more environmentally sound activities including the use of biodegradable soaps and the installation of solar power and related equipment. A list of these issues is noted in Table B3b.

Table B3a: Is your cottage lifestyle environmentally sound?

	Total # of Respondents	Survey Percent
Very environmentally sound	11	22.9
Environmentally sound	26	54.2
Somewhat environmentally sound	11	22.9
Not very environmentally sound	0	0.0
Not at all environmentally sound	0	0.0
Total	48	100.0

Source: Norman Lake Survey “Foundations of Cottage Culture”, 2010.

Table B3b: Why respondents feel their cottage lifestyle is environmentally sound

No electricity/electric appliances (7)	Sustain vegetation growth (2)
No garbage dumping (7)	Use solar power (2)
Proper sewage/no water pollution (7)	Avoid making noise (1)
Minimize impacts on surroundings (6)	Follow regulations (1)
Limited water consumption (5)	Installed duck boxes (1)
Biodegradable soaps (3)	No fertilizers/herbicides (1)
Recycling (3)	Organic fertilizers (1)
Heating with wood (2)	Stabilize shoreline/avoid erosion (1)
Kayak/sail boat instead of motor boat (2)	

Source: Norman Lake Survey “Foundations of Cottage Culture”, 2010.

When asked how they normally travel to their cottage property, nearly every respondent reported that they drive by personal vehicle (Table B4).

Table B4: How do you normally travel to your cottage property?

Transportation	Total # of Respondents	Survey Percent
Private vehicle	49	98.0
Car pool	1	2.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: Norman Lake Survey “Foundations of Cottage Culture”, 2010.

Asked when they normally visit their cottage, most respondents recounted visiting their cottage property on weekends, holidays, and over the summer vacation. It was not unusual, however, for the cottage properties also to be visited during many weekday periods (Table B5).

**Table B5: When do you normally visit your cottage?
% of respondents**

	% yes	n=
Occasionally	18.8	48
Weekends	83.3	48
Weekdays	52.1	48
Holidays	77.1	48
Summer vacation	70.8	48

Source: Norman Lake Survey “Foundations of Cottage Culture” 2010.

When asked about the principal source of water on the property, most respondents reported that they brought their own drinking water from home with many also conveying that they used lake water or captured rain water for washing purposes at the cottage. Approximately one-third of respondents indicated that they used lake or rain water for all of their water use on the property. (Table B6)

Table B6: Principle source of water supply on the property

	Total # of Respondents	Survey Percent
Lake or rain water	16	32.0
Brought from town	12	24.0
Drinking: from town	20	40.0
Washing: lake or rain		
Well	2	4.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: Norman Lake Survey “Foundations of Cottage Culture”, 2010.

When asked about sewage waste disposal on their cottage property, nearly all respondents reported that they had an outhouse in order to serve this purpose. In a couple of instances there was also a septic tank or grey water system in use. Linking to the notes above about how some respondents are substituting more environmentally focused services, a couple of respondents stated that they had installed a composting toilet system at their cottage (Table B7).

Table B7: Sewage waste disposal on this property / in this area

	Total # of Respondents	Survey Percent
Outhouse	42	85.7
Outhouse and grey water	3	6.1
Septic field/tank	2	4.1
Composting toilet/ peat moss toilet	2	4.1
Total	49	100.0

Source: Norman Lake Survey “Foundations of Cottage Culture”, 2010.

With respect to solid waste disposal, just over 80% of respondents reported that they take their solid waste from the cottage property to the Regional District transfer station.

However, as indicated in Table B8, close to 10% of respondents take the solid waste all the way to their home property for disposal.

Table B8: Solid waste disposal on this property / in this area

	Total # of Respondents	Survey Percent
Take home	3	9.1
Transfer Station	27	81.8
Take off property	3	9.1
Total	33	100.0

Source: Norman Lake Survey “Foundations of Cottage Culture”, 2010.

When asked about satisfaction with services, respondents are generally neutral with some tendency towards being satisfied. In the case of water supply, nearly 50% have a neutral attitude with another nearly 40% reporting satisfaction. With respect to sewage waste disposal, again nearly half of respondents were generally neutral in their satisfaction, and approximately one third reported that they were satisfied. In this case, it is important to highlight that about 10% were quite dissatisfied with sewage waste disposal at their property. With respect to solid waste disposal, most respondents were generally satisfied with their method of waste disposal through the Regional District transfer station or their own home solid waste disposal systems.

Responses to inquiries about services provided by the Regional District were mixed. About one-third of respondents felt relatively neutral with respect to Regional District services, while an approximately equal share was split between being satisfied and dissatisfied with Regional District services to the cottagers.

The generally neutral results with respect to service satisfaction are shown in a summary in Table B9. None of the services rates a score higher than 4.0, with the Regional District scoring right on the category “neutral”.

Table B9: How satisfied are you with the following services?

	Rating	n=
Water supply	3.36	38
Sewage waste disposal	3.20	35
Solid waste disposal	3.61	39
Regional District services to cottagers	3.07	41

Source: Norman Lake Survey "Foundations of Cottage Culture", 2010.

Notes: 1=Very dissatisfied, 2=Dissatisfied, 3=Neutral, 4=Satisfied, 5=Very satisfied

An inquiry about environmentally friendly activities at the cottage showed that only about 20% of respondents report using a compost system at their cottage, but nearly 90% report that they do recycle at their cottage, and, as Table B10 demonstrates, nearly 60% reported that they use solar panels for some or all of their energy needs.

When asked about energy efficiency, about 60% of respondents indicated that their cottage is not built to an energy-efficient design nor does it have energy-efficient windows. Given the limited number of appliances used at the cottages, few of these appliances were reported as being energy-efficient.

When asked about water-saving technology, nearly three-quarters of respondents answered that they do not use water-saving technology at their cottage while only about one-quarter of respondents reported regularly using locally grown vegetables. Nearly 90% indicated that they avoid the use of pesticides and herbicides at their cottage property.

**Table B10: Do you have / use any of the following at your cottage?
% of respondents**

	% yes	n=
Avoid use of pesticides/herbicides	80.0	50
Recycling	78.0	50
Solar panels	55.0	50
Energy-efficient cottage design	34.0	50
Energy efficient windows	32.0	50
Use of locally grown vegetables	24.0	50
Energy-efficient appliances	22.0	50
Compost	18.0	50
Water saving technology	16.0	50

Source: Norman Lake Survey “Foundations of Cottage Culture”, 2010.

Section C: Human-Nature Relationships that Attract Cottagers

This section of the survey explores how respondents use the cottage and the landscape around the cottage. They were also asked to talk about what attracts them to their cottage and cottage property.

As shown in Table C1, respondents engaged in a wide variety of activities while at their cottage. Those cited more often as being important focus around the relaxing enjoyment of the cottage property, such as the opportunity for being out in a natural setting, for enjoying the lake by swimming, as well as eating and drinking at their property with family and friends. A second cluster of activities had to do with the notion of a cottage property as a recreational retreat. Such activities included passive relaxation and reading, outdoor activities associated with jogging, canoeing, hiking, and motor boating, as well as more active pursuits including building, renovating, and maintaining the cottage property, and working in the forest landscape around the property.

Table C1: How important are the following activities at your cottage?

	Rating	n=
Being outdoors in nature	4.45	49
Eating and drinking, barbequing	4.20	49
Swimming	4.04	50
Reading	3.90	50
Building, renovation, maintenance	3.79	48
Canoeing, rowing	3.78	49
Firewood, forest work	3.75	48
Jogging, walking	3.48	50
Being idle	3.40	50
Motor boating	3.24	49
Hiking	3.18	49
Snowmobiles, ATVs, mopeds	2.82	49
Fishing, hunting	2.69	49
Skiing, snowshoeing	2.59	49
Picking berries, mushrooms	2.50	48
Waterskiing, jet skiing	2.17	48
Garden, lawn, vegetable garden	2.12	49

Source: Norman Lake Survey "Foundations of Cottage Culture", 2010.

Notes: 1=Not at all important, 2=Not very important, 3=Somewhat important, 4=Quite important, 5=Very important

Respondents with household incomes of \$95,000 or more were more likely to note the importance of being active in a natural setting, including the use of water skiing and motor boating. Those respondents who reported being retired were more likely to identify some of the more passive recreational pursuits, such as reading, as being important for them when they are at their cottage property.

Following from this, respondents were asked for some of the best or most important reasons for their spending time at the cottage. As shown in Table C2, most of these reasons connect to the relaxing enjoyment of the wilderness and natural setting.

Table C2: The best and most important reason for spending time at the cottage

Relaxation (26)	Simple lifestyle (5)	Good air quality (2)
Family/friends (16)	Activities (4)	Cottage is our happy spot (1)
Peace/quiet/solitude (14)	Being outdoors (3)	Good times/memories (1)
Wildlife/nature (7)	Campfire (2)	Live here (1)
Boating/water activities (6)		

Source: Norman Lake Survey “Foundations of Cottage Culture”, 2010.

Respondents were also invited to comment upon any issues that negatively impact their ability to enjoy their cottage property at Norman Lake. In this case, the only notable observations were those that seemed to impact the quiet enjoyment of the natural setting. Specifically cited by some respondents were noisy boats, noisy neighbours, noisy generators, and noisy ATVs. Limited accessibility to things such as services, hydro, and winter access to the cottage was also a concern for some respondents (Table C3).

Table C3: Issues that negatively impact your ability to enjoy your cottage property

Noisy boats (10)	Difficult access in winter (1)
Lack of services/Hydro (5)	Distance from permanent residence (1)
Noisy neighbours (5)	Fuel prices (1)
Noisy generators (4)	Health and age (1)
Noisy ATVs (3)	Taxes (1)
Barking dogs/pet issues (2)	Mosquitoes (1)
Pine Beetle/lack of privacy (2)	Theft and break-ins (1)
Cottage needs work (1)	

Source: Norman Lake Survey “Foundations of Cottage Culture”, 2010.

The questionnaire also asked about how much they feel “at home” at their cottage property and within the cottaging community at Norman Lake. In this case, it was clear that respondents very much feel at home at their cottage property and feel somewhat at home within the larger Norman Lake community. With respect to the general feeling of being “at home”, it was interesting to note in Table C4 that these feelings were higher at the cottage than the respondents reported for their permanent residence and the town of their permanent residence. There is a very strong identification of the cottage as central to personal identity and personal/family activities.

Table C4: How much do you feel at home in the following places?

	Rating	n=
Your cottage	4.70	50
Cottage community/village	3.81	43
Permanent residence	4.58	48
Town of your permanent residence	4.56	46

Source: Norman Lake Survey “Foundations of Cottage Culture”, 2010.

Notes: 1=Strongly not at home, 2=Not at home, 3=Neutral, 4=At home, 5=Strongly at home

These feelings of being at home at their cottage property were even more strongly developed by respondents with a household income above \$95,000 per year. To explore this relationship between the cottage property and the individual respondents, the survey asked a number of questions with respect to phrases that might best capture respondents’ feelings. Table C5 captures the summary scores for these various relationship statements. As shown by the high scores, the cottage is a very important component of the individual respondents’ identity and sense of self. The highest score is one that notes the cottage property as being “very important to the individual”. Additional high scores go to statements that suggest that it is the best place for the respondent, it is a place where they can be themselves, and it is a place that expresses who they are and gives them a sense of belonging. These are significant ties between the individual and the cottage property, especially since they seem to be more highly developed than at the respondent’s permanent residence or the town of permanent residence.

Table C5: Relationship with the cottage area / place

	Rating	n=
Best place for what I like to do	4.58	48
No other place can compare to this	3.84	45
This place is very important to me	4.76	49
Would be sad if I couldn't come here any longer	4.29	49
Here I can be myself	4.47	47
This place expresses who I am	4.13	46
I feel like I belong here	4.47	47
I'd be ready to make sacrifices to help protect this place	4.40	48
No particular feelings for this place	1.22	45
Sad memories related to this place	1.43	46
I get bored here	1.30	47

Source: Norman Lake Survey "Foundations of Cottage Culture", 2010.

Notes: 1=Totally disagree, 2=Disagree, 3=Do not agree or disagree, 4=Agree, 5=Totally agree

Section D: Cottage Community

This section of the survey asks questions about respondent participation in the cottage area and the cottage community. To start, respondents were asked about family and personal relationships. As shown in Table D1, 70% of respondents reported that they had friends or relatives in the cottage area. This finding adds to earlier results with respect to the importance of family in the decision to purchase and use cottage properties in this location.

Table D1: Do you or your spouse have relatives / friends in the cottage area?

	Total # of Respondents	Survey Percent
Yes	35	70.0
No	15	30.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: Norman Lake Survey “Foundations of Cottage Culture”, 2010.

Table D2 shows that approximately 70% of respondents stated that they know their neighbours. To continue with the question of community interaction, Table D3 asks about participation in local associations. In this case, participation is a little lower with only 60% of respondents reporting that they participate in local associations. In this case, nearly all of those 60% report that the association they participate in is the Norman Lake Community Association.

Table D2: Do you know most of your neighbours?

	Total # of Respondents	Survey Percent
Yes	34	69.4
No	15	30.6
Total	49	100.0

Source: Norman Lake Survey “Foundations of Cottage Culture”, 2010.

Table D3: Do you participate in local associations?

	Total # of Respondents	Survey Percent
Yes	30	60.0
No	20	40.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: Norman Lake Survey “Foundations of Cottage Culture”, 2010.

In terms of our evaluative variables, households with an income of over \$95,000 reported that they were more likely to know most of their neighbours, while those who retired were more likely to report that they have close friends and relatives who live in the cottage community.

The next set of questions asked about how often respondents use local services. This level of use is summarized in Table D4, which shows that very few of the listed services are used locally by the Norman Lake cottagers. Some of those that are taken advantage of are parks within the area (especially the regional park) and local events. This relatively low use of local services reflects the isolation of Norman Lake and the scarcity of services available close to the lake and within the immediate area along the highway corridor.

**Table D4: How often do you use the following local services?
% of respondents**

	Nearly every time I visit the cottage	Sometimes	Never
Grocery store	0.0	0.0	100.0
Parks and other natural sights	15.9	45.5	38.6
Snowplow service	15.0	17.5	67.5
Renovation and construction services	7.3	14.6	78.0
Plumbing and electrical services	0.0	2.4	97.6
Health services	2.4	9.5	88.1
Local events	11.6	34.9	53.5
Restaurant services	2.4	7.3	90.2
Buying firewood	0.0	2.4	97.6

Source: Norman Lake Survey “Foundations of Cottage Culture”, 2010.

Some of these issues of isolation, and of the importance of having family and friends in the cottage community, are also reflected in Table D5. This table summarizes the level of contact respondents had with a range of groups in the area. As suggested, the level of contact with permanent residents living within the rural region surrounding Norman Lake is relatively low while interaction with other cottagers and with friends is higher. Notably, there is little contact noted between respondents and tourists traveling through the area or using some of the local natural amenities or parks.

**Table D5: How often are you in contact with the following groups in the area?
% of respondents**

	Score	n=
Cottagers	3.27	48
Visiting friends	3.16	49
Permanent residents	2.35	49
Relatives in the area	1.63	46
Tourists	1.51	45

Source: Norman Lake Survey “Foundations of Cottage Culture”, 2010.

Notes: 1=Never, 2=Sometimes, 3=Time-to-time, 4=Often, 5=Very often

Across the evaluative variables, households reporting an annual income of more than \$95,000 were more likely to report having friends visiting with them at the cottage property while those who were retired were more likely to report having regular contact and interaction with their fellow cottagers.

When asked if they would like to increase their level of interaction with groups at or around the cottage property, the results in Table D6 suggest that respondents are very satisfied with their level of constructed social communities. As shown, all of the results have a score close to 3.0, which suggests that they desire the same level of interaction which they have already created. This finding fits with earlier results around the reasons why respondents have selected their cottage property and the activities they engage in when they are at their cottage property.

Table D6: Would you like to have more contact with the following groups?

	Score	n=
Permanent residents	3.02	50
Cottagers	3.12	50
Tourists	2.57	47
Visiting friends	3.35	49

Source: Norman Lake Survey “Foundations of Cottage Culture”, 2010.

Notes: 1=Much less, 2=Less, 3=Same, 4=More, 5=Much more

When describing their relationships with a number of groups in and around their cottage property, the general result in Table D7 is that the respondents feel that their relationships are good. In this case, there was relatively little difference in the respondents’ perceptions of their relationships with other cottagers or with the permanent residents living in the area around Norman Lake.

Among the only differences noted across the sample is that households recording an annual income of more than \$95,000 were likely to report somewhat higher levels of good relationship development with other cottagers at the lake. Again, this links to the reasons why groups purchase their property and the activities they engage in at their properties. For this sector of the cottaging community, the place at the lake forms an important location for socializing in addition to the underlying importance that all cottagers highlight of the property as a retreat.

Table D7: Describe your relationship with the following groups

	Score	n=
Permanent residents	3.84	50
Cottagers	4.06	49
Tourists	3.44	39

Source: Norman Lake Survey “Foundations of Cottage Culture”, 2010.

Notes: 1=Very bad, 2=Bad, 3=Neutral, 4=Good, 5=Very good

This feeling that relationships with groups in and around the cottage area are generally positive fits well with how respondents felt when asked about the importance of the quality of these contacts. In this case, respondents reported in general that it was quite important to maintain good contact and relationships with both cottagers and with permanent residents living around the cottage area (Table D8).

Table D8: Importance of good contact with the following groups

	Score	n=
Permanent residents	3.56	50
Cottagers	3.86	49
Tourists	2.35	46

Source: Norman Lake Survey “Foundations of Cottage Culture”, 2010.

Notes: 1=Not at all important, 2=Not very important, 3=Neutral, 4=Quite important, 5=Very important

Respondents were also asked, in cases they had been in contact with local residents, to identify the reasons for the interactions. Table D9 contains a list of reasons for contacting and interacting with local residents. As shown, the casual, friendly relationships noted in the results so far continue to be the mechanisms by which relationships are developed and maintained. In this case, the activities of visiting, offering neighbourly help, and occasionally saying hello to one another constitute the key ways by which interaction and contact is maintained. Beyond these activities, there is very little interactive contact between the respondents and local residents.

Within the respondent sample, those who were retired were more likely to identify processes of visiting one another, while those actively engaged in the labour force were

more likely to identify occasionally saying hello as the way to maintain contact with local residents. Of households with an income above \$95,000, approximately 40% indicated that they mostly maintain contact with local residents through visiting, offering neighbourly help, attending local events, and occasionally saying hello.

Table D9: Types of contact with local residents

	Score	n=
Saying hello occasionally	3.66	38
Visiting	3.54	46
Neighbourly help	3.21	47
Local events	2.36	44
Hobbies / activities	2.35	43
Collective road maintenance	1.58	40
Collective water supply, sewage, or waste disposal	1.47	43

Source: Norman Lake Survey “Foundations of Cottage Culture”, 2010.

Notes: 1=Not at all, 2=A little, 3=Somewhat, 4=Mostly, 5=Very much

Respondents were also asked to comment upon whether there had been any disputes or discontent between certain groups or people within the cottaging area. As shown in Table D10, most respondents identified that they were not aware of notable disputes or discontent, but just over one-third recorded that there were disputes. When asked to identify the sources of these, nearly all of the respondents mentioned the debate over whether or not to bring a powerline into the cottaging area. A very small number of respondents also identified disputes over activities that disrupted the quiet and peaceful enjoyment of the lake and their lake property.

Table D10: Discontent between cabin groups / people in the cottage area?

	Total # of Respondents	Survey Percent
Yes	19	38.0
No	31	62.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: Norman Lake Survey “Foundations of Cottage Culture”, 2010.

These results were replicated at a personal level. As shown in Table D11, respondents were asked if they had ever been personally involved in a disagreement or dispute within the cottaging area or with respect to plans for the cottaging area. In this case, about 25% said they had been involved in some sort of dispute or disagreement at some point in the past. Again, when these were identified, it broke into two groups. The first group concerned the debate over whether to bring powerlines into the cottage area, while the second involved those activities that disrupted the quiet and peaceful enjoyment of the cottaging area and the use of the lake.

Table D11: Have you personally had a disagreement with somebody or been disturbed by others' behavior or plans in the area?

	Total # of Respondents	Survey Percent
Yes	12	24.5
No	37	75.5
Total	49	100.0

Source: Norman Lake Survey “Foundations of Cottage Culture”, 2010.

Development and tourism pressures are always an issue that can affect cottage property areas. Respondents were asked if cottage tourism has become more significant in the Norman Lake area during the time they have had a cottage property (Table D12). About two-thirds of respondents said that there had been relatively no increase in importance or significance in cottage tourism at Norman Lake. One of the reasons for this response likely has to do with the tendency towards long-term tenure at Norman Lake.

Table D12: Has cottage tourism become more important / significant in the area?

	Total # of Respondents	Survey Percent
Yes	16	36.4
No	28	63.6
Total	44	100.0

Source: Norman Lake Survey “Foundations of Cottage Culture”, 2010.

When asked if an increase in the number of cottages along the lake would affect opportunities for business development, most respondents suggested that there would be no change (Table D13). This sense of no impact or change extended to most of the issues presented in the survey related to an increase in cottages. Respondents felt that there would be little impact of additional cottage development on notions of community cohesion, to road infrastructure of the area, the availability and quality of recreational opportunities, and their own attachment to the area. There were, however, some negative consequences identified in relation to a possible increase in the number of cottages in the area. Specifically, respondents felt that there could be an increase in the amount of crime and an increase in the amount of noise or pollution in the area.

Across our sample, households with an annual income below \$45,000 felt that increasing cottage development in the area would have negative implications for community cohesion within the cottaging area and they were slightly more likely than other income groups to report that it would put negative pressure on existing road infrastructure and available recreational activities and amenities.

Table D13: How would an increase in the number of cottages affect Norman Lake?

	Score	n=
Business opportunities	2.95	42
Road / infrastructure maintenance	2.87	45
Recreation opportunities	2.82	45
Community cohesion	2.40	43
Own attachment to the area	2.22	46
Crime	1.85	47
Noise/pollution	1.53	47

Source: Norman Lake Survey “Foundations of Cottage Culture”, 2010.

Notes: 1=Make much worse, 2=Make worse, 3=No change, 4=Improve, 5=Considerably improve

Section E: Socio-Demographic Information

In this section, we review some of the socio-demographic information about the survey respondents. It is important to review this information in order to get a sense of the respondent community as this may or may not differ from that of the overall cottage community.

Most of the surveys (61%) were completed by men, but they reported that the household members using the cottage properties at Norman Lake were evenly split between men and women. In terms of respondent age groups (Table E1), 44% were over 60 years of age, and another 36% were between 50 and 59 years.

Table E1: Respondent's Age (years)

	Total # of Respondents	Survey Percent
0-29	1	2.2
30-39	3	6.7
40-49	5	11.1
50-59	16	35.6
60+	20	44.4
Total	45	100.0

Source: Norman Lake Survey "Foundations of Cottage Culture", 2010.

In addition to age and gender, respondents were asked about their marital status. As shown in Table E2, nearly all of the respondents were married or living in a common-law situation.

Table E2: Marital Status

	Total # of Respondents	Survey Percent
Single (never married)	0	0.0
Married/common law	45	93.8
Separated/divorced	2	4.2
Widowed	1	2.1
Total	48	100.1

Source: Norman Lake Survey “Foundations of Cottage Culture”, 2010.

When asked about their highest level of education, more than 80% of respondents and 70% of their partners reported levels of education above high school graduation. For respondents (Table E3), about one-third stated that they had completed a university degree, an additional almost one-third indicated that they had some specialized trade, vocational, or technical certificate, and another group was engaged in college or post-graduate studies. With respect to respondent spouses and partners, approximately 20% each had completed a university degree, a college diploma, or some form of trade, vocational, or technical certificate (Table E4).

Table E3: Highest level of educational

	Total # of Respondents	Survey Percent
High school diploma/GED	8	17.0
Trade/vocational/technical inst. cert.	13	27.7
Community college/diploma	7	14.9
University/degree	15	31.9
Post-university studies	4	8.5
Total	47	100.0

Source: Norman Lake Survey “Foundations of Cottage Culture”, 2010.

Table E4: Spouse's / partner's highest level of educational

	Total # of Respondents	Survey Percent
High school diploma/GED	15	34.1
Trade/vocational/technical inst. cert.	10	22.7
Community college/diploma	9	20.5
University/degree	8	18.2
Post-university studies	2	4.5
Total	44	100.0

Source: Norman Lake Survey "Foundations of Cottage Culture", 2010.

When asked about household incomes (Table E5), there were two small clusters of responses. In the first case, approximately one-quarter of respondents reported annual household incomes before taxes of between \$20,000 and \$45,000. A further approximately one-quarter of respondents reported annual household incomes of between \$95,000 and \$120,000. There was an additional distribution across the other income categories, with one notable group being 14% of respondents who reported that their annual household income was above \$145,000. These income clusters and differences are important and they were used in the report to identify differences between those earning above \$95,000 and those with household incomes below \$45,000.

Table E5: Annual household income (before taxes)

	Total # of Respondents	Survey Percent
Up to \$20,000	0	0.0
\$20,000 to \$44,999	11	25.6
\$45,000 to \$69,999	5	11.6
\$70,000 to \$94,999	8	18.6
\$95,000 to \$119,999	11	25.6
\$120,000 to \$144,999	2	4.7
\$145,000 or more	6	14.0
Total	43	100.1

Source: Norman Lake Survey “Foundations of Cottage Culture”, 2010.

In general, cottage property ownership can be an expensive proposition. It entails maintenance of not only a permanent residence but also the second residence and the means of commuting back and forth between the two. For people who have acquired their cottage property within the past decade, increasing property prices for such recreational and cottage properties means that households now need a relatively high level of income in order to get into this property market. Combined into the evaluative variable categories, approximately 26% of our survey respondents reported a household income of \$45,000 or less, and approximately 43% of respondents reported an annual household income of \$95,000 or more.

In addition to income, the survey also asked questions about respondents' and respondent spouses' or partners' employment status. As shown in Table E6, the largest single group of respondents identified themselves as being retired. The next largest group reported working full-time. The importance of the large share (44%) of respondents who were retired underscored the importance of examining whether or not this status affected their responses in other sections of the survey. As noted earlier in the report, the difference between retirees and labour force participants was relatively limited across the survey questions.

When asked about the employment status for the respondent's spouse or partner, the results in Table E7 are somewhat similar. In this case, 38% of spouses or partners were reported as being retired, while nearly 43% were reported to be working full-time.

Table E6: Primary employment status

	Total # of Respondents	Survey Percent
Working full-time	17	35.4
Working part-time	5	10.4
Self-employed full-time	2	4.2
Self-employed part-time	1	2.1
Not employed	1	2.1
Student (incl. students who work p.t.)	0	0.0
Homemaker	0	0.0
Retired	21	43.8
Seasonal	1	2.1
Total	48	99.9

Source: Norman Lake Survey “Foundations of Cottage Culture”, 2010.

Table E7: Spouse’s / partner’s primary employment status

	Total # of Respondents	Survey Percent
Working full-time	20	42.6
Working part-time	4	8.5
Self-employed full-time	0	0.0
Self-employed part-time	0	0.0
Not employed	1	2.1
Student (incl. students who work p.t.)	0	0.0
Homemaker	3	6.4
Retired	18	38.3
Seasonal	1	2.1
Total	47	100.0

Source: Norman Lake Survey “Foundations of Cottage Culture”, 2010.

The final questions, employed to draw a socio-demographic portrait of the respondent group, have to do with the characteristics of their permanent residence. As shown in

Table E8a, nearly all respondents reported that their permanent residence is a detached single-family house. The single-family detached houses tended to be up to 150m² in size (accounting for approximately 64% of responses). Additionally, Table E8b lists several respondents who live in very large permanent residences (larger than 250m²).

Table E8a: Type of permanent residence

	Total # of Respondents	Survey Percent
Detached house	41	85.4
Apartment building	1	2.1
Row house	2	4.2
Other	4	8.3
Total	48	100.0

Source: Norman Lake Survey “Foundations of Cottage Culture”, 2010.

Table E8b: Floor area of permanent residence (m²)

	Total # of Respondents	Survey Percent
100 m ² or less	9	22.0
101 to 150 m ²	17	41.5
151 to 200 m ²	6	14.6
212 to 250 m ²	2	4.9
251 to 300 m ²	5	12.2
301 m ² or more	2	4.9
Total	41	100.1

Source: Norman Lake Survey “Foundations of Cottage Culture”, 2010.

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