



The District of Lake Country Heritage Values Workshop Report

May 26th, 2012
at George Elliot Secondary School



The District of Lake Country Heritage Values Workshop

Report Organization

1. List of Participants
2. Introduction to Values-Based Heritage Management
3. Purpose and Goals of Workshop
4. Processes and Outcomes
5. Community Heritage Values
6. Potential Heritage Places



1. List of Participants

Harvey Leamont, resident
Shannon Jorgenson, Manager, Lake Country Museum
Bob Vannan, resident
Ron Taylor, Oceola Fish & Game Club
Peter Short, resident
Arnold Trehwitt, resident
Rick Lake, resident
Ron Derksen, Chair, Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee
Elaine Gibbons, Okanagan Centre Community Hall
Rich Gibbons, Rotary; Lake Country Heritage & Cultural Society
Anne Land, resident
Elise Hahn, Lake Country Museum
Deb Butler, SD #23
Elisabeth Dahnert, Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee
Sharon McCoubrey, Chair, Public Art Advisory Commission
Bob McCoubrey, past Mayor
Diane Wilde, Public Art Advisory Commission
Dallas Goodwater, Okanagan Indian Band
Albert Van Ee, resident

James Baker, Mayor, District of Lake Country
Jamie McEwan, Councillor, District of Lake Country
Rob Geier, Councillor, District of Lake Country
Penny Gambell, Councillor, District of Lake Country
Steve Schaffrick, Director of Community and Customer Services, District of Lake Country
Carie Liefke, Planner, District of Lake Country
Ursula Christen, Parks, Recreation and Culture Clerk, District of Lake Country

Facilitators:

Berdine Jonker, Heritage Branch, Ministry of Forest, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
Judith Cook, Heritage Branch, Ministry of Forest, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Introduction by Steve Schaffrick, District of Lake Country and Shannon Jorgenson, Lake Country Museum

2. Introduction to Values-Based Heritage Management

This workshop serves as the first step towards the realization of a long-term goal: the ongoing conservation of Lake Country's heritage. In beginning this journey and consistent with the British Columbia *Heritage Branch, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations* policy, the district has adopted a values-based heritage management approach.

This process can be summarized by the following diagram:

Identify heritage values → Identify historic places → Plans for conservation

Heritage values are defined as the aesthetic, historic, scientific, cultural, social or spiritual values of importance or significance for past, present or future generations. By beginning with the identification of heritage values, the conservation planning process is assuredly rooted in the true constitution of the community. For this reason, heritage values should guide the selection of historic places and not the reverse. Moreover, the age of a site is not its most valuable asset; instead, it is what a place says about the social, spiritual and cultural values of a community at a particular time which should be conserved. This recognition of layers of heritage value which extend beyond the physical foundations of a historic place is a crucial component of the values-based heritage management system.

The identification of a community's heritage values not only provides a guide to mapping the past – it can also help to guide the future.

Community benefits to heritage planning and conservation:

- Serves as a great way to manage the pace of change
- Allows for continuity of social and physical fabric
- Ensures the retention of stories and values
- Protects tangible and intangible values
- Increases community pride
- Maintains a long-term sense of belonging
- Boosts the economy
- Provides an opportunity to celebrate community individuality

3. Purpose and Goals of Workshop

The objectives of the workshop were as follows:

- Inform the community and council of British Columbia's values-based heritage management system
- Engage the community in the process of identifying Lake Country's heritage values
- Determine the criteria for potential heritage places throughout the district's four wards
- Assemble a preliminary list of potentially significant historic sites for further evaluation and discussion
- Create a practical, community-based framework for the evaluation of heritage places



Workshop agenda:

1. Heritage Conservation –what and why
2. Heritage Values –definitions, examples
3. Workshop outcomes
4. Activity 1: Heritage values identification
5. Activity 2: Mapping of places that embody heritage values
6. Thematic Framework
7. Future: Mapping of Historic Places in Lake Country



4. Processes and Outcomes

As outlined in the agenda, the workshop facilitated two group activities:

Activity 1: Heritage values identification - Consistent with the values-based management system, the first activity was designed to identify Lake Country's heritage values. To accomplish this, workshop participants were asked to consider six questions from the thematic framework below. Each of these questions was written on a large sheet of paper and posted on the walls throughout the room. Participants had one hour to deliberate individually or collectively before writing their responses on the sheets provided.

Activity 2: Mapping of places that embody heritage values - The purpose of the second activity was to begin assembling a list of historic places throughout Lake Country. Six large maps, each corresponding to one of the themes below, were posted on the walls throughout the room. Participants were then given an additional hour to identify sites of historic significance by marking these places on the maps provided.

Upon completion of these activities, all sheets were collected by the Lake Country Heritage & Cultural Society for inclusion in this report.

In addition, the District of Lake Country held several Front Porch meetings to collect further feedback from the community. These occurred on Monday, June 11th at Okanagan Centre Hall, Thursday, June 14th at Municipal Hall and Monday, June 18th at Carr's Landing Fire Hall. Council member Owen Dickie collected results from Oyama residents via email. The results of these meetings and individual email responses are also included in this report.

Both activities drew upon the following thematic framework:

1. **Peopling the land:** *Why did and do people want to live here?*
2. **Developing economies:** *How and why is economic development important to Lake Country's heritage?*
3. **Governing the region:** *What was, and is, Lake Country's role as an administrative center?*
4. **Building social and community life:** *What is special about the social and community life of Lake Country?*

5. **Expressing intellectual and cultural life:** *What is unique about Lake Country's expressions of intellectual and cultural life?*
6. *Why is heritage conservation important for Lake Country?*

Summary of Activity 1: Identifying Heritage Values

Editor's note:

Insofar as possible, participant responses have retained their original nomenclature and syntax; however, to ensure comprehension, it was necessary to alter some responses. In these cases, all effort was made to uphold the original intent of the statements.

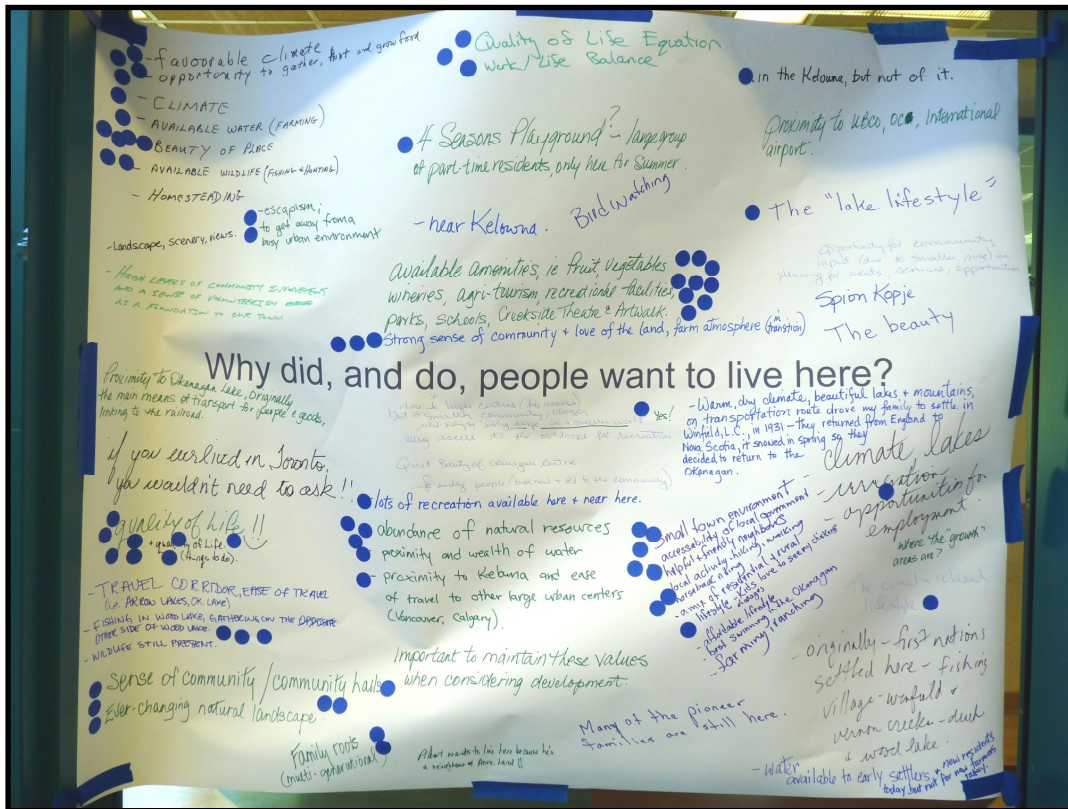
In addition, repeat responses have been consolidated.

Overtly negative responses which neither addressed the questions posed nor provided constructive feedback have been removed.

1. Why did and do people want to live here?

- Favourable climate, warm and dry
- Opportunity to gather, hunt, fish and grow food
- Availability of water (for farming)
- Beauty of place; the changing landscape, scenery, views
- Homesteading
- Escapism; to get away from a busy environment
- High levels of community involvement and a sense of volunteerism as a foundation to our town
- Travel corridor via proximity to Okanagan Lake, originally the main means of transportation for people & goods, linking to the railroad
- If you ever lived in Toronto, you wouldn't need to ask!
- Quality of life, equation, work life balance
- Wildlife still present
- Sense of community/community halls
- Multi-generational family roots; it is important to retain these values when considering development, many of the pioneer families are still here
- Albert wants to live here because he's a neighbour of Anne Land!
- Lake Country is a four seasons playground with large group of part-time residents, only here for summer

- Outdoor recreational activities: Bird-watching, Spion Kop, lakes and mountains, hiking, walking and horse-back riding, best swimming in Okanagan
- Available amenities: ie. fruit, vegetables, wineries, agri-tourism, recreational facilities, parks, schools, Creekside Theatre, Art Walk
- Strong sense of community and love of land, farm atmosphere (in transition)
- Close to larger city centers (for access) like Kelowna, Vancouver & Calgary, also UBC-O, OC & international airport but still maintains a smaller community, sense of "living large in a smaller world"
- In the Kelowna area, but not of Kelowna
- Easy access to the outdoors for recreation; quiet beauty of Okanagan Centre and friendly people, both new and old to the community
- Abundance of natural resources and proximity and wealth of water
- The casual, relaxed "lake lifestyle"
- Opportunity for community input due to smaller size when planning for events, etc.
- Opportunities for employment where the growth areas are
- Originally First Nations settled here, fishing villages around Winfield and Vernon Creeks and Duck and Wood Lakes



- Irrigation; water available for early settlers and new residents (but not so much for new farmers today)
- Accessibility of local government, helpful and friendly neighbours
- Small town environment; a mix of residential and rural -- we can still see the stars at night (no streetlights!)
- Affordable lifestyle
- Farming, ranching

2. What is unique about Lake Country's expressions of intellectual and cultural life?

- Our community clubs play an important role for life in the community
- Proximity to UBC-O
- We have many social organizations where discussions and actions are planned and exacted
- Proximity of lakes surrounding our community results in water being a focal point for expressions of intellectual and cultural life; the beauty of our lakes is also the subject of many artworks
- Water resources are central to our activism
- Water was our key to developing agriculture
- District of Lake Country support of heritage/history/archaeology; public art; strong history here; everything seems to overlap
- Aobaki (Haiku) club
- Maintaining a sense of communities within a community through wards, community organizations and schools
- Much leisure time – recreation activities are in/near lakes
- Many/most places in Lake Country have a lake view
- Changing light/reflections on lakes provides ever-changing scenery and spiritual beauty
- The social organizations and their members overlap due to small size allowing for better connectivity for growth opportunities; also provides opportunity to build connections (roots) in the community
- Living in a community where we can still see people riding their horses, farmers driving tractors, goats, calves, chickens while walking your dog
- 40% of land base is agricultural (added: No tax income)
- Migrant workers to bring in more multiculturalism
- Social connections for different socio-economic populations (parks, rec centre)
- Great hiking “Spion Kop” connections to nature and healthy families
- Only community where you can stop your car in an intersection to speak with your neighbours
- Public Art Gallery



- Even though we are part of a larger area (OK Valley) Lake Country is distinctly different from other municipalities of the region (added: HOW?), beginning with our schools being part of Kelowna district but still separated by distance
- McFarlane House, Carr's Landing Road
- The lake was our main platform for transportation; paddle-wheelers
- Local initiatives such as building tennis courts, Camp Rd., etc.
- Nurturing independence and interdependence: independence is part of our pioneering spirit and is nurtured through the encouragement of individual expressions of art and the ability to work from home on the farm or in a home office or caring for children or elders. Interdependence is expressed through organized gatherings and places to share music, theatre, celebration of history, dance, love of books and reading, sports, art shows, to name only a few

3. What is special about the social and community life of Lake Country?

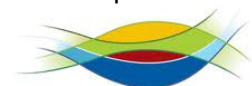
- Sense of community for individual wards (even though factors creating that identity are similar across all wards) all working together; communities are small enough that it's easier to get know to people
- The attractive attributes of social and community life are fading as more houses become owned by seasonal residents and by people who work and shop and recreate elsewhere, only coming home to sleep
- People define a community by its unique events which make up the fabric of the community: Easter egg hunt, Oyama Days, parades, tournaments, Art Walk, Summer Jam, Centerpiece, open air concerts, Halloween bonfire etc.
- Opportunity to develop town centre
- Warm and friendly neighbourhoods; people who come here for work or vacation come back or move here for good
- It has maintained its rural atmosphere with tight knit neighbourhoods; people know each other; rural neighbours help each other out, everyone is relaxed, friendly, welcoming
- Residents have options: both rural and urban
- Recreational mecca: large lake on one side, large wilderness area on the other, mountain lakes and streams, fishing, Walk Around Lake Country hiking trails, etc.
- Very much based on the benefits of our lakes
- Has been largely a community of European heritage
- Over the years there has been an incredible amount of volunteerism from the community; many groups and events exist because of volunteers (ie. Art Walk) -- (but needs "young" involvement)
- We have a "Takes a community to raise a child" mentality
- Most seniors have remained engaged in their community and want to remain living in their homes in Lake Country



- Wonderful heritage of three community halls. As a small child in the 50s, I recall community Christmas concerts with a *real* Santa who gave each child a bag of candies and a real mandarin orange
- History: students could take gun to school to hunt on way home (during depression); high school students were let out of school in fall to help with the fruit crop
- Many sports and arts groups as well as sports facilities, parks and trails
- Freedom to enjoy life
- Pride of place and community -- the people make the community
- Developing/build/have an excellent working relationship with Okanagan Indian Band
- A diversity of churches in the community
- Social organizations such as the Food Bank, Seniors Centre, WALC, Community Association, Legion, Rotary, Lions club, Ocoela Fish and Game Club
- Despite the accessibility of various social activities, either in Lake Country, Vernon or Kelowna, one can also be private, independent and not feel forced to keep up with the “Joneses”

4. What was, and is, Lake Country’s role as an administrative center?

- Uphold and promote the rights and interests of Lake Country’s First Nations
- Improvement districts such as water and fire and Farmers’ Institutes provided administrative functions in early years and were only focused on local issues
- Preserve our natural environment from over-development; act as mediator between industry, community and the environment
- Okanagan Centre with its location on Okanagan Lake, transportation was the administrative/economic centre of the community, a role which has shifted with transportation improvements. All apples used to leave the area at Okanagan Centre
- Be the example of how to work with/collaborate with a First Nation, specifically the Okanagan Indian Band
- Have had a volunteer fire department
- Part of Regional District of Central Okanagan, then incorporated as a municipality in 1995
- Local government must exist within regional, provincial and national frameworks
- Lending a voice to unique areas to form a larger picture
- To provide places (bumping spots) where people can gather and socialize
- Years past, Lake Country developed slowly and as an unorganized rural area. Volunteers led activities and change; there were four quite distinct communities, now identified as Lake Country
- Proximity to airport & UBC-O
- Provide support to community associations and help them create a “sense of place”
- Cultural center: Art Walk, Creekside Theatre



- Reflect past and current cultural influences
- To help lead the way!
- Provides/creates structure
- Current local government houses with other governments for different interests where agendas/needs coincide: water, transportation, tourism, policing, fire protection, economic development
- Increase tax revenues
- Provides funding for very important museum for historic references
- To work to ensure that Lake Country continues to be a desirable place to live, work and visit
- The “go to” place for information
- Unique as a ward-constituency system
- To protect, preserve and nurture interests, economies and lifestyles of all members of the community
- Coordinate competing interests
- To my knowledge there has been an insignificant role historically as Lake Country is only a teenager relative to other centres. However if the question is what do we want to be when we grow up, then really, the world is our oyster. Or perhaps, we are the pearl in the oyster. The question raises thoughts about whether we could become a more significant government hub for the region, the province or the feds. Certainly that would introduce clean industry and be in keeping with the growth of a service and knowledge economies. If there is demand for this then we should pursue it with vigor
- Lake Country is a suburb of Kelowna

5. How and why is economic development important to Lake Country’s heritage?

- Can we ask why it is detrimental to our heritage?
- Economic development equals growth. Growth displaces what is, which means destroying what is in place. Heritage is about maintaining what is
- Cultural tourism – people visiting gravitate to historic sites (as in Europe)
- Settlement of the Commonage and its impact on relations with First Nations
- The Gold Rush in Fir Valley
- Farm gate sales and agri-tourism -- many farmers and orchards sell directly to residents and tourists and this is an important part of our cultural heritage
- Maintain a sense of community and connect the past with our future
- Merging past history with sustainable futures
- A thriving economy will have the financial resources to support and preserve Lake Country’s cultural heritage
- Evolution of agriculture based-ranching and tree fruits to recreational tourism – lake based activities to more diverse professional economic activities

- Saskatoon gathering, fishing, cattle on commonage are some of the uses of ways
Okanagan Band members used the area around Lake Country
- Communities in Bloom is economic generation
- Wineries/vineyards
- People cannot survive and continue to live here without a functioning economy, but also not without a functioning natural economy (ecological community); important to find the balance
- Sport development and history (Rec Center, Beasley Park, etc.).
- Economic development spurred settlement of lands (cattle movement, orchards, etc.)
- Gravity-fed irrigation systems developed here in early 1900s from mountain lakes led to a move from ranching to a thriving tree fruit industry. Today, there is competition from the US, China, etc., which has reduced this industry
- Rogers Pass Hwy led to a huge growth in tourism in the 1950s and 1960s; orchard lands were logged first
- Sustainable economic development/resource management to increase economic viability and preserve our ecology
- Fastest growing community in BC
- Our past is sternwheelers and the lake, Oyama isthmus, cattle ranching, irrigation, agriculture and orchards, viticulture, tourism, roadways and traditional paths
- Development of the orchards industry resulted in immigration of Japanese workers in early 1900s who became pioneers
- CPR line in 1925 moved transportation corridor from OK Centre and Okanagan Lake to Winfield
- Agriculture, food-processing and presently tourism
- Lake Country is likely to continue growing as a bedroom community for Vernon and Kelowna industries as well as a lifestyle destination for new residents. Due to the increase in work from home trends and easy airport access, the District will grow as an ideal live/work/play location
- Vernon Fruit Union was the only real economic driver in Oyama for a long time
- To further develop Lake Country, we need a population that wants to live here – to recreate, shop and be entertained here

6. Why is heritage conservation important for Lake Country?

- Is the natural environment part of our heritage conservation? For example, points of view, trees, lake shore spawning grounds
- Quality of life and experience
- For future generations
- To recapture and learn from our past
- To preserve our stories

- To honour contributions from different cultural groups and past generations
- Recognizing and learning about First Nations heritage (ethos)
- To realize and learn from multiple histories
- Recording stories to keep the history alive for future generations
- Indicator to government officials to step back and refocus on what's important to community members
- For cultural vibrancy
- Role in economic development through tourism
- In midst of rapid development, preserve our historic sites; create balance in future urban planning
- It defines (in part) Lake Country's character and values
- Recording and identifying each decade
- Communities in Bloom
- Knowing where we came from and why and how things happened will help us make good decisions about how to proceed
- Lake Country families have worked diligently to provide a lifestyle for their families and this has provided Lake Country residents with an environment that is beautiful, peaceful and a lifestyle that people are moving to Lake Country for
- Preserve our natural heritage
- As the community grows and the elder generations pass on, preserving heritage is only way to pass on what this community is based on
- Enrichment
- Creates long term sense of belonging and community
- Architecture of different times
- Japanese stories here
- Reconciliation
- The heritage in Lake Country is unique and a good reason to build a working relationship with Okanagan Band
- Keep the past for the future: archives, artifacts, records of historic sites and places
- Looking back at the pioneers in Lake Country; ie. road names, which are named for our pioneer families
- Remembering the interesting people and places who coloured our past (ex. St. Mary's Anglican Church restored and currently lived in by artists Jim Kalkin and Lois Huey-Heck; Reverend Lett)
- Forgetting your heritage leads to community loss of identity
- People who initially worked on the irrigation pipes in the 60s and 70s from Beaver Lake and processes it took to dig the ditches and move the earth, these processes should be remembered and historically significant



- Conserving items of heritage reminds people of where we came from and provides interest and opportunities for storytelling in the community thereby enhancing our local culture. People are attracted to antiquities and details from a previous age that provides character we do not always see in our modern times; hence there is also an important tourism reason for heritage conservation. It is true that once gone, buildings of heritage cannot be replaced, however the imposition of blanket conservation requirements and the costs of restoration would not be practical if the benefit to the community were forced at the expense of the individual
- Context is important for understanding present conflicts

5. Community Heritage Values

The workshop's first activity succeeded in identifying some of the most prominent heritage values which reflect our treasured quality of life and shared history.

In the District of Lake Country, we value heritage places which provide a venue for or reflect the following values:

1. **Community Belonging:** Lake Country residents value our small-town environment and commitment to volunteerism. In addition, we respect the individual identities of our four separate wards as reflected in many of our special events. We treasure venues and projects that facilitate this sense of community and connectedness such as our community halls, schools, parks, public art and events.
2. **Natural Beauty & Climate:** Residents of Lake Country are deeply attached to our natural environment and the unique beauty of our district. Our striking landscapes and dry climate have facilitated the proliferation of various outdoor social and recreational activities, on both water and land. We believe that the health of our community and the quality of life we enjoy are dependent upon our natural surroundings.
3. **Farming & Agriculture:** The evolution of local agriculture has been a driving force in Lake Country's social and economic development. Residents value heritage places which reflect the resolve of our farmers and the tenacity of labourers.
4. **Ecology & Natural Resources:** From the First Nations and early European settlers to Lake Country's present residents, locals have always relied upon our abundance of natural resources to carve their livelihoods. We value these resources and the unique role they have played in our heritage, including by providing nourishment for the first Okanagan peoples, early transportation links on the lakes and irrigation for our orchards and vineyards. We recognize that our economic prosperity depends on the preservation of our ecology.

5. **Cultural Vibrancy:** Diversity is important to Lake Country residents as it has influenced the evolution of our community. We believe in honouring past and present contributions from all people groups and value places which embody their experiences and sacrifices throughout history. In particular, participants cited First Nations, Japanese and most recently Mexican migrants as making significant contributions. Finally, residents are committed to upholding the courage, determination and ingenuity of early European settlers, many of whose families remain in Lake Country today.

6. Potential Heritage Places

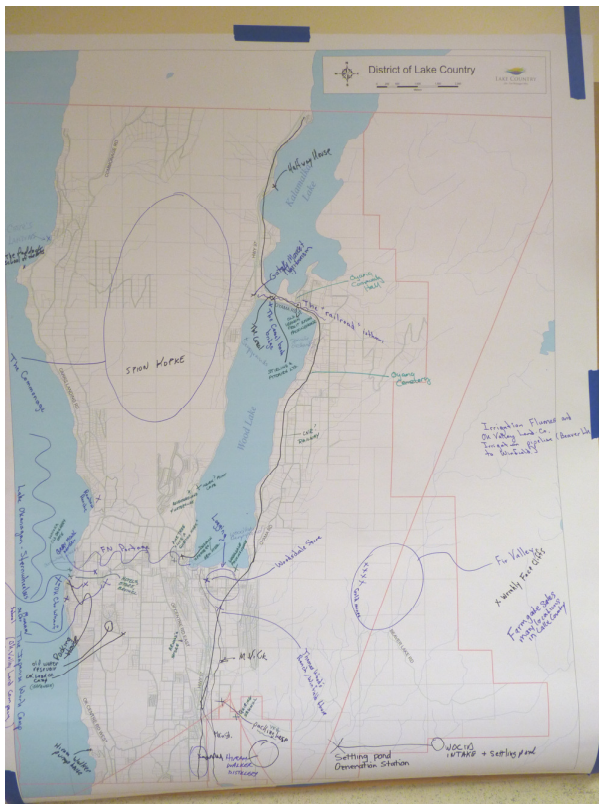
During Activity 2, the following events, places and phenomena were identified as holding heritage value for Lake Country:

- Cliffs on the eastern shore of Kalamalka Lake
- Marling effect of Kalamalka Lake
- Kaloya Park
- Oyama Community Hall
- Pioneer Park
- Boat launch on the northern shore of Wood Lake
- Walking trails on eastern shore of Wood Lake
- Oyama cemetery
- Oyama lookout
- Schools including Oyama traditional, Davidson Road Elementary, Peter Greer Elementary, George Elliot Secondary
- Wrinkly Face grasslands & cliffs
- Lake Country's largest ponderosa pine tree near Beaver Lake Rd.
- High Rim Trail
- Swalwell and water parks; farmers' market
- Swallow cliffs
- Siwash Bay
- Important geological strata
- Okanagan Centre lakefront walking trail
- Okanagan Centre Safe Harbour boat launch
- Jack Seaton Park
- Local vineyards and wineries
- Largest dripline fir tree in Canada near shore of Okanagan Lake
- Petrie's Point
- Beasley & Reiswig Parks (sites of previous packinghouses)

- Fishery on Wood Lake
- Spion Kop
- Whiskey Island (seagull habitat)
- Lake view in general
- Horse trails south of Okanagan Centre
- Site of old Halfway House along Kalamalka Lake
- Gatzke Market; agri-tourism
- Railroad isthmus between Wood and Kalamalka Lakes
- Site of old Vernon Fruit Union Packinghouse
- Camel-back bridge between Wood and Kalamalka Lakes (the canal)
- Sproule Orchards
- Stirling & Pitcairn Ltd.
- Campgrounds on Wood Lake (northwest end)
- The Paddock School of the Arts
- The Commonage
- Rainbow Ranche
- Adventureland & waterslide
- Indian Point Café
- Wood Lake Campgrounds
- Swanson Sprayers & AGM Steele
- “Question mark” pine tree on southwest corner of Wood Lake
- Woodsdale Packinghouse
- Logging industry south of Wood Lake
- Gray Monk Winery
- Site of Winoka Co-operative Exchange
- First Nations’ Portage
- Sites of Okanagan Centre’s hotels, store and brothel
- Arrowleaf Winery
- Site of Okanagan Centre wharf
- Sternwheelers on Okanagan Lake
- Arnold’s Store
- Lake Country Museum (Okanagan Centre School), OK Patio Cafe
- Japanese work camp (Okanagan Valley Land Company)
- Hiram Walker pump house and distillery
- Old water reservoir in Okanagan Centre
- Quiring Sawmill
- Middle Vernon Creek
- Thomas Wood’s ranch (Winfield House)
- Winfield’s Main Street and town centre
- Vernon Fruit Union Packinghouse on Bottom Wood Lake Rd.



- WOCID intake, settling pond and generation station
- Farm gate sales from Lake Country farms
- Irrigation flumes and pipelines from Beaver Lake to Winfield
- Hatikvah Camp
- Common bush party location
- Oyama Anglican church
- Fir Valley
- Lake Country's 20+ pieces of public art
- Winfield Community Hall
- Winfield Recreation Centre and Arena



- Lake Country Public Art Gallery
- Lake Country Coffee House
- Winfield Church
- Okanagan Centre cemetery
- Sandbar nest in OK Centre
- Okanagan Centre walking trails (inland)
- Swiss Village on Wood Lake
- Beasley/Adams horse shed
- Carr's Landing park and boat launch
- Kopje Park and Gibson House
- Rattlesnake preserve
- Old Mission Road stagecoach trail
- Old Captain Irvine House
- Carr's Landing tennis courts
- Archeological dig on Wood Lake
- Oceola Fish and Game Club building
- Easter Seal camp
- Old Wood Lake Elementary School
- Okanagan Centre Hall

- Winfield wildlife preserve
- First Nations' Cemetery
- Okanagan Centre park (site of old Grandview Hotel)
- Aobakai Club picnic site from 1920s (old Bernau property)
- Okanagan Regional Library Winfield location
- Lake Country's Heritage Markers (currently five total)
- Old Captain Clark property near Beaver Lake Rd.
- Oyama fire station
- Oyama water building
- Alvaston post office

- Winfield irrigation building
- Lake Country municipal office
- Winfield Fire hall
- Carr's Landing Hall