

Otty Lake Association

Annual General Meeting

Saturday, July 14th, 2012-07-27, Lions' Hall, Perth Ontario
Draft Minutes

1. **Welcome** - Robert Cosh
2. **Approval of the July 9th, 2011 Minutes**

Moved by Dianna Nuttall to accept the Minutes of the OLA Annual General Meeting, July 9th, 2011. Seconded by Ruth Nelson. Carried

3. **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Chris Harrison to accept the Agenda. Seconded by Ian Macdonald. Carried

4. **Financial Report and 2012 Budget** – Dave Bell, Treasurer

Copies of the Financial Report and Proposed Budget – 2012 were circulated before the meeting for membership perusal.

Moved by Dave Bell to accept the Financial Report. Seconded by Sandra Kenney. Carried

Moved by Dave Bell to accept the 2012 Budget. Seconded by Mayme Mahoney. Carried

Dave Bell asked that the members send him updated addresses.

5. **Overview of the Year's Activities** - Robert Cosh and Karen Hunt

Robert Cosh stated that the biggest concern to Otty Lake is the rise of algae in the lake caused by the runoff of nutrients and the necessity to starve the lake of phosphorous.

Karen Hunt provided a rundown of the past year's accomplishments.

The Lake Management Plan continued to be implemented through Education with the Summer Information Package available to all residents and cottagers and the Septic Savvy Workshop upcoming on August 18th.

Stewardship acts were shown in the Pitch-In Program where residents from around the lake with the help of the townships of Tay Valley and Drummond/North Elmsley cleaned up. 150 plants for shoreline planting were

made available. The Turtle Workshop in partnership with the Toronto Zoo, Adopt a Pond Program trained members to teach others about turtles of the area. The 2012 Shoreline Calendar was a great success thus the 2014 calendar is being planned. Please send great photos with the theme of the flora and fauna of Otty Lake to Gail Read.

The 2012 BioBlitz will be held on July 17th and 18th at the Scout Camp.

Karen stated that a strong lake association has a positive impact on the lake. For four weeks beginning this September 1st, Kristin Jones, a student under the direction of John Milton from Carleton University, will be doing a field research project on the role of a strong lake association using Otty Lake.

6. **Election** – Karen Hunt, Past-President

Karen Hunt introduced the OLA Board of 2011/12.

Robert Cosh will continue as President for the 2nd year of his term. Rick Stojak is willing to stand for re:election. Ric Potter asked not to complete his second year. Shari Beattie did not wish to be up for re:election. Roger Nuttall was brought on to the Board during the past year and will stand for election for the upcoming two years. Karen Hunt, as Nominating Chair, asked that the members accept her proposals of candidates Cathy Cari and Gail Read for Board Membership for the next two years. There were no nominations from the floor.

Those willing to continue for the second year of their term include: Karen Hunt, Anne Scotton, Chris Harrison, David Bell, Wally Robins, Darlene Bishop, Murray Hunt, David Reesor, Don Beattie, Phil Anderson.

Karen also thanked the Area Counsellors for their continued support.

7. **Tay Valley Township** – Keith Kerr, Reeve

Reeve Kerr brought us up-to-date on Tay Valley Township. Malcolm Morris is the new CAO. Plans for the 200th Anniversary celebration in 2016 are underway. New member of the Police Services Board is retired officer, Neil Fennell. Waste site hours have changed. Mandatory septic reinspections have begun and should be completed within the next five years for all township lakes.

8. **Drummond/ North Elmsley Township** – Councillor, Ray Scissons

There are 55 septic reinspections left to be done on Otty Lake then all will be completed. The new official plan of the township has been approved by the Ontario Government but there is little that will affect Otty Lake. There will be a zoning update to be passed in August. Cindy Halcrow is the new Clerk and Karl Grenke is the Planner. Scott Cameron is the Public Works Manager.

9. **Protecting Lake Health Through Land Use Planning** – Noelle Reeve, Planner, TVT

In 2016, Perth, Drummond/North Elmsley, Tay Valley and Beckwith Townships will celebrate their 200th Anniversary. Please send any information regarding century old places to the committee in your area.

Noelle spoke on the affects of land use on water quality. Mowing to the shore leaves no deep roots to prevent runoff. A buffer, naturalization area is needed at the shoreline including the planting and/or retention of trees. If doing any renovations first visit the township planners. TVT is happy that they can now do mandatory septic reinspections. Thirty eight hadn't been done. This year there will be ten and next year, twenty eight reinspections. If there are any questions, please call her at the TVT office.

10. Fire Safety – Paul Cameron, BBDandE Station Chief

There are two fire stations in BBD/E, one serving Otty Lake and a new station in Maberly.

Before burning, you must activate your permit. When calling in to activate, if there is a fire ban it will be noted in the message. During a fire ban, the only permissible fires are for cooking and warmth.

Smoke detectors should be checked twice a year. A detector is required on every level. Smoke detectors last about ten years.

Check to make sure there are no branches touching power lines.

11. Fish Report – Wally Robins

Thanking police, fire and conservation officers for their contribution to our society is essential and a part of his personal policy.

He continues to decry irresponsible bass fishing whether it is illegal, out-of-season angling during spawning or the legal harvesting of large bass (over 2 pounds) which will severely limit their future numbers. He noted that for the past fifteen to twenty years there was a fishing tournament held on the lake then a fish fry afterward. This year, the group bought their fish rather than catching them on the lake. He feels that this was a significant, positive step.

The bass population appeared to hold its own this past year. Any upturn would take at least five years. He stated that there are lots of shad and that pan fish are great to eat. If you must keep bass, keep those only under a pound.

He said that algae is an annoyance but not dangerous. It protects and is essential for fish. Septics are the biggest phosphorous source. He continued Noelle Reeve's comments for lakeshore owners to maintain and increase plant growth along the shoreline rather than lawns. Don't use phosphate detergents or fertilize lawns.

He stated that some groups want to ban fishing but that fishing is essential to the Canadian economy providing \$7.6 billion a year.

12. Loon Report – Bill McLeish

Bill McLeish was unable to attend but asks that any sightings be reported to him then he will analyse whether they are the same loons and report on it in the Fall Capt'n Otty's Log.

13. Questions from the floor for Board Members and Committee Chairs

Ques. Is the corn gluten advertised for lawn fertilizer okay?

Ans. Murray Hunt says that he doesn't know but discourages its use. The product has something that encourages growth.

Ques. How many loons are on the lake?

Ans. Don Beattie will speak to Bill McLeish then put this in the Fall Capt'n Otty's Log.

Comment: Owner is concerned with people honking horns when they come to a corner or hill on private roads and with speeding. He asked that those involved stop.

Ques. Where is the Septic Savvy Workshop?

Ans. Lion's Hall, Saturday, August 18th, 8:30 to 12:00

Comment: Owners on the west end of Otty report that there are six mink which have killed the loon chicks. They warn that mink are vicious and to stay away.

Ques. What is the water quality of Otty Lake at this point?

Ans. Water Quality - Murray Hunt said that the water quality of the lake is in excellent condition. The bacteria level is very low and well below the acceptable standard for drinking water set by the ministry. Most of the 28 samples taken were between 12 and 14. One hundred is the drinking water standard.

Aquatic Weed Growth – The phosphorous level has remained the same though the algae appears to have increased. The OLA is concerned about this and is looking further into it. This type of algae is not dangerous but is an annoyance. Algae is essential to fish.

Septic Reinspections – Both townships now have mandatory septic reinspections. Faulty septic systems add harmful nutrients quickly to the lake. Murray stressed that septic systems do not stop phosphorous only vegetation does therefore, a vegetative buffer between the bed and the lake is essential. Also extremely important is the elimination of phosphorous from detergents and do not use fertilizers. Don't mow.

Increased Water Sampling – RVCA measures phosphorous and nitrogen at one point on the lake. The OLA is funding more samplings around the lake.

Ques. When algae mats sink, they coat the submerged plants and kill them.

Ans. Murray Hunt said that though it coats milfoil, it all decays and decreases oxygen.

Ques. What plants should be put on septic fields?

Ans. Murray Hunt said that shallow rooted plants such as grass are good but deep rooted shrubs and trees must be avoided.

Ques. Is light pollution obstructing star view or affecting nocturnal animals?

Ans. Karen Hunt said that more research is needed and maybe an article in Capt'n Otty's Log could focus on it.

Ques. What is the OLA's position on abolishing fertilizers and lawns?

Ans. Robert Cosh said that we don't have one. There are legal aspects. The shoreline buffer aids in reducing nutrient loading and preventing geese from climbing onto lawns.

Robert asked the members if we should investigate legal avenues preventing use of lawns and fertilizers? A show of hands indicated that very few were interested in going further.

Anne Scotton said that we can gradually influence people but we are the converted. We need to find creative ways to convert the others which could include voluntary assessments, getting the townships to look into it, leaving messages at peoples' properties.

Ques. What can be done to stop campers from threatening loons nesting on islands?

Ans. Robert Cosh said that the Board discussed putting up signs but this could attract people.

Comment: Some people in the SE part are cutting weeds then let them drift. If weeds are cut, take them, not cut them loose.

Comment: People on Lakewood Lane and Lakewood Road appreciate the map and addresses for help with redirection.

Comment: Keep boat and jetski speed down.

14. Other Business

Door Prizes: Seven year old, Skyla vanden Hoek gave out the door prizes. Irene Waller received a Drinking Water Analysis from Caduceon Environmental Laboratories in Kingston with a retail value of \$275. This was provided by the OLA who use the laboratory for their lake water testing. There were 15 other prizes provided by TVT, DN/E Township and plants from the OLA sale.

Adjournment

Ian Macdonald moved that the meeting be adjourned. Carried