



Otty Lake Association

Annual General Meeting (AGM) Minutes

Saturday, July 11th, 2015, 9:30 - 11:30 am
The Perth Legion

Welcome - Robert welcomed everyone to the AGM at 9:30 am. Thanks to:

- All for attending
- Legion for hosting
- Tiger for doing audio visual
- The Board for their dedication & focus over the last year.
- Partners, e.g. RVCA, Health Unit, Watersheds Canada, townships, Friends of the Tay. Together we make our lake better.
- Members - we look for help and ideas from you.

96 members and presenters were in attendance.

July 12, 2014 AGM Minutes - Motion (Christine Kilburn/Peter Siemons) - Approve minutes as distributed. **CARRIED**

Agenda - Motion (Karen Hunt/Cathy Kari) - Approve distributed agenda with the following amendments:

- D/NE presenters - Steve Fournier, Shawn Merriman are replacing George Sacks
- Watersheds Canada presenter - Dylan Radcliffe replacing Barb King

CARRIED Christine thanked Steve, Shawn and Dylan for joining us today.

Financial Report Presentation - Dave Bell presented a narrative budget to augment the financial reports which had been distributed. Points mentioned included:

- OLA work for health and welfare of the lake is dependant on revenues from membership fees, donations (e.g. D/NE, Kentucky fishermen, couple in Pennsylvania)
- Funds are used for water testing, publication of newsletters, web hosting services, FOCA membership, rental of space for meetings, etc
- Volunteers make association work. Without them, the cost would be much higher.
- How can lake residents help? Request soft copy of newsletter rather than hardcopy. Currently it takes 49 paid memberships to deliver hard copy newsletters.
- Encourage others to join the OLA

Motion (Dave Bell/Karen Hunt) - approve 2015 Budget **CARRIED**

Motion (Dave Bell/Gary Hansen) - approve 2014 financials **CARRIED**

- Many thanks to Ross Hollingsworth for his review of the financials as presented.
- Dave shared his biography, since he hopes to remain on the Board as Treasurer.
- Dave encouraged others to get involved in projects around the lake.

Introduction of Board Members - Robert presented Board members. All were present.

- Karen Hunt - Past President
- Dave Bell - VP Finance & Treasurer
- Christine Kilburn - Secretary
- Cathy Kari - Vice-President
- Barb Hicks - Board Director & Coordinator - Cap'n Otty's Log & Webmaster
- Derek Smith - Board Director & Water Quality
- Peter Siemons - Board Director & Chair - Land Use Committee
- Ian McDonald - Board Director & Manager - Lake Activities Projects
- Bill McLeish - Board Director, Loon Survey & Crown Islands
- Phil Anderson - Board Director & Counsellors' Coordinator
- Gail Read - Board Director & Social Events Coordinator
- Anne Scotton, Roger Nuttall, Ginger Hay - Board Directors

Elections - Prior to presenting this topic, Karen Hunt asked everyone to remember David Code and his family. He was president of the OLA from 1975 to 1987 and made significant contributions to the development and work of the OLA during his tenure and after. Karen reviewed the Nominations Report as distributed, indicating that Robert is completing his 2nd year of a 2 year term. We are fortunate to have Reid Kilburn volunteering to be the president for the next 2 years. Reid spoke briefly about looking forward to continuing the good work of the OLA. Karen asked if anyone else wanted to put their name forward. **Motion** (Karen Hunt/Wally Robins) Approve Reid as president for the next 2 year term. **CARRIED**

Karen presented the names of those who wish to continue for another term, those who have served one year of their 2 year term, those who will not be continuing. As a result, the OLA Board has openings for 3 new Directors. We have 3 strong candidates for these positions - Krista Hearty McLean (present), Chuck Shenkman (absent), Wally Robins (present). Karen asked if there were any nominations from the floor. There were none. Krista spoke briefly, expressing her enthusiasm for the health of Otty Lake where they have had a cottage for 6 years. She and her students learned about testing water quality from Murray and Karen. **Motion** (Karen Hunt/Diana Nuttall) accept the slate of officers as presented. **CARRIED**. Karen thanked Robert for his role as president and Ginger, Phil and Bill for their contributions.

Communications - Barb briefly highlighted the types of communication within the OLA.

- Newsletter - 3 issues per year. Its production is a group effort. She is always looking for contributions to the newsletter. 120 go out by Canada Post. As Dave

mentioned in his financial report, switching from hard copy to soft copy would save the OLA money.

- Website - Barb puts up photos received from residents. Please send photos!
- Facebook page. It is good for informal communication.
- Summer Information Packages, include useful information handed out to residents.

Aquatic Invasive Species - Roger Nuttall did a presentation on this topic to augment his display of invasive species we have, those we hope we don't get in the next few years.

Species talked about included:

- Zebra mussels - less than 10 years ago.
- Yellow Iris - clump at Scout camp, in swamp. Easy to pull out
- Purple loosestrife - used to grow 4' to 6' high. About 15 years ago, OLA & RVCA spent \$1,500 on bugs, and it has worked. Within 2 years, the bugs had spread to other areas, so that plants are now only 2' to 4' high, and have holes in leaves.
- European Frog-Bit - smother swampy areas. Don't know how to get rid of them
- Rusty Crayfish
- Bandit snail - parasite which lives in the snail can cause swimmer's itch. Have a shower right away.
- Question - should we be concerned about blue green algae? Answer - Native to waters in Eastern Ontario. If you have sewage or fertilizer run off into the lake, we could get it. Keep your lake clean. More discussion to come.

Water Quality Updates & Initiatives - Our water quality members, Murray Hunt and Derek Smith, did presentations on this topic. Murray presented first.

- 53 samples for e-coli were done. Dave Bell referred to this expense item in his financial presentation. None of the samples exceeded acceptable level for swimming which is extremely good. Our values are lower than at most beaches.
- Nutrients such as phosphorous and nitrogen are necessary for health of a lake in moderation. There has been a slight decline in phosphorous levels since 2000.
- To control green algae blooms on lake -
 - ensure septic system is in proper working order
 - Avoid use of fertilizers
 - Maintain a ribbon of life on shoreline.
- Other sampling done on lake, monitoring done by RVCA or OLA
- Blue green algal blooms - In addition to providing information including photos, Murray referred members to the article in the last newsletter for more detail.
- What to do if you think you have it - call Murray, Derek or MOECC.

Derek - State of the Lake report had 9 components including:

- Physical limnology
- Chemical limnology
- Shoreline planting program
- Fisheries project

- During the Victoria Day weekend, Derek placed Zebra mussel boxes out on the lake. He will take them out on Labour Day weekend, checking for numbers and health of population. Cloverleaf Island had the largest concentration.
- Temperatures of the lake. Jun 1 to Jun 14 - proliferation of green algae
- Showed photo of green algae under microscope. Their nuclei are quite smart, unlike blue green algae. Extensive environmental monitoring is being done to determine factors impacting algal growth.
- Different areas of the lake have different experiences, e.g. this year Little Otty has a lot of green algae, while other parts of the lake are almost clear.
- 19 different chemical analyses of residents' water last year. All except 1 were excellent.
- Another State of the Lake Report will be on the website this fall.

Tay Valley Township -

Keith Kerr - likes to come out to meet the people. Noelle Reeve, Brian Campbell, Judy Farrell, Eric Kohlsmith were also in attendance. Keith provided a brief update, e.g. a new treasurer has been hired, Harper Rd has been redone, we were the hardest hit in Eastern Ontario re policing costs.

Noelle Reeve, planner - happy to be here every year and tell us what's going on in our township. She also provided a brief update, e.g. the Official Plan will be sent for Council approval this fall, we'll be asked for suggestions on the Rezoning By-Law, they're being asked to revisit the maximum size for a home-based business of 400 sq ft, as well as the minimum size for a home of 800 sq ft since some want to build smaller homes.

TVT is developing our strategic plan to address such issues as what should the township look like in 20 years? The County has drivers to take seniors to appointments - should the township provide this service?

Noelle discussed the plans for next year's 200th anniversary, e.g. the calendar, history book, Harvest Festival.

Noelle mentioned the Electric Car Charging Station at the Fall River Restaurant.

Drummond/North Elmsley - Counsellor Steve Fournier spoke briefly. Shawn Merriman was in attendance, as was Karl Grenke. 50% of Otty Lake is in D/NE. Steve provided Township updates, e.g. Drummond School Rd is being rebuilt, the Township bought a used loader to fill sand trucks, OPP costing - \$146K for 2015 and 2016. They have an asset management plan to fix roads, keep equipment properly maintained. In response to a question last year, it cost \$500K to reconstruct Rideau Ferry docks last year. Karl Grenke is the planner for the township. He also spoke about the 200th anniversary in 2016. They have events planned, e.g. Settlers' trail. Stay tuned to local media. The township appreciates the role of OLA in their planning and work. They circulate information to OLA, and neighbours. Our Board provides feedback before their meetings. It is a constructive relationship, and greatly appreciated.

Update on Trillium Project – Kaitlin Brady of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) presented this topic. She is the coordinator of the People, Aquatic Plants & Healthy Lakes project. It is a collaborative effort by Friends of the Tay, Carleton U, MVCA, RVCA who got a grant from the Trillium Foundation to address aquatic plant growth and increased algae. The team is doing the following:

- Collecting sediment cores in 20 lakes, including Otty, at the deepest point. This allows them to go back in time to see what types of diatoms were there.
- Doing an educational manual on algae and aquatic plants. It will identify activities you can do to maintain a healthy lake system.
- Using an Eco sounder where there are thicker plant stands
- Otty Lake sediment identifies water quality. Water clarity has increased since zebra mussels were introduced to lake.
- What we can do – Citizen Water Watch website
 - Android app will be available for this
 - Send photos to website if you notice algal blooms or thick plant stands
 - Educate yourself on what negatively impacts your lake
 - Keep shoreline natural. Don't mow to edge, have at least a 3 metre buffer. Without this, water runs right into lake, increase of nutrients. Also causes shoreline erosion, which adds nutrients to lake.
 - Use rain barrels
 - Maintain a properly working septic system
 - Don't use fertilizer. When it rains, some will wash into lake.
 - Do not leave organic material, e.g. leaves, along shoreline.
 - Reduce speed when boating near shore. Can cause erosion.
 - Use phosphorous free detergents, since algae love to eat phosphorus.
- Educational manual will be on the website when complete. Summarized one will be available in hard copy.

Shoreline Surveys Report – Dylan Radcliffe of Watersheds Canada summarized the results. They conducted the Love your Lake program, surveying all properties on Otty Lake in 2013. The surveys were done from a boat. They had volunteer boat drivers, sheets were filled in on each property, and each individual and personalized report was provided to the property owner. Today he summarized the lakewide report. There were improvements over the 2005 findings, e.g.

- Decrease in Erosion. They recommend action on only 1% of properties.
- Shoreline conditions are improving on Otty Lake.
- In 2005, 45% of the shorelines were considered ornamental or degraded, e.g. lawns down to shore, retaining walls, cribdocks. This has dropped 13% in last 10 years.

Other statistics include:

- Building setback (main structures) – 20% had structures closer than 10 metres to shore. Township by-laws are helping to ensure proper setbacks.

- Types of docks - Dept of Fisheries & Oceans puts out a brochure about types of docks they would recommend. The majority of docks on Otty Lake are preferred choice of dock for habitat sustainability.
- Naturalization priorities - potential for restoration activities. Majority have limited potential. 11% have potential for restoration activities.
- Vegetative buffer can't be stressed enough. Builds in ecohealth resilience, lake's ability to weather the storm.

Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Association (FOCA) Update - Beatrice Schriever, a member of the OLA, brought us information on FOCA. She owns a cottage built by her parents in the 1970's on the southwest shore of Otty Lake and lives in Toronto. She attends the FOCA AGM in Toronto.

- FOCA - only province wide organization. About 50 years old.
- Members are all over Ontario. Eastern Ontario, of which we are a part, accounts for 16% of the membership. 50,000 family members in total.
- FOCA is an information bridge between lake associations and policy makers.
- FOCA helps connect community groups with one another. Lake Networking Group (34 organizations in Eastern Ontario) is a member. FOCA takes their work and distributes it more widely.
- Supports Lake Management Plans.
- Specific issues - OPP, Aquatic Invasive Species, Ontario Energy Board (Hydro One prices - trying to decrease rate of increase for seasonal residents), research and water quality in the Great Lakes.
- FOCA has brochure which talks about what they're all about
- Benefits to OLA - various benefits, e.g. support for water monitoring, tips about invasive species, funding for Lake Links workshop (one in Perth on Oct 24th, 2015), toolkit for road associations
- Benefits to Members - insurance information, e.g. directors of road associations, directors of lake associations. Workshops, e.g. cottage succession planning, invasive species.
- FOCA Communications - Annual newsletter, eLert, FOCA website - lots of info and easy to find. www.FOCA.on.ca It is a well run organization.

Robert - presented Robert's Rules of Order to Reid for his use as president. It was presented to him by Don Beattie.

Bass Habitat Enhancement Project - Jennifer Lamoureux of the RVCA and Wally Robins, an OLA member, gave us an update on this project. Jennifer gave us a brief history on bass spawning. This project is the first and only one of its kind. Phase 1 took place in the fall of 2013, and spawning sites were visited in 2014. There was a 41% success rate. It might have been higher, since 49 of 92 nests were so deep that results could not be seen. Phase 1 cost \$14,280.

Phase 2 took place in the fall of 2014 in the central part of the lake. Gravel beds were installed on sites Wally found. Trees were dropped in 15' to 20' depths. They provide protection, males gravitate to these areas. 2 pails of rock were emptied in each bed. The beds were put at least 30' apart to eliminate competition amongst males. Phase 2 cost \$9,940. 175 bass nests were built, 240 volunteer hours were contributed. The sites were visited twice in the spring of 2015. Phase 2 has a 43% success rate. There was a substantial water level drop in that time, so beds were abandoned due to lower water levels. 57 beds were in deeper water, so couldn't make observations. This year they actually saw the black fry stage, which is very exciting.

Next phase - OLA Board approved 3 more years of work (2015, 2016 and 2017 - the level of support will be approved on an annual basis after review). Once again volunteers will be needed. They already have ideas of what they can do. The scope could be broadened to be not only fish, but wildlife, e.g. turtle and water fowl. They are planning to build nesting boxes. Contact Jennifer if interested.

Wally has met with Bruce Tuffs, a biology professor at Queen's, one of Canada's most knowledgeable, respected biologists re small mouth bass. Bruce loves to fish and is a passionate conservationist. He and Bruce will spend time on Otty Lake in July/August, and Wally will report to the Board after that in terms of what he is willing to do. Bruce has suggested that he would donate his and his staff's time to work on Otty Lake.

Question - what are boxes for? Answer - Wood ducks, swallows, bats. The rangers will build them, so they will only charge to cover the cost of material.

Question - if Otty Lake gets a reputation for a large bass population, will we attract more fishermen, bringing in boats carrying invasive species? Answer - Education on cleaning boats and fishing respectfully are key. We are blessed with a great lake so want to share this. Our public launch is a bit of a challenge for people, so we won't get more boats. It's not possible to come to Otty and fish for 8 hours and catch 50 bass. It won't happen, since Otty has unique conditions fishermen have to get used to. There are water systems FAR superior to Otty. Wally is not concerned.

Door Prizes - Ian McDonald (water bottle), Jim Coward (shirt D/NE)

Adjournment - (Robert Cosh/Ian McDonald) The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am.