

History of the Otty Lake Association

The first Otty Lake Association appears to have been established in the 1930s and was oriented to water sports including the organization of an annual Regatta.

By the 1960s a second lake association, the Otty Lake Protective and Conservation Association, was actively promoting fishing and related outdoor activities.

The population of Otty Lake had increased considerably by the late 1960s and there was a growing concern for the water quality of the lake. In response to these concerns a Pollution Control Committee was formed in 1970.

Under the auspices of the Pollution Control Committee, the lake was organized into nine Areas, each one with a Counsellor, to provide a communication link between the Lake Association and the Area residents.

Beginning in 1973, with the encouragement and help of the Ministry of the Environment, an Otty Lake water quality monitoring program was established. Over the next 30 years fecal counts were sampled at 32 sites around the lake. This program continues today with Ecoli and nutrient levels monitoring.

By 1976 the Otty Lake Pollution Control Committee had assumed all of the responsibilities – and more – of the former association and it was decided to rename the organization. In 1978 it officially became the OTTY LAKE ASSOCIATION.

The goals of the Otty Lake Association since its early days have been: to provide a pollution-free lake environment, to maintain good recreational facilities and to be generally concerned with matters that affect property owners.

Through the years members of the Otty Lake Association have encouraged municipal and provincial authorities that are responsible for the regulations that protect lakes, to develop sound lake management practices. As well, dedicated volunteers have worked hard to educate permanent and seasonal lake residents on good environmental practices and have run programs to monitor the health of the lake.

For almost forty years many caring volunteers have devoted their time and skills to ensure that the water quality and environment of Otty Lake is maintained and enhanced for future generations.

Indeed the years of dedicated effort on the part of many Otty Lake volunteers has led to the lake management planning work currently being undertaken by Otty Lake residents in co-operation with the RVCA, Municipalities, government agencies and other community partners.

-Prepared by Karen Hunt, May 18, 2006, based on information provided by David Code and Lorne Gold