

NOVEMBER 2005



Captain Otty's Log

Newsletter of the Otty Lake Association

President – David Reesor

Editor – Bob Melville



Remember summer 2005

This photo shows what a special summer we had on Otty Lake. On July 31st this swan decided to visit Bernie and Jill Prôt's waterfront on Three Bay Road. It spent the day majestically touring Park's Bay.

President's Message –David Reesor

Hi everyone,

Wow what a summer on Otty Lake!! It was the warmest. It was the driest. It was the sunniest. It was the best. We did have low water levels but we had fewer weeds to deal with as well.

This is my first message as President of the OLA. I would like to begin with some comments about our Past President Karen Hunt. At our AGM, in July, Don Hill spoke of "Karen's remarkable combination of ability and diligence". As President of the OLA, she has provided strong leadership and formed alliances with local Lake Associations, the OPP, Drummond North Elmsley and Tay Valley Township, Government Ministries, Agencies,

Organizations and individuals. I have been impressed with her abilities to involve and motivate others and on many occasions I have appropriately referred to her as a dynamo. We are indeed fortunate to have Karen Hunt as a member of our Board and Karen is now devoting much of her energy towards the development of our Lake Management Plan. Karen, everyone involved in the Otty Lake Community thanks you.

A Few Words about Me

After I was elected President at the AGM, in July, a number of people were asking who I was. I'm new to Otty Lake (compared to most of you). My wife Daphne and I retired to Perth in May 2003 and we bought a house on Three Bay Road. Soon after we arrived I met Jack Lynn. He introduced me to the OLA and Dick Atkinson invited me to join the Board. After attending several meetings,

I understood the value of the OLA and that everything they did was for Otty Lake. I was hooked. For the past year and a half I have been Vice President of the OLA and with Karen's decision to step down, I became President.

The Otty Lake Association

Many people are unaware of the strong support lake residents have for the OLA. Each year we have about 340 members including 70% of those who have lake front properties. The average in Maple Glen and Burgess Wood is understandably lower as there are owners who aren't involved with the lake.

There are 15 board members, 25 area counsellors and 10 members who assist on committees of the board, all volunteers. The board is comprised of 8 members who have been on the board less than 3 years while the other 7 have been involved for many years. It is an excellent mix of knowledge, experience, energy and progressive thinking.

Why are so many people willing to devote so much time to the OLA? The answer is quite simple, they love Otty Lake.

If you read the **Looking Back** section of the Perth Courier not long ago you would have seen the headline for 25 years ago "**OTTY LAKE POLLUTED**".

This was the catalyst for support of the OLA.

A more recent headline for 25 years ago had an article about Little Silver Lake. There was an issue of increased lakeside development. The Tay Valley Planning Board decided to delete lake study requirements prior to development. The Chairman of the Property Owner's Association said "Our major concern is that some agency, be it provincial or federal, should look after the quality of our lakes".

I think it is obvious to all of us that it is up to the Otty Lake Community to assume responsibility for the "quality of our lake". Focus groups for the Otty Lake Management Plan have identified water

quality and recreational use of the lake as their most important values for the lake. Naturally property values are closely linked to the state of the lake. When we bought our house it was described as being on "the pristine Otty Lake". That was a bit of a stretch. The lake is in reasonably good shape but from a scientific point of view it can be argued that the lake is in a slow decline.

The OLA conducts water testing to monitor the health of the lake. Occasionally there has been a higher than normal bacterial count in a specific area and residents living nearby have been notified. This has been a rare occurrence and in any case all E.Coli measurements taken in the past few years have met the provincial standard for swimming.

The Land Use Committee

Development continues on or adjacent to Otty Lake as does redevelopment and both have the potential to impact the lake.

The OLA Land Use Committee receives notice of all development and redevelopment from both Drummond North Elmsley and Tay Valley Township. The Land Use Committee offers comments and in some cases recommendations to the council. In some cases the RVCA and adjacent residents will comment on these proposals as well.

Sometimes the proposal will require a significant variance from the current bylaws and in some instances the Land Use Committee will make a presentation at the meeting.

This is a very important role for the OLA especially in the case of redevelopment. Redevelopment is more difficult as the Lake is surrounded by structures that were built when building regulations were not as restrictive.

We now have a requirement for a 30 metre setback (from the lake) for new structures and a 15 metre no-build zone from the shore.

It is a very complex and difficult issue to consider when a proposal is made to enlarge an existing cottage or to rebuild a cottage and create a permanent residence. Since Otty Lake is virtually divided in half by the two townships it is important that both councils have a common approach to these issues. Both councils face difficult challenges with requests for variances and landowners face challenges when they consider development or redevelopment. Proposals often offer environmental gains or improvements but may still require significant variances.

Both councils have shown their concerns for the health of Otty Lake in recent discussions and reviews of proposals. Both councils have indicated their support for the development of a Lake Management Plan for Otty Lake and they are keen to participate and partner in its development. They will be able to use the Plan to support sustainable development around the Lake which will help protect the Lake for use by future generations.

Individual projects may have minor impact on the Lake but consider what would happen if council did not carefully scrutinize every application.

What we all must remember is the consolidated impact of development and redevelopment on Otty Lake.

Twenty-five years ago we saw what could happen to the Lake when it was referred to as “polluted”. None of us want that to happen again.

The Environment Committee

The environment committee has been active on a number of issues. With the arrival of Zebra Mussels they have provided advice on water filters to protect intakes. They have also provided information concerning milfoil and they have worked on a cutting solution that residents can use if needed. They also have provided information on water levels and water quality and they continue to lobby both councils to develop comprehensive septic reinspection programs. A properly functioning and regularly inspected septic system is

probably the best way we can all help to protect the lake.

They also encourage residents not to use fertilizers or pesticides and to use non-phosphate cleaners and soaps. They also promote an undeveloped and natural shoreline which helps to protect the lake.

Low Water Levels

You may be surprised to hear that we receive complaints and concerns about both high and low water levels! Otty Lake is a lake with very little water inflow. There is a bit that enters from wetlands adjacent to McLaren Lake but the majority comes from rain, springs on the lake bottom and runoff. The outflow into Jebb’s Creek is quite minimal and it can take 4 ½ years for outgoing volume to equal the volume of the lake. This year we saw the dramatic impact of minimal rain and maximum evaporation. For those of you new to the lake (like me) it is interesting to learn that high and low water levels are normal at Otty Lake. David Code has reported on water levels for years and my neighbour Norm Hull has kept measurements for 20+ years as well. As you will read in David Code’s comments about water levels later in the newsletter, Otty Lake water levels can fluctuate by up to 30 inches (75 cm) and this fluctuation has been repeated over and over through the years!

Why Join the Otty Lake Association?

At one of our Lake Management discussions the question was asked “What does the Otty Lake Association do for me”? I don’t think the person asking the question had any appreciation or knowledge about what the OLA does or how much effort 50 volunteers expend for the Lake and for each and every resident of the Otty Lake Community. It really isn’t your \$20 that we want. (Sure the money is useful especially as we enter the major expense of a Lake Management Plan). What we really want is your Membership. The OLA is highly regarded and respected by government, agencies, organizations and individuals and with your membership our voice is strengthened and we are heard. For those of

you who do belong, Thank You. To those who don't belong, please give it serious consideration.

Remember, our efforts are for you, Otty Lake and the future and because **all of us love Otty Lake!** Enjoy the rest of the fall and have a great winter. Our next newsletter will be in the spring.

If you have any questions about the newsletter or Otty Lake, please feel free to phone or email me, David Reesor, at 326-0094 or davidanddaphnereesor@yahoo.ca

Otty Lake Management Planning

Karen Hunt

There have recently been some exciting developments!

In September, the Friends of the Tay Watershed Association, Otty Lake Association, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority and Tay Valley Township received word that our Trillium Grant Application for funds to support a Lake Management Planning Program for local lakes had been accepted.

In October, Otty Lake was selected as one of the three core lakes for the Tay Watershed Lake Management Planning Program.

Please read below to see what's happened since you received your June Issue of Captain Otty's Log.

- **Summer 2005** – Participants at the Otty Lake AGM provided additional input on values, issues and concerns of our Otty Lake community through participation in a Open Space Exercise under the guidance of lake management committee member, Wally Robins.
- **Summer 2005** – Stewardship Rangers under the supervision of the Lanark Stewardship Council photographed Otty Lake shoreline properties. As well, a local firm, EcoScapes, was hired to make observations of the entire Otty Lake shoreline. This work will

allow us to assess changes in the condition of the shoreline over the past 18 years since the 1987 Otty Lake Shoreline Assessment was completed. It will also provide background information for future stewardship projects.

- **September 16, 2005** - During a presentation event which took place at Otty Lake, Ontario Trillium Foundation volunteer Donna Davidson congratulated the Friends of the Tay Watershed, Otty Lake Association, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, Tay Valley Township and the Community Stewardship Council of Lanark Council on receiving a \$96,000 grant for their Tay Watershed Lake Management Planning Program. The three-year grant will be used to develop a cooperative approach to assist local lake associations to undertake their individual lake management plans. (Photos and media release at <http://www.tayriver.org/> and http://www.rideauvalley.on.ca/welcome/tay_trillium.pdf)
- **October 24, 2005** – Otty Lake was selected as the first of the three core lakes which will be supported through the Tay Watershed Lake Management Planning Program (http://www.rideauvalley.on.ca/programs/LMP_Program/index.html has a description of the Program) Participation in this Lake Management Planning Program will provide us with customized project management assistance from the Program Manager, Sheanna Tinlin and other resources as we move forward into the more technical aspects of our lake management planning i.e. development of the State of the Lake Report and the Lake Management Plan itself.
- **Ongoing work** – We are continuing to collect data about the Otty Lake Watershed and developing stronger working relationships with community partners e.g. Municipalities, RVCA, FoTW, other lake associations, Lanark County Stewardship Council, CSW, MNR and MOE

- **The next stage** of our Otty Lake Management Planning will be to analyse and compile the information that has been collected about the Otty Lake Watershed Area into a comprehensive State of the Lake Report. This work will take place during the winter of 2005/2006. The State of the Lake Report will then be distributed to lake residents and agencies and organizations which have a vested interest in the long term health of the lake for input. The information received will assist in the development of the Otty Lake Management Plan.

It's an exciting time for our Otty Lake Community!

For more information on the Otty Lake Management Planning process please refer to the Lake Management Planning section of the OLA website (www.ottylake.org)

You may also contact Karen Hunt at mkhunt@perth.igs.net or speak to any member of the lake management planning committee. Sincere thanks to committee members Tressa Oliver, Rosemarie Hoppe-Wilhelm, Diana Nuttall, Ross Hollingsworth, Wally Robins, Ian McDonald and David Reesor. A special thank you as well to Robin Newton and Images Inter Alia for assisting with the shoreline project of our lake management work.

Land Use Committee Report – Bill Hale

The Land Use Committee provided comments on 2 By-law amendment applications that were made to Tay Valley Township for additions to existing cottages. One application was approved and the other one was denied. The Land Use Committee is working to encourage the Township to make decisions that provide for the sustainable development of lake front properties. Key considerations are setbacks to buildings, lot size, frontage, topography, the type and location of septic systems and the potential that individual lots have to meet the goal and objectives of the Official Plan.

We encourage all Otty Lake residents to contact the Building Inspector of their respective Townships,

the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority and the Otty Lake Land Use Committee early on if you are contemplating changes to your property.

If you see any developments that you have questions about you are encouraged to contact the Township office for information or contact any member of the Otty Lake Association Land Use Committee and we will make the necessary inquiries."

2005 WATER QUALITY RESULTS

Murray Hunt

The OLA continued with three water quality-testing programs at Otty Lake in 2005.

E.Coli. samples provide a measure of bacterial levels in the Lake. Values in excess of 100 counts/100 ml of E.Coli. are regarded as unsafe for swimming. The results for 2005 are:

18 samples with a value of 1 or less count/100 ml
6 samples with values between 1 to 5 counts/100 ml

5 samples with values between 6 to 10 counts/100 ml

1 sample with a value between 11 to 25 counts/100 ml

2 samples with values between 50 and 70 counts/100 ml

These results indicate that on a general basis, the lake water is safe for swimming and limited household use. Drinking untreated lake water is not recommended.

The OLA collected **phosphorous samples and measured water clarity** under the Lake Partners Program of the Ministry of the Environment (MOE). Phosphorous and water clarity measurements provide an indication of the nutrient loading of the Lake. The phosphorous samples are analyzed at the MOE office in Dorset and those results will be available to us in the winter. That will enable us to compare the results with other participating lakes in Ontario. Water clarity was high due to the presence of zebra mussels.

The OLA participated for the second year with the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) in their **benthic macro invertebrate**

monitoring program at Otty Lake. This is the collection of insects and shellfish that live, at or near the bottom, close to the shoreline. Lake water quality can be deduced by the presence and relative population size of the various species of water insects and crustaceans collected, as some are more (or less) sensitive to pollution (impairment of water quality) than others. However, the methodology was originally developed for assessment of streams and the RVCA is still adapting these techniques for assessment of lakes. No definitive results for Otty are available at this point in time.

Thanks are extended to Bill Kennedy and Lorne Gold for their support of the water quality testing program at Otty.

Water Levels – David Code

Anyone who arrived at Otty Lake in 2004 could be excused for thinking that this year's water levels appeared low. But long-term residents know better. Last year's levels were quite unusual. In 2004 the water started very high and stayed high, never getting down to the July 1st Datum line. But 2005 was, in terms of the historic levels, as close to normal as we have seen recently.

The 2005 season began normally with a level 10.5 inches above Datum, then dropped gradually until reaching the July 1st Datum line on (guess what?) July 1st. The decline continued steadily and evenly until reached minus 8 inches by early September. With the rains that came in September, the levels remained constant into October. Considering that the historic range of lake fluctuations is about 25 inches – sometimes as great as 30 inches – the 2005 range was modest at 18.5 inches.

WEEDS IN OTTY LAKE -

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

Conditions this past summer were conducive to weed growth. Hot weather, lower water levels and water clarity (the presence of zebra mussels); all contribute to the growth of aquatic plants (weeds).

So, you may wonder why, all of these conditions being present, weeds, during 2005, were not as invasive as they were in 2004?

Biologist studies suggest that the answer is directly related to the abundance of zebra mussels in the lake. Zebra mussels survive using nutrients as their food source (as do weeds), so, as zebra mussel quantities increase (as they have this past summer) more nutrients are consumed by them leaving less nutrients for the weeds, hence the slower growth of weeds.

The cycle of zebra mussels in some other area lakes indicate that the mussels may eventually consume their own food supply of nutrients, which will lead to a decline of their population.

WEED CUTTING AND DISPOSAL:

If you are interested, Professional Weed Removal for Otty Lake residents is still available for next summer. Contact Jack Lynn, (jlynn@ripnet.com) ...permits are required, so it's essential that this decision is NOT left until next July.

ADDRESS CHANGES

Just a reminder to let us know if you change your address, so you will receive your CAPTAIN OTTY'S LOG.

Please send address changes to the Otty Lake Association, Box 20122, Perth Mews Mall, Perth, ON, K7H 3M6 or by email to ottylake@sympatico.ca

OPP Meets with Local Lake Associations

Karen Hunt

Since March 2004, representatives of the local lake associations have met twice a year with Lanark OPP Detachment Commander Inspector Gerry Salisbury and members of his staff. The meetings provide an opportunity for direct communication between the lake communities and the OPP about issues related to safety and security of lake residents on and off the water.

The most recent meeting took place on October 21, 2005 at the Lanark OPP Offices in Perth.

At that meeting we heard that, following the rash of Break and Enters in the fall of 2003, the number of incidences at all the local lake areas requiring police attention has been much reduced. The OPP encourages members of all lake communities to watch out for one another and report any suspicious situations to the OPP. As Constable Paige Whiting, the OPP Community Services Officer, commented in a recent Neighbourhood Watch Report, such reporting gives police the opportunity to follow up. One of the decisions made at the meeting on October 21st was that Constable Whiting would add a representative from each of the lake associations to the distribution list for media release /neighbourhood watch type updates. Thus the lake associations will be aware of situations happening in their lake communities and, when appropriate, can inform lake residents.

Marine statistics for Otty Lake for the summer of 2005 indicate that the OPP Marine Patrol was on Otty Lake on five different occasions checking 60 vessels and issuing two Liquor Licensing Act tickets. There were also a number of warnings issued - two under the Liquor Licensing Act, eight under the Small Vessel Regulations and one under the Game and Fish Act. The police received no reports of marine related accidents on Otty Lake. In regard to concerns about transporting invasive species from one lake to another, it should be noted that the OPP have assured the local lake associations that the OPP boats are returned to their garage for washing between moving from one lake to another.

The next OPP/Lake Associations Meeting will take place on May 18, 2006.

History of Otty Lake

David Code

At the request of the Association I am in the process of collecting information for the purpose of producing a history of Otty Lake. In the course of my research I have been interviewing a number of long-term lake residents, as well as those who have

played active roles in protecting and preserving our lake. Some of the material collected to date records the history of settlements in the 19th century – before cottaging began.

Further contributions would be welcome with a deadline of December 31st please.

2005 AGM Door Prizes

1. Fishing Rod and Reel – donated by Bennett's Bait and Tackle, Smith Falls – won by Jeff Hunt
2. Canoeing with Roger Nuttal – donated by Roger Nuttal; won by - Linda Davies
3. Lake Tour – donated by Ross Hollingsworth; won by - Elspeth Menendez
4. Maple Basket – donated by MapleWorks/David and Tress Oliver; won by - Rhoda Atkinson
5. Living on the Edge book – donated by Karen Hunt; won by - Jim Montgomery
6. Gift certificate – donated by the Mill Store, Perth/Laura and Harry Hale; won by - Mayme Mahoney
7. Glass dish – donated by Pharmasave/Pam Newton; won by – Willie Newsome
8. Emergency Sign – donated by the OPP; won by - Janet Coward
9. Basket of Natural Cleaning supplies- donated by FoodSmiths/Claire and Don Smith; won by – Paul Fleming

OLA 2005 Annual General Meeting

The Otty Lake Association Annual General Meeting took place on July 9, 2005 with over 80 members in attendance.

In advance of the meeting there were displays by:

- Murphy's Point Provincial Park
- OPP – Sharbot Lake Marine Unit
- Friends of the Tay Watershed – Source Water Protection
- Tay Valley Septic Inspector
- LL Green – Well Aware Program, Composting Toilets
- EcoPerth
- FoodSmiths – Environmentally Friendly Cleaning Products

- Centre for Sustainable Watersheds

This is the second year with this type of format and we have received very positive feedback.

Karen Hunt provided an update on Board and volunteer activities. The first highlight was the Lake Management Planning effort and progress to date.

Secondly, Karen spoke about how the OLA has continued to work to build relationships with like-minded organizations, including the municipalities, other lake associations and related organizations. An example of the benefits of fostering these collaborative relationships is seen in the joint application to Trillium Funding for funds to support Lake Management Planning efforts. The application was submitted jointly by the OLA, Friends of the Tay Watershed, Tay Valley Township and the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority.

Thirdly, the OLA has been involved in a pilot project with Tay Valley Township and CGIS to explore the usefulness of the Community Environmental Partnership (CEP) tool. This tool is a computer database that can present map, zoning and other information in a readily accessible format. The project has requested 10 people from Otty Lake to volunteer to be trained on the product and submit comments and feedback regarding usefulness.

Tay Valley Township

Reeve Keith Kerr highlighted some township issues. Tay Valley Township was seeking feedback from residents on whether the current level of representation (2 councillors from each ward) was appropriate with the reeve selected from among those elected or whether there should be a different structure. Other issues were the future of the waste sites within the township and their operating hours, the septic inspection program which will be run again this year, the province-wide assessment which will occur in 2005, the potential amalgamation of the Perth and Tay Valley Township fire services and the tax increase which was held back to 6% after input from residents.

Loon Report

Dennis Brock reported that in 2004 Otty Lake had 3 pairs of nesting loons, of which 2 had babies, producing 3 in total. This number corresponds to a range of between 1 and 6 babies born on the lake in the numbers that have been recorded since 1991. In 2005, 2 pairs have mated, but no babies have been sighted yet. Last fall, between 29 and 33 loons were sighted at one time on the lake, showing its importance as a staging area for migrating loons.

Treasurer's Report and Budget

The annual report as of December 31, 2004 and the interim report as of June 30, 2005 were distributed as well as the budget for 2005. Karen gave Rhoda special thanks for the report and budget as this was Rhoda's last meeting as Treasurer.

Introductions and Responsibilities

Karen Hunt introduced OLA Board members, Committee chairs and area counsellors. She also commented on changes during the past year and she thanked those who had retired during the year.

Questions From The Floor

There were questions about weed harvesting and management as well as the summer algae problem.

David Reesor responded on behalf of Jack Lynn, Chair of the Environment Committee who was absent. He acknowledged that weeds were everyone's biggest concern. The OLA had completed a tremendous amount of research and had concluded that the current problem is a result of a non-native species being introduced (mille foil) that is feed by the heavy nutrient loading on the lake. The only long-term solution is to reduce the amount of nutrients going into the lake through better shoreline and other property management techniques. If harvesting is being considered, the OLA will assist residents with contacts and information.

David Reesor responded that the algae responded to heat and nutrient loading. He further noted that several of these blooms, looking like “stringy angel hair” were visible from the aerial photos the OLA is taking of the lake. Murray Hunt reiterated that the only long term solution to all weed and algae growth in the lake is to reduce the amount of nutrients leaching into the lake. Karen Hunt noted that the lake is now in the mesotrophic range (mid-life age) which means that it is especially important to take action now to prevent further erosion of the water quality in the lake.

Special Presentation

Karen Hunt presented **Dick and Rhoda Atkinson** with certificates of appreciation for their many years of contribution and involvement in the Otty Lake Association. They retired from the board with over 20 years of service.

Drummond/North Elmsley

Karen Hunt read the report from Drummond/North Elmsley which included a comment that the council was very open to the cooperative approach imbedded in the Lake Management Planning process and expects to continue to support this effort.

Election

With Karen Hunt stepping down as President, David Reesor was elected President by acclamation.

Next 3 interim appointments of Board members made during the year required approval of the Members. Margaret Baxter, Bob Melville and Wally Robins were declared elected.

Tribute to Karen Hunt

Don Hill thanked Karen Hunt for her efforts as President. He stressed her remarkable combination of ability and diligence. Don also thanked Karen’s husband Murray for his support and his contribution to the OLA.

Fish Report

Wally Robins presented his annual observations on fishing on Otty Lake. The 2 species of bass in the lake, large and small mouthed bass, are generally healthy with no observed negative trends. The Northern pike population has experienced difficulty in past years as a result of a disease called lymph sarcoma which manifests as growths and sores. Lately, the evidence of the presence of this disease seems diminished and the population appears to be rebounding. This is a good sign for the overall health of the lake as the pike is a predator and at the top of the food chain. The pan fish population remains robust and healthy. Lake herring and shad are also in good supply, which is important as a source of food for bass. The impact of zebra mussels will improve water clarity in the short term and may change fish locations as small mouth bass move to deeper water to avoid the sun. There may be a marginal improvement as these fish feed by sight. Over the long term, there may be a negative impact as the mussels reduce the food source for smaller fish, resulting in a lower overall fish population.

LMP Visioning Exercise

Wally Robins facilitated an exercise designed to generate input from Otty Lake residents for the Lake Management Plan. He posted 4 key questions around the room and requested that people write their comments/questions and concerns under these questions. The four questions were the same as were discussed with 3 focus groups last summer. Here are the questions with the responses received at the meeting:

- What do you value about Otty Lake?
Tranquility, natural environment
- What issues are of greatest concern to you? Invasive species, weeds, water quality, safe boating (size, noise, less intrusive boating), dock size, noise (music, jet skis), Canada geese
- What concrete actions do you want the OLA to take to address your concerns?
Weed management/control, education, enforcement of regulations

- What ideas, advice or resources (contacts, personal knowledge or experience) do you have that could assist the OLA to address current issues or concerns? A number of responses were received including offers to work with the OLA.

REGATTA NEWS-*David Code*

The annual Otty Lake sailing Regatta took place on the afternoon of Sunday September 4, with the usual variety of boats present. Although the event is a race, it is open to all comers, regardless of experience, and boats are handicapped to ensure fairness to all.

Amid light, variable winds – a normal condition for this time of year – our intrepid sailors competed for two trophies. The Commodore’s trophy, for first place in the handicap event, was awarded to Brian Burrell in his Laser I. Second place went to Peter Code in a Princecraft, and Third to David and Mike Aiken in a HobieCat.

The Rip Wilson trophy, for best finish in a Laser I, was also awarded to Brian Burrell. Other contestants – in order of corrected time finish – were Bob Melville, Laser I, Dale Friesen, Laser II, who suffered a bad start, Brian and Jessie Robertson, Albacore, David Code, Laser I, Lorne Roseborough, whose Laser I lost a battle with an evil gust of wind, and Craig Robertson. Judges were Heather Code-Burrell, Herb Robertson and Bruce Robertson. Refreshments followed, on the lawn, and photos taken.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

For information about activities in Perth visit:

www.beautifulperth.com

For information about Tay Valley Township:

www.tayvalleytwp.ca

For information about Drummond North Elmsley Township:

www.drummondnorthelmsley.com

Property Tax Assessment Increases - an issue for Otty Lake Property Owners

In order to provide a stronger provincial voice for Otty Lake Property Owners concerned about

increasing tax assessments, the Otty Lake Association recently became a member of WRAFT (Waterfront Owners After Fair Taxation). Please read below to learn more about WRAFT. You may also visit their website at (www.wraft.com)

WRAFT is a coalition of concerned waterfront associations across Ontario. In the past year and a half, WRAFT has grown from four founding associations (one of the founding members was FOCA [Federation of Ontario Cottagers’ Associations to which the Otty Lake Association belongs] to 175 waterfront associations stretching from the Rideau Lakes to the Lake of the Woods. WRAFT now represents over 30,000 property owners in Ontario.

WRAFT’s mission is to “achieve equity in waterfront property taxation”. As stated on their website their intention is to work on behalf of Ontario waterfront property owners to

- Halt any unfair shift of tax onto the waterfront
- Find ways to mitigate rising property taxes
- Fight for reform in the way property taxes are allocated

They explain that across Ontario many waterfront property owners have noticed substantial changes in their assessed property value. Some property owners have seen double digit increases in their assessment, spurring large hikes in the property taxes they pay. Those tax hikes pay for municipal and other services.

WRAFT questions why waterfront property owners should pay the largest share of taxes to receive the same amount of service, or less and stresses that action is needed now to restore fairness and equality in property assessment and taxation - on the waterfront.

WRAFT continues to advocate on behalf of all waterfront taxpayers across Ontario and as well encourage you to write to your MPP if you have not done so already.

HAVE A GREAT WINTER