



Otty Lake Association Annual General Meeting

Saturday, July 12, 2014, Perth-Upon-Tay Legion, Perth, Ontario

Welcome - Robert Cosh, OLA President 9:35 start

Approval of the July 13, 2013 AGM Minutes

Moved by Secretary Gail Read to accept the Minutes of the OLA Annual General Meeting, held July 13, 2013. Seconded by Gardy Church. Carried.

Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Bill McLeish to accept the agenda with three changes:

1. Reeve Kerris present and sharing with Noelle Reeve on behalf of Tay Valley Township
2. Counsellor Fournier is present and sharing on behalf of Drummond/North Elmsley
3. Constable Wills is present and sharing on behalf of the Marine OPP.

Seconded by Roger Nuttall. Carried.

Approval of the Financial Report and Proposed Budget – Treasurer Dave Bell

Dave Bell stated that the *Financial Report* has been reviewed by Ross Hollingsworth. Thanks was extended.

Questions were invited. Nil

Moved by Dave Bell to accept the Financial Reports as presented. Seconded by Karen Hunt. Carried.

Highlights of the *Proposed Budget* included second year support of the fish habitat project, the Otty Family Picnic as the family event, and reformatting of the website.

A membership charge of \$20 will be adopted for 2014-15. Those who have paid in advance will be honoured at \$15, the sum charged in attempting to increase membership.

Moved by Dave Bell to adopt the budget 2014 as written. Seconded by Chris Harrison. Carried.

Tay Valley Township – Keith Kerr, Reeve, and Noelle Reeve, Planner & CBO

Keith Kerr and Noelle Reeve brought us up to date with TVT initiatives and issues. They provided an early reminder that this is election year and to please take time to vote.

- TVT is in the process of hiring a new CBO.
- Recycling has been further developed. Please donate items that can be used by another resident of TVT.
- Policing costs by the OPP will see a large billing increase in township areas which will be reflected in future tax bills.
- Please check the website for updates regarding the Official TVT planning process. Last year a 21 issues paper with community and ministry input was created. A September 16th meeting will be held in hopes of adoption.
- Sewer and water is under review in some areas of the township.
- Requests have been received to include three lake management plans, including Otty Lake.

- Council has considered a mandatory 3m shoreline buffer. This has been controversial but a voluntary buffer is encouraged to diminish the flow of water directly to the lakes by maintaining this strip.
- 200 year anniversary planning is underway and volunteers are welcome. This may include a farm project where the property has been in the family for 200 years, legacy trees and certificates for cottagers that have maintained their properties within the same family for extensive periods of time.

No questions were posed by the audience but communication is welcomed via email or phone calls.

Drummond/North Elmsley Township - Counsellor Ken Fournier

Counsellor Ken Fournier reported that Otty lake representation at Council Meetings is appreciated.

- There are new bylaws for septic tanks and setbacks.
- An asset management plan is underway.
- D/NE supports economic growth.
- The OPP increase for rural/cottage residents is of concern to the township.
- Building projects include 3 bridges and the Rideau ferry docks which are all large cost items.

Q: What is the final cost of the Rideau docks construction?

A: No cost was available from Ken Fournier nor Shawn Merriman who will look into this.

RVCA – Mike Yee, Manager Biology and Water Quality

Mike Yee introduced an exciting new project, *Algae/Aquatic Vegetation Trillium Project (People, Aquatic Plants and Healthy Lakes: Finding the Balance in Eastern Ontario's Lake County)*. This Ontario Trillium Grant was approved in April 2014 in the sum of \$150 000 over 2 years.

A PowerPoint presentation was shared which indicated a significant increase in algae (80%) and other plants (90%). This project will include research, workshops, an educational manual, stewardship projects, citizen reporting via technology, reaching out to academic institutions and taking of sediment cores.

Some of the benefits discussed include:

- understanding that water plants are a key component of our lakes,
- understanding what occurred before and after settlement,
- ideas for local property owners to promote Low Impact Development (LID),
- balancing every watershed,
- addressing loss of surface from run-off and establishing slope erosion solutions that design with nature,
- managing nutrients entering our lakes.

Q: SE Otty Lake has noticeably less green algae this year, fewer zebra mussels and an ecology change. Is this a result of the cold winter? Late spring?

A: Every year there are climatic changes and some years have bigger changes than others.

OPP Marine Unit: Constable Wills

Constable Wills comments on safety on our waterways included:

- The law is centered on common sense ~ if you think there is a law there probably is!
- Anyone can be pulled over while on the water so know your Boat Safety document.
 - Note: the size of boat dictates the equipment required
- Speed limits are generally in place 30 m. from the shore with some areas lowering these to 9 and 10 m.
 - Please respect the shorelines.
- Be attentive to swimmers, skiers, fellow boaters, etc.
- Alcohol is not allowed in a boat unless the boat is tied to the shore and has sleeping accommodations.

Q: Does this rule apply to pontoon boats?

A: Yes. Alcohol is not allowed on any powered vehicle no matter how small or slow (including a lawn tractor).

Q: The policing tax is expected to double for us. We hope that this money will go into boats. Can we expect to see more policing on our lakes?

A: There will be 27 new boats but there are over 100 lakes in the area. We are stretched. Our focus will be on responding to hot spots. If you see something, call and invite the police to assist.

Q: You take OPP boats from lake to lake. Are they cleaned between launchings?

A: Yes. Zebra mussels, etc. could be transferred if we didn't.

Q: Does the 30 m. speed limit apply to islands?

A: Yes. An island is land and should be respected.

Q: Do you have any jurisdiction on the location and behaviours occurring on rafts, including alcohol?

A: Yes. Positioning of rafts must be based upon safety. If behavior on a raft is unsafe, we will respond.

No, you cannot drink alcohol on a raft.

RVCA – Jennifer Lamoureaux, Aquatic and Fish Habitat Biologist

Jennifer Lamoureaux identified the *Smallmouth Bass Spawning Project* on Otty Lake as a favourite project. Her PowerPoint presentation will appear on our OLA Website and includes photos of fish responses on Otty, a lake blessed with a smallmouth bass fishery!

Factors affecting survival and reproduction:

- 40% of nests are failures off the top due to changes in temperature, water levels, fungal infections, habitat obstruction, predation, angling during spawning, etc.
- Angling during spawning season is the largest impact. A picture is evidence this occurred on Otty Lake this year.

What has been done in this unique project which can't be touched elsewhere in Ontario:

- In 2013 survey work was completed as nesting areas were confirmed in a two day blitz of the sites.
- Gravel beds 1.5-2 m. round and 10 cm. in depth were constructed using washed stone.
- Wood areas were created using old Christmas trees in concrete.
- Spring 2014 monitoring found males on 41% of the nests with an overall 80% success rate!
- Now seeking phase 2 permits and funding (which will include \$1300 from OLA for this year plus contributions from our Fisheries and Nurseries as well as RVCA partners).
- Monitoring will continue in 2015 and 2016.

- An all call will continue for volunteers for September 15th and 16th as well as the 18th if needed.

Wally Robbins conveyed his pride in this project and appreciation for the support of RVCA and Fisheries and Nurseries. He noted that the impact of Canadian winters slows growth such that 6-7 year passes between the hatching of an egg and the reaching of adulthood. As such, we must monitor our expectations and align with our environment by:

- practising catch and release
- increasing our attention to illegal angling during May and June
- taking an active role in volunteering in support of this project (wood donations, work days)

Q: This was a fantastic presentation. Would it be beneficial to cease fishing on our lake for a few years to give this fish population a boost?

A: Not necessarily. Don't fish the shoreline or during May/June. Recreational fishing is very important.

Real Estate Panel – Moderated by Anne Scotton

JennAugerof RoyalLePage in Perth noted that Otty residents are invested in their lake. The last 2 years have seen strong sales on waterfront.

Otty Lake values:

- for three season cottages with 100 ft of lake front have been selling in one month at an average of \$270 000;
- for three bedroom year round homes of similar property size, have been selling at average sale price of \$470 000;
- are impacted by accessibility;
- subdivisions that are on the water through deeded access do increase the number of people “on the water” even though the number of boats are small, some do swim and some kayak. These subdivisions appear to add value and without taking away a lot from the lake;
- increase when the property is sale ready (windows, septic system, woodstoves, water quality, etc.).

BBD&E Fire Safety – Greg Saunders, Chief for D/NE and TVT

Chief Saunders noted that this is an area of nearly 900 sq km that triggers approximately 200 calls per year. There are many well trained volunteer firefighters with 60 out of the office in Perth. Resident comments are welcome and information is available including the assessing of private roads.

Items requiring resident attention include:

- Accessibility by fire trucks is critical and this is very different from the size of personal vehicles.
 - Generally if an oil truck can reach you, we probably can, too.
- Although houses have changed, many roads have not and this is especially true in the winter where salt and sand are very important.
- Required road access is 20 feet high and 16 feet wide, free from brush and branches.
- Make road signs visible to the fire department.
- Check smoke alarms in cottages and homes as well as bunkies and all sleeping quarters.

- Where there are fuel burning appliances, carbon monoxide alarms will be required in 2015.
- Permits are required for all burning except bonfires.

Introduction of OLA Board Members: President Robert Cosh

Lake Planning Action Committee: Karen Hunt

1. A *Five Year Review of the Lake Management Plan* has now been completed with our many partners. In fact, the State of the Lake and Lake Management Plan involved this AGM audience in 2008. This year saw a review of these issues, work done and what is yet to be done over the past 6 years. Much has been done but it is a shared responsibility to continue this process through the development of a future action plan. An executive summary is in today's packages and the draft report has been posted on the website.

Questions: Nil

Karen Hunt presented a motion to adopt the plan. Seconded by Cathy Kari. Carried.

2. *Love Your Lake Shoreline Survey* was completed in the summer of 2013, providing an opportunity for 480 lakefront owners to have their shoreline reviewed with shoreline friendly next steps. The Sustainable Watersheds did the actual work from the water. There were some ups and downs as there are in every project but thank you to the residents of SW Otty Lake for their patience.

3. This year's *Shoreline Planting* saw all of the shrubs and wildflowers that we ordered sold out in just three days. This suggests strong support for the continuation of this program.

4. DFO funded *Shoreline Restoration* for five properties on Otty Lake this year. There is an opportunity for some additional free shoreline naturalization. If interested, please contact Karen Hunt (mkhunt@ripnet.com) who will direct you to staff involved with site visits, custom planting advice, plants and assistance in planting.

Loon Report and Crown Islands: Bill McLeish

Why study our loons? They can choose locations for nesting based upon the environment.

Do they choose us?

- 3 pairs and assorted loons last year.
- 4 pairs and 2 chicks this year.
- loons breed on Crown Land islands for safety of keeping the chicks from predators.

Crown Land: The islands are used by some in a respectful manner while a concern has arisen re camping for long periods, parties, cutting down trees, etc.

Actions:

- Monitoring of islands this summer.
- Develop a definition for responsible use.
- Volunteers interested in participating in this initiative are invited to email Bill: billmcleish@rogers.com.

Lake Steward: Murray Hunt

Murray Hunt stated that he and Derek Smith are the water quality people who have been answering your questions this morning as well as completing an expanded number of E.Coli samples from the lake. Otty Lake is basically doing well with one sample that exceeded caps last year.

Q: What are the factors that cause the blooms?

A: RVCA will be involved in a project in this regard that includes Otty Lake. We will support this project.

Q: What can we do?

A: Ensure your septic system is in good working order, don't fertilize, maintain a shoreline ribbon of life.

Caducean Groundwater Program: Derek Smith

Derek Smith stated that it is really important to know what you are drinking. Two programs are offered:

Bottles through the Health Unit that should be used especially when water is moving in the spring and fall;

Caducean sampling is a comprehensive test of individual residents' groundwater using 17 parameters at a discounted cost of \$100 (\$25 less than normal). Packages of water sample bottles for Caducean are available now with sampling instructions and drop off information provided. All who swim in or drink this water are invited to look through the microscope.

Communications Committee: Barb Hicks

Three means of ongoing communication were outlined:

1. OLA Facebook: An informal way to communicate, ask questions, and share information among OLA members.
2. Capt'n Otty's Log: Three issues are published annually. She is always looking for interesting and informative inclusions.
3. OLA Website: Rick is preparing to retire from this job and Barb Hicks is in the process of modernizing the site. The link is being reviewed at 80% completion hanging off the Lion Clubs site where it has been developed. Watch for it going live very shortly.

Elections – Karen Hunt, Past President

President Robert Cosh noted that Past President Karen Hunt will be stepping back from some of her past responsibilities. He stated that she has given 100% to OLA and that we owe her a great deal.

Karen Hunt prepared and reviewed the Slate of Officers.

Those with one of two years served:

Robert Cosh	Dave Bell
Chris Harrison	Anne Scotton
Phil Anderson	Barb Hicks
Ginger Hay	Cathy Kari

David Reesor will be stepping down from the Board effective today.

Those who have served two years:

Roger Nuttall- seeking re-election
Gail Read- seeking re-election
Rick Stojak- not seeking another term

Sincere thanks were offered to Rick Stojak and David Reesor for their many contributions to our Board and Association throughout their years of commitment.

Names of new candidates as researched and presented by Karen Hunt:

Christine Kempster
Derek Smith

A full slate was offered but, as is tradition, an opportunity was provided for interested residents in the audience to put names forward. No names were offered. An election was not required. Karen Hunt moved that the Slate of officers, as put forward today, be approved. Seconded by Wally Robbins. Carried.

11:40 Door Prize –Robert Cosh, OLA President

President Robert Cosh quoted the History of Otty Lake by David Code, “OLA is credited with addressing the issues as best we can.” He added that the Board does what it believes to be the best in working with the community and through many partnerships.

Door prizes were awarded.

Meeting adjourned: 11:50 a.m.