

Otty Lake Association (OLA)

Annual General Meeting (AGM) Minutes

Sunday July 8th, 2018, 2 to 4 pm

Perth Legion

Welcome: At 2 pm, Reid Kilburn, President – OLA, welcomed everyone to the AGM. Today we are celebrating the fortieth anniversary of the OLA and the 10th year of our Lake Management Plan. Did you know that 40 years ago, gas was 23 cents per litre? This is the 2nd year we have held the AGM on a Sunday.

Before moving into the agenda, Reid honoured and acknowledged with respect and care that we are meeting today on the unceded traditional lands of the Algonquin people.

Reid called the meeting to order. Approximately 100 people were in attendance.

Agenda – Motion (Kyla Haley/Wally Robins) – Approve agenda as distributed. **CARRIED**

July 9, 2017 AGM Minutes – Motion (Christine Kilburn/Ian McDonald) – Approve minutes as distributed. **CARRIED**

Financial Report Presentation – Dave Bell thanked Ross Hollingsworth for once again reviewing the financial results. He takes it very seriously, and called Dave out that he was missing a few receipts. Dave has been the OLA treasurer since November 2007

Budget -

- Revenues \$6,090, Expenses \$4,314

Motion (Dave Bell/Anne Scotton) - approve 2018 Budget as distributed. **CARRIED**

2017 Financials - Dave pointed out that the 2017 financial results were pretty routine.

- Revenues \$9,313.96, Expenses \$7,818.76

Motion (Dave Bell/Krista Hearty McLean) - approve 2017 Income Statement **CARRIED**

Introduction of Board Members – Reid presented our Board members. All except Cathy Kari were present.

- Robert Cosh – Past President
- Dave Bell – VP Finance & Treasurer
- Cathy Kari – Vice-President
- Christine Kilburn – Secretary
- Barb Hicks – Board Director & Coordinator – Captain Otty’s Log & Webmaster
- David Bromley – Board Director & Newsletter Layout
- Derek Smith – Board Director & State of the Lake
- Gail Read – Board Director, Counsellors’ & Social Coordinator
- Ian McDonald – Board Director & Manager - Lake Activities Projects
- Wally Robins – Board Director & Fish Reporter
- Kyla Haley – Board Director & Loon Survey
- Michelle Soucy – Board Director & OLA Clothing Sales
- Monika Savage – Board Director & Snake Monitoring
- Anne Scotton, – Board Director

Reid recognized Gail Read for her many years of dedication to the OLA and presented her with a certificate of appreciation.

Elections – Robert Cosh advised everyone that based on the OLA Constitution we are required to hold an Annual General Meeting and elections. As immediate past president, he is responsible for nominations of Board members and elections. He pointed out that Reid is in his 2nd term. Robert advised everyone that as long as Reid is president, Robert will continue as immediate past president.

Robert listed the Directors who have completed their first year of a two year term and are willing to continue for their second year:

- Dave Bell
- Barb Hicks
- Ian McDonald
- Wally Robins
- Anne Scotton
- Monika Savage
- David Bromley

He then listed the directors who have completed their 2 year term and are willing to continue for 2 more years:

- Kyla Haley
- Cathy Kari
- Christine Kilburn
- Derek Smith
- Michelle Soucy

We have 1 opening for a director, and we have 1 individual willing to fill one position. Rachel Roth's bio is in your packages. Robert asked if there was anyone in the audience interested in becoming a Board member. There were none. **Motion** (Robert Cosh/Dave Bell) that the slate as presented be approved by acclamation, including Rachel Roth as the new Director. **CARRIED**

Prior to the next presentation, Reid recognized Elsie Farmer being in the audience, and having just celebrated her 101st birthday.

State of the Lake Report - Derek Smith made this presentation.

This is the 5th year the State of the Lake has been produced.

Highlights -

- 2018 ice out – Apr 24th
- Water levels are down – 34 cm at end of June
- Started water sampling in May. Absolutely safe for swimming. Nutrient levels in lake are stable.
- Algal conditions – they are very unsightly. The conditions are much better than in past years.
- Zebra mussel population – diminished last year and indications are this year they will as well.
- This year – increased number of tent caterpillars and chipmunks

Good news – Otty is healthy. Rideau Valley Conservation Authority's (RVCA) Tay River Subwatershed Report – in 2012, water quality was poor. In 2017, water quality is fair to good.

Significant improvement and very encouraging for property owners. We appreciate interactions with RVCA. We expressed our viewpoints, and they listened to us.

Otty Lake is misotrophic, e.g. it is getting quite a lot of nutrients, algal blooms. Very little fertilizer can cause algal blooms. Some properties have lawns down to the waterfront, some still use herbicides, pesticides. If you have neighbours who aren't in compliance, provide them with the Healthy

Waterfronts brochure. Starve the lake of phosphorous. Public education should be everyone's concern. Convey that to those not in compliance.

Derek invited attendees to visit his microscope display.

OLA Anniversary Presentation – Reid proceeded to provide those in attendance with vignettes of our history, our accomplishments and achievements, then close with comments about our future.

History

- First 150 years, minimal issues with development.
- First known cottage at NE end, owned by George Kerr in the late 1880's
- 60 – 120 years ago, land around Otty was farm or pastureland.
- In the 1920's farmers started to sell off their land for cottage development
- summer cottages were beginning to appear where Camp Shomria is now. 6 to 8 cottages in that area by the late 1920's. By 1928 there were 20 to 25
- no year round residents, except the farmers, until the 1950's
- By 1975 there were 368 dwellings.
- Maple Glen existed 40 years ago
- BurgessWood plan of subdivision wasn't submitted until 1979, for the development of 82 lots. In 1983 70 lots were approved, none with waterfront.
- 401 dwellings by 1995.
- TVT, D/NE were at our AGM last year to help us present Lanark County plaques to heritage cottages.
- 273 seasonal, 274 permanent in 2005, including Maple Glen and BurgessWood.
- We have 3 photos on display of Otty Lake in 1953.
- OLA Evolution –
 - 1930's – first community organization, oriented to water sports, e.g. annual regattas
 - 1960's – promoted fishing & related outdoor activities
 - Environmental orientation began in 1960's due to development. Growing concern around water quality. Formed the Pollution Control Committee.
 - Counsellor program was started to connect people.
 - 1973, with encouragement of MOE, Water Quality monitoring was established. Continues today at 32 sites every month (early May to late Sep), monitoring Ecoli & nutrient levels.
 - In 1978, OLA was named.

Otty Lake Management Plan (LMP)

- Process began in 2004 culminating in report in 2008.
- More than 300 volunteers spent more than 4,000 hours gathering and reviewing data
- 2007 State of the Lake report and LMP provided the community and its partners with info on the lake and the issues of concern, and provided recommendations.
- OLA was recognized for its efforts via presentation of awards from various organizations

Examples of Actions Taken

Water Quality

- Worked with partners, including RVCA, Carleton U, MOECC to conduct ongoing water sampling. We have over 40 years of water quality data sets which we share with our partners.
- Worked with townships and Mississippi-Rideau Septic System Office to introduce mandatory septic reinspection.
- Organized workshops on septic systems, Wetlands, Shoreline Planting programs, Love your Lake program with Watersheds Canada, 2013 "Starve Otty of Phosphorous" initiative, preparing Shoreline Handbooks for all residents which promotes good stewardship practices

Shoreline Planting

- Since 2009 OLA has subsidized the planting of 1,565 native shrubs, 297 wildflowers and 350 trees, and 150 maples for Canada's 150th anniversary

5 Year Review of LMP –

- in 2013, conducted another survey, which clearly showed that people on the lake understand that issues are inter-related. Everyone is responsible to ensure Otty is healthy. Fish and wildlife habitat became more important.

Fish Habitat

- More weed growth in last 40 years, appealing to largemouth bass.
- Pike population decimated in '80's and '90's by skin cancer, spawning areas were reduced. Pike in smaller areas, like Jebb's Creek, so cancer spread.
- RVCA and community worked together over a 5 year period to build fish habitat. Jennifer will cover this in her presentation.

Wildlife Habitat

- OLA participates in Bird Studies Canada Loon Survey, Turtle Tally, Frog Watch.
- Turtle workshops held in 2012 and 2013.
- BioBlitzes in 2010 and 2012 provided information about our watershed.
- Black bears – very few 40 years ago. In the summer of 2004 there were very few berries in Quebec, so about 100 bears swam across the river. They were caught and released in northern Lanark County from where they spread south to our area. OLA has organized Bear Aware education workshops.
- Beavers – 40 years ago their population was almost doubling every year as it had been since their re-introduction in 1952. By the 1980's every bay had a beaver house. They ate themselves out of house and home resulting in a large drop in the beaver population.
- Wild turkeys – were introduced to Otty in the 1990's. They were not expected to survive our climate!
- Birds and bats – with technical guidance from RVCA and help from Richard and Jay Hendry who designed and prepared kits, we had workshops to assemble bird houses, bat boxes, wood duck boxes

Endangered Species

- Grey Ratsnake – sightings around Otty Lake are being reported to one of our Board members since last year. Tobi Kiesewalter was here last year to talk about the snakes at Murphy's Point.
- Snapping Turtles – also endangered

Invasive species

- purple loosestrife - spread rapidly. Wetlands became a sea of purple. In the early 2000's, RVCA & OLA released 3 types of larvae. Within 3 to 4 years, the plants were greatly reduced.
- Ice storm – had a significant impact on our forests and wildlife.

Partners –

- we can't do the work we do, and on this journey, without the help of our partners. RVCA is key to our work. They have helped us fund many projects. There has been successful work with townships to enforce consistent and sustainable development and redevelopment standards. Septic reinspection with townships – we are the exception in Eastern Ontario. Every year we meet with OPP to talk about safety around the lake.

10 Year Anniversary of LMP -

- This year we conducted another survey, achieving a 40% response rate. Your priorities are consistent with 10 & 5 years ago - Water Quality, Aquatic Vegetation, Development Pressure.

Future Direction

- Director Kyla Haley gave us a view into the future based on the Board's review of the most recent survey.
- ***Water Quality –***
 - OLA has one of the most comprehensive Data Sets which we share with RVCA to ensure our monitoring is effective. Increase in sampling is not required. It is estimated that about 200 samples are taken every year by OLA and partners.
 - We will look at future Shoreline Planting programs.
- ***Fish and Wildlife –***

- Fish Habitat and bird/bat boxes - build on our successes. Projects with RVCA – bass nest building is a success, as Jennifer will discuss. Bat and bird boxes are starting to be inhabited. New project for this fall, which Jennifer will introduce.
- Loon Survey – we have provided input to Bird Studies Canada for decades. It was thought there might be 3 nests producing young. Unfortunately we are now down to one this year.
- Grey Ratsnakes – last year we began a tracking program around Otty. At Murphy's Point, regular educational programs about grey ratsnakes are held.
- **State of the Lake Report** – this annual report is very valuable to the Board and community
- **Partner programs** – thanks to previous work in developing partnerships, students and professors from Queen's, McGill, Carleton Universities come regularly to do surveys on lake.
- **Education**
 - Bear Aware program has been offered twice in the last year.
 - If you have any topics for seminars or workshops, please let us know.
- **Going forward** –
 - we will produce a document of the 10 year review. It will be on our website.
 - We hope to develop a program to increase involvement of the next generation.
 - Review of communication tools – SIP, website, Facebook, e-mails.
 - Our greatest resource is the people around the lake. We will create a new opportunity for volunteers to get in touch. If you have ideas for a project, big or small, or want to be on the water sampling boat, just send a note.

Questions from the floor – Reid pointed out that the Board has a limited capacity for large projects. A lot has been accomplished over the years, and we want to keep that momentum going. Any questions you may have on survey results, any thoughts on what Kyla has shared?

1. Are there plans to update the LMP? As we did with the 5 year plan, we will write a report after the 10 year plan. We are not currently looking at updating the existing LMP.
2. Is there a list of plants which would be appropriate for shoreline planting? We work with RVCA to put together a program of appropriate plants, then advise everyone and they're available for pick up at the appropriate planting time.
3. This is a municipal election year. In the past the OLA Board has suggested the candidates who support lake initiatives. Is there such a plan for this year? The Board has discussed this and has decided not to organize such an event this year. In the audience we have some who are running in the municipal election - Ray Scissons from D/NE, Keith Kerr from TVT, and 3 other candidates for TVT. The fact that they are here sends a clear message that they care about our lake issues.
4. In next Newsletter, could we put something about people swimming in the middle of the lake? It's amazing that no one has been killed. We'll take that into consideration. The next Newsletter is in the fall, which will be too late. NOTE – the day after the AGM a broadcast e-mail was sent.
5. Susan Freeman let everyone know that, as president of the BurgessWood community, she has approached WTC re fibre optic cable to the home for the north shore. They are proceeding with this initiative.

In summary, Reid stated that we still have work to do with the continuation of successful programs, education and new initiatives to support the best possible health of our lake. For this moment in time, let's celebrate and commend everyone who contributed to the success of the OLA over the past 40 years.

Tay Valley Township – Reid introduced Keith Kerr, Reeve who highlighted some of the work done this year.

- The reconstruction and paving of Otty Lake Sideroad is nearly completed.
- Micro surfacing is being done to other roads.
- Permanent or part time residents can vote electronically or in person.
- Candidates in the upcoming election are at this meeting, namely Brian Campbell, current Deputy Reeve, Susan Freeman, Barrie Crampton. Keith is running again.

Keith then presented Reid with a certificate of congratulation to celebrate OLA's 40th anniversary, as well as a letter of recognition. He remembers 1978 when OLA was formed.

Next, Keith introduced Noelle Reeve, the Township Planner. The Official Plan had been updated 2 years ago. Today, Noelle will share information on the changes to the zoning by-law.

Noelle provided us with some interesting information, falling into 3 categories - economics, heritage, tourism.

- **Economics**

- new housing starts are up 68% over last year. Normally 16 new house builds, 100's of renovations. In 2017 there were 27 new starts compared to 16 in 2016.
- There is a commercial investment of \$1.5M taking place in the Township on Highway 7 near Brooke Valley and more in Maberly and elsewhere
- Maberly has a new bake shop that has sold over 30,000 butter tarts in its first year
- TVT zoning by-law ensures development happens in the right areas.

- **Heritage**

- in the past, Legacy plaques were handed out for farms, cottages, trees, etc. There are some buildings or landscapes which don't fit into these categories. TVT is developing a new Heritage category for those items.

- **Tourism**

- glamping is coming to TVT. They have had rezoning implementation on other lakes. None on Otty so far. It's time to start viewing lakes differently.

- **Updating zoning by-law**

- Proposed changes are on target.
- Would like comments by end of July
- agricultural, on-farm diversified uses like a winery (reviewing in August). OMAFRA is encouraging the changes to broaden and bring more money in for farmers.
- proposed changes re secondary units on a property.
 - have them stand alone, attached to existing house, on top of garage. Must be complete, e.g. with kitchen, bathroom. Must be able to have emergency services get to them.
- Tiny houses – 200 – 300 sq ft. There is currently no process to deal with them. Currently the Township doesn't allow trailers. Are getting inquiries. Current provincial requirements state that a house has to be a minimum of 600 sq ft.

- **Questions received**

- How does the Township monitor compliance? There are only 3 employees in the Department. Noelle asks that if we see something we have a question about, e.g. changing the shoreline like cutting down trees, moving rocks, feel free to call and they'll check. (Township doesn't necessarily let Council know unless there is a problem of compliance that may require legal action.) RVCA can help as permits are required for shoreline work. Permits are also needed from MNR for lake bed work. If there's a site plan control agreement on the property it's straightforward for the township to enforce it. TVT doesn't have a site alteration by-law for properties in general. We should write or make a delegation to Council for one if we would like Tay Valley to have one.
- What is TVT planning in order to protect habitat? Environmental protection zoning by-law covers provincially significant wetland mapping done south of the Scotch Line by MNR for to extend the mapping. TVT enforces the protection of environmentally significant wetlands once MNR maps them. The township did bring in Natural Heritage mapping for Ecoregion 6 in the Township which is made up of land off the Canadian shield centred around the Scotch Line and north around Highway 511.
- Tree Canopy policy required by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs in 2019, currently being developed by the Township, could be relevant to people around the lake.
- OMB hearing recently – there was tree cutting on that property before decision. Nothing township could do since they didn't have a site alteration by-law.

- In terms of taking steps against climate change, the Muskoka Watershed Council report looks at expected changes and possible actions. Worth looking at what they are planning.
- Learn how to feel more comfortable supporting those around you who are going through a tough time – a free 3 hour workshop is being offered. Noelle attended it and felt it is excellent. <http://www.comjustice.org/building-restorative-communities-training.html>
- Site alteration by-law creation – Council would have to direct staff to do that.

Reid thanked Keith and Noelle, then read out the letter TVT presented to us. It highlighted some of the points Reid had made, and congratulated the OLA on their many successful initiatives.

Drummond/North Elmsley – Ray Scissons (North Elmsley Ward councillor) brought their message.

- He presented Reid with a congratulatory certificate on the OLA's 40th anniversary.
- Reeve Churchill and Deputy Reeve Code are stepping down.
- Ray is running again, and so is George Sachs.
- Internet voting not happening this time around, but will be available for the next election.
- Otty Lake Sideroad has been rebuilt at a cost of \$2M. 90% paid by the province. The 2 main roads in Trillium and Maple Glen Estates are also being done.
- Karl Grenke, the former planner, has moved on to be the Smiths Falls Senior Planner. William Wood is the new planner, started in May.
- Ray mentioned that D/NE will receive grant money for revitalization work in Fergusons Falls and further improvement of the area around the recently improved Rideau Ferry docks.
- There was a huge turnout for the Canada Day Rock the Dock celebrations.
- Tay Valley Township said everything else already.

Jennifer Lamoureux, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority – Reid introduced one of the OLA's well known partners, Jennifer Lamoureux. She has taken part at our AGM for years now, and is an Aquatic Biologist with RVCA.

- Martha Bradburn retired, Phil Mosher from North Grenville has replaced her.
- Tay River Subwatershed Report is available on website or at the township offices. The 60 page detailed catchment report will be available in August.
- Fish Habitat Enhancement Projects started in 2013. Jennifer briefly explained the building of the beds and hiding places and how the male and female bass use them. Jennifer thanked everyone who has helped from 2013 to 2016. She reviewed the costs of the project for each year, and thanked folks like Chris Penney and Jim who have donated the use of their pontoon boats for the project over the years.
 - Over the 5 years, 253 bass nests were installed, 133 cornerstones, 335 Christmas tree clusters, 19 brush bundles.
 - 30% would be a successful percentage for occupancy. In 2018, the percentage was 56%!
 - Confirmed guarding by males – from 38 in 2014 (92 nests), to 142 in 2018 (253 nests).

Jebb's Creek Wetland Embayment Project – OLA will partner with RVCA on this project this fall. Fill will be brought in, semi-flooding of meadow, creating a mini marsh. Create new spawning and nursery beds for about 20 species including northern pike, amphibians. Native sedges and grasses will be planted. Will become pollinator habitat. Will be putting wood structures and inverted stumps into the water. They are fish magnets.

Project goals:

- create new spawning, nursery, rearing and feeding habitat.
- Create a quiet backwater

Volunteer opportunities – in August, RVCA and OLA will ask for volunteers. Install erosion control blankets. Students who need their hours are welcome. Improve ecosystem for Otty.

Reid invited Jay Hendry to thank Jennifer. Jay let everyone know that Jennifer is passionate and dedicated to her work. Jay gifted her with a bottle of Oliver's MapleWorks Maple Syrup, which the Hendry's help to produce.

Reid asked if there were any more questions. There were none. Five Door Prizes were drawn and handed out.

The 2018 OLA AGM was adjourned at 3:56 pm.