



Otty Lake Association

Board and Counsellors Meeting Minutes

Saturday, August 17, 2013 10 a.m. (McMartin House)

Draft

Present: Phil Anderson, Carol Cosh, Robert Cosh, Ginger Hay, Barb Hicks, Chris Harrison, Marlene Hudson, Karen Hunt, Cathy Kari, Mayme Mahoney, Roger Nuttall, Gail Read, David Reesor, Wally Robins, Peter Siemons, Rick Stojak, Wendy Wagland

Regrets: David Bell, Cathy Buffam/Tiger Tanner, Judith George-Landles/Bill Landles, Rick McCauley, Bill McLeish.

Welcome by the Chair at 10:05 a.m.

Communications Update

Website: Webmaster Rick Stojak is looking to update information (including contacts for Board Members and Counsellors) in the near future. Those present were asked to review the first draft document provided by Gail at this time. Those unable to attend this meeting will be asked to share any corrections/updates prior to website posting at the end of August. Residents sending emails to the website may direct their questions and queries to Board Members with corresponding areas of responsibility, interest and expertise. Five existing website connections for automatic sending will be updated this fall where Members are new to the role. General inquiries will be directed to the secretary initially for forwarding to appropriate authorities.

Captain Otty's Log: Editor Barb Hicks requested input on the current newsletter content. She is looking to add special events, updates on initiatives of other lakes and various items of interest as well as maintaining an environmental focus. Strong support for adding additional topics was offered with the thought that greater breadth could increase readership as well as knowledge. The newsletter will continue the 3 publications per year at this point. Core information will be limited to eight surfaces for mailing purposes. Lengthy articles will offer additional information in their unabridged form at www.ottylakeassociation.ca

Counsellors' Feedback

Concern was voiced regarding the limited attendance of counsellors at this meeting. Although this meeting date was set at last May's Board and Counsellors' Meeting perhaps other early reminders would be appreciated.

The existing list of counsellors will be reviewed by Phil Anderson and Gail Read for posting in the near future as a reference item on the OLA website.

They will also generate an email to each counsellor and organize results in regards to: seeking updates on the numbers of residents in each of the areas requiring spring packages; updates regarding contact information changes; permanent/seasonal availability of counsellors; evening vs. weekend availability for meetings; encouragement for counsellor and their residents to provide input into the Five Year Plan. Any feedback from the Counsellors regarding the Lake Management Plan will be directed to Karen Hunt.

Report on Activities Since May 2013:

AGM in Review: This year's turnout fell below the usual 100+ participants for no apparent reason. More publicity and advertising next year may be beneficial. Inclusion of a colourful hand-out in the spring package was recommended. A timely mass email could help remind residents. Good weather could also have played a role in lower turn-out.

Social Events

Turn out at the picnic and first annual PaddlePower were strong this year. A short discussion ensued regarding the fact that the latter was not OLA sponsored nor planned, encouraging some new participation. Robert identified this manner of resident driven events as an opportunity to "break barriers". Several others supported this theory and the benefits of engaging residents in such neighbourhood experiences.

Robert reminded the group that in May we discussed the possibility of the development of a Social Committee to encourage Otty neighbourhood events. Gail Read noted that two members of the Board, two Counsellors and two other residents volunteered to begin this discussion. He suggested that perhaps Otty residents, like those of Christy Lake, would enjoy a corn roast, dance, etc. Karen Hunt stated that each lake has different foci but individuals may wish to look at this if interested in developing the concept. Gail Read is to email these volunteers to confirm their continued interest and include this committee on the website summary of contacts. Chris Harrison will Chair this group and will be the recipient of email responses to a call for volunteers.

Wetland Workshop: Thanks to Bob and Christine Melville for hosting this event on their property. Bob is willing to provide an overview for Captain Otty's Log. People from several of our wetlands now have additional information.

Shoreline Planting: The base of participants has increased. Some wildflowers are now blooming and it is apparent how much it means to property owners.

Shoreline Survey Review – Property reviews have been completed, written reports will be undertaken over the winter, personalized private and confidential reports will go to each resident. How do we get these to the residents? How do we ensure confidentiality? This item will be included as a discussion on the agenda for our next board meeting.

Water Sampling – David Reesor reported that sampling has occurred for more than 25 years to include phosphorus and nitrogen, with people most concerned about E-coli results. One reading of significance has resulted in a short swimming ban in one bay. All further readings are better. Getting a bad number is a big concern. Many geese in this area may be a factor. David reported that most lakes do not do all of this testing and our focus has been helpful. Cathy Kari expressed concern regarding residents seeing OLA as responsible for recognizing and communicating safety levels for swimming and drinking. She also stated a concern with geese being identified as a cause when it could be other causes including an erroneous reading. Geese can't be seen as the cause but rather a possible cause.

A resident concern re swimmers itch was received via email by Rick Stojak. Karen Hunt reports that Murray Hunt has responded to this resident.

Lake Management Plan – Karen Hunt states that the Five Year Review has been shared and is at the point of requiring input from the community. It is important to know what the community wants yet only a minimal response has been received. Karen would like to start with the people in this room and then work out as the information is needed for the LPAC to move forward. The timeline has been extended from August 15th to by mid-October. 2 or 3 focus group input sessions were suggested by Wally Robins. Barb Hicks suggested the inclusion of some open ended questions such as "Are you happy with the water quality of Otty Lake?" Karen and Barb will work together to pose some questions and publish these in the October Capt Otty's Log.

Otty Calendar 2014 - Sales are in need of a boost with approximately 2/3 sold to date and each of Karen Hunt, Phil Anderson, David Reesor, Robert Cosh and Gail Read having some available. Gail Read will

create an ad for the website and Capt Otty's Log with a reminder to purchase these calendars as excellent Christmas presents.

Fish Project Updates – Wally Robins' report: The bass population has been badly abused over the last decade as a result of illegal fishing during the spawn and the irresponsible harvesting of adult fish (2 pounds and above) during the open season. Biologists from RVCA and MNR have twice had guided tours of Otty to identify current smallmouth bass spawning areas and have prioritized all areas as "high", "medium", "low" for enhancement with pea gravel. Other off-shore areas have been identified/prioritized for the addition of a sunken wood structure (Xmas trees initially destined for wood chipper) as submerged wood provides habitat for fish, invertebrates, amphibians etc. Each tree is to be affixed in a 2 gallon plastic pail with concrete. Trees are to be dropped in a MINIMUM of 15 feet of water so no risk to safe navigation or swimming will be posed. A decision has been made to implement this October as it is safer than working on Otty's untrustworthy ice. The work crew will consist of RVCA staff, Wally and hopefully 2-3 volunteers from Otty. Use of a pontoon boat would be appreciated.

Project costs will be shared in partnership by OLA (3K) and RVCA (2K) with all costs incurred to be for product purchase and delivery (no salary nor boat gas). The permit application will be prepared by RVCA for MNR approval which should get an OK since MNR is part of the initiative.

The third enhancement initiative is called Fish Sticks and involves affixing dead trees (NOT cut at Otty) to the shoreline so they extend over and into the water. This provides an excellent habitat for fish, reptiles, turtles, herons, mink etc. Landowner permission will be sought and this will likely commence in 2014.

It is very important that spawning sites enhanced with pea gravel are monitored. A local resident has volunteered and it is also hoped that MNR will patrol Otty frequently during the spawn.

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans has a 20K grant in 2014 for habitat enhancement which Jennifer Lamoureux, Fish and Aquatic Habitat Enhancement Biologist, wants 4 local lakes including Otty, to apply. More details will follow.

Next meeting: Saturday, May 17, 2014 at McMartin House

Meeting Adjourned: 11:20 a.m.

Draft Copy Handouts Provided: Minutes of August 2, 2013 Board Meeting, Directory of OLA Board Members and Committees, OLA Year in Planning
August 17, 2013 Board and Counsellor Meeting Agenda