



Otty Lake Association Board Meeting Minutes

Sat Oct 29, 2016, 9:30 - 11:30 am
McMartin House

Present: Robert Cosh, Krista Hearty McLean, Barb Hicks, Murray Hunt, Christine Kilburn (Secretary), Reid Kilburn (President), Ian McDonald, Gail Read, Wally Robins, Anne Scotton, Derek Smith, Michelle Soucy (12)

Regrets - Dave Bell, Kyla Haley, Cathy Kari, Chuck Shenkman (4)

Welcome - Reid called the meeting to order at 9:32. A quorum was present. Reid mentioned that our thoughts are with Chuck and Nicola in this difficult time after the passing of Nicola's mother and sister. We are also thinking of Dave who is recovering slowly from his eye surgery. Cathy is in the process of moving.

Agenda - Motion 2016-03-01 (Wally/Anne) Approve agenda with amendments. Add 4 items - Finance highlights, LAP report, Fire control, Land Use. **CARRIED**

Minutes of Jun 11th Meeting - Motion 2016-03-02 (Anne/Wally) Approve minutes as distributed. **CARRIED**

Financial Report - On Dave's behalf, Reid reported that our bank balance is \$2,265.40. A positive update on the mailing costs of newsletters was provided: 2015 Postage was \$1,278.38 and copying cost \$1,459.36 for a total Newsletter cost of \$2,737.74. For 2016, Postage was \$156, and Copying was \$693.39 for a total of \$703.95. We therefore saved \$2,033.73 thanks to the initiative to reduce the number of hard copy Newsletters mailed out.

Location/date for 2017 AGM - Most service clubs, i.e. the Legion, Civitan and Lion's Club appreciate Perth is a wedding destination. They therefore want to keep Saturdays open for weddings. They all prefer we move to a Sunday. Costs range from \$123 to \$169. The Legion would give up a Sat 8 weeks in advance, if no wedding. The Board decided we would

respect Sunday as a day some of our members attend church and therefore not move the AGM to Sunday. We should look at other halls, e.g. Farrell Hall, PDCI, St John's or local churches for example. We need capacity of 100, with room for displays. Keep the date of July 8th and look for another venue.

State of the Lake Report - Derek advised those present that this is the 3rd year the OLA has published this report which is a report card of how the lake is doing and summarizes the environmental activities. He recognized the 7 individuals who took part in those activities. Murray summarized his portion of the report which includes items like ice-in and -out, lake water levels including Jebb's Creek, phosphorous monitoring, Lake Partner Program, RVCA sampling, phosphorous levels are stable, Lake Partner Program, RVCA's Watershed Watch program sampling beyond our own monitoring, e.g. dissolved oxygen. One item Murray advised us of was one location where the e-coli count was above acceptable levels. The readings improved later in the summer.

Derek spoke about his algae portion of the report, including items like the conditions which trigger algae, e.g. sunlight. Algae blooms disappeared around July 10th.

Derek also summarized the zebra mussel portion of the report. He had his zebra mussel samplers around the lake again, and with those results and anecdotal evidence from Gail and Dave, the population declined significantly in 2016.

Wally summarized his fish habitat report, covering such topics as the fact that we've done as much as we can for smallmouth bass, and did experimental work related to large mouth bass this Sep. We'll see what feedback we get during spring's monitoring. He added that there aren't more people fishing on Otty, however those who are are more skilled, more knowledgeable about fish behaviour and water systems. This is good as long as they practice catch and release. Otty doesn't have an issue of over fishing. There was discussion about 2 guides on Otty and their practices.

Gail reported on shoreline planting. This year we tried bareroot plants again. The Kilburn's, Ev, Gail and Ian planted 160 bareroot trees into large pots with soil Dave sourced. This year's drought meant she and Ian had a great deal of watering to do to ensure they survived. Trees sold very quickly. Shrubs were gorgeous. Wildflower demand dropped significantly, dropping orders from 72 to 44. Purchasers had to be OLA members to get the discounted price. As a result of this requirement, we obtained 5 or 6 members. Some plants sold in past years have not survived due to grazing etc. Ev is retiring from the program, Gail will be away for May and June. She will assist but we need to find a new project lead.

Christine reported on the bird and bat boxes project, in its 2nd year in 2016. She thanked the Hendry's for all their work in preparing the bird and bat box kits, which could then be assembled in half a day by enthusiastic volunteers.

Derek reported for Kyla re loons. She did great work with the summarizing of weekly monitoring and populating maps. The information has been submitted to Bird Studies Canada. Her maps are detailed.

In summary, Derek let us know that a doctor on Eagle Lake said he was very impressed with our State of the Lake report. It was decided to add the report to the website and send a note to everyone, letting them know it's been posted.

Robert reminded everyone that the RVCA report done in 2012 contained incorrect data related to Otty Lake. The next report will be issued in 2017. Derek said we'll be proactive and provide them with our information. Murray has all the data well documented. Reid pointed out that we are in a good position since we have an excellent rapport with RVCA. The latest Lake Networking Group report, sent to the Board by Christine on Oct 28th, makes it clear that Otty Lake is advanced in the area of water sampling. Murray pointed out that we have provided RVCA with 30+ years of historical data.

Fish & Wildlife Habitat future - Wally and Jennifer will be meeting early in the new year to discuss possible activities for 2017. They will focus on the fish portion of the project. Derek suggested, after the spring 2017 monitoring, a report on the smallmouth and largemouth bass project should be submitted to FOCA. Wally might get national coverage in Outdoor Canada. Michelle was concerned about the hundreds of lures in the sunk trees. Wally assured her that they won't hurt the fish or keep them from using the area. After 3 years, he is delighted to report 50% usage of smallmouth bass nests, which is 20 points higher than their wildest dreams. In 2018, we'll have a 5 year picture for smallmouth. The number of bird and bat boxes produced over the last 2 years has been limited by our methodology, i.e. 20 to 30 boxes are about our production limit. Are there others willing to cut the boxes to help Richard and Jay? For the 2017 Wildlife Habitat project, send Wally any ideas we may have, e.g. species at risk, namely bees and frogs, black rat snakes.

Potential for other projects - To get some ideas from experts, Derek has contacted universities, Dorset, Ministries, enquiring if we could assist with an extension of their research work. There are sources of grant money, up to \$20-\$30K, which we could apply for. He has received 2 replies, nothing substantial yet. He continues to work on organizing presentations for next spring by people doing applied research to help us know more about our lake.

Youth Project Proposal - Reid thanked Wally and Christine for their work on preparing the outline for this. It was developed as a follow up to our keynote speaker's topic at the AGM. How do we engage youth? Reid had passed the project outline on to Kyla and Krista, who met this week to discuss. Krista has reached out to PDCI and is awaiting a reply. It has an outdoor project curriculum every other year. A regular science teacher might spark interest in students not yet in an outdoor curriculum. Krista is thinking a one day field trip might be a good way to start. She and Karen did something similar a number of years ago. Krista will continue to follow up with PDCI and St John's.

Shoreline Planting Future - Gail asked if the Board feels we should conduct this project every other year. Anne applauded Gail's attention to detail which emphasized how to plant

and then following up with purchasers. Kudos to Gail. Gail reported that Meaghan McDonald of RVCA offered jiffy pots for 2017. They'd be ready to go and not require the work associated with bare root plants. In the spring, Gail and Ev will follow up with the persons who planted this year to find out about the success. The process for this project was talked about briefly. A suggestion was made that in 2017, for Canada's 150th, we could focus on maple trees, e.g. plant 150 maple trees. Board members felt that in 2017 we should go with jiffy pots to avoid all the effort Gail and Ian went to this year to plant and water. Krista will consider spearheading this project in 2017. Gail has someone interested in helping. Michelle offered to assist. Anne is also interested in assisting with pick up day. Barb can assist as well.

Picnic - Gail handed out her report. The picnic cost was \$334.24 which is \$171 less than last year. We had donations of \$230. We only charged \$1 for face painting, could charge \$2. What could we do next year for the 150th anniversary? Please provide Gail with ideas for a speaker. Reptiles were successful in the past. Or have more of an educational session, e.g. the Bug Lady. Gail is willing to spearhead the picnic.

Counsellors - Gail is very happy with the current group of 21 counsellors. The next meeting will be on Nov 7th, to provide them with feedback from today's meeting. Derek will be the guest speaker. Monika will talk about technology, and how she used it as part of the process in 2016. About 70% of people on the lake are being visited in person. Gail would like to organize a package for those new to the lake, including information such as township practices, e.g. one township collects garbage, one does not.

LAP - Ian confirmed that our fiscal year is Jan to Dec. At the next meeting Ian will have the final information for the 2016 projects. He'll also hopefully have a list of possible projects for 2017. Jenn will be asked to provide numbers for the Wildlife and Fish Habitat projects, which will include the \$1,000 grant.

Cookbooks - Barb had sent out a report prior to the meeting. Discussion ensued about reprinting cookbooks. **Motion 2016-03-03** - (Derek/Anne) Reprint 50 cookbooks.

CARRIED A few changes will be incorporated prior to having Images InterAlia print. Anne is willing to mail or deliver to those who can't pick up.

SIP - Discussion took place about including tick kits again. Gail said that about 8 years ago, it cost \$3 to put a tick kit together. We need some cost data before we can decide whether or not to include them in the 2017 SIP kits. Reid will get in touch with the Health Unit. Barb/Gail will search the internet. For the 2017 SIP, Barb and Christine collected the FOCA Shoreline brochures at Lake Links. Gail picked up 2 or 3 samples of items which might be included at Lake Links.

2017 150th Anniversary project – This year we decided to produce a cookbook/historical record and delay another calendar. We are too late to have a calendar ready for the 2017 AGM. If we create one, what would the theme be? Could we use the cookbook photos? One suggestion was to use photos of boat houses, but we don't encourage the building of boat houses, so not a good idea. The cookbook team will take the idea of a calendar and work with David Bromley to see what can be done. They'll update the Board. The picnic would suffice as our 150th social event. Paddle Power theme will be red-and-white. We'll think about having a social event after the AGM.

Other Business – Reid mentioned that we had issues over the summer with people burning while Fire Ban was on. To deal with this, we sent an e-mail to everyone to remind them. This facilitated conversation between neighbours to educate. Now we have another issue. Now that the fire ban is lifted, someone burned a huge pile of items including garbage which had been saved over the summer. The Fire Dept is willing to work with us to put together an e-mail to the OLA distribution list, with the By-Laws around burning. Reid will work with the Fire Dept to put something brief together to issue.

Land Use – Reid reminded the Board that in the past we spoke about putting together an education package to let our residents know what is required by the various organizations to build or renovate. Reid has been fulfilling the role of being the OLA's Land Use contact for the townships, with help from Derek, Karen and David Reesor. He does not have the capacity to continue to fulfill that role. We need a volunteer, or need a package. He doesn't want to lose the connection we have with D/NE and TVT. The Board felt that we should pursue producing the package as described originally. Volunteers came forward to work with Christine, namely Gail, Barb and Michelle. Anne suggests we go to the townships and ask them to populate a template. Gail stated that the assignment of responsibilities with the townships, Conservation Authority have to be clear. Due to the sensitivity of the task some previous Land Use Committee decisions have been difficult for residents to accept. We are not a regulatory body, so one problem could be navigating the processes at the township, Conservation Authority, Health Unit levels. Our input has been valued by the townships in the past and we should strive to maintain this level of respect. As part of the package, as we interface with the Townships and other organizations we may be able to influence the regulatory side.

Photos – please send to Gail for AGM, as well as to Barb.

Next Meeting – March 11th, 2017 at McMartin House

Adjournment – (Robert) The meeting was adjourned at 11:48 am.