

OLA AGM 2005 (July 9/05) Visioning Exercise Data

Open Space exercise carried out with about 80 participants attending the 2005 OLA AGM – facilitated by Wally Robins
(notes below transcribed from flipchart notations contributed by meeting participants)

Question #1 – What Do You Value about Otty Lake?

Responses

- natural shorelines
- quiet and shade from woodlands
- access roads that can be used for walking and riding bicycles
- the beauty and the loons
- natural, rural environs
- water quality
- retention of countryside setting
- small size of the lake
- days when no jet skis are heard
- openness, quiet, relaxability, people interest X2
- the quietness (break from city life)
- loons
- space
- a perfect place for families to gather in peace
- beauty
- tranquillity
- quiet
- swimming/cleanliness
- water quality
- being away from it all
- a rural lifestyle; city homes with manicured lots belong in the city!
- non-motorized watercraft
- all of the above
- all of the above – the total life experience is terrific!

Question #2 –What Issues are of Greatest Concern to You?

Responses

- health of the lake X4
- water quality X5
- boat speeds near shorelines
- road safety, passing on curves, hills etc. driving in feels like a blood sport
- invasive weeds/aquatic life brought by boats at public launches
- cleanliness/water quality
- Weeds/Milfoil X6
- Algae bloom X3
- nutrient management
- involvement of lake residents
- water levels X2
- zebra mussels X3
- noise – barking dogs – loud speakers – seadoos
- lack of boating safety
- I don't want to listen to other peoples' music
- avoidance of urban sprawl
- noise pollution
- bloom floating this spring then sinking to the bottom –very fibrous –first sighting in 37 years
- hot tubs –where does that water go? Is this a concern?
- boat launching of large powerful motor boats that are introducing invasive plants and spreading the weeds. Also bottles and garbage and threats to cottager security with this access
- health of the lake
- how to persuade residents to follow good advice?
- erosion from boat wakes
- mineral rights control
- all of the above plus taxes
- fertilizing lawns
- high water erosion
- fish spawning –no fish over 6" spawned in our bay
- Canada Geese
- inability to find/avoid rocks just breaking under the surface

Question #3 – What Concrete Actions Do You Want the Otty Lake Association to Take to Address Your Issue(s)

Responses-

- keep advising people re how to keep lake clean e.g. shoreline buffer
- encourage residents who have lawns at water's edge to put in plants (buffer zone)
- encourage residents to refrain from using chemicals on their lawns
- limit motors on the lake. Weeds, mussels upsetting the balance. Too many foreign motor boats entering the lake. Promote canoes, kayaks, rowers which can be put in at own dock and are clean of invasive plants
- provide lists of native plants (Amy Pokorny included these several years ago in a newsletter –valuable, concrete info)
- weed control –what can be done? X2
- weed and silt control!
- as above – our bay is infested
- high water at south-end of lake – last year was lapping against foundation
- non permitted buildings –growth
- stop use of fertilizers
- noise control –sound travels across the water
- strategic partnerships to address environmental issues!
- large marina style docks – is there a limit to their size?
- is there a limit that the association can address on the size of “marina style” docks so that these docks have a minimal impact on neighbours located nearby e.g. new Burgesswood dock which is slated to expand further
- information on benign methods of controlling weeds
- marking rocks and shoals
- educate the population about preserving lake environment

Question #4 – What Ideas, Advice or Resources (Contacts, Personal Knowledge or Experience) Do You Have That Could Assist the Otty Lake Association in Addressing Current Issues and Concerns?

Responses

- my long experience of/on Otty Lake and knowledge of what has worked before (or not)
- recreation background in parks exposed me to alternatives to motor boats. The lake users need to start paddling and rowing – rowboats, canoes, kayaks, rubber dingys, sailboats. Put in at own docks. Limit motors!
- seek, through formal application, grants from various levels of government to promote the environment