

## **Summary Record Community Partners Meeting Otty Lake Management Planning**

**Date:** October 17, 2006

**Location:** North Elmsley Hall

**Attendance:** See Annex

**Introduction:** Karen Hunt welcomed the participants and indicated that the purpose of the meeting was to provide an opportunity for the Community Partners to provide input at this next stage of the Otty Lake Management Planning. She stressed that the input of the Community Partners is critical to Otty's lake planning process and to the ultimate success of this initiative. Karen explained that the State of the Watershed Report, which the Community Partners had had an opportunity to review, provides a snapshot of the current state of the Otty Lake Watershed area. It is a compilation of all available current and historical information about the issues & concerns and values identified by Otty Lake residents, users and community partners at the beginning of our lake planning process.

The next step is to begin to identify goals, objectives and action strategies which will help the Otty Lake Association achieve their Vision for the lake management planning work.

**Meeting Process:** Wally Robins facilitated the meeting. Wally outlined the plan for the meeting. Three tasks were to be undertaken.

**Task 1:** *The first task was to solicit comment on the current draft of the Otty "State of the Watershed" Report. This was done in Plenary by posing the following questions:*

**Is there any important information that is NOT included in the Otty "State of the Watershed" Report?**

**Does it omit any key concerns/issues?**

*Responses from Community Partners:*

- Additional references should be made for the sources of information in the Otty "State of the Watershed" Report and certain scientific data should also be included in Appendices to substantiate particular statements in the Report. (Mark Burnham)
- Information from the Tay Watershed Fish Habitat Report should be used to augment the Otty "State of the Watershed" Report. (Anne Bendig)

**Tasks 2 and 3:** *Two further tasks were defined by the facilitator. These were*

**Task 2 Next Steps – Identify some key objectives or goals that the Otty Lake Association needs to accomplish.**

**Task 3 Next Steps – Identify some strategies that will help the Otty Lake Association accomplish the major goals identified in Task 2.**

Before the participants moved into their breakout groups, Wally drew their attention to the Otty Lake Association's **Vision** (which was posted at the front of the room) of what they want to accomplish through the lake management planning process

**VISION - To protect and sustain a healthy lake through the combined efforts of Otty Lake residents and users and concerned community partners in Gov't and other organizations**

*Tasks 2 and 3 were addressed by four breakout groups of the participants. Each breakout group focused on certain elements of Lake Management planning.*

**Group 1 considered surface water quality, aquatic vegetation and mining rights**

Topic - Surface Water Quality

*Task 2*

Maintain and improve water quality for all users  
Establish an annual monitoring program  
Determine sources of water quality impairment  
Establish water quality trends  
Promote education and awareness

*Task 3*

- Monitoring Program
  - Establish monitoring protocol (parameters, locations, frequency)
  - Press for resources from government agencies to design and lead monitoring program
  - Develop volunteer monitoring support resources
  - Establish carrying capacity
- Determine sources
  - Develop a septic system re-inspection program (every 5 years or on sale)
  - Develop septic system pumping guidelines
  - Septic system monitoring (re: in lakes)
- Education and awareness
  - Expand Otty Lake Association to include sub-watershed area
  - Topics for education- septic, pesticides, ribbon of life, gas in boats, encourage 4-stroke engines
  - Methods of education – workshops, newsletters, school curriculum, Scouts, website, promote green products (both consumers and retailers) including septic friendly products, lowflush toilets

## Topic – Aquatic Vegetation

### *Task 2*

- Strike a balance between aquatic vegetation and the need to maintain fish and wildlife habitat and levels desired for human use
- Monitor weed growth and factors contributing to it
- Manage inputs contributing to excessive weed growth
- Promote education and awareness

### *Task 3*

- Encourage vegetation studies – look to universities, RVCA and MNR for resources
- Monitor aquatic vegetation
  - Develop volunteer protocol to monitor vegetation
  - Monitor water quality (see above)
  - Develop aquatic vegetation monitoring program
- Manage inputs contributing to weed growth
  - See water quality actions
  - Identify sources of nutrients
  - Promote bylaws to govern cosmetic spraying

Education and Awareness: develop an education program that would include

- What causes excessive weed growth?
- Impact of cutting and spraying
- A new program – What is your nutrient program?
- Dock to dock talks; outreach programs by government programs

## Topic – Mining Claims

### *Task 2*

- Educate property owners about the provincial mining legislation
- Press for modernization of Mining Legislation
- Press for best practices in mining regulations and mining operations

### *Task 3*

- Encourage use of websites, newspaper articles, newsletters to inform lake residents; include information on the mining issue as part of new resident welcome packages
- Use petitions, lobby government, and recommend establishing a task force to explore exclusion south of certain latitude or in proximity to populated areas.
- Require environmental assessment before mining operations commence

## **Group 2 considered water levels, effects of boating and shoreline protection/health**

### Topic- Water Levels

#### *Task 2*

- Monitor water levels (based on reports of problems)

- Monitor beaver activity (mainly on tributaries)
- Monitor other “blockages” – includes human activity and development – blockages may be removed from waterfront i.e. development of areas over entire watershed
- Monitor climatic conditions on annual basis
- Educate re NATURAL water level fluctuations (impacts on or impacts from septic/dock or lake access)

### *Task 3*

- Continue (maybe formalize) volunteer monitoring for clear concise base data
- Monitor blockages caused by beaver, development etc. through periodic surveys for impediments or flow changes
- RVCA/Townships to monitor complaints
- Educate the lake community through channels such as newsletters, lake association meetings, township websites, lake website, other websites, door to door visits to “not yet converted”

### Topic – Effects of Boating

#### *Task 2*

- Develop educational programs to address prevention methods (distance, speed)
  - develop signage e.g. watch your wake
  - promote knowledge about regulations
  - impress upon residents/lake users need for erosion/habitat protection
- Survey boater use / i.e. 2 stroke vs. 4 stroke, boat type, sizes
- Encourage development of loon nesting platforms and other habitat protection/improvement programs
- Address zebra mussel issues (e.g. develop information package with management suggestions)

#### *Task 3*

- Lake association to develop education programs and communicate with lake residents
- Use signage at public access points re speeding/invasive species
- Invite OPP to Lake Association AGM

Develop information packages for lake residents- obtain information from LandOwners Resource Centre at RVCA

Send information to lake residents with tax bills/or provide information on townships’ websites

Complete a boating survey to identify more about boating on lake i.e. who has what/ what use / type

Investigate building loon nesting platforms (obtain assistance through sources such as CFWIP, Community, Lanark Stewardship Council)

### Topic – Shoreline Protection/Health

### *Task 2*

Encourage those with ornamental shorelines to convert to more natural shorelines

- Encourage stewardship  
Develop demo site.  
Promote use of the Rideau Valley Rural Clean Water Program  
Provide list of stewardship programs (N.B. list available on Rideau Valley Rural Clean Water Program (RVRCWP) Grants Brochure)
- Develop Township Regulations/Guidelines to restrict use of pesticides (cosmetic spraying) and fertilizers
- Develop statements within Zoning By-laws /Official Plans to address not only development i.e. structures but also site alterations
- Continue MAPLE-type surveys with recommendations and implementation e.g. MAPLE 10 shore maintenance
- Promote signage on demonstration properties or identify “award winners” properties for great/good shorelines

### *Task 3*

To address “more natural” shorelines:

Lake association should promote re-naturalizing amongst shoreline residents

- Lake association could use past recommendations for property “improvements” (MAPLE),  
involving conservation authority staff and promoting re-naturalizing and re-vegetation from MAPLE standards
- Lake associations could develop DEMO sites using properties of several shoreline residents, providing appropriate signage
- Townships should develop specific guidelines and statements in OP and Zoning By-laws to address shoreline disturbances e.g. set-back within which there is NO use/application of pesticides/fertilizers and implement these recommendations within X metres of the water  
“IF YOU CAN’T DRINK IT, DON’T PUT IT ON YOUR PROPERTY!”

**Group 3 considered the topics of ground water quality, fish and wildlife, and the responsibility of landowners.**

### Topic – Ground water quality

#### *Task 2*

- Summarize the information for the Otty Lake watershed contained in the Renfrew Rideau Mississippi Ground Water Study and use as a scientific base for the development of the action plan
- Utilize the Source Water Protection Plan under development in the Mississippi Rideau Source Protection Plan for the same purpose as above
- Advocate and fundraise for expansion and extension of septic reinspection programs to the entire watershed (benefits surface and ground water)

- Connect landowners with potential funding support for septic and well upgrades e.g. RVCA Clean Water Program
- Lobby the provincial government on a collective and individual basis for a revision to the Clean Water Act and the Mining Act to protect rural surface and ground water sources from the impacts of Section 78 “assessment work” of the Mining Act of Ontario
- Continue to promote the Well Aware Program and advocate for its continued funding

### *Task 3*

Develop a x year Project Plan to meet the Objectives (similar to Tay River Management Plan – use multi-year approach with priorities)

Lobby MOE to release the updated Lake Carrying Capacity Model and request that Otty Lake be the “pilot” project for its test implementation. The Lake Capacity Model is the key planning tool for municipalities and guides future development decisions

Develop a Comprehensive Education Program for all watershed property owners and lake users using a multi pronged approach – for example:

Information packages delivered through personal contact and lake events

Welcome of new property owners with information on the lake and its health.

Personalized, professional consultation service on a confidential basis that provides customised advice on a per property basis (lake association would have to fundraise and find expert partners to contribute to this program)

- Lobby the provincial government on a collective and individual basis to seek revision to the Clean Water Act and the Mining Act to protect rural surface and ground water
  - Partner with CMAG and the townships to develop specific information points that can be used in concerted letter writing campaigns both locally and for seasonal residents.
  - Lobby both the government and the opposition parties
  - Identify and seek help from lake residents with special expertise e.g. lawyers, geologists, media people to help in lobbying campaigns
- Lobby municipalities for the use of more progressive and aggressive septic licensing authorities that are capable of implementation in septic reinspection programs

### Topic – Fish and Wildlife Health

#### *Task 2*

- Leave dead standing trees unless a safety hazard
- Leave fallen trees and other woody debris along shorelines
- Maintain natural shorelines to protect fish and wildlife habitat
- Promote and implement programs that provide funding or resources for habitat presentation or improvement (Stewardship councils, Ducks Unlimited, Loon Monitoring)
- Do not apply aquatic pesticides to remove natural wetlands and weeds
- Preserve locally significant wetlands
- Prevent invasive species coming in and out of Otty Lake through education, signage, etc.

## Topic – Landowner Responsibility

### *Task 2*

- Ensure regular pump-out of septic systems
- Have your septic system regularly inspected to identify if repairs or replacement is required
- If on a “lot of record” place septic system as far from lake as possible and use a tertiary treatment system
- Plant a vegetated buffer between the lakeshore and the septic bed
- Use best management home and garden practices
  - no fertilizers or pesticides
  - no or low phosphate products
  - only clear vegetation for a path to the water

Use Maple plantings for riparian vegetation - encourage community planting days

Design an education program based on the property classifications identified through the shoreline classification survey – Target specific information for ornamental, regenerative, natural designations i.e. maintaining buffers for natural properties

Report observed violations of environmental laws and regulations to appropriate authority or agency.

Fundraise and develop a Landowner Stewardship Education Program

## **Group 4 addressed the topics of development pressure and partnerships in protecting the lake**

### Topic – Development Pressure

#### *Task 2*

Issues identified

Increased seasonal to permanent conversions along shoreline

Sub-standard lot sizes

Increased watershed development –need for appropriate zoning to deal with future development including subdivisions

Need to establish thresholds for Lake Capacity

#### Objectives

- No decrease in water quality
  - Develop appropriate zoning to deal with future development
  - Properties should be subject to site plans (i.e. avoid hardened surfaces etc.) that’s on title with your property
  - Develop model that projects ecosystem planning –water quality & aquatic habitat
  - Determine model for measuring carrying capacity
- The OLA should have strong “moral suasion” (persuasion) - \* more than public education\*

### *Task 3*

- Determine Lake Capacity
  - Complete an inventory of lands
  - Hire a consultant to prepare a Lake Capacity Report
  - Develop a lake capacity plan and recommend new planning policies i.e. WATERFRONT RESIDENTIAL
  - Integrate the policies and goals of the LMP into the Township's municipal planning documents
- Make recommendations to Townships for development and implementation of Site Plan Policies for new landowners/building permits
  - e.g. no hardened surfaces within 30m of water, etc. (% and set back)
  - e.g. retain vegetation or replace
- OLA should be involved in applications for variances around the lake

### Topic - Partnerships in Lake Management

### *Task 2*

- Build relations with Partners (especially the municipalities/ elected and staff officials involved), non-government and government agencies, media and the lake community
- Link people with common goals (maintain the group's focus). Support each other.
- Build positive public awareness (OLA's own identity)
- Use a proactive approach

### *Task 3*

- Maintain contact with community partners especially with municipalities using newsletters, emails etc.
- Continue to link people with common goals to maintain focus
- Support each other i.e. group meetings
- Build positive public awareness with OLA's own identity
- Continue to identify specific goals that can be benchmarked

**Invitation for further input:** Wally Robins invited the participants to provide additional input by email on any topics discussed during the day.

**Closing:** David Reesor thanked the participants and outlined the future steps in finalizing the Lake Management Plan.

- Revise the Otty "State of the Watershed" Report based on input received from the Community Partners
- Distribute the State of the Watershed Report to the Otty Lake community and receive their input on needed goals, objectives and action strategies.
- Develop a draft of the Lake Management Plan and consult both the Otty Lake Community and the Community Partners
- Finalize the Lake Management Plan and begin the process of implementation



**ANNEX  
ATTENDANCE**

**Community Partners Meeting - Otty Lake Management Planning-17/10/06**

**Page 1 of 2**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	
Lynn Preston	RVCA	
Sheanna Tinlin	RVCA - LMPP	
Martha Bradburn	RVCA – Rural Clean Water	
Matt Craig	RVCA	
Aubrey Churchill	Drummond/North Elmsley Twp.	
Gord McConnell	Drummond/North Elmsley Twp.	
Russell Foster	Drummond/North Elmsley Twp.	
James Lowe	Drummond/North Elmsley Twp.	
Paul Snider	Drummond/North Elmsley Twp.	
Maureen Towaij	Tay Valley Township	
Mark Burnham	Tay Valley Township	
John E. M. Wilson	Council Candidate- Tay Valley	
Jeff Ward	Lanark Stewardship Council	
Janis Dupuis	Lanark Stewardship Council	
Barb King	Lanark Stewardship Council	
Colin Stephenson	FoTW	
Susan Brandum	REAL/LLGreen	
Roger Nuttall	Scouts Canada	

**Continued next page**

**Page 2**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	
Alida Mitton	MOE	
Anne Bendig	MNR	
Jennifer Bricker	Leeds Grenville & Lanark Health Unit	
Tressa Oliver	Lanark & District Maple Producers Association	
David Reesor	Otty Lake Association	
Wally Robins	Otty Lake Association	
Karen Hunt	Otty Lake Association	
Murray Hunt	Otty Lake Association	
Willie Newsome	Otty Lake Association	
Rosemarie Hoppe-Wilhelm	Otty Lake Association	
Diana Nuttall	Otty Lake Association	