

November 26, 2004

Minutes of Otty Lake Community Partners Meeting To Support Lake Management Planning

Location:

Drummond / North Elmsley Hall – 121 Station Road, Port Elmsley

Participants:

Members of the OLA Lake Management Planning Committee and Members of the OLA Board

Tressa Oliver, Rosemarie Ticehurst, Roger and Diana Nuttall, Ian McDonald, Willie Newsome, Marg Barrie, David Reesor, Wally Robins, Karen and Murray Hunt

Community Partners

Maureen Towaij, Susan Freeman, Brian Campbell, Tay Valley Township

Aubrey Churchill & Paul Snider, Drummond North Elmsley Township

Alida Mitton & Mark Phillips, Ministry of the Environment

Lynn Preston & Martha Bradburn, RVCA

Sarah Rosolon, CSW

David Crowley & Jeff Ward, Lanark County Stewardship Council

Jennifer Bricker, Leeds, Grenville and Lanark Health Unit

David Taylor, FoTW

Stan Lasenba, Scouts Canada

Art Dunham, CGIS

Tressa Oliver (for David Oliver), Lanark District Maple Syrup Producers Association

Note: regrets and comments also received from Andy Smith, DFO, Matt Craig, RVCA and Susan Brandum, LLGreen and REAL.

The meeting was opened by Karen Hunt, President of the OLA. She welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending the meeting.

Karen explained our objective of developing a Lake Management Plan for Otty Lake and said that this meeting with members of the broader Otty Lake Community is an important part of the process.

Karen reviewed the understanding of the OLA's lake management committee related to lake management planning - that a Lake Management Plan is a strategic action plan developed by a lake community to reflect and preserve the special character of a lake. It will provide a process to

identify and protect lake values,
promote community discussion, education, consensus and action,
create an inventory of resources,
set goals and objectives for the protection and enhancement of a lake
recommend stewardship actions,
and recommend land use policy.

A Lake Management Plan is a living, ongoing process not a document that is prepared and approved as good idea and then put on a shelf.

Karen reviewed the progress to date which includes focus groups, lake resident questionnaires, information gathering and the formation of the Lake Management Planning Committee.

This meeting with members of the broader Otty Lake community is the next step in the development of an action plan to best protect the long-term sustainability and viability of Otty Lake.

Karen then introduced Wally Robins, the facilitator for the meeting.

Wally indicated there were 3 sections to the meeting.

The first was **Values**.

The second was **Issues and Challenges**.

The third was **Recommendations**.

Values

This question was asked of the participants:

What do you and your organization value about Otty Lake?

(After each question there will be a summary of the responses. Many of them were repeated several times by the participants.)

- natural beauty
- natural shoreline
- large tax base
- close to Perth
- good partnership with the Lake Association
- good friends
- Karen and the Lake Association well organized
- OLA helps other Lake Associations
- OLA forerunner in environmental issues and getting other lake associations involved
- valuable resource for recreation
- OLA provides valuable input for townships even if we don't always see eye to eye
- water quality
- leadership role of OLA
- model to others
- protection of ecosystem
- lots of data
- good group
- good newsletter
- place for youth
- environmental study
- canoeing
- recreation and renewal for people
- varied habitat for animals and fish
- water quality improved from 25 years ago
- helps mental health
- helps personal health
- active association provides constructive criticism, works well with townships
- good that lake is in 2 townships, what works best is the result
- strong lake association keeps local government on its toes
- association provides continuity of data and information which is invaluable
- great fishing
- recent negative values are weed growth and zebra mussels

Issues and Challenges

This question was asked of participants:

What are the critical issues that the Otty Lake Community needs to consider in Lake Management Planning?

- consensus of land use for the whole lake
- consensus on lake carrying capacity
- septic re-inspections
- mining
- landowner education
- rights of existing users
- impact of users in the surrounding watershed
- protecting the environment
- use of non phosphate soaps
- development challenges
- more people in a small area (challenge of growth)
- larger homes replacing smaller cottages
- rationalizing bylaws in 2 townships
- source water for lake a big issue
- impact and affect of ground water
- too much water a blessing
- invasive species
- willingness of lake users to buy into plan
- must reach everyone (communication)
- analysis is critical
- living plan needed, it is for now as well as future generations
- water quality must be protected
- more teeth in septic re-inspection needed
- ground water/water management issues
 - must protect wells and/or improve them
 - hazardous waste issues
 - garbage issues
- recreation water quality issues
 - promote 4 stroke motors, environmentally friendly soaps and products
 - limit size of motors and concentration of use of lake
- what comes next (in the plan) is very important
- how do you work with all of the groups/agencies present

- good water quality is a financial issue for all residents and users, need to educate
- regulations help but don't prevent, need to communicate to residents and involve them
- where have we been, where are we now, where do we want to go, action plan
- inner circle (residents/users) and outer circle (groups and agencies) must partner
- carrying capacity very important
- the better the lake, the more it will be used resulting in more issues/challenges
- identify natural habitat, document it, identify threats to water quality, environment etc.
- get dissenters back and involved
- keep partners engaged in the project
- funding major requirement for plan
- Otty Lake Management Plan a model in the area, helping others should be a key component of the plan, provide guidelines for others
- this is a living plan, must keep it moving and the energy level up
- human activities and behaviour are so critical to success of plan
- discourage and hopefully prevent the use of fertilizers and pesticides
- must educate and motivate and make it easy for users to be successful
- E.Coli. threat, septic, outhouses, cattle
- Public boat launch a big issue, must resolve and manage that potential gap and educate non-residents
- mining issues, high risk, no environmental controls with existing regulations
- communication and education so important
- there are threats known and unknown
- redevelopment of old cottages can have a large impact
- climate change a factor
- invasive species affect trees and water
- maintaining positive relationship with councils important

Recommendations

Two questions were asked of the participants:

1. What specific recommendations or potential solutions do you have that should be considered in the Otty Lake Management Planning process?

2. What can you and/or your organization provide to help the OLA in this work?

Aubrey Churchill –Drummond/North Elmsley Township

- education of lake residents
- partnership needed
- financial help from Drummond/North Elmsley Township
- Drummond North Elmsley will work more closely with Tay Valley Township

Sarah Rosolen – Centre for Sustainable Watersheds

- get users and partners involved

- can assist in fund raising and help leverage larger network
- can provide experience in lake management planning
- can help through Living by Water project

Tressa Oliver (for David Oliver)- Lanark District Maple Syrup Producers Association

- encouraging and practicing best sugar bush management practices
- proper road systems to manage runoff
- discourage fertilizer use
- support the Otty Lake plan
- want coming to the lake a positive experience

Alida Mitton –Ministry of the Environment

- can help interpret data
- participate on lake management plan committee
- help review plan
- some lab assistance
- provide MOE issues assistance
- participate in education, can arrange a lake quality seminar

Maureen Towajj –Tay Valley Township

- get formal agreement between the two townships to use lake carrying capacity as foundation for land use planning
- could lead to common regulations/standards for (both townships) all of Otty Lake on setbacks etc.
- education, education, education (of all property owners, their visitors, boat launch access etc.)
- possible assistance with funding
- provide maps concerning mining surface rights
- political action to revise the mining act
- seek grant funding for scientific help on data analysis (if expertise does not exist on lake)
- can help with advocacy for carrying capacity being the basis for planning

David Taylor Friends of the Tay Watershed

- learn from others who have already completed lake management plans
- keep results oriented
- have a strategy that develops action
- get community buy in
- differing opinions must be stated and shared
- prioritize, prioritize, prioritize
- can assist in obtaining funding
- money from multiple sources will assist in obtaining grants

-will share expertise as the plan develops

Lynn Preston -RVCA

- educate and involve people, keep them involved
- motivate, facilitate, make it easy
- lake carrying capacity critical
- partnerships essential
- help run lake capacity model
- can provide Tay watershed information, maps, fisheries expertise, ground water information, watershed planning, field work, studies
- can assist in project management and desktop publishing and in other areas on a cost recovery basis

Art Dunham -CGIS

- communicate and involve everyone
- CGIS system can help with the management and development of the project and the sharing of information between the Lake Association and Municipalities
- don't do this alone, as a united group of lake associations, we need to get assistance from the various groups and create a common process for doing this, we need to lobby, learn, document and implement together
- must improve communication between all groups (Art would like to see a common hierarchy of Rideau Roundtable, FEP, FoTW and all of the Lake Associations partnering with Service Groups, Conservation Authorities, Steward Councils, MNR, MOE, CSW and CGIS)

Jennifer Bricker Leeds Grenville and Lanark Health Unit

- can no longer offer Public Health lab work, many services are now in private hands and there is a cost (water testing for example)
- forcing septic re-inspections is difficult to do, legislation protects landowners
- can educate on wells, drinking water and septic
- can provide powerpoint presentations

Paul Snider –Drummond/North Elmsley Township

- harmonized policy can be discussed with Tay Valley Township
- Mississippi Lake involves 3 townships
- many policies to be considered
- would like common policies for **all** lakes
- CGIS very useful
- would like tighter septic re-inspection legislation
- Drummond North Elmsley ready to enforce new septic legislation
- can provide GIS modeling and possible financial assistance

-GIS should be implemented to allow the study to be a living document

Jeff Ward – Lanark County Stewardship Council

- make the plan do-able, an easy read
- set milestones, communicate well, then implement
- can help OLA with stewardship issues
- can help with education and get experts as needed
- MNR employs him, he can assist us in reaching them

Stan Lasenba – Scouts Canada

- plan must be simple, flexible and sincere
- the plan must take in the big picture including the surrounding areas
- plan must be sustainable and have provisions for review as new data is available
- the plan must take in to account the different lifestyles and uses of the lake
- could provide manpower with some notice of need
- find ways to involve youth in the plan

Brian Campbell –Tay Valley Township

- communication, cooperation and education are essential to success of plan
- Tay Valley Township will provide a consistent approach
- get a commitment from various groups to initiate and follow through with the development of the lake management plan
- possible financial help
- will assist with grant applications

Mark Phillips – Ministry of the Environment

- action plan must be specific so people can apply to themselves
- can provide historical data
- there is already a remedial plan in the file
- can help interpret water quality data
- can offer some lab services
- some sampling perhaps
- Lake Partners Program useful, see us for details

Martha Bradburn -RVCA

- make it applicable to individuals
- RVCA site and shoreline resources available
- this is a site specific resource, you can work it into your plan
- your study/plan needs to be sent to groups/agencies/authorities

- format it so that it will be used
- keep continuity in plan with future members and generations
- website is a valuable tool

Susan Freeman-Tay Valley Township

- the two townships need agreement in principle to include lake plan in their official plans and zoning bylaws
- should lobby government to get Otty Lake in Rideau Waterway Cultural Corridor protective buffer zone, would help with mining risks
- Tay Valley Township will share CGIS information (non-private)
- will provide moral support and leverage support
- there are 29 lakes in township, hard to commit to financial assistance

David Crowley – Lanark County Stewardship Council

- look for a financial “angel”
- ask industry, associations, individuals for financial assistance
- need competent (cheap) consultant to assist the association in development of the plan
- produce and distribute a questionnaire to **all** lake residents and users to determine their understanding of the issues and their priorities
- establish and maintain close positive relationships with municipalities and other stakeholders and potential partners
- develop a communication strategy to assist in working with other lake associations (Bob’s and Crow, Charleston, others) as well as other municipalities who have experience in lake management plans
- keep lake residents informed of progress of project
- establish strong steering committee
- need common approach to lakes from both townships
- can provide some funding plus there is a provincial fund available when more than one township is involved
- can help with obtaining grants
- can provide expertise and assistance in partnering and communicating with other organizations and government agencies

The following comments are from people who were unable to attend the meeting:

Matt Craig-RVCA

- RVCA have mapping (location and type) of development around the lake since 2002
- the lake is spring fed so protecting and including the unevaluated wetland complex to the west and north would be important to include in any management plan

Susan Brandon-LLGreen and REAL

-we can help through our existing and future programs such as Well Aware, Backyard Burning and others we develop

Andy Smith-DFO

-DFO has quite a few fact sheets and guidelines that may assist you with developing your management plan which can be found at

www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/canwaters-eauxcan/infocentre/guidelines-conseils/index_e.asp

(Note: there is an _ between index and e that may be difficult to see with the under line)

-the OLA should have copies of “Fish Habitat of the Tay River Watershed: Existing Conditions and Opportunities for Enhancement” which gives some specific recommendations for Otty Lake that you may find useful (it is available on CD from the RVCA)

Note: hard copies of above received plus a copy of DFO’s Policy for the Management of Fish Habitat which has goals and implementation policies that are very applicable to a lake management plan

Conclusion to Meeting

Both Wally and Karen thanked the group for their participation in the meeting.

Karen explained that the Otty Lake Management Planning Committee would now move forward to the next steps of the lake planning process – drawing together the information that is currently available about Otty Lake, determining what else is needed in order to better understand the lake and protect the major values - and then collecting and analysing that data.

The Otty Lake Management Planning Committee will work closely with the community partners as well as with lake residents and users. The input and support from all members of the Otty Lake Community will be essential to the successful development of a Lake Management Plan for Otty Lake.

Minutes of meeting recorded by

David Reesor

Vice President

Otty Lake Association