

A Lake Management Plan for Otty Lake

"We believe that Otty is a special and beautiful lake and that the use of the lake is a privilege available to current and future generations who are responsible for its well-being."

In order to ensure the long-term health of the lake, the Otty Lake Association is developing a strategic long-term management plan for Otty Lake. This lake management plan will be based on input from the Otty Lake community - lake residents, lake users and others who have a vested interest in the lake.

- Through the lake management plan we want to develop measures which will help preserve the special characteristics of our Lake and which will address the issues and concerns that have been identified by the Otty Lake Community.
- We want to encourage co-operative and shared responsibility for Otty Lake by current and future generations of users.
- Otty Lake Management Planning provides an opportunity for our Otty Lake community to work together to develop guidelines and programs that will protect the water quality and natural environment of our lake in the years ahead.
- When completed our Lake Plan will have both a stewardship and a land-use planning component.

News Bulletin: On September 16, 2005, during a presentation event which took place at Otty Lake, Ontario Trillium Foundation volunteer Donna Davidson congratulated the Friends of the Tay Watershed, Otty Lake Association, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, Tay Valley Township and the Community Stewardship Council of Lanark Council on receiving a \$96,000 grant for their Tay Watershed Lake Management Planning Program. The three-year grant will be used to develop a cooperative approach to assist local lake associations to undertake their individual lake management plans. (Photos and media release at <http://www.tayriver.org/> and http://www.rideauvalley.on.ca/welcome/tay_trillium.pdf)

For more information on the Tay Watershed Lake Management Planning Program, please refer to the document The Lake Management Planning Program Description (attached) and to the FoTW website at www.tayriver.org/plan-lake.html)

Otty Lake Management Planning Steps to date:

- **Spring and summer 2004** - questionnaires circulated to all lake residents to identify what they value most about the lake and what they saw as issues and concerns that are strongly impacting on Otty Lake.
- **Summer 2004** - Focus groups held with interested lake residents to discuss their thoughts, concerns and wishes for the lake in the short and longer term.

Summary of Questionnaire and Focus Groups input – refer to attached document

- **Summer 2005** – Participants in Otty Lake AGM provided additional input on Otty Lake values, issues and concerns. **For more information- refer to attached document**
- **Summer 2005- Otty Lake Management Planning Terms of Reference were prepared – refer to attached document**
- **Ongoing work** - building good working relationships with community partners e.g. Municipalities, RVCA, FoTW, other lake associations, Lanark County Stewardship Council, CSW, MNR and MOE. (**Minutes of Nov. 26, 2004 Community Partners Meeting – see attached document**)
- **Ongoing** – Historical and current data about Otty Lake and the Otty Lake watershed area are being gathered to help us better understand the lake NOW and plan for the FUTURE of the lake.
- **Summer 2005** – Stewardship Rangers under the supervision of the Lanark Stewardship Council photographed Otty Lake shoreline properties. As well, a local firm, EcoScapes, was hired to make observations on the entire Otty Lake shoreline area. This work will allow us to assess changes in the condition of the lake and shoreline over the past 18 years since the 1987 Otty Lake Shoreline Assessment was completed.
- **The next stage** of our Otty Lake Management Planning will be to have all the information that has been collected about the Otty Lake watershed area combined into a comprehensive State of the Lake Report. We hope that this work will begin during the winter of 2005/2006.

For more information about the **Work Plan for the Otty Lake Management Planning process – refer to attached document.**

Funding

- We are exploring all possible sources of funding for the Otty Lake Management Planning and continue to ask the Otty Lake Community for their financial and in-kind support.
- During the winter and spring of 2005 representatives from the Otty Lake Management Committee worked with representatives from the Friends of the Tay Watershed, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority and Tay Valley Township to develop a collaborative Trillium Funding Application to support a lake management planning program for the local lakes.

See News Bulletin at the beginning of this section for an update on the Trillium Funding.

- On Oct. 5, 2005 the Otty Lake Management Planning Committee submitted an application to the Program Manager, Lake Management Planning Program to request that Otty Lake be considered to be one of the three core lakes supported through the Tay Watershed Lake Management Planning Program. The application will be reviewed by the Program Manager and referred to the Steering Committee for the Lake Management Planning Program. In the meantime we continue to work ahead on our collection of data.

For more information on the Otty Lake Management Planning process you may wish to review information published in the Otty Lake newsletter, Captain Otty's Log, for April 2004, June 2004, October 2004, April 2005 and June 2005 newsletters. You may also contact Karen Hunt at mkhunt@perth.igs.net .

You will find additional information on lake management planning at the following websites

- Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Association (FOCA) www.foca.on.ca
- North American Lake Management Society (NALMS) <http://nalms.org/>
- Minnesota Lakes Association; Sustainable Lakes Planning Workbook: A Lake Management Model, http://mnlakes.org/main_dev/workbook.cfm.