

Update from the OLA – May 2021



We hope this summer information package finds you well as we head into our second pandemic summer. While some of you may be finding yourself with more time on Otty Lake, others may not have been able to travel to the lake for quite some time due to COVID travel restrictions. In either case, we hope this information package helps spark your connection to the Otty Lake community and the role we all have in keeping our lake beautiful.

These are exciting times for the OLA as our board has had several new members join the Board since the last AGM, and several new volunteers take on key roles. It is great to have new skills, interests and energy in the mix. Welcome and thank you to our new Board members and volunteers!

While COVID restrictions continue to hamper our ability to get together physically, most of our usual activities and some new ones are proceeding.

- **Water Quality.** Our full water quality testing program is back in place after a lighter testing year last year. This will be Derek Smith's last year as Lake Steward. We sincerely appreciate the expertise he has brought to the water quality work on Otty Lake over the past 10 years - the last four years as Lake Steward. Thank you Derek! Kevin Terrion will be learning the ropes in order to take over next year, and several others have volunteered to assist with specific aspects of the work.
- **Shoreline Planting.** The shrubs and trees offered this year sold out quickly, and are being picked up by residents June 12 in a COVID-safe manner.
- **Phragmites.** Linda Cuthbertson led the charge to secure some funding which will support volunteer groups to do some eradication of this invasive species which is already in the Otty Lake watershed. Check out more information in your package.
- **Cleanup.** Thanks to all the residents who picked up litter during this spring's Pitch-In campaign, and thanks to Elizabeth Allcock for the coordination and encouragement. David Murray is planning a shoreline cleanup as well.
- **Otty Lake Map.** A team of four, led by Ian McDonald, has revamped the 2010 Otty Lake map to include shoals, islands and the 30 m low speed zone. All OLA members will receive a version of this updated map and extra copies are available for sale.
- **Annual General Meeting (AGM).** Save the date for our AGM Thursday, July 8th at 6:00 p.m. . We're going virtual again this year. We look forward to the opportunity to connect with residents from across the lake and hear presentations from some of our community partners.
- More details on the above, and other OLA activities will be in our July Captain Otty's Log.

Finally, a big thank you to Gail Read and all the area councillors. Their work is so important to building the Otty Lake community and engaging folks in the work of the OLA. We hope you connect with your area counsellor and take the time to consider the resources included in the summer information package below; many of these topics were suggested by residents such as yourselves. As always, don't hesitate to reach out to your area counsellor or an OLA Board member directly with any questions or comments.

We wish everyone a healthy and enjoyable season on Otty Lake.

Kirsten Brouse and Barb Hicks, OLA Leadership Team