

UPDATE TO OLA MEMBERS CONCERNED WITH REMEDIATION OF CAUSEWAY CONSTRUCTION

The Otty Lake Association (OLA) has received multiple comments from its members regarding the impact of the construction of a new, un-permitted causeway in early June. The causeway is between the mainland and the island located across from Beavertail Rock, at the south end of the lake. The OLA shares its members' concerns, noting that, since the causeway may impact fish habitat, displace species at risk that have been identified in the area, and permanently block a heretofore navigable water course, remediation may be required. The water quality of Otty Lake is fragile and sensitive to development, and the OLA is concerned with the potential long-term impact on the health of Otty Lake.

To best represent the concerns of its members, the OLA has been working closely with our key partners, namely Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) and Tay Valley Township (TVT) to identify issues through written submissions, pictures, and attendance at joint meetings chaired by RVCA. The OLA recognizes it is a non-regulatory body and must rely on the goodwill of our partners and the legislation available to them to discern the appropriate course of action.

The OLA has participated in two joint meetings to-date, in what can best be described as an on-going regulatory process. RVCA is in the process of seeking input from its partners, namely Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry (MNDMNR), Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Surveyor General of Ontario, and Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MoECP).

RVCA has issued a notice of violation which directs those responsible for the un-permitted causeway construction to follow an application process, which process will involve addressing any comments and concerns of RVCA and its partners. The responsible party will be responsible for a technical review so that RVCA can determine if the existing/proposed work complies with provincial regulations.

The OLA continues to monitor developments in the application process, and where appropriate, will comment on the progress to-date through an open communication process with RVCA and TVT.

Although we have no indication as to what, if any, remediation will be required as a result of the application process, we are hopeful that significant remediation will be considered in order to protect the sensitive ecosystem surrounding the causeway.