

JUNE 2006



# Captain Otty's Log

Newsletter of the Otty Lake Association

President – David Reesor

Editor – Bob Melville



*Photo by Bill Hale, all rights reserved*

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

*David Reesor*

To me every year/summer at Otty Lake is different yet in some ways the same! This is only my 4<sup>th</sup> summer and each one has proven to be special in many ways. Sure there are the negatives like the proliferation of Zebra Mussels (we all wear water shoes and now have a box of “guest” waters shoes). The weeds are thriving this year and look like they will be as vigorous as they were two years ago which can be an aggravation for boating and swimming. Water levels are high (so far) and some of us are happy about it and some of us aren't. The deer haven't eaten all our flowers (yet) and we use deer defensive netting to protect the hostas and other favourites as we know they will be back.

Throughout the year I've visited all of the areas of Otty Lake, Little Otty, Mud Lake and McLaren Lake (by water and road) and no matter where you are located, the views are breathtaking. We are very lucky to share these beautiful lakes.

Otty Lake Counsellors are starting to drop off your summer information packages They contain some very interesting and useful information. We hope you will get a chance to chat with them and that you will renew your membership for 2006 (if you haven't already).

Our Annual General Meeting is just around the corner (**8:30 AM, July 8<sup>th</sup>, Lions Club Hall, Perth Fairgrounds**). This will mark the end of

my first year as President of the OLA. Over the past year a lot of effort and energy has been devoted to the development of our Lake Management Plan. At the AGM we will have an executive summary of the State of the Lake Report that is being prepared. See Karen Hunt's report for more information.

This year we will have exhibits and displays at the AGM from 8:30 AM to 9:30 AM. The business part of the meeting will follow and will end by noon.

### ***Exhibitors/Displayers will include:***

**Otty Lake Slideshow** prepared by Tracy Staples. See photos depicting the beauty of Otty Lake.

**REAL LL Green** with Well Aware information.

**Friends of The Tay Watershed** including information on how you could become the owner of a beautiful cedar strip canoe!!

**Stephan Katz and Nikki Pora** with information on their plans for the McKay Farm property. There have been plenty of questions from Otty Lake residents since Stephan and Nikki purchased the property. The Pora family is a long term resident of Otty Lake and both Stephan and Nikki care about the health of Otty Lake. They are keeping the OLA and their neighbours aware of their plans as they develop and this is why they wanted to attend the AGM. Come and learn more about their plans for large lots with common water access.

**Water Quality Information** prepared by Murray Hunt, OLA steward of Otty Lake.

**Lake Management Committee Display** with information concerning the progress of our Lake Management Plan.

Included in this edition is information on our Waste Water and Well Workshop August 12<sup>th</sup>. If you have plans to replace or upgrade or you just want to learn more about the maintenance of these systems, come and learn from the experts. To register, contact me by phone or email.

On August 19th, Jack Lynn and Wally Robins are organizing a kid's fishing day for the children and grandchildren of Otty Lake residents. Pre-registration is required and forms are included in the newsletter. It should be a great day. Don't miss it!!

Enjoy your summer and feel free to contact me at any time.

David Reesor  
613-326-0094  
[davidandddaphneesor@yahoo.ca](mailto:davidandddaphneesor@yahoo.ca)

## **WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATE OF OTTY LAKE?**

***Karen Hunt for the Lake Management Planning Committee***

After many months of gathering and analysing all available information about our lake environment, the State of the Lake Report is now being prepared. **Copies of the Executive Summary of the Report will be available at the AGM on July 8 and Sheanna Tinlin, Program Manager for the Tay Watershed Lake Management Planning Program will make a presentation at the AGM on the work to date. A draft version of the complete State of the Lake Report will be available for all lake residents and our community partners by the end of July.** To reduce costs most copies of the Report will be available in CD format although we will ensure that some paper copies are distributed around the lake to be shared with those who do not have computer access.

## **NEXT STEP**

**We need your input!**

During the later part of the summer and into the fall following the distribution of the (draft) State of the Lake Report, members of the Otty Lake Management Committee want to meet with small groups of lake residents as well as with our community partners (municipalities, MOE, MNR, Conservation Authority, Stewardship Council etc.) to get your feedback e.g. we would like to speak with road association groups and other gatherings of Otty Lake residents.

In the first round of discussions you told the Lake Management Committee that good water quality, natural shorelines, beautiful scenery, good fishing and swimming, and lots of birds and wildlife were important qualities of Otty Lake. The State of the Lake Report will describe what the current state of these and other characteristics actually is.

NOW it is up to each of us – those who live and work and play at Otty Lake - to plan together with our community partners to ensure that Otty Lake is the lake we want it to be 5/10/20 years down the road.

Your feedback, based on the information in the State of the Lake Report, will be used to prepare the Otty Lake Management Plan. This Plan will provide guidance to both lake residents and the municipalities and other community partners on how we should care for Otty Lake into the future.

**Please participate. The future of Otty Lake is in your hands!**

**Thank you** to all Otty Lake seasonal and permanent residents who have assisted in the collection of information about the lake through – identification of shoreline photos, providing information about water levels, ice out dates, settlement history, water quality data, information about the fish, wildlife and plants of our lake area and much much more. The State of the Lake Report is a compilation of your information and could not have been completed without your assistance.

## **BEAR WISE**

**Be Bear Wise:**

**Admire them. Respect them.**

**But please, don't feed them.**

In an immediate emergency call your local police or 911.

To report bear problems call 1 866-514-2327

For more information, visit the Ministry of Natural Resources website:

[www.bears.mnr.gov.on.ca](http://www.bears.mnr.gov.on.ca)

### **Pitch-In 2006**

Sincere thanks to the many Otty Lake North Shore, BurgessWood, Maple Glen, Kerr Road, Lakewood lane, Three Bay Road, and the Otty Lake S.W. Shore Road areas who this spring “pitched in” and helped clean-up our Otty Lake environment. It was a wonderful demonstration of stewardship in action.

## **DRUMMOND/NORTH ELMSLEY TOWNSHIP UPDATE**

*Paul Snider*

*Clerk/Treasurer*

*Township of Drummond/North Elmsley*

As has been mentioned in previous “Captain Otty’s Log” issues, the Council of Drummond/North Elmsley has pledged its support to the cooperative approach proposed for the Lake Management Planning process by the OLA. Council has also advised that the Township is pleased to endorse the Waste Water and Well Workshop workshops to educate property owners regarding the proper maintenance of septic systems and the presentation of alternatives for small lots and systems that require replacement. The Reeve and Council are pleased to announce that, in 2006, Township spending shall remain at the levels set in 2005 and as a result, the municipal tax rate has been reduced by 13.06%. The only new property tax revenues in the budget are those funds that are directly attributable to new development within the Township.

The overall tax rate has been set at 0.1046510. This rate combines the County, Education and Township tax rates and represents an overall rate reduction of 10.95% to 2005 levels. The assessment on individual properties has increased at an average of 15.79% however, as all too many waterfront owners are aware, your property assessment has likely increased above the average levels. This factor is all the more reason for the reduction in the tax rate.

What's new in 2006?

- The Township now has a Reuse Centre operating at the landfill site at 745 Code Road, for reusable items such as furniture, appliances, toys, building materials, tools, dishes and other items that may be deemed reusable by the landfill attendant. These items are available to Ratepayers at no charge. The reuse of items will help reduce the waste that goes into our landfill.
- Please take note of the attractive new Township signs. The signs will be located at all major entrance points into the Township and more signs will be erected in our Hamlets and on municipal buildings in the near future.
- The next Township Official Plan (OP) revision is due to be completed in 2008 therefore Council will begin the process of seeking public input to the OP later in this calendar year.
- A new Road Superintendent has been hired by the name of Carl Scissons. Mr. Scissons is a long time resident of North Elmsley ward and comes to us after serving in a similar capacity in Rideau Lakes Township.

*Paul Snider*  
*Clerk/Treasurer*  
*Township of Drummond/North Elmsley*  
*RR #5, Perth, Ontario K7H 3C7*  
*Phone (613) 267-6500; Fax (613) 267-2083*  
<mailto:psnider@drummondnorthelmsley.com>

## **WHAT IS SOURCE WATER PROTECTION?**

*Sommer Casgrain-Robertson*  
*Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Region*

There is a new piece of legislation on the horizon and it aims to protect lakes, rivers and underground aquifers that feed our municipal drinking water systems. **The goal of this legislation is to protect these "sources" of municipal drinking water from potential contamination and depletion.** The legislation, known as the *Clean Water Act*, 2005, is currently moving through the approvals process in the Provincial legislature.

The proposed *Clean Water Act* (Bill 43) was introduced into the Ontario legislature in December 2005 and passed Second Reading in May. The Ministry of Environment is now organizing Standing Committee hearings to gather more public input, make adjustments to the Act, and proceed to Third Reading and Royal Assent.

**Conservation Authorities have been chosen to coordinate this work across Ontario and locally the Mississippi Valley and Rideau Valley Conservation Authorities have been paired together to jointly deliver source water protection.** Conservation Authorities were asked to deliver source water protection at the local level because of their watershed jurisdiction and their expertise in watershed management. This experience and watershed focus makes them the ideal group to bring science-based credibility to the process.

A governing group made up of local stakeholders will ensure that community wishes are brought to bear and that community consultation is undertaken at each stage of the process. This group, known as the Source Protection Committee, cannot be created until the Act is passed which is expected at the end of 2006. How this Committee will be chosen is yet to be determined by the Ministry of Environment.

Source water protection starts with the production of a Water Budget and a Watershed Characterization Report. These documents will give us a map of our water supply including how water flows through our watersheds, where and how it is used and how it gets replenished. This work will lead to the identification of current drinking water threats and an assessment of the risk associated with each threat. Once that is done, the Source Protection Committee will develop a Source Protection Plan which will be a roadmap to minimizing or eliminating the highest risks to our municipal drinking water.

Cottage wells or private surface water intakes are not discussed at all in the proposed Act. The Source Protection Committee may choose to

establish activities like incentive programs and landowner education to help protect the sources of water feeding private wells and surface intakes. This will be a decision by the Committee.

Most people consider the Clean Water Act an important and smart piece of legislation that will help protect municipal drinking water supplies from contamination and depletion. The result will be that places such as Carleton Place, Smiths Falls, Perth and Ottawa (which draw municipal drinking water from local rivers) and Almonte, Carp, Kemptville, Merrickville and Westport (which draw water from groundwater) will have science-based, community-driven tools to protect their drinking water supplies sustainably into the future.

For more information, please call or write Sommer Casgrain-Robertson, Source Water Protection Communications Specialist for the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Region, at (613) 692-3571 ext 1147 or [sommer.robertson@mrsourcewater.ca](mailto:sommer.robertson@mrsourcewater.ca).

## **SPINEY WATER FLEAS**

Spiny Water Fleas are the next potential invaders of Otty Lake. Check out the Spiny Water Flea Fact Sheets in your Summer Info Packages and do your part to keep this invasive species out of Otty Lake!

## **SMOKE ALARMS**

**Smoke Alarms are now required on all levels of cottages and homes, not just on sleeping levels. It's the Law.**

**Smoke Alarms that are in working order and are strategically placed can save lives.**

## **EVENTS AT OTTY LAKE**

### **OTTY LAKE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING JULY 8<sup>th</sup>.**

Saturday the 8<sup>th</sup> of July at the Lions Hall, Perth Fairgrounds. Coffee/Tea, Discussions and many displays of interest to everyone.

Displays at 8:30am

Business meeting at 9:30-noon.

**Everyone is welcome**

### **WELL AND WASTEWATER WORKSHOP – AUGUST 12<sup>th</sup>**

Learn more about your well and wastewater system. Register now by contacting David Reesor at [davidanddaphnereesor@yahoo.ca](mailto:davidanddaphnereesor@yahoo.ca) See the workshop flyer in your Summer Info Package.

### **OTTY LAKE KIDS FISHING DAY**

**AUGUST 19<sup>TH</sup>.**

See the flyer attached to this news letter.

### **SOUTH WEST OTTY LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING AUGUST 19<sup>th</sup>**

10am Saturday at John Atkinson's cottage.

**Request for 2006 Fee, \$20.00**

**Please support the Otty Lake Association by sending your annual fee to:**

**Otty Lake Association  
Box 20122  
Perth Mews Mall  
Perth, ON Canada K7H 3M6**

**If you are not already a member please consider joining. With your membership our voice is strengthened and we are heard as we work towards improving this lake we all love as well as preserving it for future generations.**

*Thank you*

**NOTICE BOARD**

**As a service to our members we have started a notice board where we will post your notices, or notices from others we consider of interest to you. The notices to be; lost and found, services wanted or services available etc. To submit a notice to the Otty Log contact us at the following address;**

**Otty Lake Association  
Box 20122  
Perth Mews Mall  
Perth, ON Canada K7H 3M6**

**As this is a trial service please give us your feedback .**

**COTTAGE WANTED**

**WANTED:** A cottage on Otty Lake.

If interested in selling privately please email: [thenewsomes@shaw.ca](mailto:thenewsomes@shaw.ca) or call (613) 267-7518 (ask for James or Monika).

*Posting # 1*



**OTTY LAKE ASSOCIATION  
KIDS FISHING DAY AT MAPLE GLEN PARK**

**9:00 am Saturday August 19<sup>th</sup>**

**For kids / grand kids 12 years and under: EVERY KID WINS A PRIZE.**

**FUN FOR ALL - KIDS will receive their OWN FISHING LICENSES**

**FREE for KIDS - BBQ/HOT DOG/CHIPS/DRINK AT NOON**

**WHAT TO BRING :**

- **Your own boat (maximum 2 kids per boat) If you need a boat or driver, please indicate on the attached pre-registration form.**
  - **Your parent or guardian**
  - **Life jackets (mandatory) and lawn chairs**
  - **Sunscreen and hat**
  - **A simple fishing rod, bobber, sinker and hook.**
- (WE WILL SUPPLY THE WORMS)**

**DIRECTIONS FROM PERTH by car:**  
 Cty. Rd. 10 (Scotch line) 2.2 km W to Otty Lake Northshore Road. Go South 3.6 km to Burgess Drive, then take Burgess Drive to Otty Way Rd. Go right 0.8 km to Whippoorwill Dr. and proceed to Maple Glen Park.

**From Rideau Ferry take Wildlife Rd. W to Otty Lake Northshore Rd. Turn South 2 km to Burgess Dr. and take Burgess Drive on to Maple Glen Park.**  
**THERE IS A BOAT RAMP ACCESS AT SITE FOR THIS EVENT ONLY.**

---

**Directions for boaters: see map on the back of this page.**

**DEADLINE TO REGISTER: AUGUST 1<sup>st</sup>. There will be a limit of 50 kids fishing.**

.....

**PRE-REGISTRATION FORM**

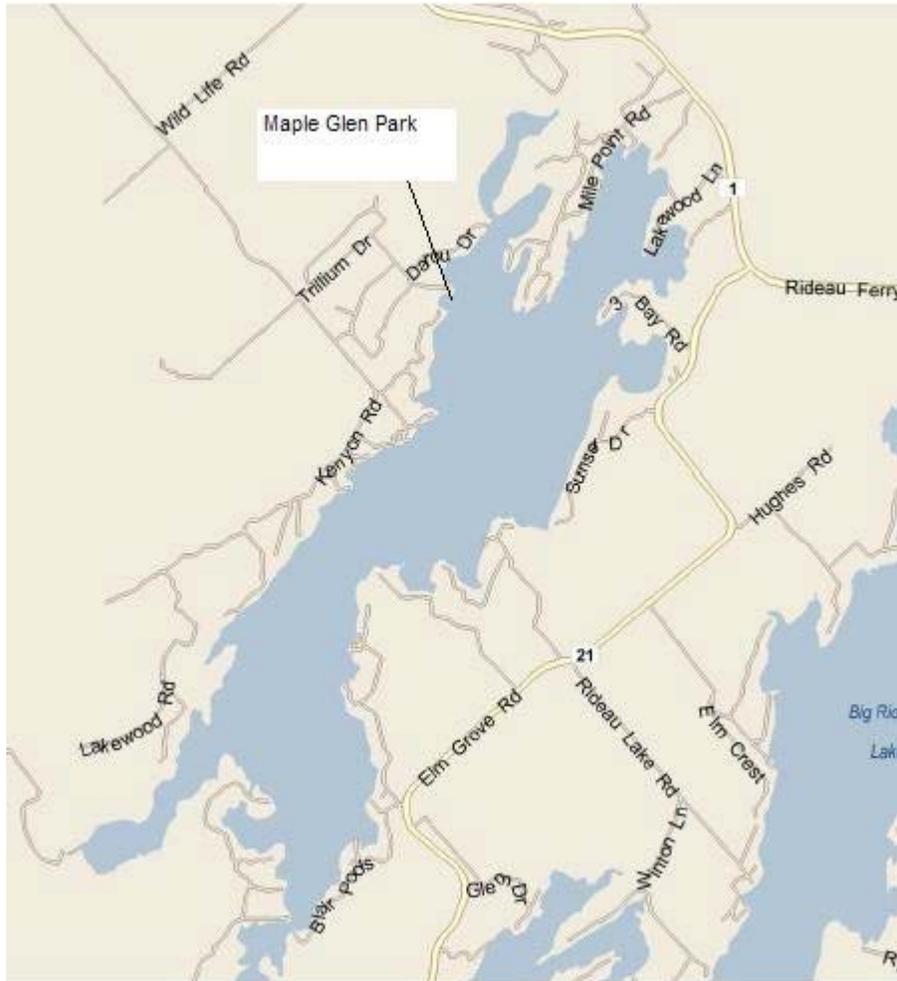
(Please print)

**Parent or Guardian: .....Phone # 613-.....**

**Kids to fish. Name:..... Age:.....**  
**Name:..... Age:.....**

**Please mail or e-mail this form to Jack Lynn BEFORE AUGUST 1<sup>st</sup>.**  
**Jack Lynn, R.R.#5 Perth, K7H 3C7 ph. 267-4786 e-mail [JLYNN@RIPNET.COM](mailto:JLYNN@RIPNET.COM)**

**OTTY LAKE MAP / LOCATION OF MAPLE GLEN WATERFRONT PARK**



***COME AND MAKE SOME MEMORIES***

