



Captain Otty's Log

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

David Reesor

Spring! Sure has a nice sound to it doesn't it?

Today, Otty is still quite frozen but most of the snow is gone and by the time you receive this, the ice should be close to leaving.

Speaking of "frozen", that would be a good way to describe our web site. For the past few weeks, Webmaster Rick Stojak has been unable to make changes to the OLA web site. Our Internet Service Provider (ISP) seems to have disappeared into "Cyberspace"! If you have been a regular visitor to the web site, please remove our bookmarked address from your computer. The good news is that we have a new ISP and Rick is in the midst of moving our web site. The new address for you to visit and bookmark is www.ottylakeassociation.ca

If you haven't visited the web site before (or recently), now would be the right time. Rick has done an excellent job revamping and updating the web site. The photo on the main page is changed often and you can find information about the lake, upcoming events, workshops, FREE shoreline plants, photos taken by area residents, the Otty Lake Calendar of Beauty and much more. There is something new virtually every time you visit. We are so fortunate to have Rick keeping our web site up to date and full of new and interesting information.

You may remember I mentioned in our fall newsletter that the OLA had received two awards for the work done to prepare a Lake Management Plan for Otty Lake (see our web site for details). We are all grateful for the tireless work done by Karen Hunt as Chair of The Lake Management Planning Committee and the accomplishments of her Committee. It is wonderful to receive awards. What is even better is what comes next..... implementation of the plan. The beneficiary is Otty Lake (and indirectly all of us who enjoy Otty). You will read in the newsletter a number of events and activities that are being planned as part of the implementation process.

Our Annual General meeting is always the second Saturday in July. This year, on July 11th, it will once again take place at the Lions Club Hall, Perth Fairgrounds. Exhibits start at 8:30 AM and the business part begins at 9:30 AM. Please mark your calendars. We will have a very interesting meeting again this year. Once again our meeting overlaps with the Art of Being Green



Otty Lake at Sunset

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Spring and Summer 2009 Events

For further information on any of the activities below, please contact Karen Hunt at 613 264-9273 or mkhunt@ripnet.com

Mica Mines Area Hikes- Sun. April 26 and Wed. Oct. 7, Last summer, Roger Nuttall led a group of enthusiastic Otty Lake residents on a hike through part of the Mica Mines Conservation Area beginning at the Boy Scout Camp. Roger is an amazing naturalist and hike leader and everyone learned a lot about the plants and animals who share the Otty Lake watershed with us. Following up on the many requests for hikes in other seasons, Roger has offered to lead a spring hike on Sunday, April 26. Meet at the Boy Scout Camp entrance on Long Lake Road at 9 am. Bring drinking water and dress for the weather. Note: It may be wet underfoot so bring appropriate footwear.

PLANNING AHEAD: Roger has also offered to lead a fall hike on Wed. October 7 at 9 am - also at the Scout Camp. Mark your calendar for both dates.

Participate in the 2009 Pitch-In Program – April 20- 26 Individuals and neighbourhood groups around the lake are once again invited to "Pitch-in" and help to clean up the roadsides and ditches of the debris that emerges from under the ice and snow. April 20-26 has been identified as the 2009 Pitch-In Week. The Otty Lake community has done a terrific job of responding to this challenge over the last several years. Both Tay Valley and Drummond/North Elmsley Townships are supporting this initiative and will accept the results of your roadside pick-up for free at their landfill sites provided you use the Pitch-In Week bags from D/NE or the bag tags available at the TVT Municipal Office.

Shoreline Clean-Up

If your shoreline is still frozen in during the official Pitch-In Week, permanent and seasonal residents are encouraged to apply those same spring cleaning efforts to the Otty Lake shoreline over the following weeks and collect the debris that has washed up on your shore. This material can also be taken to the townships' landfill sites. Note that you will still need to use the bag tags (TVT) or Pitch-In Program bags to have your debris accepted for free at the landfill sites.

Family Environment Day

Mark Sat. July 25 on your calendar and plan to go to the Maple Glen waterfront to participate in the 2009 Family Environment Day. There will be a full program of activities including a kids' fishing derby, a nature study for the young (and the young at heart), a Bass Basics fishing seminar offered by Wally Robins (for those 15 years and older - pre-registration required), a BBQ lunch and much, much more.

Watch the flyers in the Summer Info Packages and the OLA web site for further details. You can register for Wally's seminar at the AGM or through ottylake@sympatico.ca

How to Protect the Health of Otty

Karen Hunt

To protect the health of Otty Lake is the challenge we all face as our community heads into the second summer of implementing the recommendations of the Otty Lake Management Plan. Following are some suggestions for individual action. Learn more about the lake and its watershed area. Watch the newsletter and OLA web site (www.ottylakeassociation.ca) for information about the guided hikes and the events of the 2009 Family Environment Day.

Take time to review the water quality monitoring reports as they are offered in the newsletters and on the OLA web site.

Another shoreline planting project has been lined up. Order your shrubs ASAP to get the plants you want (See contact information below.). Naturalization of shorelines reduces the nutrients and sediments reaching the lake.

Participate in the Pitch-In Week program (this year it's April 20-26).

Come to the AGM on July 11. Take advantage of the resources available during the Display and Discussion Hour. Learn from the specialists who will offer short presentations on topics of importance to lake health. Help to make decisions that will guide the work of the Otty Lake Association.

Communicate with your Area Counsellors. Take the time to let them know your interests and concerns for the Lake.

Check out the information in the Summer Information Packages that the Counsellors will deliver to you. New this year are the Shoreline Homeowners Guide to Healthy Waterfronts and the 2009 Boating Safety Booklet. Celebrate this special lake called Otty. Contribute your favourite photos and support the Otty Lake Calendar Project. Most importantly - be involved. This is your lake community.

Further Otty Lake Management Plan implementation projects are under development. If you would like to be part of the continuing Otty Lake Management process, please contact Karen at 613 264-9273/mkhunt@ripnet.com

Swan Companions on Otty

Jack Hamilton

On September 22, 2008, I was anchored and fishing with two friends, Moe and Fred, in a fairly large bay across from our cottage just north of the entrance to Little Otty.

We had noticed two large white objects I thought were rock markers about 300 metres further into the bay. Didn't think much of it until one of the "markers" stretched upwards and flapped its wings! That's when the arguments began. Moe said they were Trumpeter swans. However, after making trumpet sounds for 20 minutes and getting no reaction from the birds, we began to whistle as Fred said they were



Whistling swans.

Much to our surprise, the swans headed for the boat. They came right up to the boat, as curious about us as we were about them. They showed no fear at all. They ate part of our lunch and stayed close for 40 minutes.

My family has been on the lake since the 1940's and not one member of the family has ever seen a swan here before. That day, we also saw wild turkeys and the only fish caught were caught by the Heron who followed us around the lake.

But, all in all, it was a great experience on a great day on Otty Lake.

(Using photos taken that wonderful day by Jack and his party, a Rideau Valley Field Naturalist confirmed that the fishing companions were Trumpeter swans,)

Fishing Regulations 2009

Wally Robins

Otty Lake is situated in Ministry of Natural Resources Zone 18. This year on Otty, pike season opens on May 9 and Closes on December 31. The season for largemouth and smallmouth bass begins June 27 and ends on November 30.

A Conservation or Sport Fishing licence is required by all Ontario anglers over 18 and under 65 years with the following exceptions:

Disabled Ontario or Canada residents eligible for and in possession of either a Canadian National Institute for the Blind National Identity Card or an Ontario Ministry of Transportation Accessible Parking Permit; Ontario or Canada residents, in possession of their birth certificates, who are accompanied to fish by another person due to a condition of mental impairment or developmental disability, a learning disability or a mental disorder.

A Sport Fishing Licence entitles the bearer to possess a maximum of six bass (a combination of small and large mouth or six of one species) and six pike. If you have a Conservation Licence, you can possess two bass and two pike.

Certain panfish have possession limits. With a Sport Fishing Licence you are entitled to possess 50 yellow perch, 30 black crappie and 50 sunfish. With a Conservation Licence, you can possess 25 perch, 10 crappie and 25 sunfish. At present, there are no closed seasons on panfish.

Tay Canal 175th Anniversary

This year marks the 175th anniversary of the first Tay Canal. The canal ran from Perth to Port Elmsley to connect to the Rideau Canal and is today part of that canal system designated by UNESCO as a World Heritage site.

For more information on this historic, scenic area and to check out the events planned to celebrate along its 10 kilometre route, visit www.tayriver.org/tay175.

Plan to join the fun with family and friends.

President's Message

(Continued. from Pg. 1)

workshop. Many Otty Lake residents manage to attend both events. At the AGM we will discuss moving our AGM (perhaps to the third Saturday in July) so we don't overlap with The Art of Being Green. The AGM timing is in our Constitution and can only be changed by a vote at the AGM.

We will be looking for volunteers to fill two open Director positions before the AGM. This is a great way to learn more about Otty Lake and be involved with other Otty Lake residents. It is also a way to participate and assist in the implementation process. If you want to be involved, please contact Karen Hunt at mkhunt@ripnet.com or call

613-264-9273.

We hope you enjoy reading our newsletter. Linda Church, our editor, does a great job putting the information and articles together. Ralph Buttrum, the electronic wizard of Perth Digital Imagination, does the computer composition and preparation to create the newsletter you are now reading. Dick Atkinson, Debra Olver and Bill Hale ensure that you get your copy by mail or electronically.

If you have any questions or comments about this newsletter or the OLA, please contact me at davidanddaphneeresor@yahoo.ca or call 613 326-0094.

Enjoy your spring!

Beware of New Residents!

David Bell

Most, if not all of us welcome new neighbours into our communities with open arms.

Well, we had new residents move into Maple Glen Estates last fall. These were not your

normal residents, but a flock of wild turkeys numbering thirty in all. They stayed throughout the winter.

Wild turkeys were reintroduced to Lanark County a number of years ago and apparently they have found the area to be very suitable to their ways. In fact, they come quite boldly right up to our front door.

A word of caution. Give these creatures their space, as they can become quite nasty if they feel threatened. We had an occasion when the neighbour's dog thought it would be fun to chase them. Without a bark, the dog charged into the flock, only to discover that they were not interested in playing. The turkeys turned on the dog with their razor sharp spurs. The poor dog was the recipient of a sizeable gash across its back, just above the tail. The injury resulted in a three day stay at the local vet clinic, numerous stitches and strong antibiotics.

Another incident, as told to me by a person in attendance, occurred when one of a group of hunters shot a wild turkey. The excited hunter rushed to pick up the downed bird, only to find it was not dead. The result was numerous gashes, considerable loss of blood and a trip to the local emergency department for many stitches.

I have been told that turkeys will be extremely aggressive in protecting their young. I would suggest that caution be observed when around these creatures.



Shoreline Work Restrictions for Fish Spawning

Rideau Valley Conservation Authority reminds property owners to avoid fines by informing yourselves about water and shoreline work restriction periods. These restrictions vary annually based on weather conditions and local fish species.

Before starting your project, check with either RVCA Biologist Michael Yee at 613 692-3571 ext 1176 (1-800-267-3504 ext 1176) or the MNR Biologist in Kemptville at 613 258-8204.

Know the rules. Our lake quality is at stake.

Otty Lake Calendar of Beauty

Time flies!



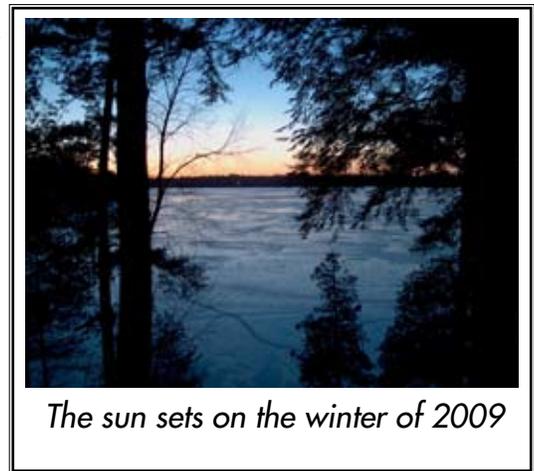
When this project was launched at the AGM in July 2008 the thought of a 2010 calendar seemed futuristic. We had time to procrastinate! Or so we thought!

Our photo deadline is quickly approaching and as you turn to spring-cleaning, please watch for your best shots of beautiful Otty Lake! Take a few moments to review your electronic files as well as hard copies and identify those pictures that have captured special moments and scenes.

This project offers an opportunity for the community to participate in a celebration of Otty Lake all year round whether we are permanent or seasonal residents.

A few points to remember:

- Photographers of all ages are encouraged to participate.
- Photos may be submitted that represent any of the four seasons.
- Photos may be current or shots from years gone by.
- Multiple entries may be submitted.
- Otty Lake, itself, must be included in each entry.
- Add your title and a quick description of the location/event that you are sharing.
- Photos are to be submitted electronically by May 1, 2009 to 4gail2read@hughes.net.
- Hard copies of photos may be snail mailed to:
Gail Read
126 Sutcliffe Lane
Perth, ON K7A 3C7



The sun sets on the winter of 2009

May 1st Deadline Approaching !

Boat Operator Card Wally Robins

Starting September 15, 2009, a Pleasure Craft Operator Card is required by ALL operators of powered recreational vessels regardless of length or horsepower.

There are no exceptions by age or "grandfather" clause. The minimum fine for operating a powered vessel without a Card is \$250.

You are strongly advised not to wait until the last minute to get the Card. There are still an estimated five million boaters who have yet to obtain this document. But there are a number of options for taking the required exam. Log on to www.boatsmartexam.com or call toll free 1-877-792-3926 for locations in or near your community where you can take your exam. You can also take the exam online at the above site or at www.boaterexam.com.

When taking the exam online, you will have access to free study material and will be able to print a temporary certificate when you have passed the test. A one time standard fee applies. Should you fail the first attempt, you can take the test again for free. A passing grade is 75%.

The exam consists of 36 questions and can be completed in roughly 20 minutes.

Your online exam must be monitored by a non-family member who is age of majority. Your monitor does not have to have a Pleasure Craft Card.

For more information visit www.boatsmartexam.com.

Otty Water Quality Update

Murray Hunt

The Otty Lake Association (OLA) will continue monitoring lake water quality in 2009, sampling for bacterial and nutrient levels.

E.Coli Monitoring

Thirty E.Coli samples will be taken again this year to obtain a general understanding of bacterial levels at Otty and McLaren Lakes. The 2008 values are summarized below:

21 samples equal or less than 1 cts/100 mL

8 samples between 2 and 5 cts/100mL

1 sample between 6 and 10 cts/100 mL.

These results are well within the norm (100 cts/100 mL) that indicates, on a general basis, that the lake water is safe for swimming and limited household use. However, drinking untreated lake water is not recommended. Please see the OLA web site (www.ottylakeassociation.ca) for the test results of other recent years.

Nutrient Loading

We are continuing our participation in the Lake Partners Program of the Ministry of the Environment to estimate nutrient levels in the lake. This is done by taking phosphorous samples and measuring water clarity each month from May to October. Last year the average value of Total Phosphorous at Otty was 13.7 ug/L. This value is typical of the results obtained since the inception of the Lake Partner Program in 2002. This indicates that Otty Lake is in a mesotrophic (middle aged) state (10 – 20 ug/L). See the OLA web site for historical data.

Follow-up to the RVCA Watershed Watch Program

OLA volunteers will be assisting the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) again this year as they collect samples and conduct measurements of water quality as part of the ongoing updates to their Watershed Watch program. The RVCA will also be sampling for invasive species.

Shrubs to Reduce Shoreline Erosion

Katharine Church

In support of its Lake Management Plan, the Otty Lake Association in cooperation with the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority will be providing free shrubs to Otty Lake residents. Through this plant giveaway, the Otty Lake Association hopes to raise awareness about the importance of shoreline re-naturalization. Planting native trees, bushes and grasses throughout your property and along the shore is the best way to combat erosion and to create a natural habitat for non-human lake residents.

At the shoreline, erosion is caused by the continuous movement of water against the shore. This is where aquatic plants play a crucial role. Aquatic plants act as a buffer by breaking apart incoming waves and reducing the force with which water hits the shore, thereby reducing the amount of earth that gets displaced from the shoreline. Some species of aquatic plants are also known to act as filters by removing pollutants from the water. It is especially important to plant aquatic plants along shorelines if you suspect that chemical fertilizers or pesticides have been used on or near the property. These harmful chemicals get washed into the lake during rainstorms and, over time, can seriously disrupt the balance of the lake ecosystem. By encouraging the growth of native aquatic plants along your shoreline, you can protect your shoreline from erosion, filter the water running off your property and provide habitat for numerous little critters.

Erosion is not a concern reserved for lakeside properties. Erosion is also caused by the movement of rainwater across the surface of the land. When rain falls onto already saturated earth, it travels across the surface to the nearest waterway, carrying with it any soil particles or pollutants that it can pick up. Since water always follows the route of least resistance, it will travel the same route with each rainfall, continuously stripping that route of soil. As erosion advances, the soil quality of the affected land, and its ability to absorb water decrease. This accelerates the erosion process. Reconditioning the soil and strategically planting hardy native plants along the water runoff route will significantly reduce erosion because the root systems of plants absorb water, thereby reducing the amount of water left to travel across the surface of the soil. The roots also anchor soil so that less of it gets swept away by the rain.

When you are planning your shoreline re-naturalization landscape, it is important to focus on native plants. While some non-native species can be eye-catching, they can also be invasive. Invasive plants can disrupt entire ecosystems by choking out the native plants. The local wildlife may not choose them as their main food source and as the invasive plants develop a monoculture, the dynamics of the ecosystem change. If you are unsure about which plants are best for your area, contact your local Ministry of Natural Resources or a nursery that specializes in native plants. For more information about choosing and planting the right plants for your site, visit <http://www.seedlingnursery.com/choosing.htm> or contact the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority.

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Shrubs to Reduce Shoreline Erosion

(Continued. from Pg.6)

The success of a plant depends heavily on proper planting. Deciduous plants should be planted either as soon as the frost is out of the ground or in the fall after the leaves have fallen and before the first frost. Poplars, willows, ash, elms, and birches, however, tend to grow over winter better if planted in the spring. Evergreen plants should be planted early in the spring until four weeks after deciduous trees have opened their leaves or in the fall, from about the first week of August to the end of October. Avoid planting anything during the dry months.

The plants that the OLA will distribute originate from the Ferguson Forest Centre (FFC) in Kemptville. The FFC is a not-for-profit corporation that works to ensure the continuing supply of economical, quality nursery stock. The FFC grows mostly native plants that thrive in south-central Ontario and every year thousands of these plants are sold to private landowners, the forestry industry, municipalities and communities. Otty residents will be able to choose from the following native plants; Red Osier Dogwood, High Bush Cranberry, Nannyberry, Gray Dogwood, Willow, Sweet

Gale, Mountain Ash and Staghorn Sumac.

The Red Osier Dogwood is a low-growing shrub that grows best in wet conditions, such as open wetlands, ditches or wet woodlands. It can also do well in drier conditions. This red-barked bush produces beautiful white flowers and berries that attract a variety of birds. While the Red Osier prefers full sunlight, it will grow in the shade with a reduced fruit production. This shrub is deer resistant.

The High Bush Cranberry can grow up to 15 feet tall. It is quite tolerant of growing conditions and while it does best in damp, acidic soil with full sunlight it can thrive in drier soils and partial sunlight. It produces white flowers and bright red berries that are favoured by cedar waxwings and enjoyed by many other bird species and humans. This bush is not known to be deer resistant.

The Nannyberry also prefers moist soil conditions and full sun, although it can survive in drier conditions. This bush can grow up to 22 feet tall. It produces white flowers and blue or black berries that attract a variety of birds and can also be a sweet treat for people!

The Gray Dogwood, which grows up to ten feet, produces white flowers and white berries that attract many

birds. This bush, which prefers moist soil, is ideal for erosion control because its root system consists of underground runners, which act as effective soil anchors. This bush is not known to be deer resistant.

Sweet Gale is a mid-sized shrub that grows in wetlands and along shorelines. It produces a sage-like aroma and can be used as a seasoning. This plant is an important component of wetland habitats and acts as a water filter.

Mountain Ash, which is not a true ash, can grow up to 30 feet tall. This is a dynamic shrub which requires moist soil but which can be found in wetlands or in rocky woodlands. It produces an orange berry which stays on the plant through the winter and is an important source of winter food for many species of birds. This plant is not deer resistant.

Staghorn Sumac is a small tree that thrives in any soil type, including rocky terrain. It can grow well in poor soil conditions, where other plants cannot grow. The Staghorn sumac is an aggressive grower that spreads quickly, so it can provide quick erosion control. It produces berries that attract a variety of insects and birds. This tree withstands browsing by deer and can be shaped to compliment the landscape.

1 <http://www.seedlingnursery.com/planting.htm>

Register now to receive your free native plants for spring 2009 shoreline planting

Provided by the Otty Lake Association in partnership with the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) Plants must be picked up between 10 a.m. – 12 noon Sat. May 2, 2009.

At 11 a.m. also on May 2 Andrea Klymko (RVCA) will provide a mini-workshop on the importance of healthy shorelines and the planting and maintenance of shoreline plants

Varieties available include: Gray Dogwood, Red Osier Dogwood, High Bush Cranberry, Nanny Berry, Pussy Willow, Sweetgale, Mountain Ash, Staghorn Sumac

Numbers are limited – reserve your plants now! Call 613 264-9273 or e-mail mkhunt@ripnet.com

Fauna of Otty Lake

Diana Nuttall

There is a wide variety of animal life near or in Otty Lake. There are microscopic animals, insects, fish, birds, reptiles, amphibians, mammals (including human) and occasionally an accidental marsupial. Cities and towns are geared to human life and activities, while rural life is usually a closer mix of human and other animals. People sometimes view animals as pests and at other times as enjoyable neighbours. The way to reduce the pest factor is to try to understand the animal and adjust the human activity to cope. A good example is the much maligned black fly, quite numerous at the south-west end of the lake but only in the early spring (usually end of April or early May). The reason they are localized is because they lay their eggs on rocks in flowing water, which is available downstream from some beaver dams, but not available at the north-east end of the lake. Black flies are always considered a nuisance to humans but they supply vital nutrition to song birds, frogs and other insectivores. Humans can best cope by understanding that the black flies do not like wind or full sun and so are at their worst at dawn and dusk or on still overcast days. If you wear loose fitting clothes which fit snugly at wrist, ankle and neck and also a netted hat like a beekeeper's hat, then the black flies won't be able to dine on you! Luckily the Black Fly is usually only a nuisance until the warm weather arrives. During the sunny or windy periods as well as at night, black flies take shelter in damp places such as swamps and tall grass. How fortunate for frogs!

2009 OLA Membership

Please show your continued support for the work of the OLA by sending your \$20 annual membership fee to:

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

Be sure to update your contact information by attaching a brief note indicating your preferred address for receiving the LOG and other important Otty Lake information:

1. Canada Post: Address?
 2. E-mail: Address?
 3. E-mail alert: Address? (To tell you when the latest LOG is posted on www.ottylakeassociation.ca)
- Thank you.

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