

Captain Otty's Log

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From Otty Lake in Winter

Karen Hunt, OLA President

Happy New Year to all! May the year 2011 offer many special hours for you to enjoy time at Otty Lake. Hopefully 2011 will also provide many opportunities for all of us to work together to strengthen our lake community and care for our beautiful lake



Photo by Rick Stojak

The Otty Lake Board of Directors and Lake Management Planning Committee have been busy on your behalf over the fall and early winter.

New Otty Lake Map

We are excited to let you know that the Otty Lake Map has been revised and is now available in colour! See more info about the map later in this newsletter.

FOCA Fall Seminar

The Otty Lake Association is a member of the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA). This membership provides members of our lake community the opportunity to link into work that is being done provincially in support of lakes and waterfront property owners. On November 6th Murray and I attended the FOCA Fall Seminar in Toronto. There were many opportunities to connect with lake residents from across the province and also to check out new products and initiatives.

The afternoon session was a panel discussion entitled Making Sustainable Waterfronts a Reality. One of the panelists, Heather Elliott from Stoney Lake, outlined the variety of approaches that her family has initiated as they seek to ensure sustainability on their private land including conservation, tax incentives, easements and donations through a local land trust. Heather really made us think about what individuals can accomplish.

Another panelist, Judi Brouse from the Muskoka Watershed Council, knows Otty Lake very well as she and her family are long-term seasonal residents of Otty Lake. Judi's father, Lorne Gold, is a past president and former lake steward of the Otty Lake Association. In her presentation Judi focussed on connecting land use to water quality. She stressed that if you just look at the lake to assess the quality of your water, you are already too late. The problem starts up-land

Continued Page 2

In This Issue

President's Message.....	1
Lake Links	3
Shoreline Contest	4
McKay Farm Decision	4
Water Levels.....	5
Membership	6
Why has Otty Lake Changed	7
Shoreline Calendar.....	8

and up-stream with land use decisions that affect lake water quality. A good message for all to consider!

Otty Lake Management Plan Implementation

Congratulations to members of the Lake Management Planning Committee who have been working overtime to come up with some great initiatives for 2011 including plans for a 2012 Otty Lake Shoreline calendar. Please see the great calendar notice (designed by Gail Read) elsewhere in this newsletter for more details.

Need a challenge? I hope that you've kept the Shoreline Handbook, which was delivered by the Area Counsellors last summer, close at hand. (Note: the Otty Lake Shoreline Handbook is also available online at www.ottylakeassociation.ca) Roger Nuttall has come up with some questions to keep us all on our toes in ensuring that we can do our best to keep the Otty Lake shoreline healthy – and for those who do know the correct answers, there is a chance to win a prize!

The Otty Lake Association, with the Townships of Tay Valley and Drummond North Elmsley, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority and the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, have been reviewing information provided by a modelling assessment of Otty Lake's carrying capacity undertaken last fall by MOE. Considerable discussion is still needed so that we can all understand what is needed to ensure the long-term health and sustainability of Otty Lake. We do recognize that we all need to always consider carefully our actions as shoreline property owners to minimize our impact on the lake.

Invasive Species

Invasive species have had a tremendous impact on Otty Lake and its watershed area over recent years with first the arrival of purple loosestrife, then zebra mussels and Eurasian watermilfoil. There are other invasive species "waiting in the wings" e.g. spiny water fleas and round gobies which we want to keep out of Otty Lake. Also, we don't want to be responsible for transferring the invasive species we already have to other lakes. The OLA is working with RVCA to develop new "beware of invasive species" signs for the public boat launch. Hopefully this will be ready for the spring and summer boating season.

Thank you

The Otty Lake Association has endeavoured to build a strong positive working relationship with both of our local municipalities. At Tay Valley Township, CAO Kathy Coulthart-Dewey, always professional, positive and knowledgeable, has played a strong role in helping us to do that. Kathy recently announced that she plans to retire in February. On behalf of the Otty Lake Association, I would like to thank her for the support that she has provided for the work we've undertaken here at Otty and wish her all the best in her retirement.

My best wishes to all members of the Otty Lake community wherever these snowy months find you.

Would You Like To Renew Your OLA Membership On-Line?

Your Board is wondering how many members would prefer to renew their memberships on-line rather than by mailing cheques through Canada Post. We're considering adding a link to the OLA website that would allow you to use PayPal to charge the \$20.00 membership to your credit card or bank account. PayPal would be an additional way to renew: you would still be able to pay by existing methods if you wish.

What is PayPal? PayPal is a popular and secure way to pay bills and make purchases on-line. Worldwide, users have more than 232,000,000 PayPal accounts. PayPal is owned by eBay.

How do I use PayPal? First, you establish a PayPal account, which you normally link to a credit card or bank account. When you make a purchase through PayPal, PayPal handles the transaction on your behalf, and does not give the vendor your financial information, such as bank account or credit card numbers. Your on-line communication with PayPal is encrypted, and PayPal continuously monitors for any attempts at fraudulent use of PayPal accounts.

Where can I find more about PayPal?

www.PayPal.com/ca

Please give us your thoughts about renewing your OLA memberships on-line! Send us an e-mail: ottylake@sympatico.ca



Networking and Sharing at Lake Links 2010

Karen Hunt

What is Lake Links?

The Lake Links Workshop has been an annual opportunity since 2002 for representatives of lake associations and other volunteer stewardship groups in Eastern Ontario to come together with government and non-government agencies to listen to speakers, share information, and address common lake and river issues that matter most to Eastern Ontario communities. It has become an important networking opportunity for these groups and has fostered excellent partnerships, communication and collaboration with regional government and non-government organizations.

Lake Links 2010 - Who was there from Otty Lake?

Roger Nuttall, Gail Read, Murray Hunt and Karen Hunt represented the Otty Lake community at this year's Lake Links.

When did it happen? What was the focus?

The focus of the 9th Annual Lake Links Workshop, held on October 30th, 2010 at the Perth Civitan Hall

was on networking and information sharing. The theme 'Celebrating our Advances' was the backdrop for learning more about each other – the projects, successes and challenges facing local lakes – and to celebrate the ongoing efforts in protecting our lakes and rivers.

What topics were discussed? What did we learn?

To start off the morning under the heading "What's New?" we were offered updates on topics such as: the emerald ash borer and the damage that it is causing to trees across the province; the Eastern Ontario Algae Partnership Project whose partners are studying the algae blooms on local lakes in recent years and trying to determine what is causing them

The four discussion themes (Volunteer Recruitment and Engagement, Lake Planning – Benefits of Lake Plan, Working with Government and Municipalities, Stewardship & Monitoring) for the workshop's morning discussions resulted from a survey sent to local lake groups in September/October 2010. The purpose of the survey was to take stock of how lake groups are doing – how groups are organized, what activities have been carried out on lake stewardship and lake planning; what's been working and what still needs more work.

During the afternoon session, Kathy Coulthart-Dewey, Chief Administrative Officer, Tay Valley Township and Glenn Tunnock, Planning Consultant, Tunnock Consulting Ltd. offered presentations.

Kathy's presentation *Case Study: Lake Planning and Municipality Partnership* looked at the many overlapping layers in land use planning and the importance of all partners (residents, municipalities and other community partners and the lake associations working together).

Glenn's presentation *Lake Management Planning, Partnerships in Policy Planning and Eco-Design* focussed on the importance and benefits of land use planning.

Those attending got a lot out of this day. Gail Read, who was attending Lake Links for the first time, made these comments:

- "the synergy of an environmentally focussed group of lake lovers was astounding as a busy day passed quickly and productively."

- "the experiences of associations from many lakes and the informed support network of experts resulted in a valuable day of sharing. So much to be gained in a caring but challenging environment of shared learning."

- "the progress made by dedicated residents of Otty Lake was apparent as the day unfolded. From our LMP, water testing, educational components and team efforts, Otty Lake was repeatedly offered as an example of fine teamwork!"

We hope to see more Otty Lakers there next year.

More info: If you'd like to learn more about the 2010 Lake Links presentations and discussions, please go to http://www.rvca.ca/programs/LMP_Program/lake_links_2010/Lake%20Links%202010%20Final.pdf

Tell Your Friends

Have you encountered something beautiful, unusual, fascinating, scary, or hilarious on Otty Lake? If so, please contact the Log editor or anyone on the Otty Lake Association board (please see www.ottylakeassociation.ca for contact information). If you have photographs, so much the better! We are always looking for articles, stories, and photos for Captain Otty's

Roger Nuttall's Otty Lake Shoreline Expert Contest

Roger Nuttall, well known to Otty Lakers for leading nature walks and introducing a generation of kids to Otty's flora and fauna, has posed a series of questions to test your knowledge of Otty Lake's shoreline. To enter the contest, please send your answers and contact information to either:

donaldb@ripnet.com, or

Otty Lake Association Shoreline Expert Contest

Box 20122, Perth Mews Mall

Perth, ON

K7H 3M6.

The contest closes at 8 pm on 1 May 2011. A prize will be awarded to the first person in each category to submit the six correct answers:

-less than 18 years of age, a

fashionable OLA baseball cap

-more than 18 years of age, a useful FOCA Green mug.

In the event of a tie, the winners will be selected by random draw.

The winners' names and the answers will be published in the June 2011 issue of the Log.

Hint: the answers are in the Otty Lake Shoreline Handbook which was distributed to every Otty Lake property owner in the spring

of 2010. The handbook is also available at, www.ottylakeassociation.ca click on OL Mgmt Plan to download it.

- 1) What is the minimum shoreline buffer zone of trees, shrubs and other ground cover recommended for lakefront properties?
 - A) 100 m.
 - B) 30 m.
 - C) 15 m.
 - D) 10 m.
- 2) The riparian zone is:
 - A) The higher and drier ground around the lake.
 - B) The transitional area between dry land and water.
 - C) The zone between the water's edge and where depth of water is deep enough to prevent the sunlight from reaching the lake bottom.
- 3) What is the minimum distance between a drilled well and a leaching bed?
 - A) 5 m.
 - B) 10 m.
 - C) 15 m.
 - D) 50 m.

- 4) How can you help maintain water quality in Otty Lake?
 - A) Keep plenty of shoreline vegetation, such as trees and

shrubs on your property.

B) Fertilize your lawn.

5) How often is it recommended that well water be tested for bacteria?

A) Once every five years.

B) Once per year.

C) Three times per year.

6) Which of the following are natural causes of erosion?

A) Wind

B) Ice

C) Removal of shoreline vegetation.

D) Boat wake.

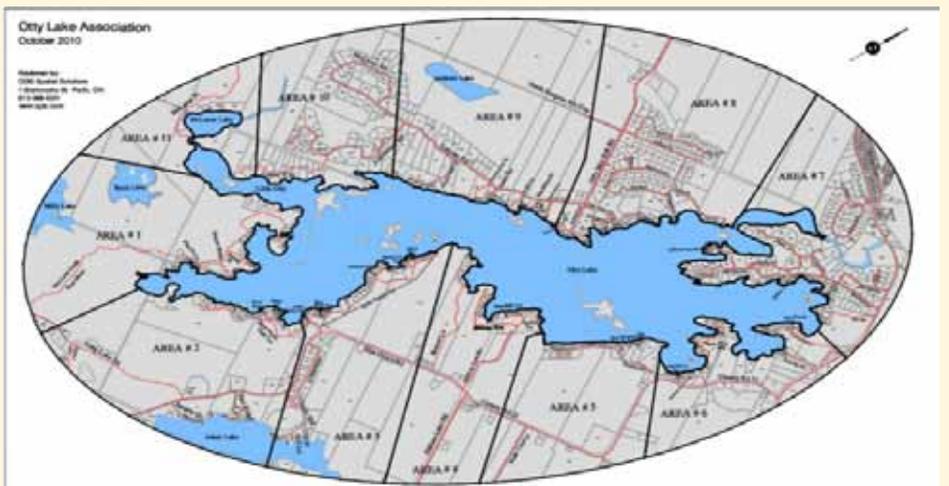
McKay Farm Appeal Decision

Two Otty Lake property owners who opposed the McKay Farm subdivision submitted separate appeals to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) to halt the development. Anne Scotton and Robert Driscoll achieved some measure of success in that the developers of the McKay Farm property were required to make several modifications to their plan before being allowed to proceed with the subdivision and sale of lots. After a hearing lasting from 23 August to 2 September 2010, the OMB on 6 October 2010 granted draft approval of subdivision to the developers, subject to the modifications being made. Work is expected to begin on the access road in January or February.

NEW OTTY LAKE MAP

Great News for 2011! We have an updated Otty Lake map with information effective October 2010. The map is in colour and it will be distributed (it's free!) by area counselors starting in June 2011. The map is only available to members so don't miss out. Get your 2011 membership now by sending \$20 with your name and address to:

OLA, P.O. Box 20122, Perth, Ontario, K7H 3M6



Otty Lake and Jebbs Creek Water Levels

Karen Hunt

The Otty Lake Association had a few questions during the fall from members of the Otty Lake community about the continuing high water level in the lake, so it seems timely to include an update in this newsletter.

- We are working with the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) to understand all the factors involved in the elevated water levels. On an ongoing basis the lake association regularly monitors the lake water level and the flow and water level in Jebbs Creek. This information is communicated to the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority.

- This past summer the RVCA completed a survey of the bed of Jebbs Creek including a comparison with the previous survey done in 1983. The 2010 survey of the bed of Jebbs Creek indicates only a slight increase in elevation compared to the 1983 survey. (This survey is posted on the OLA website www.ottylakeassociation.ca under Environment)

- The major land owners bordering Jebbs Creek (Rideau Valley Conservation Authority at the Perth Wildlife Reserve, and Millar Brooke Farm) regularly breach beaver dams and trap beavers along their areas of the Creek.

- As discussed at the OLA AGM on July 10, 2010, the RVCA also completed a comprehensive Jebbs Creek Beaver Dam Survey in June 2010. The survey showed that there were six beaver dams in Jebbs Creek (all downstream of the Rideau Ferry Road Bridge). All except one of those dams were breached at the time of the survey. The one remaining dam was determined to be on a Drummond/North Elmsley Municipal Right of Way and the Township later paid for a trapper to breach this dam as well and remove beaver.

- We understand from the RVCA that, in late September/early October 2010, the trapper who works with the RVCA breached dams and removed more beaver. In total, during September and October 2010, 24 beaver were removed from Jebbs Creek. Despite all of these efforts the lake water level remains high.

- Another factor with regard to the lake water level that must

be considered is the amount of precipitation we have had in recent years. Temperature and wind also affect lake levels during the ice out period.

- We are not alone with high water levels. The RVCA regularly monitors river flows and watershed conditions as part of its flood forecasting and warning program. In a Nov. 30, 2010 bulletin from RVCA they indicated that most lakes in the Rideau system had had elevated water levels for several weeks. They went on to explain that flows typically increase in the fall with wetter weather and that with frozen or saturated soil runoff moves quickly to watercourses.

- The flow of Jebbs Creek has been exceptionally high in the late fall and early winter. On December 6, 2010 a flow of 118,000 m³/day was recorded, and 112,000 m³/day on December 13. These values would be typical of peak flows during the snow melt in March/April. On January 10, 2011 a flow of 52,000 m³/day was recorded which is well above normal summer flows.

As we understand more about the factors involved in the elevated lake water levels we will keep the Otty Lake community informed.



Classic Theatre Festival

Bell, Book & Candle
by John van Druten
A Bewitching Romance
July 8 to 28



Mason Theatre, 13 Victoria Street, Perth
Tickets: 1-877-283-1283
www.classictheatre.ca



The Fourposter
by Jan de Hartog
Memoir of a Marriage
August 5 to 28

Ottawa Valley's Professional Summer Theatre

Renewing Your OLA Membership!

Phil Anderson, Membership Chair

For those who renewed their memberships last year, thank you, and welcome to all our new members. Our year runs from January 1 to December 31. Please try to pay your membership early in the year.

Please talk to your cottage neighbours and encourage them to join our association. The more members we have, the more we can do together, from checking water quality and participating in environmental events, to having fun at the first Pirates Day.

Please show your continued support for the work of the OLA by sending your \$20 annual membership fee (use the renewal form below) to:

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

Just fill in the form and pop it in the envelope with your cheque. Also this is a good way to mention concerns or respond to any questions the OLA maybe have posed to members.



MEMBERSHIP FEE FORM

Please support the work of your lake association by mailing your cheque for \$20.00 to:

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

Name..... Lake address.....

Mailing address.....

City.....Prov./State.....Postal Code or ZIP.....

E-mail address.....

Please check your preferred delivery method for Captain Otty's Log:

- Canada Post
- e-mail.
- the Log by Canada Post, and updates by e-mail.

The Board would very much like to hear from you, especially your concerns, ideas, suggestions, top-priority interests, lake management, projects and activities. Please take a few minutes and let us know.

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Thank you!

Why has Otty Lake Changed?

Judi Brouse

Judi Brouse is Director of Watershed Planning for the Muskoka Watershed Council. She has a close connection with Otty Lake, having spent time at her family cottage on Otty Lake South West Shore Road since she was a child.

If we were all in one room and I asked whether you thought the water quality of Otty Lake had changed, most would put up their hands. If I asked whether you thought there were more algae, most would put up their hands. If I asked whether you thought there were more aquatic plants, most would put up their hands. Why is this happening? The rule of thumb is that the more phosphorus in a lake, the higher the chance of experiencing an algae bloom. However, since 1996, overall phosphorus levels in Otty Lake have remained fairly consistent with an average annual concentration of approximately 14µg/l. This phosphorus level represents a fairly healthy lake that can support a wide variety of plants and wildlife. So, if our phosphorus levels are not increasing, what is happening to our lake and what can we do about it? The most predictable thing about Mother Nature is that we don't understand her or how the natural world is evolving. Nature is not simple and a simple answer that says that we will have good clean, clear lakes if we reduce our phosphorus is naïve. There are multiple stressors acting on our lakes and we can control only a few of them. Some stressors include invasive species (zebra mussels, Eurasian watermilfoil and purple loosestrife), physical changes to shorelines (hardened shorelines and removal of vegetation) and acid deposition.

However, perhaps the most significant and least understood stressor is climate change. Scientists don't fully understand the impact a changing climate will have on our lakes but here are a few early observations:

- Warmer temperatures mean what would have fallen as snow will instead come down as rain. Currently, the snow pack acts as a natural reservoir, storing water through the winter which will melt and be released during the spring and summer, filling our lakes for recreational use. If that precipitation falls as winter rain, it will be lost for summer use and lake levels could be lower.
- Precipitation magnitudes and frequencies are expected to increase. Heavy rains, or flooding, can affect water quality because large volumes of water can transport both nutrients and pathogens into water bodies and also overload storm and wastewater systems.
- Higher water temperatures and changes in the timing, intensity, and duration of precipitation can reduce dissolved oxygen levels, which can have an effect on aquatic life. In particular there may be changes in the small plant and animal life in the lake that supports the aquatic food web and provides us with the healthy fish, birds and mammals we all enjoy.
- Warmer temperatures will likely result in earlier ice-out dates. As temperatures warm earlier, the lake may stratify earlier and deeper, leading to a reduction in bottom oxygen late in the summer and the possibility of increased phosphorus loading in the bottom water.
- Warmer temperatures will also likely result in new types of algae in our lake and increased algae blooms.

These changes are already starting to occur. What can we do to keep our lake as healthy as possible? The message is still the same. If we maintain healthy, vegetated shorelines, we provide Mother Nature with the resilience to adapt to a changing climate. Specific actions you can take include:

- Car pool to the cottage to reduce your carbon footprint.
- Create or maintain a shoreline vegetation buffer zone.
- Redirect drains and downspouts away from the lake. Any steps that increase the time taken for water runoff to reach the lake will promote absorption of the nutrients and pathogens by the soil.
- Use phosphate-free detergents and vegetable based soaps and shampoos.
- Do not use chemically produced fertilizers on lawns or gardens.
- Maintain properly functioning septic systems that are set back as far as possible from the lake.

So, back to the original question, Why Has Otty Lake Changed? The better question might be 'Have we done everything we can to reduce environmental stressors and strengthen the natural resilience of the lake and watershed to cope with future change?' No matter what we do, change is going to happen. As residents of Otty Lake, we have a responsibility to help manage our lake so that our children and grandchildren will be able to continue to enjoy it.

References:

1. Impact of Climate Change on Lakes - <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/10/081021120918.htm> (This is a Japanese/German research paper)
2. Potential effects of climate change on freshwater ecosystems of the New England/Mid-Atlantic Region <http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/467>
3. Global Climate Change Affects Water Quality [http://www.danamarkhome.com/library/How%20Much%20do%20We%20Use%20\(or%20Waste\)/Global%20Climate%20Change%20Affects%20Water%20Quality.pdf](http://www.danamarkhome.com/library/How%20Much%20do%20We%20Use%20(or%20Waste)/Global%20Climate%20Change%20Affects%20Water%20Quality.pdf)
4. Water Conservation <http://ww2.earthday.net/backgroundpdf/Water%20Conservation%20Background.pdf>

Otty Lake Shoreline Calendar 2012



Calling all summer and year-round residents of Otty Lake!!

We are once again preparing a celebratory calendar of our beautiful, tranquil and endearing lake. You and members of your family are invited to capture special shoreline pictures in your travels around Otty, representing all 12 months of wonder in a 16-month format.

Theme: Shorelines.... and the activity and beauty they hold! Pictures may include nature's ribbon of life, animal activity, people fun. Pictures may be taken from the land towards the water OR from the water towards the land. If a lovely, natural shoreline is included, your picture is eligible. (You may wish to refer to your Otty Lake Shoreline Handbook for some ideas!)

Criteria: A naturalized shoreline of Otty Lake must be visible. Capture an especially beautiful event or moment to be cherished on a shoreline of Otty Lake. Consider all seasons as each holds different traits and beauty. Amateur photographers of all ages are invited to participate.

Submissions: Pictures must be submitted by May 1, 2011. Please include your full name, a caption/location and a description if you wish. Digital photos can be emailed in jpg format to 4gail2read@hughes.net. Standard 4"x6" pictures can be mailed to: G. Read, 126 Sutcliffe Lane, Perth, K7H 3C7. Multiple submissions are welcome!

Calendar Sales: Early bird availability will be offered at our July 2011 AGM in Perth! Sales will continue throughout the summer of 2011.



Cost: Otty Lake Association members \$8.00 or 3/\$20
Non-members \$12.00 or 3/\$30

All Seasons for many reasons!

OLA Area Counsellors Coming To Visit

In June or early July you'll be receiving your annual visit from your OLA Area Counsellor, who will be stopping by to exchange information with you and will deliver your Summer Information Package. The 2011 package will include additional information for the Shoreline Handbook binder that you received last year. If you have already renewed your OLA membership for 2011, the counsellor will also have for you a copy of the new OLA map, which is being distributed free to members

Participate in the 2011 Pitch-In Program – April 18-24

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 will emerge from under the ice and snow. April 18-24 has been identified as the 2011 Pitch-In Week. The Otty Lake community has done a terrific job of responding to this challenge over the last several years. Tay Valley and Drummond/North Elmsley Townships have been asked to again support this initiative and accept the results of your roadside pick-up for free at their landfill sites, provided you use the Pitch-In Program bags in D/NE or the bagtags 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.

Useful Phone Numbers from the OPP

The OPP have kindly reminded us of some numbers that you may need quickly:

Emergency 911
OPP 24-hr 1-888-310-1122
Crime Stoppers 1-800-222-8477

All calls are anonymous and are not recorded.

www.mississippitaycrimestoppers.ca

MTO road conditions 1-800-268-4686

www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/traveller/conditions/

Reporting poaching and illegal fishing
1-877-847-7667

www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/Enforcement/2ColumnSubPage/STEL02_163377.html

Reporting nuisance bears (not emergency)
1-866-514-2327 (1 April to 30 November)

<http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/Bearwise/index.html>

Phone Busters (telephone fraud)
1-888-495-8501

www.phonebusters.com