



# Captain Otty's Log

The Newsletter of the Otty Lake Association

June 2016

## President's Message

From Reid Kilburn

Greetings,  
Spring on the lake. It is a beautiful time of year with the buds and early leaves on the trees, the arrival of the loons and their familiar call, happy deer munching on early garden flowers and the early arrival of algal blooms! What, you say? Yes, unfortunately there have been several reports of the early arrival of algae in our lake. So far, our environment committee suggests that it could be due to late ice-in followed by relatively early ice-out thereby increasing light penetration. Plan on attending our annual AGM to hear more!

The 200th Anniversary of the naming of Otty Lake will be celebrated with our very own commemorative Cookbook. Please read further in this edition for more information on the cookbook and availability. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those around the lake who have contributed great recipes, historical facts, family stories and pictures. I've seen the first proof: it promises to be a keepsake and another great memento of our broader communities' 200th Anniversary celebrations. Did I mention that you should plan on attending our AGM so you can be first to pick up a copy?

Another sign of Spring is the arrival of your Spring/Summer Information Package! If it hasn't already it will be arriving soon via your Area



Photo: Al Wylie

Counsellor. I would like to thank all of our Area Counsellors for their efforts in contacting residents and cottagers around the lake to keep you informed and collect valuable feedback on concerns and directions you would like your Board to take on such matters as being better stewards of our precious lake. If you missed the opportunity to provide input you could always plan on attending the AGM to pass on your thoughts!

Yet another sign of Spring is the arrival of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority's fish habitat monitoring team. Were you aware that we are entering our fourth year with the fish habitat enhancement program and that last year we expanded it to include wildlife habitat enhancement? We are re-directing the project just a little this year so please plan on attending the AGM for an update on this very successful program.

Now that I have hopefully built certain expectations for the AGM

this year I had best sign off and finalize those plans!

Have a wonderful, fun filled spring and summer on the lake. Love your lake and think about what you can do to improve stewardship of our lake.

*Reid Kilburn*

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## Help Wanted! Loon Survey!

A group of Otty Lake residents is working together to gather information about the number of nesting pairs of loons on Otty. Observations are being taken on a regular basis around the lake to determine the loons' reproductive success (babies!) for the 2016 season.

Observations are being compiled weekly and documented on a google map, so [check the map periodically](#). Our findings will be summarized and communicated in the October Captain Otty's Log in addition to being submitted to Bird Studies Canada as part of their "Loon Survey". Anyone interested in contributing regular observations is invited to contact Kyla at [kylamhaley@gmail.com](mailto:kylamhaley@gmail.com). In particular, we are in need of anyone who can regularly

make observations at the south end of the lake (Otty Lake SW Shore Road/Jessup/Blair Poole Farm Lane area). Happy loon sighting!

*Kyla Haley*

### Living Peacefully with Loons

#### When boating:

- Watch for loons and keep your distance, especially in shallow water.
- Slow down if you suspect you are close to diving loons.
- Stay away from nesting loons; if you find one, move out of the area.
- Slow down close to shore. The speed limit is 10 km/h within 30 m of shore.

#### When fishing:

- Avoid fishing for prolonged periods where loons may be nesting or feeding, especially in early summer.
- Retrieve any broken fishing line and properly dispose of it.

#### Anytime:

- Keep pets from running wild along lake shores and harassing wildlife.
- If a loon is acting alarmed, annoyed or aggressive, take the hint and move away.
- Enjoy loons from a distance with binoculars.

*Adapted from poster  
"Living in Loon Territory"  
by Maine Audubon*

## Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Project

This year marks the fourth project phase to improve habitat for fish and wildlife that call Otty home. On Thursday, September 8th, a team of volunteers from Otty and the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) will partner to build and install spawning beds for bass and place semi-submerged brush piles, that will benefit amphibians, reptiles, water mammals, insects, water birds and other aquatic life. Bat and nesting boxes will also be installed.

This project has received critical acclaim in environmental circles since its inception. It is based on rock-solid science and research with leading experts in the field of fisheries management. Local, regional, and national print media have profiled this work and applauded the efforts of the Otty Lake Association and RVCA. To date, hundreds of smallmouth bass spawning beds



*Photo: Rick Stojak - Loon Juveniles*

have been constructed, dozens of submerged and semi-submerged brush piles have been positioned in Otty, and numerous bird nesting boxes installed. For more detailed information about work accomplished so far, visit either the RVCA and/or Otty Lake web sites. From a fish perspective, this is the single largest bass spawning habitat enhancement project ever undertaken in Eastern Ontario.

If you'd like to be part of the 2016 project phase on September 8th,

contact Wally Robins at [wally.robins@rogers.com](mailto:wally.robins@rogers.com). All that's required is a willingness to give back to Nature, a pair of work gloves, no concern about getting dirty, and a good sense of humour.

The bird and bat nesting boxes will be built before September 8th. If you are interesting in helping with this project, or would like to be on the list to obtain a box, please get in touch with Christine Kilburn at [Christine.k@bell.net](mailto:Christine.k@bell.net).

*Wally Robins*

# Let Fallen Logs Lie

Every year, trees fall into Otty. Sometimes the trees are dead or diseased. Other times, heavy winds are the cause. A common reaction is to fire up the chain saw and get to work. If a fallen tree poses a navigational hazard or interferes with swimming or boat docking, this is without question, the right course of action. But what if the tree isn't a threat to safe boating and is nowhere near your dock?

The answer's simple – let it lie where it falls. It is one of the most environmentally friendly things you can do for your shoreline.

Partly submerged timber is prime turf for a host of feathered, finned, scaled and furry species. Water mammals like mink and otters will use the above-water trunk as a resting and sunning location. Various amphibians and reptiles will do the same. Blue herons will love the ready-made hunting platform just inches above the water. Beneath them, small fish will take up resi-



Photo: JamesDeMers

dence in and among underwater branches. Here, they have shade and cover to protect them as they dine on invertebrates and insects. Larger predator fish will visit your fallen tree to snack on small fish, frogs and crawfish. It's clear to see that a tree in the water is a buffet table for the entire food chain.

Many property owners on Otty have done fantastic work augmenting their shorelines by planting native shrubs and bushes.

Others have simply allowed their shoreline to remain uncut. It's scientifically proven that a natural shoreline prevents septic and other run-off and keeps our lake water clean. Leaving a fallen tree in the water is equally important and extends environmental responsibility past the water's edge. An added bonus is that you don't have to wield a chain saw while up to your waist in the lake!

*Wally Robins*

## Water Quality Testing at McLaren Lake

Likely only a small number of Otty Lake community members have ventured upstream from Little Otty and Mud Lakes to McLaren Lake. Those who have travelled to McLaren Lake would have found a small tranquil lake of 12 hectares with a half dozen cottages along its wooded sloping shoreline.

McLaren Lake is relatively deep, reaching 16 metres at the deep point. McLaren has a very large watershed of 1670 hectares resulting in an average annual water flow into Otty of about 6.5 million cubic metres, based on a study by the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change. This is the largest stream that enters Otty Lake.



RVCA Staff, Adrienne Lewis & Kaitlin Brady, photo by Murray Hunt

Our source of water quality information for McLaren Lake is largely through the Watershed Watch program of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority which they initiated in 2006. Total Phosphorus levels over this period have averaged 17 micrograms per litre ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ ), within the provincial objective of 20  $\mu\text{g/L}$ .

However nitrogen levels at McLaren generally exceed the provincial objective. Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen has averaged 680  $\mu\text{g/L}$  at McLaren over this same period. The provincial objective is 500  $\mu\text{g/L}$ . Elevated levels of nitrogen are not uncommon in the streams entering Otty.

Water clarity at McLaren is low with Secchi depths of about 3 metres. Dissolved oxygen levels are also low below the thermocline (approximately the Secchi depth). Please see our website's [water quality page](#) for the 2015 Dissolved Oxygen/Temperature Profiles for McLaren Lake and also for Otty.

*Murray Hunt  
Lake Steward*

# Anniversary Cookbook Now Ready

You can also contact any committee member, and they will find a way to get the book to you:

- Barb Hicks (613) 283-9966  
[dhicks11@cogeco.ca](mailto:dhicks11@cogeco.ca)
- Karen Hunt - (613) 264-9273  
[mkhunt@ripnet.com](mailto:mkhunt@ripnet.com)
- Cathy Kari - (613) 552-6359  
[cstkari@sympatico.ca](mailto:cstkari@sympatico.ca)
- Reid Kilburn - (613) 613 326-0493  
[reid.k@bell.net](mailto:reid.k@bell.net)
- Anne Scotton - (613) 231-2778  
[ascotton@sympatico.ca](mailto:ascotton@sympatico.ca)

as quantities and destination will determine the final payment.

We've had a lot of fun talking to our Otty Lake neighbours and finding out more about the lake's past during this project. Our sincere thanks to David Bromley, a long-time Otty Lake cottager, who volunteered his considerable graphic design expertise to the engaging scrapbook format, as well as contributing a number of historical photos from his own collection.

*Barb Hicks*



Anne has volunteered to mail copies of the book at cost plus postage (no handling fee!). Contact her directly if you require that option,

Our 200th anniversary book "Our Table to Yours" is very close to ready. We will be using our July 9th AGM as our book launch, so remember to bring along some cash to the meeting, as books are \$10. We will accept cheques made out to the OLA as well. Why not pick up some additional copies for friends and family and maybe even put some away for Christmas?

In addition to the treasured recipes contributed by your Otty Lake neighbours, the stories, photos and historical tidbits make it an entertaining read.

If you can't make it to the meeting, there are other options to get your copy. Several Perth businesses have graciously agreed to sell the book at their establishments:

- Cafe Bean - 1 Sherbrooke St. E.
- Images Inter Alia - 50 North St
- The Book Nook - 60 Gore St. E.
- Foodsmiths - 106 Wilson St. W.
- Tressa Oliver - Perth Farmers' Market, Tay Basin

## FAMILY BBQ AND GAMES SAT. JULY 23, 10:30 - 1:00



All residents of Otty Lake are invited to a Community Family BBQ which will feature a falconry demonstration, games for all ages and a BBQ lunch! Please join your friends and neighbours at Maple Glen waterfront (on Otty Way off Otty Lake Side Road) for an enjoyable family time!

**An entry fee of \$3 per person is requested to offset costs related to this event**

## Invasive Species Reminder

An invasive species is a plant or animal that has been introduced to an area outside of its normal geographic range, and that threatens the health of our natural areas by out-competing native species for food and habitat. A number of invasive species are present in the Otty Lake watershed, and others are in the area and it may be just a matter of time before they move in. We can all play a role in limiting their spread.

Here are some tips for waterfront property owners adapted from FOCA's Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Prevention & Monitoring Program.

1. Learn about the aquatic invasive species (AIS) and their locations on your lake. Steer clear of aquatic invasive plant patches with your boat or personal watercraft to avoid spreading them further.

2. Inspect your boat, motor, and boating equipment regularly and remove any visible AIS. Rinse your boat, motor and trailer with hot or pressurized water, before launching into another body of water.

3. Never release live bait into Ontario waters, or move aquatic species from one waterbody into another. It is illegal to use gobies, Eurasian ruffe or rudd for bait. Never introduce any fish



*Rusty Crayfish. Photo: Invasive Species Council of British Columbia.*

or plants into any body of water (e.g. aquarium plants and animals or live fish purchased from a store).

4. Remove aquatic vegetation from around your dock or waterfront responsibly, as aquatic vegetation is important for lake and river habitat. Removed plants, animals or mud can be disposed of in the garbage, or on land at least 30 metres from any waterbody.

5. Plant native or non-invasive plants when gardening and resist planting ornamental plants that are aggressive or invasive on your property.

6. Maintain a natural shoreline on your property to encourage habitat and reduce shoreline erosion.

7. If you identify AIS on your lake or waterbody, report them using the Early Detection and Distribution Mapping System ([EDDMapS](#)) Ontario. You can also call the Invading Spe-

cies Hotline at 1-800-563-7711 or visit [www.invadingspecies.com](http://www.invadingspecies.com).

Your Summer Information Packages for 2015 and 2016 included printed materials to help you identify some specific species and prevent their spread. In 2015 you should have received watch cards for Eurasian Water-milfoil, European Frog-bit, Water Soldier, and Spiny Waterflea. In this year's package you should have Rusty Crayfish and Mystery Snail watch cards, as well as Common Buckthorn and Wild Parsnip fact sheets. A "Don't Move Wood" stick in the 2015 package showed photos of the Emerald Ash Borer and the Asian Long-horned Beetle. Three of the species (Water Soldier, Spiny Waterflea and Rusty Crayfish) have not appeared yet at Otty Lake. A few other invasive species that are coming our way are Round Goby, European Water Chestnut, Water Lettuce, Flowering Rush, Yellow Floating Heart, Rainbow Smelt and Giant Hogweed.

In addition to the above water-related tips, make a point of checking your pet for seeds it may have picked up (check for ticks, too!), and never bring in firewood from another location. Buy your firewood locally and leave behind any you do not use.

*Barb Hicks*

### Pitch-In 2016

Pitch-In started early this year, before the bugs appeared, and when the verges were reasonably dry. The writer only organizes clean-up on the Elmgrove side of Otty. As usual our wonderful volunteers agreed to tidy up their usual stretch of highway. It is not the most pleasant of jobs, but I think most of us consider it as a challenge, if only it would stay that way. But I have had reports in some cases of fewer

bags used. Some stretches still need to be done and will be done soon.

This year the President of the Long Lake Association agreed to get a crew together and do a clean-up.

The Township of Drummond/North Elmsley are very interested in our campaign and have been very helpful. They lent us five picks from their arsenal, which were very useful for spearing rubbish and a great aid in helping to ascend a steep

bank. The Township have spoken to Lanark County who have agreed to put up No Littering signs at the corner of Rideau Ferry Road and Elmgrove Road, the Park and Ride, and other trouble spots, and will pass frequently to clean up the rubbish, if any.

Many thanks are in order to all our volunteers.

*Elizabeth Allcock*

## Tips to Help You Stay Safe in the Water

We all know the lake can be a lot of fun, but don't forget basic safety or your common sense. No one should be seriously hurt in the name of fun. Make sure your guests, who may not be as familiar with water safety, follow some basic rules, too. Here are some tips from Shoreline Industries Inc:

- Supervise children in or around water.
- Supervisors of small children should be close enough to reach the child at all times.
- Swim with a buddy.
- Learn to swim.
- Learn Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)
- Air filled or foam toys are not safety devices.
- Avoid alcohol before and during water activities.
- Don't let swimmers hold their breath for long periods of time, it could cause shallow water blackout.
- Check the local weather forecast.

## Otty Lake Association Annual General Meeting

Perth Legion  
Saturday, July 9, 2016

Otty Lake driven initiatives are our focus.

<p>3 -</p> <p>Displays by: fellow residents involved with lake improvement projects, environmental partnership reps, Township representatives, emergency support personnel.</p>	<p>93 -</p> <p>Presentations will include: resident-led OLA projects, OLA in conjunction with environmental partners, initiatives overview, Q &amp; A ... election of new Board members.</p>
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Participate! Clarify! Share your thoughts!  
Be an involved resident in the lake we all love so dearly!!

## Algae and Aquatic Plant Educational Manual

This manual, produced as part of the People, Aquatic Plants and Healthy Lakes project, is now available for download from the RVCA site:

<http://www.rvca.ca/PDF/Algae%20Manual%20Concise.pdf>

As well as our [environment page](#).

This 24-page document describes the role of algae and aquatic plants in water bodies, water quality influences and what you can do as a waterbody user to improve and maintain a healthy aquatic community.

## Shoreline Plant Sales

This year's shoreline planting program offered

wildflowers, shrubs, and bare root trees to waterfront property owners, as well as a discount to OLA members. Thanks to Gail Read and Ev Dore and their helpers who arranged for the plants, and potted all 160 bare root trees on May 5. On pickup day, Saturday June 25, those people purchasing plants will be offered beautiful shoreline stock, coir mats for shrubs and trees, and tree guards.

Sales were excellent this year with over 85% of trees and shrubs and 70% of flowers sold by mid-May! Another successful shoreline endeavour due to the enthusiasm and support of Otty Lake residents.



Repotting bareroot trees.  
Photo: Gail Read

Gail Read

## Lyme Disease and Ticks...What Do You Need to Know?

Now that the weather is warming up, ticks are becoming more active. Please remember to be tick smart. Dressing in light coloured clothing makes adult ticks and nymphs (small stage of the tick), easier to see when they are on you. **Always** remember to do a tick check when you return inside. Thoroughly check your body for ticks and nymphs and promptly remove and dispose of them. Have someone check you from behind if possible or take a quick shower to help remove any unattached ticks. Putting your clothes in a hot dryer for several minutes has been found to kill ticks.

It is important to know that Lyme disease transmission depends on the length of time the tick is attached. If the tick or nymph is removed within 24 hours of when it may have attached to you, then you have a minimal risk of acquiring Lyme disease. If the tick



Unfed Tick Fed (engorged) Tick

Photo: LG&L District Health Unit

or nymph has been attached for longer than 24 hours and does carry the bacteria, you are at an increased risk of getting Lyme disease. When a tick has been attached to you longer than 24 hours and it looks as though it has fed and is enlarged, it is recommended that you contact your health care provider and advise them of this. Remember, **not all ticks carry the bacteria**. Tick submissions to the health unit are **no longer accepted** as this service was for surveillance only.

If you have been bitten by a tick, watch for symptoms of Lyme disease: bulls-eye rash around a bite area, headache, fever, and muscle/joint pain.

Consult your doctor if you experience any of these symptoms.

**For more information about ticks and Lyme disease:**

- Visit <http://www.healthunit.org/hazards/documents/lyme.htm>
- Call the Health Unit's Health Action Line at 1-800-660-5853
- Email [contact@heathunit.org](mailto:contact@heathunit.org)
- See this video <https://www.facebook.com/EasternOntarioNetwork/videos/10156875825380384/>
- The Leeds, Grenville, & Lanark District Health Unit

**Editor's Note:** A Federal Framework on Lyme Disease Conference took place in Ottawa May 15 – 16, and was open to the public. Some information sources mentioned at the conference were [The Centres of Disease Control and Prevention](#) and the [International Lyme and Associated Diseases Society](#).

## Changes to Dock Permit Process

If you were hoping to repair or build a new dock this year, expect some delays. From now on, in addition to RVCA approval, anyone wanting to build, replace or expand a dock on or above more than 15 square metres (161 square feet) of shoreline will also need Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry approval. In the past, the 15 square metre limit referred to the portion of the structure that touched shore lands, usually lakebeds, and was usually in the form of cribs and footings. But now, a dock or boathouse floating above the shore lands is considered to be occupying the lands beneath the structure.

This new standard is the result of a June 2015 court decision regarding a floating dock and boathouse built

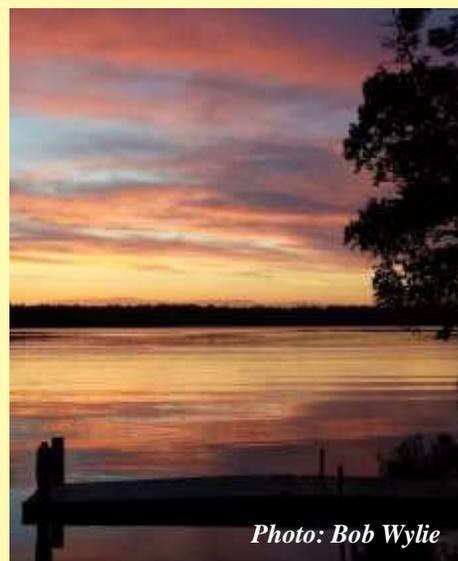


Photo: Bob Wylie

in the Township of North Kawartha. Although various lake associations and FOCA have been expressing their concern over this move and the confusion it has caused, this will

likely be the situation for the rest of the 2016 season. An expansion of the docks at the Maple Glen waterfront area was affected by the new requirement, but their permit is now in hand. The OLA hopes to provide some more information on this topic at our AGM. For more background on this issue see the FOCA site.

If you are unsure whether a permit is required for your dock, your first point of contact should be the RVCA. Take a look at your Otty Lake Shoreline Handbook, pages 34-36, to read about the advantages and disadvantages of the various dock types. Your dock is more likely to be approved if it minimizes impact on the shoreline and fish habitat.

**Barb Hicks**

# Around the Lake

## **TDFOE Grant for Wildlife Enhancement Approved**

The OLA and RVCA are pleased to announce approval of their grant application to TD Bank - Friends of the Environment Fund. The grant of \$4050 will be divided between the OLA and RVCA to assist with Phase 4 of the Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Project on Otty Lake. Please refer to Wally Robins story for additional information, and stand by for plans to more formally recognize the generosity of TD Friends of the Environment and the efforts of RVCA in helping the OLA with this project.

## **Cottage Succession Seminar**

Learn about Cottage Sharing Agreements at a workshop with Estate Planning lawyer Peter Lillico on Sunday, August 14, 12:30 – 2.30 p.m. at the Perth Legion. Hosted by FOCA and the Lake Networking Group, the session “Keeping the ‘Family’ in the Family Cottage” is free to FOCA members (so if you are an OLA member you qualify), and \$10 at the door for non-members. Please pre-register with FOCA by calling (705) 749-3622 or emailing [info@foca.on.ca](mailto:info@foca.on.ca).

## **Lake Links 2016**

Save Saturday Oct. 22 for this annual one-day workshop held at the Perth Civitan Club. Lots of great information for those concerned about lake health and lake associations, as well as a great opportunity to network. Watch the [Watersheds Canada](#) site for details.

## **PaddlePower 2016**

Help us beat last year’s record of over 100 paddlers congregated in one spot on Otty Lake. Canoes, kayaks, rowboats and paddleboards are encouraged to meet Sunday August



*Maple Glen nesting box  
Photo: Dave Bell*

7th off Code’s Island, on the DNE / Tay Valley Township Line, north-east of the channel islands. Gather at 10:30 for an 11:00 a.m. photo, and consider joining an “after paddle” to Jebbs Creek. Contact Ian McDonald [india.mike51@gmail.com](mailto:india.mike51@gmail.com) or Ev Dore, [edore01@rogers.com](mailto:edore01@rogers.com) for more.

## **Rain Barrel Sales**

If you’re a gardener at the lake, you may want to consider using a rain barrel to conserve water, give your pump a break, treat your plants, and save money. Rain barrels can be purchased at many hardware stores, or you can support a charity with a purchase through [rainbarrel.ca](http://rainbarrel.ca). See their website for locations. REAL, a local environmental group, sells their rain barrels for \$55 through their REAL Deal store in Smiths Falls. Call (613) 283-7999 or see their [website](#).

## **At Home in Tay Valley**

This is an anthology of tales, family recollections and special memories of those who know it best – the people of Tay Valley. Burnstown Publishing House, together with Tay Valley Township, have published a limited number of copies of the book, edited by Kay Rog-

ers. Get your copy at the Tay Valley Township office, Balderson Cheese, Blackwood Originals, Shadowfax, the Perth Museum, The Book Nook, The Bookworm, Riverguild, or Village Green. Proceeds from the sale of “At Home in Tay Valley” will be directed to an annual scholarship fund. [More details and an order form](#) are on our website.

## **MailChimp**

We transferred our existing email list to MailChimp in April. If you are not on the list, you can sign up using the little form on the sidebar of our website. It is a double opt-in process, so watch for a confirmation email in your inbox. If you prefer, just email Barb at [dhicks11@cogeco.ca](mailto:dhicks11@cogeco.ca) and she can add you to the list manually. You can unsubscribe anytime using the option at the bottom of your emails from the OLA. Note, we will no longer mail newsletters by Canada Post to non-members, so if you are in that boat, be sure to get onto our MailChimp email list.

**Captain Otty’s Log** is produced by the Otty Lake Association (OLA) three times a year, and is distributed by e-mail or Canada Post to all OLA members. Contributions to the Log are welcome.

*Coordinator: Barb Hicks*

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*Proofing: Don Beattie*

*Distribution: Robert Cosh, Shari and Don Beattie*

To find out more about the OLA, or to see past issues, please see: [www.ottylakeassociation.ca](http://www.ottylakeassociation.ca). Or write to: **The OLA, Box 20122, Perth ON K7H 3M6.**