



# CAPTAIN OTTY'S LOG

OTTY LAKE ASSOCIATION • OCTOBER 2017

## President's Message

from

Reid Kilburn



I was going to start by saying what an unusual summer but then thought - what summer. Some say this was the summer that never was! For the gardeners around the lake and for those who planted OLA-sponsored maples to commemorate Canada 150, perhaps there was some appreciation for the weather. For others, not so much.

Thanks to Mother Nature precipitation was plentiful, lake levels were high and remain high for this time of year and, unfortunately, sunshine and high temperature days were few and far between. Nevertheless, the Otty community rose to the occasion and carried on with many a summer tradition.

The OLA AGM this year was held on a Sunday afternoon. We were concerned about the change to a Sunday and the impact it might have on attendance; however our concern was short lived as close to 130 members, guests and presenters took part in a very successful and informative afternoon about community, our lake and Steve, the Gray Ratsnake! A big thanks to the organizing committee and our guest speakers as their efforts and presentations led to a very successful day.

The OLA picnic this year was held on one those rare days filled with sunshine. Approximately 50 children, parents, and grandparents enjoyed the games, the nature walk along the shore, and an educational talk about snakes led by Mark Read from Murphys Point Provincial Park. Hot dogs and burgers were skillfully bbq'd by Dave Bell with the assistance



Photo: Kathy and Norm Hull

of Ginger Hay. Thanks to Gail Read and her organizing committee and volunteers and thanks to Maple Glen for once again hosting the event.

As always, water testing and surveying of wildlife and birds continued this year. Fish habitat monitoring this spring was difficult due to deep water but results confirmed that this program was once again meeting its objectives. The Loon survey continued this year under the watchful eye of OLA Board member Kyla Haley. New this year was a survey to develop a baseline of the number of Gray Ratsnakes making their habitat around Otty. Water quality testing continued under the leadership of our Lake Steward Murray Hunt and board member Derek Smith. Derek will be publishing our annual State of the Lake report about the time this newsletter goes to print so stay tuned for this year's version.

As identified earlier this year, next year is the 40th anniversary of the OLA as we know it, and perhaps more importantly next year is also the 10th anniversary of the Otty Lake Management Plan. Our 2018 calendar kicked off these celebrations and the OLA Board will continue to look at ways of building on our past work and rich history to better recognize these milestones.

Strong membership support from our Otty Lake community is essential to the success of the work of the Lake Association. Our membership is down a little this year. Please take a moment to check that your membership is current and if you are not currently a member please consider becoming one. We all love our lake.

Thanks to everyone who supported this summer's activities and our AGM. Enjoy the coming months. I know winter is included in those coming months but for me Otty is a beautiful place at any time of the year.

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## LANARK LEGACY COTTAGE PROGRAM A HIT ON OTTY LAKE



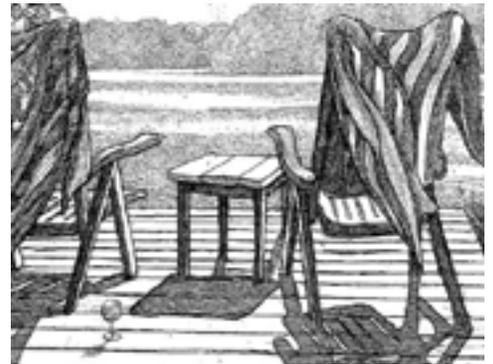
Photo: Christine Kilburn

Pictured here are representatives of some of the Otty Lake families recognized through the Lanark Legacy Cottage program. Their cottages have been in their families for at least 50 years. Reeve Keith Kerr and Planner Noelle Reeve from Tay

Valley presented the 8 x 11" personalized plaques on behalf of Tay Valley and Drummond/North Elmsley Townships at our July 9th AGM. Thirty families had been recognized by early July, but families had until August 14 to apply, so an additional

13 cottages achieved the designation later in the summer. A total of 17 properties from DNE and 26 from Tay Valley participated. A list of the Otty Lake cottages recognized is available on [our website](#). Three deserve honourable mention: the Stone/Wilson Retreat (122 years), the Code cottage (91 years) and the Thompson cottage (99 years). Lanark Legacy Cottage is a commemorative designation; the program was created as a Canada 150th anniversary celebration.

Barb Hicks



## ONE SURVIVING CHICK NOTED IN LOON SURVEY

This summer was an interesting one for anyone who was watching out for our Otty Lake loons. The map created using observations submitted by various residents and cottagers around the lake suggests that five pairs of loons lived on Otty Lake this year. The mating season of loons generally begins in May, after which the female lays two eggs, which are incubated for approximately 28 days. After a year of zero chicks on Otty last year (2016), it was so exciting to confirm that two pairs of loons produced young this year! One chick was born on July 28th (near Maple Glen) and the other chick was born on August 3rd (near Echo Bay). This is quite late in the year to observe new chicks, however loons will re-nest if the initial eggs are lost and also



Photo: Mary Brown

may nest late if territorial disputes result in a delay in mating. Either or both of these scenarios may explain this year's delay. Unfortunately, the chick near Maple Glen was last seen on August 20th and is presumed to have died.

The surviving chick has continued to thrive and we are so hopeful this will continue to be the case! The parents will stay close by until it is twelve weeks old and has learned

how to fly, at which point they will begin their journey south. The parents will likely leave in early-mid October, while the chick will stay until late October or possibly November.

Interestingly, once our chick arrives at the wintering ground, it will stay there for another entire year or two before making the migration back north. It will likely return to our area, but not necessarily to Otty Lake. We wish our little chick well!

Kyla Haley

## DONT FEED THE DEER



Photo: Christine Kilburn

Once the snow starts to fall, some well-meaning residents begin thinking about putting out food for the deer. Unfortunately, that does more harm than good, both to the deer and their habitat.

Deer have been surviving the Canadian winter for thousands of years without the help of humans, by consuming high quality food in the fall, and having the availability of softwood cover during the snow season. They store body fat for the winter, and reduce their activity and lower their metabolism during that time period.

By February, they are eating about fifty per cent less food per day than they did in September. Energy is conserved as they travel less, and their dietary system adapts to consuming twigs and branches

A sudden change of feed can cause bloating and severe discomfort, making the deer weaker and more vulnerable to predators. Harmful bacteria from feeding stations or from bird-feeders that attract deer can spread. Deer may actually die from eating too much supplemental food at one time.

The deer also use up energy traveling to the feed site. This causes the deer to stay in the same area, making the spread of disease easier, and lead-

ing to more inbreeding. Wintering deer who are not fed disperse over an area large enough to reduce competition for food and avoid the danger of predators.

Attracting deer to feeding sites changes their natural behaviour. Dominant adult animals fill their bellies first at these sites, while the smaller and weaker individuals waste valuable energy travelling there, where they may get little feed. More deer competing for the same food supply can lead to over-browsing and degradation of the area around the feeding site, as well as wreaking havoc on homeowners' gardens and plantings, as well as the trees and shrubs of their neighbours.

The attraction to urban areas presented by these feeding sites also increases the risk of deer/vehicle

collisions, as well as dogs chasing and killing deer. Winter deer feeding can be expensive, about sixty dollars per animal over the season.

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry advises people not to feed the deer, and the omnibus bill, passed at Queens Park in December 2009, contains an amendment which grants the Minister of Natural Resources the power to make regulations regarding the feeding of wildlife in Ontario. Many municipalities and several American states have made it illegal to feed game animals.

Deer have adapted to winters in Lanark County, and even though not all deer survive, there is no ecological benefit from artificial feeding. Healthy, naturally fed deer do not need a handout to thrive in our area.

*Huntsville Forester, February 3, 2010*

## ADOPT A GRAY RATSNAKE!

Were you at our Annual General Meeting (AGM) on July 9th? If so, you might have met Tobi Kiewalter, Senior Natural Heritage Education Leader at Murphys Point, and the Gray Ratsnake he brought to meet everyone! The pair were a big hit. If you missed meeting the snake, he can regularly be seen at the Murphys Point Provincial Park office.

In addition to introducing the Grey Ratsnake prior to the meeting to those interested, Tobi also gave an educational presentation about the Gray Ratsnakes. He shared with us the story of Steve the Snake, and his many adventures in the Park. Tobi's stories about Steve and other snakes brought their personalities to life for those in attendance. Tobi told us about the technology currently used in the Park to help employees learn more about the snake's habits. Microchipping is currently used to allow for the identification of individual snakes when they are caught. Also, six snakes had transponders implanted into them for a finite period of time so their locations could be tracked. You can read



Photo: Ric Potter

more about Tobi's presentation in the [AGM minutes](#).

Tobi let those in attendance know about the Friends of Murphys Point Adopt-a-Snake program. Anyone can donate \$35 and adopt a Gray Ratsnake, which includes naming your snake and then following your snake's life. As a result we know that at least two snakes were adopted. (Wally Robins named his Mork and Mindy!).

If you would like to adopt your own Gray Ratsnake at Murphys Point Provincial Park please visit the Park Visitor Centre in July and August. Other times of year, just call Tobi directly at 613-267-5060, Ext 231.

*Christine Kilburn*

## STAYING SAFE IN BEAR COUNTRY



Photo: David Bromley

Eastern Ontario has one of the densest populations of Black Bears across the province, with the area around Perth being particularly prone to sightings of these animals. However, most encounters are nothing more than brief sightings and both parties go on their way no worse for wear.

With a few basic precautions, and a little bit of knowledge, communities can ensure a positive outcome to all encounters.

The main focus of a Black Bear's life is food. Bears need to consume enough calories to be able to spend the entire winter sleeping in their dens with no food intake at all. Bears prefer high energy foods like berries, nuts, and insects throughout fall and summer, but will also take advantage of carrion, deer fawns, and moose calves. Ultimately though, a bear will choose the easiest meal it can find.

Therefore, the best way to prevent conflicts with bears is to control or remove attractants from your property. Problem bears are almost always bears that have been rewarded getting into human food sources. When bears pick up a scent with their keen noses, they will investigate it. If they find bird food, garbage or pet food they will return as long as the food source is available. Store garbage in sheds, only put bird feeders out in winter, clean barbecues, and don't feed wildlife.

It takes the entire community to prevent conflicts with bears. You may be doing your part, but if your neighbour is not, you may still encounter a bear on your property as a result. If you do see a bear and if you feel it is safe to do so, scare it off by yelling, banging pots and pans, and flashing lights at it. Do not turn your back on it, run, climb a tree, or retreat into water. Stand your ground if it approaches, and never play dead.

To report a sighting or get advice on specific circumstances call the MNR "Bearwise" hotline at 1-866-514-2327. In an emergency where public safety is in an immediate risk, call 911. You can also visit our website at [Ontario.ca/bearwise](http://Ontario.ca/bearwise) for more information.

*Trevor Horvatin, Wildlife Technician,  
Kemptville District Office, MNR*

## UPDATE ON GRAY RATSNAKE SURVEY

Children are back in school, now signaling the end of the summer for many people. As you may remember, we are trying to get some idea of the number of Gray Ratsnakes that currently live around the lake. Shortly after the last article came out, I got quite a few reports of sightings but since then, the number of reported sightings has dropped off significantly. I am sure that more have been sighted but residents have simply not reported them. As these snakes are at risk, we are trying to determine a baseline on their numbers. Then we can measure any increase or decrease in the number of sightings. If the number of sightings drops, we may wish to assist the snakes with their habitat.

To summarize our results so far, we have had reports of approximately 20 sightings. Some of these may have been the same snake. Many of the reports came with photographs of the snakes which are useful. To date, the sightings have been on both shores of Otty Lake and have all been in the Tay Valley Township ([see the Google map](#)) – a bonus for me as I live in Drummond-North Elmsley. The snakes do make me a little nervous, but I willingly took on this project. While I am definitely still not in love with our slithery friends I have come to develop a new respect for the threatened Gray Ratsnake.

Thanks to all who have sent in information about their sightings and photographs. To report any future sightings, please send me an email at [wildlife@ottylakeassociation.ca](mailto:wildlife@ottylakeassociation.ca)

*Monika Savage*

### 2017-2018 Board Members

A new Board was voted in at our July AGM. Retiring directors are Krista Hearty McLean and Chuck Shenkman - we thank them for their participation. New to the Board are David Bromley and Monika Savage. David will be looking after our newsletter design and layout, and Monika is coordinating the snake survey. Reid Kilburn will continue as President for the 2017-2019 term. Full contact information is available on the website.

Reid Kilburn - President  
Robert Cosh - Past President  
David Bell - Vice President Finance & Treasurer  
Cathy Kari - Vice President  
Christine Kilburn - Secretary  
Kyla Haley - Loon Survey  
Monika Savage – Snake Survey  
Barb Hicks – Log Coordinator and Webmaster  
David Bromley – Log Layout  
Ian McDonald - Lake Activities Projects (LAP)  
Gail Read – Counsellor Coordinator  
Wally Robins - Fish Enhancement Project  
Derek Smith – State of the Lake  
Michelle Soucy – OLA Clothing  
Anne Scotton – Director

## LNG SEPTIC SYSTEM FIELD TRIP



Lake Networking Group (LNG) members took a tour June 9th of the demonstration septic system displays at the Ontario Rural Wastewater Centre Demonstration Centre, located at RVCA's Baxter Conservation Centre near Kars. Eric Kohlsmith, Septic Inspector with the Mississippi-Rideau Septic System Office, led the tour. Many of you will have met him through septic inspections of your property. The tour and discussion that followed were very informative, and some summary information will be created as a result for distribution to lake associations through their LNG representatives. In the meantime, here are some of the takeaway points.

- Do not use additives; they are unnecessary.
- Seasonal dwellings generally require their septic systems pumped out as frequently as permanent dwellings, so every 3 to 5 years.

The septic systems of seasonal dwellings are dormant part of the year, and take a while to get fully functioning again.

- Increasing the floor area of a dwelling more than 15%, adding bedrooms or fixture units (sinks, showers, toilets...) will trigger a review of your septic permit.
- However, septic systems do not generally have to be inspected at the time of sale. The buyer or seller can request an inspection.
- It is highly recommended that you be present at your septic pump-out to get comments from the pumper.
- The septic office is authorized to investigate existing systems if there is suspicion of a problem or complaints, i.e., problems can be caught outside of mandatory inspections.
- Not all septic system improvements are a complete replacement.
- Most common septic system problems are not having regular pump-outs, allowing trees and shrubs on the septic bed, and faulty baffles (which can be repaired simply).
- Through the voluntary septic inspection program in TVT, only 2-3% of septic systems failed, but through the mandatory program, 12-15% of the septic systems failed.
- We are very fortunate to have mandatory septic inspection in

- TVT and DNE. Many lake associations are still lobbying their municipalities to make this happen.
- Outhouses and greywater pits are also subject to inspection. Common outhouse issues are being too close to the lake, and not having the bottom of the pit sealed to prevent groundwater from coming in. Common greywater issues are water discharged to the ground surface and/or having the pit located too close to the lake.
- Septic tanks treat bacteria, not nutrients or chemicals, so don't consider it equivalent to a municipal wastewater treatment system. Be judicious of what you put into it.
- Septic beds treat bacteria and nutrients but generally not chemicals. Maintaining a vegetative buffer downstream of the leaching bed is a vital component in successful treatment.

*Barb Hicks*

### Thanks to our Area Counsellors!

Our sincere thanks to the area counsellors who took the time to visit their Otty Lake neighbours to update contact information, collect membership dues, and deliver the spring/summer information packages. But we could use some new blood! Areas 9A, 9B, and McLaren Lake need a representative. It is not absolutely necessary that you live in that area.

Please contact Gail Read, Counsellor Coordinator, at (613) 464-3062 if you can help. [See the area map](#) on the website.

## OLA ANNUAL PICNIC

About 50 people attended the OLA's inter-generational family picnic July 22nd at Maple Glen Park. Activities included games and a BBQ, as well as netting time and Grey Ratsnake presentation by Mark Read, Senior Naturalist/Interpreter from Murphys Point Provincial Park. Here a youngster gets to meet a snake up close.



# THE LAKE NETWORKING GROUP—LOCAL LAKE ASSOCIATIONS STANDING TOGETHER

## **Did you know that the OLA is part of a larger group of local lake associations?**

The Lake Networking Group (LNG) is an informal coalition of representatives from more than 30 Eastern Ontario lake associations, including the OLA. The driving force behind the LNG is Karen Hunt, a tireless lake advocate, and a Past President of the OLA. Karen has coordinated the Lake Networking Group since it began in January 2004.

## **How does the Lake Networking Group work?**

Lake representatives are connected by email and regularly receive information about activities and events related to lake issues which they can share with their lake communities. The group meets about three times a year to exchange ideas and information on lake management issues, ranging from algae and aquatic plants to taxation and family succession of cottage properties. Community partners participate in the meetings. Frequently experts are invited to address the group to educate and inform on specific lake issues.

A large geographic spread amongst-involved lake associations means that there is participation by lake groups from four watersheds (Mississippi, Rideau, Cataraqui, Quinte) and eight townships (North, South, and Central Frontenac, Tay Valley, Drummond/North Elmsley, Beckwith, Lanark Highlands, Rideau Lakes) and two counties (Lanark and Frontenac).

## **What does the Lake Networking Group do?**

Together members advocate for the protection of lake environments. They deal with issues typical of lakes in the local area and attempt to resolve, promote and understand those issues.

Collectively the LNG constitutes a strong voice to promote their views on lake issues to local organizations and governments at all levels.

The LNG builds a strong communication bridge between lake associations and their community partners. With a large representation from the local lake communities there is potential to influence political decision-making on lake issues.

As an informal group of lake community associations coming together on a regular basis, the LNG allows for sharing of key information and lessons learned and the development of ideas or initiatives that can easily apply or be adapted to all lakes in Eastern Ontario. However there is still room for actions to be taken by individual lake associations or smaller groups of lake associations when appropriate.

## **Lake Networking Group Activities**

The LNG has been active on many fronts:

- It has conducted workshops on topics such as septic systems, native plants, water quality and cottage succession.
- During municipal election time a set of questions was developed by the lake community to be asked of candidates.
- It has participated in partnership projects such as Lake Links, BioBlitz, the Algae, Aquatic Plants Project Working Group, and fish habitat rehabilitation.
- Guest speakers have addressed the group on awareness of invasive species, species at risk, climate change issues, blue-green algae and changes to the Conservation Authorities Act.
- The LNG supported the work to address mining issues in Ontario which led to changes in the Ontario Mining Act and the closure of claims south of the French River.
- Emergency contact information was gathered from local lake associations for the Health Unit to use in contacting lake associations and lake communities for critical

situations such as blue-green algal blooms.

- The LNG meets regularly with the Lanark County OPP detachment.

## **Community Partners**

Some of the LNG's community partners include the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority, County of Lanark, Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations, Friends of the Tay Watershed, Lanark County Stewardship Council, Leeds, Grenville and Lanark Health Unit, Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority, OPP Lanark Detachment, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, Tay Valley Township, and Watersheds Canada.

## **Going Forward**

The relationship between the Lake Networking Group and their community partners will continue to evolve to address changing needs and concerns of the local lake communities. The importance of local lake associations standing together, supporting one another and learning from one another must not be underestimated.

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  
Proofing: Don Beattie  
Distribution: Robert Cosh, Shari and Don Beattie  
Layout and Design: David Bromley

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.

**Membership.** This year started off with a flurry of membership renewals, right up to the AGM. This made me think that we were going to have a bumper year of renewals. Unfortunately these tailed off after the AGM. A recent review of the database showed that there are a considerable number of paid-up members, from 2016, who did not renew their membership in 2017. It is never too late to renew our membership! If you have a question as to your status, please get in touch with me, David Bell, [belltawn263@gmail.com](mailto:belltawn263@gmail.com) or (613) 267-3207.

## Black Bear Information

**Session.** As part of the OLA's ongoing education sessions regarding our lake, a black bear awareness session was held September 17th at the Perth Library. About 40 people attended. Trevor Horvatin, Wildlife Technician, MNRF, Kemptville District Office gave an informative presentation about co-existing with black bears. Cathy Kari, who organized the session, prepared a summary of the key takeaways for those who could not attend, which is available on [our website](#).



**Paddle Power.** An enthusiastic crowd of 52 people and two dogs participated in the fifth annual Paddle Power event August 12. Many incorporated red and white in their clothing and boat decorations in honour of Canada's 150th birthday. See [Facebook](#) for more photos of the happy paddlers.

## Tay Valley Garbage

**Collection.** As a result of the public information meeting held on June 26 and the results of a survey, Tay Valley Township council are not proceeding with any plan to implement waste collection. There were some good suggestions on how one could improve the current arrangements that came out of the above process, and Tay Valley Township staff are currently looking into these ideas.

## 2018 Calendar Sales Brisk

We have sold nearly 80% of the calendars. They would make a great Christmas stocking stuffer if you haven't already ordered yours. Just send your email request to Gail Read at [read2@outlook.com](mailto:read2@outlook.com). Prices are 1 for \$10, 2 for \$15, with additional copies \$7 each.

**Otty Lake Association Facebook Page.** Our [OLA Facebook Page](#) is really taking off! We are up to 126 members. Most participants enjoy sharing scenic and nature photos and videos from around the lake, so it's a great way to enjoy Otty even if you can't be there. The page is also a good place to post lost-and-found notices, upcoming OLA events, questions for your neighbours and other items of general interest to the Otty community. Google the page or use the link on the [home page of the website](#). Someone will quickly accept you as a new member.



## LAKE LINKS 2017

### 16th Annual Lake Links Workshop

#### Beyond the Shoreline: Science to Stewardship

Saturday, October 21st,  
2017 from  
8:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.

Perth Civitan Hall,  
6787 County Rd 43, Perth

Cost: \$20 (includes lunch)  
[Register online](#) with  
Watersheds Canada  
or call Karen Ballentine 264-  
1244

Please bring a non-  
perishable food item for the  
Perth Food Bank.

## PONTOON BOAT REVIEW



Pontoon boats have increased in popularity in recent years and Otty Lake is now home to more than 100. Until recently, we questioned this popularity and will share our experience, along with comments from Dave Bell. We found good used units tend to hold their value and opted to purchase new. Better deals are available at spring boat shows when inventory is plentiful. These boats come in a variety of sizes and floor plans. Many options are available at a cost, such as: toilet facilities, barbecues, water slides, tables, second level, three pontoons, and full clear enclosures for boating on cool and damp days. Be aware of the fuel filler location. Some models have the filler

in a very awkward location, inviting spills. We invested in a “Flow and Go” portable fuel transfer device to prevent spills. New models feature more durable and easy to clean vinyl flooring. The battery main switch shutoff option is highly recommended. Conversation on a pontoon boat is more pleasant as the new 4 stroke engines are very quiet and the rear bench acts as a sound buffer. We are pleased with a fuel

efficiency of 4 to 5 L/hr on our 60HP 20’ boat at moderate to slow speed. Our boat’s extremely comfortable seating is limited to eight Canadian passengers, but oddly enough, in American waters is rated for ten passengers. Depending on the docking facilities, getting into some boats requires you to step down into the boat and the instability could contribute to losing one’s balance. In the case of a pontoon boat, the surface of the dock is within a couple of inches of the boat deck, allowing you to walk on, and the spacing of the pontoons makes the boat much more stable. Stability allows freedom of movement while on board and the boat provides a smoother ride on rougher water.

The boat also generates minimal wake while shallow draft allows closer shoreline access. Pontoon boats are very relaxing and are a great way to tour friends around our lovely lake. We have enjoyed numerous floating picnics. Many areas of Otty Lake are experiencing weed pressure and algal blooms, making swimming off the dock undesirable. The pontoon with ladder makes a wonderful swimming platform. It can also be used as a floating dock “at the dock”. We use our pontoon for wildlife photography, the OLA loon survey and to transport RVCA staff for water sampling and bass bed enhancement and assessment. We have also removed several large timber deadheads, saving boaters from certain damage!

The pontoon boat rides higher above the water and has a significant surface area to catch the wind. Depending on dock location it may be a little trickier to dock. In our case, we double anchored our floating dock to accommodate the boat. The boat cover has proven to be easier to use than first thought and we keep the boat covered when not in use. It’s easier and more time efficient to clean and wipe the cover than the vinyl seats and floor! The cover also protects the seats and floor from UV rays. Lubricating the snaps on the boat cover with candle wax makes snapping and unsnapping easier!

Off season storage, due to the size of the boat, will tend to be more expensive when renting indoor storage space or opting for shrink wrap or tarping.

There are a number of options when it comes to launching and removing the boat: custom hired, rent or own a scissor lift trailer or own a bunk trailer. Scissor lift trailers are more versatile with regard to water levels but are much more expensive to own and tend to be more unstable during transport. Unlike the bunk trailer, the scissor trailer can be used for more than one boat.

We have enjoyed logging over 100 hrs to date in our first season!

*Jay and Richard Hendry  
with comments from Dave Bell*

## ALGAE LESS OF A NUISANCE THIS SUMMER

Floating mats of green filamentous algae are an unsightly nuisance that reduce our enjoyment of our lake environment. Algal blooms occur when excess nutrients (phosphorus and nitrogen compounds) are available which permits algal species to flourish. After two summers of fairly intense and long lasting blooms, this summer has been a very positive change. Algal mats appeared in several areas of the lake during the week of June 18th and had died off by the week of July 12th, but they did re-appear during August.

The zebra mussel population also varies from year to year. Two summers ago we observed dense concentrations of mussels on hard surfaces. Last summer produced lower population densities and many people are reporting few or no mussels on their boats this summer.

We will continue to monitor these cycles to try to understand and perhaps control algal and mussel populations. So this summer the news is good, Otty is a very healthy lake. Our full “State of the Lake” report will be on the website by late October.

*Derek Smith*