

Draft Minutes

Otty Lake Association Annual General Meeting Royal Canadian Legion Perth, Ontario July 14, 2024 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Welcoming Remarks

Kirsten Brouse (Chair) welcomed everyone, did a land acknowledgement and reviewed the agenda. Forty-three Otty Lake Association(OLA) members registered for the Annual General Meeting(AGM). Participants received a coloured slip of paper for voting purposes upon registering. There was a quorum.

Motion to Approve the Agenda

Moved by Cyntha Struthers and seconded by Susan Murray “that the agenda as presented and distributed be approved”.

Motion Carried

Motion to Approve Minutes from July 9, 2023 AGM

Moved by Barb Hicks and seconded by Nezhi Cakir “ that the minutes of the July 9, 2023 Otty Lake Association Annual General Meeting be approved.”

Motion Carried

OLA Business and Updates

Treasurer’s Report

Jen O’Donoughue (Co-Chair) presented the Proposed Budget for 2024 and the Year to Date Actuals. There is a reasonable balance in the budget, due to savings incurred during Covid years, to consider funding new projects.

Board of Directors

Current Board of Directors present were asked to stand and be recognized. Chair expressed gratitude to all Board members for their work over the past year. Barb Hicks received special acknowledgment for her

outstanding work as webmaster, newsletter coordinator and role on the leadership team.

Kirsten Brouse, as chair of the Nominating Committee, announced the following changes, additions and updates for Board positions.

Although Kevin Terrion has agreed to serve as OLA Lake Steward for this summer he has resigned as a director. Appreciation was extended for all his work collecting, tabulating and reporting data as Lake Steward and his knowledgeable input on several lake quality and level issues.

Aside from Kevin the current board members have agreed to serve and in the same roles as last term.

Cathy Kari has agreed to stand for another 2 year term.

Nancy Lynn has agreed to be a director on the Board. Nancy's application and biography were presented at a Board of Directors meeting in April 2024.722

Election of Directors

Chair asked for nominations from the floor for any board roles or director positions, hearing none the election process was declared closed.

Motion to Approve Appointment of Directors

Moved by Cynthia Struthers and seconded by Paul Rushloe " that the Board of Directors as presented be appointed".

Motion Approved

Board of Directors July 14, 2024

Leadership Team — Barb Hicks, Cathy Kari, Jen O'Donoghue

Past President — Kirsten Brouse

Vice President — Keith Desjardin

Treasurer — Jen O'Donoghue

Recording Secretary — Linda Cuthbertson

Director — Newsletter & Webmaster — Barb Hicks

Director — Membership — Susan Murray

Director — Membership — David Murray

Director — Anne Scotten

Director — Nancy Lynn

Constitutional Amendment

Existing Constitution

Article 10 — Meetings

1. There shall be an Annual General Meeting of the Association each July (preferably on the second Saturday in July and if possible in Perth)....

Proposed Amendment

Article 10 – Meetings

1. There shall be an Annual General Meeting of the Association each calendar year at a date established by the current executive between May and October (preferably in Perth).....

Results of a recent survey of the membership indicated a date in May would be a preferred time to hold the AGM. The summer months are busy with lake activities.

This Proposed Constitutional Amendment was submitted in writing to members by mail or email two weeks prior to the meeting.

Motion to Approve the Proposed Amendment

Moved by David Murray and seconded by Josie Roberts “ that the Proposed Amendment to Article 10—Meetings be approved “.

The adoption of this Constitutional Amendment requires two thirds majority vote of the votes cast at the meeting.

Motion Carried

This concluded the business part of the program.

OLA Reports and Activity Updates

Member Survey

In November 2023 a Member Survey was sent to 578 addresses, 125 responded which is about 22%.

60% were happy with the format of the AGM. Suggestions were made to change the date, hence the executive proposed the Constitutional Amendment addressed in the business part of the meeting.

Lake quality, water levels and aquatic vegetation continue to be of most concern to residents.

Shoreline planting program and paddle power are the most popular activities.

There were 25 comments related to boating and water safety.

Survey results were used by the board to determine what type of activities, newsletter articles and projects to promote.

Lake Steward's Report

There are three main water sampling programs: Lake Partners Program, RVCA Sampling and Profiling Program and OLA Bacteria and Nutrient Sampling Program.

The Lake Partners Program is conducted with the Ministry of the Environment's Dorset Environmental Science Center. Monthly from May to October samples are taken from a fixed point in the deepest part of the lake. They test for water transparency and nutrient levels.

RVCA Sampling and Profiling Program starts in May and is done monthly at the deepest point in the lake. They do nutrient sampling and create a vertical profile of temperature and dissolved oxygen.

OLA Bacteria and Nutrient Sampling Program focuses on places where people swim and began in late June this year. Approximately 40 bacteria samples are taken during the summer.

Summaries of all these program results are on the OLA website.

Lake Observations and Water Levels

Observations are made regularly of water flow at Jebbs Creek. As a result of extreme weather and past obstructions on Jebbs Creek the RVCA have installed a real time water level gauge for close monitoring of lake levels. A link for the real time lake water gauge is on the OLA website.

Dates of ice over and out of the lake are kept yearly. This year the ice over date was January 5th and the ice out date was March 22nd. Ice thickness is typically measured in March. This year due to mild temperatures it was unsafe to go out in March to do the measurement.

State of the Lake Report

This report is produced by a team of OLA members with information gathered from a number of sources and is usually completed later in the calendar year. In addition to the information gathered by the Lake Steward the report includes information on physical limnology, fisheries, zebra mussel populations, algae, loons and environmental activities. Previous year reports are available on the OLA website. Information about algae blooms, mussels, fish, loons and aquatic vegetation is from anecdotal observations.

Shoal Marking Program

There are 15 markers in place and another will be added between Ruby and Clegg Islands. We are grateful for the work of 11 volunteers who work in the the spring and fall to make our lake safer for boating.

Shoreline Planting Program

Proof of the popularity of this program is that within hours of the email broadcast they were sold out so more plants were added. Rideau Valley Conservation Authority promote and help subsidize the cost of the plants. Special thanks to Rachel Roth who has been the program lead for the past few years. She has resigned from this role and the board is looking for a new coordinator for 2025.

Paddle Power Activity

Pictures from Paddle Power 2023 on August 19th are on the OLA website. Thanks to Ev Gore, Ian MacDonald and Gail Read for organizing this event for ten years.

Keith DesJardins is organizing this year's event and it will be on Saturday, August 10th. Rain date is August 17th. There will be an email blast reminder.

Pitch In Activity

Thanks to the Burgess Wood residents who did a cleanup along several side roads.

Nature Floatilla Activity

On July 29, 2023 residents were able to travel by water to five special nature talk stations around the lake.

Municipal Partners

Drummond North Elmsley Township

Reeve Steve Fournier provided information and updates for both DNET and Lanark County. He thanked and acknowledged the beneficial partnership with the OLA. He gave an update of operational and other activities including new builds, invasive species control, use of stone dust in winter months and a new traffic light to be installed on County Road #1 and Wildlife Road. They are sharing the cost of a new fire truck with Tay Valley Township.

Lanark County is updating their Official Plan anticipating an increase in population. Working on a County Natural Heritage System Map and possible nature corridor mapping.

A question was raised about deer crossing signage on Elm Grove Road. Concerned residents should forward specific information about the location and DNET staff will address the issue.

Tay Valley Township

Reeve Rob Rainer and TVT planner Noelle Reeve welcomed the opportunity to address the audience. The township is looking at ways to address the impacts of climate change including extreme weather events, ticks and other insect infestations, and greenhouse gas emissions. Grant monies have enabled them to offer senior and child activities at Maberly Hall which is now a designated cooling centre.

Noelle summarized both the good and bad aspects of Ontario's new Bill 185, referred to by many as the Cutting Red Tape Act. TVT has a new designated multi-unit building zone. Tay Valley is implementing provisions for communal servicing in the rural area for such buildings.

TVT has a mandatory septic inspection program for every system ten years and older.

Love Your Lake Program

Paige Jessup from Watersheds Canada provided detailed information about the program in her presentation and she set up an information table with handouts.

The program is coordinated by the Canadian Wildlife Federation, Watersheds Canada and OLA. It is a shoreline assessment and educational stewardship program.

Every property owner will receive mailed information about the program. OLA has also set up a communications plan with information in newsletters, emails, Facebook and on the website.

We will be able to compare the data collected this year with data collected in 2013 when Otty Lake last participated in the program. Personalized reports for property owners will be ready in the spring of 2025.

The chair thanked Steve Fournier, Nicole Reeve, Rob Rainer and Paige Jessup for their informative presentations.

Throughout the afternoon's meeting and presentations participants were free to ask questions, comment or make suggestions. Respective speakers answered or noted discussion items raised.

There were two prize draws before the Chair declared the meeting over at 2:33 pm.