



# Otty Lake Association Annual General Meeting

Saturday, July 13, 2013, Lions' Hall, Perth, Ontario

## *Draft Minutes*

1. **Welcome** - Robert Cosh
2. **Approval of the July 14, 2012, AGM Minutes**  
**Moved by Richard Hofer to accept the Minutes of the OLA Annual General Meeting, July 14, 2012. Seconded by Sandy Kenney. Carried**
3. **Approval of the Agenda**  
**Moved by Cathy Kari to accept the Agenda. Seconded by Ruth Nelson. Carried**
4. **Tay Valley Township** - Keith Kerr, Reeve, TVT  
- Noelle Reeve, Planner & CBO

Keith Kerr and Noelle Reeve brought us up-to-date on Tay Valley Township. The Tay Valley Township Strategic Plan - May 2013 has been completed. Six priorities in 2013-2016 with their key initiatives were outlined by Ms. Reeve:

1. Asset Management Plan - 10 year Capital Plan;
2. Identify Land Use and Community Priorities to Implement through the Official Plan and Zoning By-law Five year review;
3. Waste Diversion and Environmental Management;
4. People Plan;
5. Economic Development: enable small business creation and growth and optimize community connectivity;
6. Deliver affordable recreation and cultural programs.

Hard copies are available at the township office 217 Harper Road, on the web at [www.tayvalleytwp.ca](http://www.tayvalleytwp.ca), and at Perth and District Union Public Library, 30 Herriott Street, Perth. The township is interested in the five year review of the Otty Lake Management Plan because they are updating their official plan and items in the OLA plan might be tied into it. There will be an Open House at the Township office, 217 Harper Road on August 13th from 2:00 to 4:00 and 5:00 to 7:00 where residents can give their input.

The township is looking at 19 issue papers four of which are the most controversial:

1. Mandatory riparian buffer which at present is a recommendation in the official plan (a 3m band of uncut natural vegetation along the water with a 6m corridor to get down to the water),
2. Property standards,
3. Climate change and how it will impact the township, and

#### 4. Significant woodlands

The official plan when completed will be translated into the zoning bylaws.

The township is looking for a new road supervisor.

Planning is continuing for the 200th Anniversary in 2016 of TVT and the local region.

Again, input is requested.

Questions:

What is the size of the solar farm going up on the Narrows Lock Road and what is a buffer zone?

A. The solar farm property is 100 acres, retaining 30 acres of forest to the south, forty acres of panels, wetland to the north and a buffer zone along the road.

The vegetative buffer zone along waterways is made up of deep rooted shrubs and/or uncut grasses which helps to cut down on the amount of runoff including phosphorus and dirt particles entering the water. There is a correlation between the amount of phosphorus entering the lake and the amount of nutrients supporting algae and weeds. Property values are reflected in the quality including the clarity of the water, algae and weeds.

#### 5. **Drummond/North Elmsley Township** - Aubrey Churchill, Reeve

Aubrey Churchill introduced Karl Grenke, Planner and Shawn Merriman, Building Official to answer questions concerning their areas.

Drummond/North Elmsley's Official Plan and its Zoning Bylaw changes were completed in 2012.

The new Rideau Ferry Docks went to tender on July 12th and will hopefully begin by the first of September. It is a \$300,000 investment which has included some federal funding.

There are no other big projects this year.

The township like any municipality seeking provincial capital funding must prepare a detailed asset management plan.

D/NE continues to get ready for the 200th Anniversary of the area and is still looking for people to join the committee.

They are updating the landfill/waste site and began a blue box program in June which has been very successful.

The Reeve mentioned the upcoming biannual regatta at Rideau Ferry, August 17th and 18th in which he will participate in a cardboard boat.

There are four solar projects in D/NE. Two are producing, the other two will be soon.

The Elm Grove Road speed limit will continue at present to be 60km/hour. There will be a county meeting in September where residents can express their concerns.

Septic reinspections are completed. Inspections are mandatory now.

Questions:

Could we have larger blue boxes?

A. If you need more, come for extras at the township office.

Question: Septic re-inspections. If you find that something isn't up to par, do you have any authority to make people comply?

A. Shawn Merriman said that Eric Kohlsmith and/or the Health Unit visits the property. A township Order to Comply is put on the property. If a property has an order against it, then the issue will have to be resolved before the property is sold, building permits are

issued, etc. The vast majority of owners accept this. There are fewer than 20 properties that have not been inspected in the last five years.

## **6. Fire Safety - Paul Cameron, BBD&E Station Chief**

Chief Cameron gave a brief breakdown of the organization of fire and rescue services in the area.

Points stressed:

Fire permits are required all year round. They can be picked up at the fire stations and at the municipal offices. There are county wide fire bans from the 1st of April to the 15th of May and as needed. Before you burn, call. If a resident is caught burning in off times, the fine can be very high for example, each truck sent out will cost the offender \$410.

Three trucks are sent out!

Keep the blue 911 sign visible. This is the responsibility of the resident.

Keep road access clear: 16' across and 16 to 20' high.

Clean woodstove regularly and get WETT certified inspections.

Choose the right smoke detectors. If you need help to determine what type of detectors to get and where to place them, call the fire department.

Check batteries regularly. Test monthly. If a detector is over ten years old, replace it.

Get a CO detector and install correctly.

Call the fire station and NOT 911 if you have a question and it is not an emergency.

"If the alarm goes off too often, get a new cook!" Our chief has a sense of humour.

Questions:

Would the fire department come out and check the road to see if it was appropriate?

A. Yes.

## **7. Wetland Identification Workshop - Crystal Robertson, Toronto Zoo/Adopt A Pond Program**

The Adopt-A-Pond Wetland Conservation Programme provides educators, students and community groups with stewardship resources and educational opportunities to protect, restore and conserve wetland habitats and biodiversity. They go into communities and explain the programs. The Wetland Workshop for the OLA in June was a part of their mandate.

Why are wetlands important?

Wetlands are like giant sponges in the environment. Water soaks in during heavy rain and then gives it out in drier times, thus wetlands moderate flooding and drought.

They filter water and provide habitats for wildlife and plants.

In June the workshop evaluated how animals interacted with the wetlands around Otty and did an environmental assessment which can be used in the future, for example when looking at development. Using the Ontario Wetland Evaluation System, they looked at where the wetlands end and the forest begins, observed animals and plants then determined how they interact in the wetland. The social aspects (how or if people use the wetland), what water flows in and out, what effect does it have on flooding and drought. There are three types of wetlands, each providing their own habitat: the marsh with cattails is the youngest, the swamp has more tree cover, the oldest wetlands are the fens

and bogs. Plant life varies within these three. Are the plants submerged, emergent or floating? Is the soil organic or mineral? Otty is more organic. There are many kinds of wetland around Otty which Crystal pointed out on an aerial map.

**8. RVCA - Aquatic Plant Survey - Mike Yee, RVCA, Manager Biology and Water Quality**

Mike Yee commended Otty Lake for its algae program.

He referred to lakes as living organisms. A natural buffer around the lake is like our skin. If we have 1000 gashes we will die. He stressed the importance of this buffer and how we must spread the message.

He asked everyone to fill out the Aquatic Plant Survey and encourage others to do so. [www.surveymonkey.com/s/plants-algae](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/plants-algae). If enough surveys are completed it will give the RVCA more clout with academics.

The value of property on a lake is most greatly affected by the quality of its water. He spoke about the importance of macrophyte (aquatic vegetation) dominated system versus an algae dominated system as a critical part of a healthy lake.

What isn't captured on the land goes into the water. Shoreline planting helps prevent erosion from both runoff and waves. Deep rooted plantings along the shoreline absorb nutrients and prevent them from going into the water. Work and design with nature.

**9. Financial Report and Proposed Budget - Dave Bell, Treasurer**

Dave Bell began by thanking Ross Hollingsworth on behalf of the association for reviewing the year-end financial numbers. The Financial Report and proposed 2013 Budget were not available on the overhead but members were asked to look at the distributed copies.

**Moved by Dave Bell to adopt the Financial Report. Seconded by Ric Potter. Carried.**

**Moved by Dave Bell to adopt the proposed Budget for 2013. Seconded by Richard Hofer. Carried.**

**10. Overview of the Year's Activities - Robert Cosh, Karen Hunt**

Karen spoke on the continuing implementation of the Otty Lake Management Plan through activities both past and future.

A Wetland Workshop presented by Shannon Ritchie and Crystal Robertson of Toronto Zoo, Adopt-A-Pond held on June 01st at Evelyn Dore and Derek Smith's property was a success.

Twenty six owners participated in the joint RVCA and OLA Shoreline Planting Program receiving native shrubs and wild flowers from Philip Fry, Oldfield Garden and Wildflower Nursery in Oxford Station.

The 'Love Your Lake Shoreline Survey Program' done on Otty Lake properties this summer is a partnership between the OLA, the Canadian Wildlife Federation and the Centre for Sustainable Watersheds. It will be completed early this summer and the

results will be sent in a confidential report to lakeshore owners by next spring. Similar surveys done in 1985 and 2005 will be compared to this year's survey.

The international team of Beatrice Schriever in Toronto and Gail Read in Brazil worked together to produce the beautiful, informative Otty Lake Flora and Fauna calendar including excellent photos submitted by lake residents.

Protecting small Crown owned islands was the subject of an interesting discussion. Concern had been raised about the islands on Otty and how we can encourage their positive and respectful use. A committee will be struck to look into this and present its findings back to the Board.

A Summer Nature Walk led by Roger Nuttall will be held on July 14th, 2013. Past walks have been excellent learning experiences.

This is the 5th Anniversary of the OLA Lake Management Plan. A lot has been accomplished over the past five years, and now it is time to assess and identify areas that need to be addressed as we move forward. A review is now in progress. Please check out the Drafts on the OLA website and provide input to your area counsellor or email Karen Hunt at [mkhunt@ripnet.com](mailto:mkhunt@ripnet.com).

Karen Hunt introduced Chris Harrison to speak on the upcoming PaddlePower and Community Families Day Picnic on July 27th. He asked that as many canoes and kayaks as possible be assembled at 10:00 on the lake near Maple Glen for a joint picture then everyone can go ashore and join others for a picnic, activities and games for all ages.

#### **11. OLA Board Introductions and Responsibilities - Robert Cosh**

Robert Cosh introduced the 2012 - 2013 Board and thanked them for their contributions. Robert asked if there were any questions from the floor for any Board members or Committees. There were none.

#### **12. Election - Karen Hunt, Past President**

Karen Hunt thanked departing Board members who have completed their terms: Murray Hunt, Wally Robins, Don Beattie and Darlene Bishop.

Board members completing the first year of their two-year term: Rick Stojak, Roger Nuttall, Gail Read, Cathy Kari

Board members up for re-election: Robert Cosh, President, Dave Bell, Anne Scotton, David Reesor, Phil Anderson, Chris Harrison and Karen Hunt.

Karen introduced four OLA members who are willing to stand for election: Barb Hicks, Bill McLeish, Ginger Hay and Peter Siemons.

Karen asked if there were any members from the floor wishing to stand for election. There were no responses.

**Moved by Karen Hunt that the slate of officers as presented by the Board be accepted. Seconded by Sandra Kenny. Carried.**

#### **13. Website - Rick Stojak**

Rick Stojak, the webmaster, asked the members to vote by raising of hands on whether or not the newsletter, Capt'n Otty's Log should continue to be produced in two formats on

the web, high definition and low definition. No. High definition was chosen unanimously as the only form it will go out in.

#### **14. Environmental Committee - Robert Cosh**

Robert introduced the members of the Environmental Committee: Murray Hunt, Roger Nuttall, Wally Robins, David Reesor and Derek Smith.

The major concern is algae. The campaign to "Starve the Lake of Phosphorus" is in full swing. A fridge magnet with "Bob, the Great, Green Glob" was included in the information packages this spring.

Three major points were emphasized:

1. Maintain a healthy septic system. Septic inspections are now mandatory.
2. Maintain a vegetative shoreline buffer of at least 10 m.
3. Don't fertilize lawns or gardens near the lake.

Dump wood ashes as far from the lake as possible. Trees and shrubs have deep roots whereas grass only goes down 6". Runoff is absorbed best by trees and bushes.

#### **15. Fish Report - Wally Robins**

Wally reported that there is an overabundance of panfish. Pike levels are the same as last year which have been poor over the last twenty years and getting poorer. Bass levels are holding their own.

There will be a broad initiative, fish habitat enhancement. This year the OLA, MNR and the RVCA will identify and prioritize small mouth bass habitat. They will supplement fish habitat with pea gravel left on the ice to melt in the spring attracting more nesting fish, and submerge wooden structures to provide shelter for fish. Trees will be taken from new developments and brought to the lake by the RVCA then placed 15 to 20 feet down.

Wally said that there are not a lot of poachers on the lake but one is too many.

Wally said that the single greatest threat to Otty Lake is complacency. He suggested that those who were here at the AGM are the already aware but the majority are still out there. "Be a contributor to the OLA, get your neighbours involved saving the lake we all say we love!"

#### **16. Loon Report - Bill McLeish**

Bill said that loons require some of the same attributes that we do: security, clean environment, good food supply. If they don't find it here on Otty, they will move on. Based on observations made already this year, we are doing fairly well. The tally as of the AGM is 10 adults and 2 chicks. We seem to be above average in total loons but below in chicks.

#### **17. Other Business**

Zotique Laframboise complimented the kitchen volunteers, Carol Cosh and Mayme Mahoney, on the quality of refreshments.

## **18. Draws**

Numbers were drawn and door prizes provided by D/NE, TVT and the OLA to several lucky members.

Those 54 people who paid their memberships before 01 April had their names put in a draw for a prize of \$300.00. The winner, Fay Farmer, may put the prize money toward an OLA Board sanctioned shoreline planting, a septic pump out or a well test.

## **19. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:16.