



Otty Lake Association

Board Meeting

Sunday, November 2nd, 2014, 3pm

McMartin House

Minutes

Present: Phil Anderson, David Bell, Robert Cosh (President), Barb Hicks, Cathy Kari, Christine Kilburn (Secretary), Ian McDonald, Bill McLeish, Roger Nuttall, Gail Read, Peter Siemons, Derek Smith (12)

Regrets: Ginger Hay, Karen Hunt, Anne Scotton

Welcome - Robert called the meeting to order at 3 pm

- Robert thanked everyone for following the new document distribution process, and taking the time to read and comment on the items being broadcast prior to the meeting.
- **Approval of Agenda - Motion** (Peter/Roger) That the agenda be approved as presented. **CARRIED**

Secretary's Report - Christine dealt with the following:

- **Approval of Minutes of Meeting Aug 14, 2014 - Motion** (Barb/Phil) That the minutes be approved as published. **CARRIED**
- **Business Arising from Minutes** - all items were covered in Christine's document except that Ev had taken photos of Cloverleaf Island for inclusion in Cap'n Otty's Log. All outstanding items have therefore been dealt with.
- **E-Mail Motion 1** - (Robert/Derek) that Ian McDonald be appointed to the OLA Board, pending formal election at the next AGM. **CARRIED**
 - The following motion was made at the meeting. **Motion** (Robert/Peter) That Ian McDonald be appointed as Director of Activity Planning. **CARRIED**
- **E-Mail Motion 2** - (Karen/Robert) That this year, the OLA sponsor two new Lake Links participants. **CARRIED**, with one abstention

Project Updates

- State of the Lake Report - see the report for details.
 - Derek explained the importance of limnology and how it helps with the determination of climate change. The rigorous collection of information is critical. There is no information to indicate that the lake is warming.
 - Derek would like to take more e-coli samples next year. The lake's in better shape this year compared to last.

- Murray is to be commended for taking all the information and entering it in a database. In 2012, an RVCA brochure about Otty Lake gave us a poor rating for water quality. We have improved since then. Additional discussion took place later in the meeting on this topic.
- Zebra mussels - Derek will repeat zebra mussel sampling next year. It gives us an idea of whether the population is declining. It also gives us credibility with folks like Dr Vermaire who is studying them. Derek mentioned that the US has approved dead bacteria which cause intestinal problems in zebra mussels, killing them. But we will not introduce anything to our lake without doing the research.
- Algal blooms - Temperature was suitable, enough nutrients, so why did we not have the same quantity this year? Amount of sunlight is another factor. Derek would like to try and measure it next year.
- Milfoil - Weavils are very expensive, \$1.50 for each one. They didn't work very well in Sudbury.
- Shoreline planting - will be done again next year, with Gail and Ev leading the charge. OLA is subsidizing, so we should have a follow up plan. Should we explore other options, e.g. different plants, larger plants. Ev will look at this.
- State of the Lake is a report card, not meant to replace any other project plans. Other OLA folks are expressing interest in helping.
- Derek pays for much of his work out of his own pocket. He will continue to do the work.
- Derek would like to look at the forest changes, perhaps with Roger.
- In Derek's absence, Gail volunteered to continue to monitor the lake temperatures until ice is on the lake.
- Dave had zebra mussels on his pontoon boat for the first time. Gail has had them on their aluminum dock in the past, but not this year.
- Roger - muskrats are eating the zebra mussels for the first time. Is this why there's a decrease?
- **Motion** - (Derek/Dave) The OLA agrees to support and finance the Bass spawning enhancement program (BSEP) for an additional three years (2015, 2016 and 2017) working in association with the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority. The level of support will be approved on an annual basis after the OLA Board has reviewed the technical aspects and financial requirements of the program. **CARRIED** Derek pointed out that this motion gives Jennifer Lamoureux at RVCA more support for her programs.
- Ian thanked Derek and his team for all their work. It is very beneficial.
- Related to the RVCA 2012 pamphlet giving Otty Lake a poor rating, Derek suggested having an amicable meeting in the spring with the RVCA. We can start by talking about the success of the BSEP. RVCA had poor information and therefore their conclusions were wrong. Derek suggested letting RVCA know we now have a great deal of excellent information and we would like to work with them, thus improving our rating from POOR.

- Gail suggested we issue a pamphlet showing what we've done. Put it in our spring information package. It would be a State of the Lake report card. Everyone agrees communication is important, and needs to be done via different media to appeal to everyone. The pamphlet would be more visual, with some charts/graphics/pictures.
- Bill finds Derek's information to be the most valuable work done by OLA, since he knows it's okay for his 6 children to swim in the lake. He would appreciate having a regular brief notice of the state of the lake, be it on the website or Cap'n Otty's Log.
- Crown Islands - Bill stated that MNR has to be able to measure success, so their free signs are rather blunt. Bill stresses stewardship/education as the best option, since OLA is especially good at education and made a motion to that effect. Rather than voting on this motion, Robert asked Bill to send out a motion via e-mail to the Board listing next steps.
- Township Contacts - Robert reported Karen has been diligent over the years about being in touch. Peter explained that he looks at the agendas for the township meetings, and if there is anything applicable to OLA, he lets the Board know. There are Committee of Adjustment/rezoning/Committee of the Whole and Council meetings. If a minor variance is requested, the township is required to contact the neighbours and the OLA is considered a neighbour. We are welcome to comment at these meetings. If we can negotiate to improve the situation of the lake, e.g. suggest shoreline plantings, then we are all better off.
- Peter addressed the Otty Lake Boat Launch issue to be discussed at the TVT Committee of the Whole meeting on Nov 4th. The boat launch is at the Township Right of Way. There is erosion along one side of the launch site. Gail informed us that there is a shoal of rock developing in the water at the boat launch which is causing boaters to lose their lower units. Robert and Peter will attend the TVT meeting to determine whether there are issues affecting the lake and provide support to the property owners.
- Communications - Barb referred us to her report which was distributed with the agenda. She asked for more photos, especially of activities around the lake, as long as the individuals in the photos have agreed to be posted on the website. Barb asked if we are doing the Summer Information Package. The answer was yes, that the counsellors need to have a reason to visit the residents and it is educational.
- Cathy spoke about the Lake Links Workshop. She was impressed and surprised at how many lakes have lake plans. Cathy suggested we might put together a short glossy pamphlet about Otty Lake, summarizing the Plan and the next steps. Cathy highly recommends attending Lake Links. Derek was impressed with Dr Andrew Paterson. He felt Jesse Vermaire is trying to do a great deal of science with very little money. Robert summarized his bullets about the Lake Links workshop. He liked the idea of a glossy pamphlet summarizing and maintaining an on-going strategic plan. He liked "science trumps perception" and suggesting we have someone with project management experience in charge of our projects. Have an active group of directors, each with defined program responsibilities. If you have an idea, are you willing to lead the

project? Our ultimate goal - a healthy lake with good property value and enjoyment of our lake. Are we achieving our goals?

- Robert summarized his bubble diagram. We should each have a look and if we have something to add or it generates some thought, send him a note. It should be a living document.
- Ian spoke about LAP. He doesn't want to micro manage. Agreement in principle will be given until money is required for a project. OLA has no control over projects like Derek's, where he funds his own work. But we certainly benefit from his work. We need a body to coordinate the various activities, since there can be interrelationships. There will be no complicated forms. He'd be glad to hear from anyone with ideas/thoughts. Key factors are:
 - Available time
 - Money
 - Linkages
 - Human resources
- Projects like shoreline planting will be part of LAP. Gail has received expert advice, suggesting we should use willows. They can be trimmed, by people or deer, every fall, and they will bush out and the roots will develop.
- 5 Year Plan Review - Robert mentioned that the bubble diagram reflects the priorities from the OLA survey in the fall of 2013. He asks us to send in our ideas, things we've thought of, and what we are willing to spend our time on.
- Robert spoke about social activities, e.g. wet land walks, bioblitzes. We have a picnic every year. Another Lake Association has a big dance in the spring, a closing up celebration on Labour Day weekend. Maybe other lakes are saying they don't have the manpower either, so perhaps we could combine our efforts and do something in collaboration.
- Establish a list of activities and who would like to help someone else, e.g. help Derek. We only have 50% membership around the lake. If we had a greater variety of activities, people could pick and choose.
- Gail has volunteered to do the picnic for 2015, Dave will be the BBQ'er.
- The Allcock's will do the pitch-in again. A suggestion is that Bill get in touch with them to include the islands.
- Shoreline planting - next year, Ev and Gail will be monitoring the ones planted. Some shrubs are in 1 gal pots, others in 2 gal pots. If we sold them at 3 for \$10, we would save OLA a little bit of money and we would avoid the issues of different costs for different size pots. **MOTION** - (Peter/Phil) Approve \$610 for the purchase of shrubs and wildflowers. **CARRIED**
- **MOTION** - (Derek/Ian) Adjourn the meeting at 5 pm. This was premature since we hadn't discussed all items on the agenda.
- Maintenance of the member database - Dave works on this.

- AGM planning - reeves could put their messages up on the website, people could ask questions in advance. They may not have to come. Then we can concentrate on issues of direct interest to the OLA members, e.g. what the OLA is doing.
- Gail will continue to forward to Board members anything specific pertaining to our lake and area within 24 hours of her receiving it.
- Dave reported that OLA membership is down by 48 people. Bank balance is \$349. We have a GIC of \$6,227. We have 255 members. Dave received a letter, with a \$200 US contribution to the Bass Enhancement project from a family from Pennsylvania who have vacationed on Otty for the past 46 years. They are so impressed with the dedication of our volunteers. (See letter attached)
- In 2015, with membership renewals, we can also provide the option of voluntary contributions towards specific projects, e.g. bass spawning enhancement, water quality testing, shoreline planting, crown island signs. **MOTION** - (Barb/Dave) In the 2015 summer package, in addition to membership dues, the membership renewal form will include an option to donate to a list of projects. **CARRIED**
- Gail asked Dave if he could get a list of the road association contacts. Provide them with information as well.
- Planning of AGM - Gail, Dave and Robert will begin the planning. The AGM will be held at the Perth Legion again. OLA activities should take priority over reeves, police, firemen. Invite partners who are part of our initiatives.
- Next meeting - Sat Feb 7th at 10 am at McMartin House.
- The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Agenda - Board Meeting Sun Nov 2, 2014
- Minutes of Board Meeting Aug 14, 2014
- Business arising from Minutes of Aug 14, 2014
- State of the Lake Report
- Fish Spawning Report
- Crown Islands Report
- OLA Communications Report
- Lake Links Workshop Feedback Reports - Cathy Kari/Robert Cosh
- 5 Year Review bubble diagram
- Lake Activities Projects
- Wildflowers and Shrubs
- Letter from Mahurin and Boyles families, accompanying \$200 US donation