

# Captain Otty's Log

Newsletter of the Otty Lake Association

President Karen Hunt

Editor Colin Code

## Message from the President

Karen Hunt

Greetings for spring 2004! It's been a long, COLD winter but now that the snow has melted, birds are returning and the maple sap has been running. Spring 2004 at Otty Lake is finally here!

The OLA Board has certainly not been in hibernation over the winter, but instead has laboured in many directions to increase the effectiveness of the OLA. Communications has been a prime focus.

### Communications with municipalities

Members of the OLA Board had a very fruitful meeting in late January with Tay Valley Township (TVT) Burgess Ward Councillors Brian Campbell and Maureen Towaj. Discussion topics included: septic re-inspection programs and building inspections; concerns over lake properties' safety and security; communications between lake associations and the municipality; and between one municipality and another. Many thanks to Brian Campbell for initiating this meeting. We hope to continue to meet with the councillors regularly.

TVT Reeve Keith Kerr has been very receptive to hearing from us. He has indicated that he recognizes the importance of working closely with local lake associations and has been very supportive of the local lake associations networking which has taken place over the winter.

A number of cottages at Otty and neighbouring lakes were broken into late this past fall. During the last few months, we have been working with several of the other lake associations to identify appropriate action to improve the sense of safety and security for lake residents. With the support of TVT Councillor Maureen Towaj and John E. Wilson, Chair, TVT Police Services Board, a meeting between lake association representatives and the OPP has been arranged for March 25.

Your OLA Board is also looking forward to developing more opportunities for communication with the Drummond/North Elmsley (DNE) Council.

### Otty Lake Association Annual General Meeting:

9:30 AM – Noon, Saturday, July 10, 2004 at the Perth Lions' Club Hall, Perth Fairgrounds.

**Please note the new venue!**

## Communication with other lake associations

Over the winter, the OLA has been building a communication link with many of the other local lake associations. Representatives from eight local lake associations met in January to share ideas, discuss common concerns and discuss how we can work together to find solutions.

## Communication with other organizations

As we begin to work on our lake management plan, we are looking forward to working with organizations such as the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, Friends of the Tay Watershed and the Community Stewardship Council of Lanark County.

This spring, we are hoping to partner with the Centre for Sustainable Watershed to facilitate the availability of the Shoreline Home Visit Program at Otty Lake. In this program, home and cottage owners can learn how to make their properties healthier with the assistance of specialists trained to assess shoreline management issues. Look for more information on this exciting program further in this newsletter.

The OLA is also looking into a partnerships with Wildlife Habitat Canada (to undertake some benthic invertebrate monitoring) and with the Centre for Geographic Information Services (CGIS).

Work continues with CMAG (Citizens' Mining Advisory Group) as they continue to push for changes in the Ontario Mining Act that will ensure that the environment, as well as landowners who own only the surface rights to their properties are offered greater protection through legislation.

The information presented above provides a window to a few of the activities that the OLA Board has engaged in over the winter. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many OLA Board and Committee Members who work so hard and volunteer so much time to the Otty Lake Association.

For more information, contact Karen Hunt at  
Tel: 264 – 9273  
Email: [mkhunt@perth.igs.net](mailto:mkhunt@perth.igs.net)



## A Lake Management Plan for Otty Lake

Over the past year or more, we've spoken several times about the need to embark on the development of a lake management plan to guide what happens to our lake over the next decade or so. Finally, work on the Lake Plan is underway! A committee composed of Tressa Oliver, Wally Robins, Ian McDonald, Ross Hollingsworth, David Reesor and Karen Hunt has developed a work plan to help organize what we need to do to complete a lake plan.

As one aspect of the plan, long term residents such as Don Oliver, David Code and Charlie Robertson are gathering information on the historical development of the area. Please complete the form below and return it either in the addressed envelope with your membership renewal, or mail separately to:

Otty lake Association  
C/o Karen Hunt  
194 Kerr Road  
RR # 5, Perth, Ontario  
K7H 3C7



The complete development of the plan will be a lengthy process, as there is a great deal of information to collect e.g.: water quality; fish and wildlife inventories; soil, rock and shoreline studies; and analysis. All Otty Lake residents are encouraged to become involved in this critical activity.

Below, you will find a series of questions developed by Wally Robins on behalf of the Lake Management Plan Committee. What happens to our lake is the responsibility of all of us who live, work and play here. We all need to think, plan and act together to ensure that Otty is the lake and lake community we want it to be now and in the future.

If you would like to work with the lake management plan committee, please contact:

Karen Hunt  
Tel: 264 – 9273  
Email: [mkhunt@perth.igs.net](mailto:mkhunt@perth.igs.net)



Please complete the form below and return it either in the self addressed envelope with your membership renewal, or by mail separately to the Otty Lake Association, c/o Karen Hunt, 194 Kerr Road, RR # 5 Perth, Ontario, K7H 3C7

### Otty Lake Lake Planning Questionnaire

The purpose of this questionnaire is to provide an opportunity for lake residents to share their values and visions for the lake now and for the future.

Question:	Your Response:
1) What do you want Otty Lake to be like in 20 years? What words or images would you want to use to describe Otty Lake in 20 years?	
2) What current features or characteristics of Otty Lake would you want to retain over the next 20 years?	
3) What new features or characteristics of Otty Lake would you want to see in and around Otty?	
1) Given your personal vision of the future of Otty Lake, what is one concrete action that you feel is critical to take immediately? In the next five years?	

## Otty Lake Association Board and Directors List:

Past President	Dick Atkinson	267 – 4587 (lake)	613 825 – 5619 (home)
President	Karen Hunt	264 - 9273	
Vice President	David Reesor	326 - 0094	
Treasurer	Rhoda Atkinson	267 – 4587 (lake)	613 825 – 5619 (home)
Secretary	Judith Robertson	267 – 6643 (lake)	(416) 929 1791 (home)
Director/Chair - Land Use Committee	Bill Hale	267 - 4426	
Director/Chair - Communications & Education Committee	Colin Code	264 - 0469	
Director/Chair - Services Committee	Willie Newsome	267 - 7518	
Director/Chair - Environment Committee	Jack Lynn	267 – 4251 (lake)	267 4786 (home)
Director	Tressa Oliver	264 - 8612	
Director	Don Hill	267 - 3869	
Director	Marg Barrie	267 - 5107	
Director	David Code	267 – 5053 (lake)	613 722 – 0339 (home)
Director	Wendy Hassard	267 – 2127 (lake)	267 – 5002 (home)
Director*			

\*approval of a candidate to fill this position will take place at the next OLA Board Meeting. Sincere thanks to Elspeth Menendez who has agreed to put her name forward for an OLA Board Director Position.

Thank you to David Reesor who has accepted the position of Vice President. This appointment was approved at the Feb. 7, 2004 Board Meeting.

Thank you also to Wendy Hassard who acted as Interim Vice President from the Annual General Meeting until Feb. 7, 2004. Wendy will continue to work with the OLA as a Director /member of the Services Committee responsible for the Otty Lake sweatshirts/T-shirts/hats and other Otty Lake mementos.

To reach any of us by Email, you can send a message to [ottylake@sympatico.ca](mailto:ottylake@sympatico.ca) and it will be forwarded to the appropriate individual.

### **Tay Valley Township Council Updates**

*Maureen Towaij*

Thanks for the invitation to provide input to your newsletter. Strengthening communications and working in greater partnerships with lake associations is important and we are pleased to provide Council updates to the Otty Lake community. Recent highlights follow:

Meetings of Council and Committee of the Whole now start at 7.00 PM to enable greater public participation. They are held in the TVT Council Chambers, Harper Road every Tuesday evening excepting any 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday in a month.

Council supported the many tax assessment concerns voiced by citizens at our January MPAC public meeting. Three motions were passed relative to: maple syrup operations; trailer park taxation; and the need for provincial review of the current overall tax assessment system. Collective headway has been made with a moratorium on the maple syrup issue; trailer park retroactive taxation cancelled; and the provincial Minister of Finance has committed to continued discussion on tax assessment reform.

Our recent waste management public meeting heard strong support for an enhanced recycling program as well as suggested improvements to current waste site operations. There was no support for curbside waste collection. Council now plans to form a Citizens' Advisory Committee and hold another public meeting, this time providing detailed costs on alternatives including enhancements to the existing system. A

storage container based proposal will be included. This system offers 24/7 convenience and was not reviewed at the March 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Council has supported the continuance of the Septic Re-inspection Program. The new service provider of this program is the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority.

Strategic planning sessions have built Council consensus around individual election platforms and issues heard during the election. Budget deliberations began March 1st and are not yet completed. A public meeting will be held April 13<sup>th</sup> prior to budget approval. The Budget will be reported upon in the next OLA newsletter.

Comments and questions are always welcome. Please contact Councillors:

Maureen Towaij [maureen.towaij@sympatico.ca](mailto:maureen.towaij@sympatico.ca) 264-0193  
 Brian Campbell [bfcampbell16@yahoo.com](mailto:bfcampbell16@yahoo.com) 267-4754  
 Tay Valley Township web site [www.tayvalleytwp.ca](http://www.tayvalleytwp.ca)

### **Your Thoughts?**

Should ATV's be allowed on municipal roads? TVT Council is currently discussing this topic.

## Shoal Markers

Dick Atkinson

Having recently studied and passed the boating license, markers and buoys are on everyone's mind. Please be reminded that Otty, Little Otty & McLaren lakes do not have any navigation markers, and those plastic bottles are there to mark shoals. So, give wide berth to these markers. Not all shoals are marked and the hazard of these shoals vary, corresponding with the fluctuations of water level during the boating season. The bottles that appear each year are placed by lake users, so some may not be in place early, or may blow away, or some shoals may remain unmarked if the water is high. Boaters should practice caution when navigating about the lake and become familiar themselves with the shoals and shallow areas, whether or not they are marked with bottle buoys.

## Zebra Mussel Action Plan

Jack Lynn

After becoming aware of the presence of Zebra Mussels in our lake, we advised we would keep the membership informed about our action plan. The OLA has secured 30 metal "Stop the Invasion" signs. These signs, to be posted at major crossroads and boat launches to our lake will be made available FREE to those interested in displaying one in their area. Call Jack Lynn @ 267-4786 if you are willing to post one.

- Research information on filters is being done, and information will be included in a future newsletter.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding invading species, call the INVADING SPECIES HOT-LINE:  
**1-800-563-7711**



Due to the risk of injury to feet in water in the presence of Zebra Mussels, you may consider wearing water shoes while in the lake.

A detailed explanation on invading species will be included in your "summer inf." package.  
**Watch For It!**

## Bass Season and "working "around the lake water

Jack Lynn

In order to protect fragile bass spawning areas during the early development period for hatchlings, "No Bass Fishing" signs will be made available for placing near your dock and other known spawning areas in time for opening bass season. The signs will cost \$5.00 each and can be obtained from Jack Lynn at 267-4786.

### Keeping Otty Lake Healthy!

Please be aware that it is illegal to attempt any "water-work" projects from March 15<sup>th</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>.

## Have you ever asked yourself any of the following questions?

- Why is my shoreline eroding?
- Should I be concerned about water quality?
- What plants attract wildlife?
- Should I be worried about pesticides and herbicides?
- What happens when I fertilize the grass on my waterfront property?
- Why do I have so many weeds in front of my property?

Would you like to learn some simple solutions to protect and restore the health of your waterfront property?

Check out the program described below and, if you would be interested in taking advantage of these opportunities, please contact Jack Lynn, Chair of the Environment Committee at:

Tel: 267-4786

Email: [jjlynn@ripnet.com](mailto:jjlynn@ripnet.com)



## Shoreline Home Visit Program

The Living By Water Shoreline Home Visit Program is a shoreline stewardship program managed locally by staff from the Centre for Sustainable Watersheds in Portland. In 2003, they completed 100 visits on 16 lakes. They are currently organizing their 2004 shoreline home visit program and have invited us to "partner" in their 2004 work. Partnering would provide an opportunity for up to 10 Otty Lake residents to have the benefit of a shoreline "home visit" to their lake property.

Living By Water representatives are specialists, trained to assess shoreline management issues. In these pre-arranged "home visits", representatives conduct a confidential "walk-about" with the property owner to identify concerns and suggest solutions. The representatives will help property owners develop a site-plan for their property that will assist them to "act upon" the recommendations and to provide follow-up as needed. Follow-up may include providing listings of recommended native plant species, information on septic systems, shoreline naturalizations etc.

The cost for each home visit is \$25.00 and will be covered by the Otty Lake Association. Additionally, there will be a workshop in June that will cover such topics as:

- erosion;
- nutrient inputs;
- algae blooms and weed growth;
- water quality problems;
- pesticides and herbicides; and
- other shoreline concerns.

Space will be limited for the workshop, so sign up early if you would like to take advantage of this great learning opportunity.

## OMB Appeal

Bill Hale

The Association has not received notice of the decision of the Ontario Municipal Board on our appeals of By-Law 02-121 and 02-59 that were heard on October 7, 8 and 9 2003.

Bill Hale  
Chair - Land Use Committee

## Reminder - Building Permits

David Code

Permits are required for most construction projects, including all new structures and repairs to the structure of a home or shed. Fences and roof repairs do not require a permit.

- The building must meet all requirements of the municipal Zoning By-laws and the Ontario Building Code.
- Any property owner who is in the slightest doubt should call the Building Inspector for their municipality. Free advice is available there.

In Burgess Ward of TVT, the Inspector is:  
Ernest Tkachuk  
Tel: 267 5353

In Elmsley Ward of D/NE, the Inspector is:  
Ray Scisson  
Tel: 267- 6500

If you want to participate more fully, we encourage you to contact PITCH-IN CANADA at:  
[www.pitch-in.ca](http://www.pitch-in.ca)  
1-604-290-0498



The national Pitch-In program offers other incentives and educational material.

If you have questions about this local event contact:  
CAO/Clerk - Kathy Coulthart-Dewey  
Tel: 267-5353 x 23  
Email: [cao@tayvalleytwp.ca](mailto:cao@tayvalleytwp.ca)



### Note:

Participation in Pitch-In Week activities is strictly voluntary. Participants are responsible for their own safety. As a minimum, work gloves and reflective clothing should be worn. Collection on municipal sites should be limited to daylight hours only.

## BRUSH BURNING

It is important to understand that a burning permit is required for any opening burning. Permits issued since January 1 2002 have been kept in a database. Permits issued prior will be extended but residents are required to obtain a current permit. Calling 267 2596 to record a 3 day extension of the burning permit prior to burning is required (call and leave permit information on answering machine).

If anyone requires any further information please contact :  
Rick Hannah A.I.I.C.  
Fire Chief  
BBD&E Fire Department  
14 Sherbrooke Street East  
PERTH, Ontario  
K7H 1A2  
Tel: 613-267-2596  
Fax: 613-264-8561  
Email: [bbde@perth.igs.net](mailto:bbde@perth.igs.net)



## PITCH-IN WEEK APRIL 19-25, 2004

As good stewards of our community, Tay Valley Township is encouraging all local groups and agencies to participate in rubbish collection activities, which will beautify our lakes, roads and communities. This program is aimed at clearing our local roadsides; parks; and common areas of rubbish and other litter. Take pride in your neighbourhood, volunteer a few hours of your time!

Tay Valley Township will be providing FREE bag tags to Lake Associations; Road Associations; Schools; Neighbourhood Watch and Church Groups; Scout/Guide and sports groups; 4-H groups; Women's Institutes; etc. who pre-register their planned activities. Registration forms are available at the TVT Office or on their web site at [www.tayvalleytwp.ca](http://www.tayvalleytwp.ca). Deadline for registration is Friday April 16, 2004.



March 20, 2004: Late season skating on Otty Lake

## Calendar of Local Events:

Wednesday April 21, 7 – 9 PM

**Title:** Alternative Energy

**Description:** Bill Kemp, alternative energy guru, talks about making and selling your own power & getting off the power grid!

**Location:** P.D.C.I. 13 Victoria St Perth

**Contact:** ecoPerth (613) 267-1128

Saturday April 24

**Title:** Festival of the Maples

**Description:** A celebration of maple syrup, with a pancake breakfast, entertainment, horse-drawn trolley rides, petting zoo, children's activities, Food & Wine Fair, and much more...

**Location:** the streets of downtown Perth

**Contact:** (613) 267-3200 or Email [welcome@HeritagePerth.ca](mailto:welcome@HeritagePerth.ca)

Saturday April 24

**Title:** Pioneer Maple Festival

**Description:** Outdoor demonstrations of pioneer cooking and crafts... in conjunction with the Festival of Maples.

**Location:** Perth Museum Courtyard

**Contact:** (613) 267-1947

Tuesday April 27

**Title:** Rideau Environmental Action League

**Description:** R.E.A.L. "Well Aware Workshop"... well, septic and groundwater information

**Location:** Farrell Hall

**Contact:** (613) 267-2257

Beginning Saturday May 8, 8:00 AMam -1:30 PM

**Title:** Perth Farmers Market

**Description:** Downtown Perth every Saturday morning... all produce is local... baked goods, preserves, quality crafts and much more. Call for details

**Location:** Perth Crystal Palace

**Contact:** 613-267-4003

Saturday/Sunday June 12-13

**Title:** Rideau Lakes Cycle Tour

**Description:** This two-day tour, which first started in 1972, attracts more than 1000 cyclists each year. Currently we have four picturesque routes to Kingston and back.

**Location:** Ottawa to Kingston via Perth & return to Ottawa

**Contact:** [www.ottawabicycleclub.ca/rideaulakes.shtml](http://www.ottawabicycleclub.ca/rideaulakes.shtml)

Saturday July 10, 9:00 AM - Noon

**Title:** OLA Annual General Meeting

**Description:**

**Location:** Perth Lion's Hall, Perth Fairgrounds

**Tel:** 264 – 9273

**Email:** [mkhunt@perth.igs.net](mailto:mkhunt@perth.igs.net)

## NEWSLETTER BY POST / EMAIL

The first 'Log' in each year is mailed so that you will receive the return envelope. If there is no return envelope with this newsletter, your 2004 fee has already been received ( the mailing label will show 2004 in the upper right corner ). Thank you for your support of the ongoing OLA programs.

Approximately 150 residents receive their summer and fall 'Log' by Email. If you would like to receive your 'Log' by Email, please check the box on the fee slip and enter your Email address, or send an E-note to [ottylake@sympatico.ca](mailto:ottylake@sympatico.ca)

From time-to-time, notices and topical news items are sent by Email to residents who are on the email list. If you receive your 'Captain Otty's Log' by regular mail and would also like to receive the notices and news items by Email, simply provide us with your Email address. Your comments, suggestions and questions are always welcome.

### Request for 2004 Fee, \$ 20.00

Please support the **Otty Lake Association** by sending your annual fee to:

20 Mancil Drive  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K2J 2J5

Please check:

- To receive 'Captain Otty's Log' by Email: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_
- To receive Notices & Topical items: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_
- To correct Mailing Label to: \_\_\_\_\_
- Comments, Suggestions or Questions: \_\_\_\_\_