



Otty Lake Association Board & Counsellors Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 14, 2014
7:45 p.m. (McMartin House)

Present: David Allcock, Carol Cosh, Robert Cosh, Evelyn Dore, Chris Harrison, Sandra Hanna, Barb Hicks, Cathy Kari, Christine Kempster, Ian McDonald, Bill McLeish, Roger Nuttall, Joan & Ric Potter, Gail Read, Peter Siemons, Derek Smith, Tiger Tanner

Regrets: Ginger Hay, Ross Hollingsworth, Drum and Marlene Hudson, Karen Hunt, Rick McCauley, Marie Tamming, Wendy Wagland

Introduction: Robert welcomed everyone. He invited everyone to share any concerns, information, challenges with the group.

State of the Lake Report

Derek informed those assembled that 19 ground water samples had been sent to Caduceon. He has heard from 13 and all indicate high quality water which is excellent news. He mentioned that in situations like his, where there is marble under the home, water is hard. He and Murray are collecting 15 - 20 monthly lake water samples. All are excellent. Derek has also been sampling for zebra mussels and they are declining. There was discussion about the types of surfaces on which zebra mussels grow. Gail mentioned that a presenter a number of years ago indicated that zebra mussels go through a 7 year cycle. Roger stated that muskrats have found they are food. Zebra mussels attach to regular clams. So clams starve to death because they can't move to eat. Derek told us that potash kills so much in the lake, including zebra mussels.

There was a brief algal bloom in June, another one now. Again, they are declining. Nothing has been found in the lake from effluent or septic. No bacteria issues.

Robert suggested that if you are on your road association, talk to them, promote the OLA.

Crown owned Islands

Evelyn told the group that her neighbour had been to Cloverleaf Island and collected garbage and feces. This is a concern. There was discussion about solutions to the problem of refuse on the islands. Some examples of suggested solutions were:

- Signs stating "Bring out what you bring in".
- Speak to those who use the islands regularly. They might have suggestions.
- Have Murphy's Point Provincial Park annex the islands. Folks wishing to use an island would have to book the island.

- Mention the condition of islands in the newsletter, on the web. Keep the education going.
- Go out on a weekend to the islands and educate on blue green algae, abuse of islands.
- Talk to MNR, see if they would "close" Cloverleaf and therefore no use could be made of the island.
- Put up a sign. Would MNR approve it and support it? Signs are abused on other lakes.
- Install a thunderbox.
- Clean up islands the way we do the Pitch In program
- As we do with some roads, have an "Adopt an Island" program.

Actions:

- Bill will develop a signage proposal with pricing. The signs could include tips and a hotline number.
- All should send ideas to Bill, so that he can develop a proposed solution.
- Barb is still working on capability to send an e-mail to everyone on our OLA distribution list.

New Project

Evelyn is considering a project to organize a plant sale in the fall of 2015. If anyone has plants they would like to divide, this would be an opportunity to sell them and raise money for other OLA projects. Ev would like some help with this project. She is considering offering to divide plants for people. There could be 2 drop off spots, one on the South Shore, one on the North Shore. **MOTION** (Ev/Roger) - include the plant sale on the OLA Calendar of Events for Sat Sep 5th 2015 as an Otty Lake project. **CARRIED** Evelyn agreed to provide a project plan related to this initiative.

Information

Robert advised all that OLA has a Facebook page. Also, there has been positive feedback on the new website.

Blue green algae

Derek informed everyone about the recent article in the Citizen about blue green algae in Big Rideau Lake. It is bad stuff. Whole shorelines are covered in the green slime. It can kill pets. It can be transported by boat. If a boat has been on an infected lake, and it comes to Otty Lake, our lake could get infected. It's an issue. Barb will put a link to the Citizen article on the web, introduced by Derek. Roger is going to investigate whether a duck could also transport this algae from lake to lake. To present this issue positively, we could state that this is what could happen if we don't all take care of our lake. Barb will investigate sending an e-mail to everyone on our membership list to let them know. Refer them to the OLA website. We could educate via signs. Other lakes have signs indicating that you should wash your boat between lakes, not specific about algae though.

Action: Chris Harrison volunteered to take a look at what we have as signage, what do MNR suggest?

Trillium funding for Algae and Aquatic Plant Growth Research

Robert reminded everyone about the \$149,500 Grant from the Trillium Foundation to assist Friends of the Tay Watershed, Carleton University, MVCA and RVCA to better understand these issues. For more details, everyone should visit the OLA website.

Closing

Robert asked if this had been a good format for the meeting. There was agreement. Robert informed everyone that under Derek's guidance, every Oct, a State of the Lake report will be issued. It will be short and to the point.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 pm.