

**OLA BOARD and LPAC MEETING  
18 January, 2014 at 9:00  
McMartin House, Perth  
DRAFT MINUTES**

**Present:** Roger Nuttall, Peter Siemons, Ginger Hay, Cathy Kari, Chris Harrison, Murray Hunt, Karen Hunt, Rick Stojak, Bill McLeish, David Reesor, Dave Bell, Robert Cosh, Anne Scotton, Wally Robins, Robert Cosh, Barb Hicks

**Regrets:** Gail Read, Phil Anderson, Ian McDonald, Diana Nuttall, Rosemarie Hoppe-Wilhelm

**1. Introduction.**

Robert called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. and explained the purpose of the meeting.

**2. Board Business**

**November Minutes**

Note that there was a corrected version of the minutes circulated by email with small changes to the items on Lake Steward reports and the LPAC's Love Your Lake Survey.

**Moved that the minutes Nov. 30 2013 meeting of the OLA be approved with amendments: Karen. Second: Rick. Carried**

**Financial Reports**

**Motion: That the financial reports be accepted as presented: Dave. Second: Peter. Carried.**

**Community Partners**

**TVT and DNE Meetings.** Karen reported there was a need for volunteers to monitor the Tay Valley and Drummond/North Elmsley council meetings. **Peter volunteered.** Robert commented it was very useful and interesting to attend these meetings. It does have an impact and it builds a relationship with the council. Councillors may actually ask your opinion, you may be invited to join committees, and the planner appreciates your attendance re land use issues.

**Tay Valley Township Official Plan (TVT OP).** Karen explained that with the TVT OP update, we have an option to ask that our own Otty Lake Management Plan be referenced in the plan. The OLMP was mentioned in DNE's plan of 2013. Noelle, the TVT Planner, has a suggested wording. **Agreed that Karen will write the letter asking for our inclusion.**

We have an opportunity to provide input to the TVT OP. There are summaries of 22 issue papers on the TV website, and several of these are of concern to lake associations.

**Agreed we would set up a sub-committee to consider the issues of interest to Otty Lake. The group would come up with a list of comments as the OLA response and circulate it to other board members prior to sending. It is due sometime in February. Cathy to lead, Ginger and Anne to participate. Karen and Peter to be resource people.**

### **AGM Planning**

The AGM is Saturday July 12, and due to a mix-up, will be held at the Perth Legion this year. Dave has layout of the hall to assist planning. **Robert and Anne will look after booking the speakers.** A panel of at least two people knowledgeable about local real estate and property values is one possibility. Tim Wood from the Leeds Stewardship Council was another suggestion.

### **Pitch In. April 20 - 26**

**Elizabeth Allcock will organize.** Suggested we all encourage our neighbours to participate. Elizabeth will have a supply of bags from Pitch-In Canada. It is worth using those bags, as the townships will accept the materials collected at the landfill site, and this makes it very clear it is Pitch-In garbage. Large items collected along roadways and shorelines during PI (tires, pieces of docks, plywood etc.) are also accepted.

### **Summer Info Packages**

No new news. Barb will be arranging for the materials, and a stuffing bee will be organized. Let her know if there is anything you would like to see included.

### **Social Events**

Chris reported that Paddle Power will be Sunday, July 13, the day after the AGM. Note it will not be the same day as the picnic this time. (Paddle Power date was incorrectly noted in the February 2014 newsletter so needs to be very clear in next issue.) Picnic is July 26. Comments that the variety of events at the picnic last year were welcome, and the Reptile Rainforest presentation was very popular, attracting 60 people. Suggested we invite the same Darren Boyd again. Tim Woods from Leeds County Stewardship was another suggestion, as he brings a grey rat snake to his presentations. Reptile Rainforest cost was \$260 and requires a deposit.

**Motion: That we authorize the expenditure from the Family Event budget to hire Reptile Rainforest for the Otty Lake picnic: Chris. Second: Kathy. Carried.**

We also will need to get permission from the Maple Glen Committee to use their facility that day. **David Bell to pursue.**

Robert emphasized that being part of the Social Committee doesn't have to involve a lot of meetings, as someone could just get involved in a particular event. There are various unofficial private events, too. If it is not an OLA event we don't have the liability issues. Another kayak trip to Perth event will be organized for high water time, possibly the May long weekend.

**Rick suggested a contribution to any unofficial events, such as golf tournament, in the form of a prize (OL hat or shirt) or a membership. Agreed, although no agreement on cash contribution.**

## **Bicentennial Plans 2016**

Karen sent an email prior to the meeting to see if there was any interest in pursuing recognizing legacy cottage properties. This came from her attendance at a Perth Historical Society meeting where some bicentennial plans were discussed. 2016 is also the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the naming of Otty Lake. Some concerns about visibly designating legacy cottages, but it is worth pursuing. It was suggested there could be a pontoon boat tour to point out heritage cottages as well as other significant historical spots (old hotel, apatite mine etc.) We can talk more another time.

## **Calendars**

As we have some unsold calendars, it was agreed we could each take some to pass out no charge to our contacts so we don't have to throw them out. Karen has more at home if needed.

### **3. LMP FIVE YEAR REVIEWS: Overall Objectives & General Process (Robert)**

Robert went over the purpose of Overall Objectives and General Process for the LMP Five Year Review:

- To set OLA directions for the next five years.
- As suggested by several Board members: Focus on results: Describe the post-project world, and plan the steps required to get there
- Remember the OLA Mission Statement in the OLA Constitution: *"The Otty Lake Association strives to promote and assist in the protection and enhancement of the natural environment of the lake and surrounding watershed."*
- By the end of this meeting, have a Board-approved list of 2014 goal-oriented projects/activities. A project proposal will be consider on its:
  - Effectiveness (will the project accomplish the intended objectives),
  - Efficiency (... at the lowest cost), and
  - Economy (Is this really the best way to deploy OLA resources, in the light of overall OLA priorities and objectives expressed in the survey)
  - For each project, designate a Board member as Project Leader, to document information on team members, budgets, and measurable criteria for success.

Comment about goal wording. We might say we want more shoreline plants, but maybe the real goal is a less developed shoreline. Murray mentioned that the Love your Lake survey results indicate a significant number of shorelines natural, or regenerating, and only 27% of shorelines are ornamental. The OLA can't always say we are responsible but we are an influence with programs and education.

#### 4. LAKE MANAGEMENT PLAN (LMP) 2008 (Karen)

2007 Survey and LMP. Was the 2008 LMP carried out as planned? Did we make a difference? How, and to what degree?

- Objectives planned / achieved
- On-going actions, new initiatives.

Karen went over the background to the original Lake Management Plan. In 2003 there was some divisiveness in the Otty Lake community, and it was thought there must be a better way, and a Lake Management Plan seemed the way to go. We wanted a community plan built on consensus, so the group started by asking people what they valued about Otty Lake and what were issues. Eleven issues were identified. Two years was spent gathering background information on those issues, which became the State of Lake Report. That was taken back to the community and partners, who were asked "What do you think we should do?". A set of recommendations related to each of those issues became the OLMP.

2013 was the fifth anniversary of the plan, so a review was in order. A document was drafted to itemize what had been done on each of the issues, consider did we make a difference and to what degree, and determine what still needs to be done. At an August 17 meeting it was determined more input via a survey was warranted. The survey would get residents' comments, and prioritize the issues. The survey had a 41% response rate. So now we want to thank everyone for responding and report what was said. A report on the survey results will be in the newsletter, with the complete Five Year Review document posted on the website. A printed executive summary for the summer information packages could be considered. The Five Year Review document which looked at what has been done on each of the issues will need to be updated for recent initiatives, e.g. the 2013 Starve the Lake of Phosphorus campaign.

#### 5. LMP 2013 REVIEW AND 2014 UPDATE (Karen/Robert)

- 2013 LMP Survey: Analyse responses, then update plan based on survey response.
- Analyse responses:
  - Score chart (raw score/ weighted score) showing responders' priorities, from most to least popular.) ..... **(Robert, 5 min)**
  - Bubble diagram: Indicates how all issues and proposed activities are linked to results, reflecting the top Survey Priorities. ...**(Robert, 5 min)**
  - Responders' top priorities, details. ....
  - Responders comments, .....
  - Newsletter article..... **(Karen 30 min)**
  - Board and LPAC comments.....

Robert explained the excel table "Responses to Five Year Review Survey" (Note that the numbers were changed somewhat since it was first sent, but the rankings remain the same.)

Water quality and aquatic vegetation/algae were the top issues, with Fish and wildlife habitat being the third.

Robert explained the bubble chart “Bubble Analysis OLMP 5 Yr Review”. Discussion followed. Comments included:

- Social events do develop a sense of community, whether it is just through dialogue, or those people being the target for educational programs.
- (bubble chart) is a picture of the survey results, not everything that is happening on the lake.
- Make sure we understand that we are concerned with fish AND wildlife habitat.
- Mission statement is worth checking periodically to make sure we are all on board
- One person commented they have not found people want more community involvement i.e. social events (and survey did not include community involvement as an issue) so don't get blinded by it.
- Community involvement does not always come from social events but from participating in an activity like shoreline planting
- We don't have to wait until everyone is convinced say of the value of shoreline planting, we know it is, so go with it
- Sense of community does become sense of responsibility
- Survey is great to do, but people are looking to us for leadership
- Responsibility of landowners was ranked higher in this survey than previously. Respondents recognize the collective, greater sense of responsibility.
- This shows education is working.

### **LMP 2014 Update (Karen)**

- Establish priorities, plan actions with budget estimates and criteria for success: Targets: how do we know when we have won?
- Opportunities for action, for example:
  1. shoreline planting OLA, RVCA, DFO,
  2. Fish Habitat Enhancement, 2014 Phase ,
  3. CSW/CWF Love Your Lake program: Shoreline Survey
  - 4.
  - 5.
  - 6.
  - 7.

The survey has established priorities. The comments have shown a great diversity in opinions. They will be used in the review document. A sampling of the comments will be provided to residents in the Survey Report. It was decided to supply the full list of comments on the website. This would be easy to do now they are already assembled in a document. It

was requested that a page counter be put on the website to track how many people are looking at it. The list is long, and there are duplications in comments, but they are sorted by issue, and it is noted if a particular comment appears in more than one section.

Survey Report. A special two double sided page insert will be going with the newsletter: printed for those receiving their newsletters by Canada Post, and as an attachment for people who receive the newsletter by email. The complete list of comments will be on the website, too, with the website linkage to be established first so the newsletter can provide an exact link. In the report, the comments will be summarized to give the flavour of the responses.

**Opportunities for action.** These are some of the actions we want to see for 2014.

**Shoreline Planting.** Cost for the shrubs including HST is \$678. Wildflowers will be ordered from Philip Fry, 75 x \$8 for a total of \$600. Shrubs and wildflowers to be sold at 50% of cost. Some people purchasing have done so before, some are new, some buy and distribute to neighbours. No concern that anyone was taking unfair advantage. Notice to appear in February newsletter. Budget was approved at November meeting.

**Fish Habitat Enhancement, 2014 Phase.** Wally and Jennifer Lamoureux discussed a potential next step would be the creation of additional nesting sites. In addition, heavily anchored wood would be dropped into pre-selected deeper water (15-25 feet in depth ) adjacent to spawning areas to provide resting and feeding stations for post-spawn female bass. Cost in neighbourhood of a couple of thousand dollars based on cost of materials remaining the same as 2013. Could also save money if we could get two residents to volunteer with their pontoon boats for a day, as the rental of boat and operator from Westport last fall was \$5-600 . We would offer to pay gas. There were also 10-12 RVCA volunteer staff people last time, but since it is our lake, we should solicit volunteers. You don't need to know anything about fish! It was done an October weekday last time. Would rather do a September date as more people are available and the weather would be better. Barb will add a request for volunteers to the newsletter story Wally wrote. Last year's cost to use was only \$240 because RVCA had some money to cover it, but they won't be able to do that this year.

**Moved: That we approved in principle the about \$2000 for the 2014 phase of the fish enhancement project: Roger. Second: Anne. Carried.**

**Love Your Lake Shoreline Survey.** Distribution of survey results taking place in 2014.

**Pitch-In.** Already established will be happening late April.

**Discouraging Burning on Lake or Near Shore.** Wood ash contains phosphorus which is damaging to lake health, and is making its way into the lake when burning takes place on the ice or near shore. There may be a Backyard Burning flier in the summer info package. We could suggest alternatives to burning, e.g. using the landfill site, directing Christmas trees to Dave for the next Fish Habitat Enhancement project, or renting a chipper for the weekend for neighbours to share (Anne).

**Expanded Water Quality Monitoring.** Increased budget approved in principle at November meeting. Murray reported that this year they added a few more test sites for E.coli and increased frequency of tests. There was the one high E.coli reading in Carson's Bay, but the following sample were not of concern. In general, E.coli readings on Otty Lake are very good. Of 75 readings, 35 or less were one or less, meaning they were safe for drinking. Will continue this sampling schedule in 2014, and also choose some sites where people likely to be swimming. E.g. Cloverleaf Island Beach.

The MOE Lake Partners Program samples mid-lake phosphorus levels, but there is limited information on the nutrient levels at various shoreline sites, including inputs from streams. For example the samples taken at the stream input to Mud Lake shows high phosphorus and nitrogen in particular. The stream does drain a large watershed that includes farms. Would like to understand algae conditions better, and they frequently develop in shallow areas. Budget increased to \$1800 from the 2013 expenditure of \$1164. Nutrient samples are \$30 each plus tax.

Question raised re Mud Lake: why do we sample a location if we already know the readings are high? RVCA does four tests in Mud Lake per year. It is 16 m deep, there are lots of hills around it so it is sheltered, and gets less wind and is less oxygenated. So the flow out minimal. Sulphur readings are high deep in that lake, too.

**Crown Owned Islands.** We would like to come up with some stewardship strategies. In addition to Cloverleaf, both Division and one of the Three Sisters Islands get used a lot. Karen, Robert and other Board Members met with MNR on June 26, 2013 about this issue. The Crown Islands are tagged, but there is no enforcement to ensure people aren't abusing them. Bill McLeish has agreed to chair a committee. More help on the committee needed to discuss options. One might be to erect signage. **Cathy and Chris will provide input. Three others from AGM have also volunteered.**

**Deforestation.** We could look at what is happening further back from the shoreline. Many areas have been cleared and perhaps could be replanted. We could provide advice on how to save trees close to driveways etc. Could this be added in with shoreline actions?

**Education and Communication.** Should this be added as an action? This category would include newsletters, summer info package and other actions.

**The LPAC and Board are still open to other action items that may come up before the review is finalized.**

## **6. CSW/CWF Love Your Lake Program: Shoreline Survey**

Karen reported the individual shoreline survey reports will be in hand soon. Karen previously sent out the cover letter proposal. CWF will print the reports, which will go to the Centre for Sustainable Watersheds and be sealed in an envelope that just has shoreline property address. Those envelopes will be linked with our database address to get a mailing address to go on the outside envelope. It will include an OLA cover letter and be mailed Canada Post.

Five free shoreline naturalization projects are being offered to Otty Lake residents and funded by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. In the newsletter, people will be asked to write a few sentences, directly to Karen, describing why they think they should have the makeover, by March 1. (Note: This date was later advanced to March 15 because of newsletter timing.) This is because RVCA needs to get their plans in place, and the projects completed by fall as a criterion of the DFO funding. There is no commitment from DFO or RVCA for follow-up, but perhaps we could do some. **Murray, Wally, Roger, and David Reesor will help Karen choose the properties, or find applicants if not enough apply.** It has been suggested before that Camp Shomria might be a good candidate.

Karen asked if the Shoreline Classification Report (emailed prior to meeting) was useful to us. The group thought it was very good information the board to have. There was a map in the 2005 State of the Lake Report which colour coded shoreline states e.g. which ones were natural, which ones were being naturalized, which ones were ornamental etc. It was decided at a prior meeting we would not ask for a map this time because of confidentiality issues, but now it appears the group wants it. **Karen will check with CSW to see if they could produce such a map.** It would be for board use only, not for circulation.

## **7. Other**

**Budget .** Some of these initiatives may require we dip into our savings. There is currently \$6700 in a month to month GIC.

**Meeting Reports.** We agreed it was worth getting reports in advance, and it cuts down on meeting time.

**Other Information.** Robert suggested that if you have info to share outside of meetings, feel free to email it to everyone and reply to everyone. Robert does not need to approve this kind of communication.

Meeting Adjourned.

Minutes taken by B. Hicks. Reviewed by R. Cosh and K. Hunt.