

# Otty Lake Association

## Board Meeting Minutes

Sat Jun 3, 2017, 9:30 - 11:30 am

McMartin House

**Present:** Dave Bell, Robert Cosh, Kyla Haley, Krista Hearty McLean, Barb Hicks, Murray Hunt, Christine Kilburn (Secretary), Reid Kilburn (President), Anne Scotton, Derek Smith (10)

**Regrets:** Cathy Kari, Ian McDonald, Gail Read, Wally Robins, Chuck Shenkman, Michelle Soucy (6)

**Welcome** - Reid called the meeting to order at 9:30. A quorum was present.

**Agenda - Motion 2017-02-01** (Anne/Barb) Approve agenda as amended, with addition of the following items: 1) Nominations Report, 2) Communications Report, 3) TVT Waste Disposal Plans **CARRIED**

**Minutes of Mar 11th Meeting - Motion 2017-02-02** (Anne/Kyla) Approve minutes of Mar 11 2017 meeting as distributed. **CARRIED**

**Financial Report** - Dave presented the 2016 Financial Report, as well as the 2017 Budget. There was discussion about budget items related to plants, SIP, AGM. **Motion 2017-02-03** (Dave/Christine) Accept report as presented. **CARRIED**

**Nominations Report** - Robert updated the Board on the 2 people letting their names stand as new Board members - Monika Siegmund Savage and David Bromley, who will be replacing Krista and Chuck. Robert will nominate Reid as President, Derek will second at the AGM. Krista and Chuck will nominate the 2 new Board members at the AGM. **Motion 2017-02-04** (Robert/Krista) that the Nominations Report be accepted as presented. **CARRIED**

**2017 AGM Update** - Reid reviewed the following items:

- a) Displays - will be set up from 1 to 2. We have the following participants:
  - i. Murray and Derek will have their water quality display
  - ii. Invasive Species display provided by Catherine Ball's 10 year old son Tommy
  - iii. Michelle will have a clothing table
  - iv. Gail will have a table for the BBQ and the calendar sales
  - v. Ian and Ev will have their Paddle Power display
  - vi. Jennifer Lamoureux will have an RVCA display
  - vii. Dr Shelley Ball will have a table about climate change
  - viii. Murphy's Point will have a display about Grey Rat Snakes

- ix. Each of the townships will have displays
- b) Meeting - The order of draft agenda may change, specifically related to whether Murray and Derek's presentation precedes or follows that of Dr Shelley Ball.
- c) Chuck has agreed to manage the audio portion of the meeting.
- d) Gail will manage the slide show of photos which will run during the displays.
- e) Krista will put together the presentations for the meeting in one large presentation, as she and Gail did last year. We have asked that presentations be provided by June 24<sup>th</sup>.
- f) Dave is coordinating the welcome table, where annual dues will be collected. Joan Potter is willing to help again this year. Dave will find one more person to assist.
- g) A dry run of the presentations is being planned at the Legion, for Krista, Chuck, Reid, Christine and Dave on July 5 at 11 am.
- h) Anne will be the time keeper again this year.

**Discussion** - will the townships have a handout prior to the AGM, or post something on their websites? They are being asked to keep to their times of 5 minutes each. **Motion 2017-02-05** - (Dave/Robert) - approve the report as presented. **CARRIED**

#### **Water Quality Update -**

**Lake water levels** - Murray is being recognized on the streets of Perth as our lake steward and being asked about water levels. His first readings of the year were on Apr 9<sup>th</sup> when the water was up 70 cm from the freeze up in Dec 2016. It then began to drop. By the second week of May, due to extensive rain fall, water level went up above the Apr 9<sup>th</sup> level. Such high levels have been seen in April some years with ice out, but never this late in the year. Water levels have dropped about 30 cm now. Precipitation measured at the Drummond Centre weather station indicated a rainfall in April of 120 mm, whereas the average is 64 mm. Jebb's Creek is flowing very well, so he expects the lake will drop naturally. However, lake levels will likely be relatively high this year unless there is a lengthy dry period. He has noticed some damage around the lake from high water levels and ice movement, probably because docks weren't taken up high enough.

**Water Sampling** - more of the same, similar to last few years. Measuring bacteria - 50 to 55 samples during summer around lake. E-coli sampling will be concentrated in areas where people do a lot of swimming. The teams take nutrient samples and Secchi depth measurements - Otty Lake Steward, RVCA and the Lake Partners Program. Calcium levels are tested once or twice a year.

**RVCA Tay River Sub watershed report 2017** - Derek provided us with information about this topic. 2011 RVCA report stated that Otty Lake had the poorest water quality of the 32 lakes they survey. We can't support that for numerous reasons, such as the fact that they used their own data, not the wealth of data we provided. We were unhappy with their science and presentation, and told them. We've expressed our opinions to them. This year, we'll get to comment before they publish. In statistical circles, massive amounts of data might be accurate. A few data points, definitely not accurate. Discussions with Mike

Yee have met with limited success. They'll be dealing with Sarah McLeod as well as Mike this year. Coliform data - ours is excellent. We'd like to tell them what we'd like to include and not include.

**Discussion** - Anne suggested having a discussion with RVCA to suggest using different guidelines for our lake. We want them to use our data.

- Murray - we have the most amount of data of any lakes in the RVCA area. RVCA should include Otty's information in their study. They chose the lowest common denominator for their water quality index. RVCA wanted a single snapshot of the 32 lakes they survey, and they chose only the parameters measured on small lakes. They have a large data set for larger lakes but minimal data for the small lakes.

- Krista - use a different approach from previous one, so they can hear us.

- Reid - Correspondence has been sent so they have a heads' up of our position.

- Robert - let RVCA know that the cottage renters bring a lot of revenue to Perth.

- Reid - we can use the "once around and up" approach if we're not heard, then get in touch with RVCA's General Manager. Report is expected late in the fall.

- Anne - if the report does not reflect the OLA's findings, go to business managers in Perth to get support. Write articles in local papers.

- Derek - RVCA should do good science. We have 5 years of data now.

- Robert - Septic reinspection program has been around. Thanks from the Board to Murray and Derek for all their work.

- Reid - we'll keep the Board informed, and if an urgent Board meeting needs to be called for support, please be ready.

**Motion 2017-02-06** (Anne/Robert) - accept both of Murray's and Derek's reports as presented. **CARRIED**

**Communications Report** - Barb asked for articles for future newsletters, from Board members or neighbours.

**Discussion** - Anne - do we want to add something to talk about the rigour and robustness of the water quality process to set the stage for the fall RVCA report?

- Krista - make it positive - if you see Murray and Derek out on the lake, they're doing their fine work checking water quality, take time to thank them for their continued stewardship of the lake, collecting a broad range of data.

- Kyla - kids' corner in the Newsletter would be nice. Contest over the summer - submit story of your summer around the lake. Engage the younger children.

- Derek - include Tommy's picture from the AGM to show young people's involvement.

- Barb - Work with Gail to have Counsellors' meeting before the fall Board meeting, to get their input re the SIP - should we continue to print many pages since free handouts are no longer readily available?

**Motion 2017-02-07** (Barb/Robert) accept report as discussed and distributed. **CARRIED**

**Calendar Update** - Kyla reported that the calendar has gone to print. Gail, Cathy, Murray and Kyla were the team. Over 40 people submitted photos. They included photos

representing as many photographers as possible. Gail did an awesome job, more work than she'll ever admit. They've placed 3 to 4 photos per month, with relevant information. 250 calendars are being printed. They'll be available at the AGM, and can be ordered afterwards if still available. Kyla found the whole project work fun and she is amazed at the quality of photographers around the lake.

**Loon Monitoring Update** - Kyla created a new e-mail address for her role as loon monitor. 6 different groups of people are submitting data - please promote to others. She is receiving information on possible nesting pairs. Kyla is trying to encourage more detailed information so that she can distinguish if certain sightings relate to the same loon. Also, if someone has been on the lake a long time, she would like them to identify where pairs have historically nested. If you only have one where historically you've had 2, that's interesting too. She would like to take historical knowledge into account. Loons can live up to 30 years - some are monogamous. Birds that look the same are monogamous, e.g. chickadees, geese. Loons can be aggressive. Kyla is making the maps again as she did last year. She is also asking for feedback on other bird species which live around the lake.

**Motion 2017-02-08** (Kyla/Krista) Accept Kyla's reports as presented. **CARRIED**

**150<sup>th</sup> project maple tree planting** - Christine reported that all trees have been sold and will be picked up on June 10<sup>th</sup> between 9 and 1 pm. We have lost 7 trees, but the rest are looking lovely. The OLA should make a profit of \$100 from this community project.

#### **Wildlife Habitat Update -**

- (a) Pollinators - As a result of further investigation, the idea of selling seeds for native pollinator plants would have only a small margin of success. Options to consider are building a few bee boxes and butterfly boxes. This would require someone as the coordinator, to investigate plans for these boxes, source the material, pre cut the boxes and host the assembly day. It is a good community event. Derek was kind enough to offer to bring a sample of each type of box to the AGM, and display them at his table. We'll have a sign-up sheet, so people can indicate if they would like to be involved in building such boxes, or buying ready-made ones.
- (b) Grey Rat Snakes - per an e-mail sent out by Christine, and the responses received from Board members, it was decided to do a survey of the number of snakes around Otty before tackling building nests. Monika has taken on the coordination of this survey.
- (c) Bird and bat boxes - Christine sent a note out to everyone who had received boxes over the last 2 years. 18 of the 51 residents replied. Having 51 residents who were interested in building and/or mounting these boxes is excellent, since it represents 10% of our lake community. 2 duck boxes are occupied, 1 swallow box and 3 bat boxes. Jennifer Lamoureux feels that is good and that we should see occupancy increase over the years. She also thinks that everything is late this year, that we should continue to keep an eye on our boxes. It is also possible that some birds

might have a second clutch and may choose the boxes to lay the second clutch. Anne suggested that Christine continue to send out notices - cottagers could only now be arriving on the lake to check their boxes.

**Fish Habitat Update** - Christine let the Board know that Jennifer and Adrienne were out on the lake on May 26<sup>th</sup> and May 31<sup>st</sup>. Due to weather conditions, as well as the lake being almost one metre higher than normal, they were not able to see many of the nests. They did notice that no eggs had yet been laid on the nests they could see, and they think that everything is about a month later than usual. They plan to monitor again around the middle of June.

**Discussion** - Krista asked if the start of bass fishing season on June 17<sup>th</sup> could impact spawning and development of fry. Does the possibility of delaying the season exist? Robert volunteered to follow up. He recalls that when he was working for Fisheries they did delay the start of fishing seasons.

**OLA Clothing Update** - Christine reported on Michelle's behalf, who has volunteered to take on this role from Ginger. Michelle wanted to let us know that the golf shirt is no longer available. She is adding a hoodie to the order form. Also, in the past, there were no ladies' T-shirts, so she has also added one of these. Christine will follow up with Michelle re golf shirts, making both types of material available, and her questions regarding the order form. **Motion 2017-02-09** (Christine/Dave) - accept Christine's reports as presented/distributed. **CARRIED**

**TVT Waste Disposal Plans** - Reid provided an update on this topic. Prior to the meeting, he had sent out Gordon Hill's letter, as well as the Christie Lake Association (CLA) concerns. Reid spoke with staff at TVT to get a balanced presentation for today. A proposal was first presented in Fall 2016, suggesting it should take 2 years to analyze this. For various reasons it was suggested that the plan be accelerated which unfortunately limited the opportunity for public input. A good number of rate payers appeared at the May Council meeting to express concerns including private roads issues. As a result, an information session is being organized for June 24<sup>th</sup> at the TVT offices, consisting possibly of a half hour presentation to provide information on input received, then 2 hours allocated for Q&A. Reid's discussion with TVT concentrated on the fact that the portion of the proposal applicable to private roads has not been finalized e.g with 261 private roads the placement of 261 garbage bins at the end of each private road raises numerous issues yet to be resolved. Reid suggested the idea to ask members around our lake for their input. Ask TVT to consider the alternative to pick up garbage and recycling on Township roads, and give private roads the option to opt in or opt out. Opting in means they get a bin, opt out that they can continue to take garbage and recyclables to the dump site. Implementation of \$2.50 bag tag would still apply, even at Glen Tay dump. Key for us to manage through as a Lake Association - do we want to come up with a position to

present to TVT? OLA could present a proposal which would share each private road's position, give the flexibility of opting in or out.

**Discussion** - Derek - did waste management in 11 countries, has seen many examples. The current proposal introduces 261 points of contamination. Residents still have to go to Harper Rd to recycle. The Township is not providing us a service. People are not educated on solid waste management.

Kyla - has read the material on the new proposal - producer vs consumer will be charged. She thinks the driver of this initiative is the proposed new Ontario legislation on waste management, and the anticipation that funding will come, and if they don't have trucks on the road, they won't get the funding. She read that they will collect waste as well as recycling, but not glass. How is pick up working for other townships, e.g. D/NE? June 24 is reaction to May 2<sup>nd</sup> committee of the whole meeting. Public meeting scheduled for August is still on. We could go to June 24<sup>th</sup>, then refine our feedback to the August meeting. Our key message to TVT should be to slow down, and everyone must be heard. We could use the survey approach. Paying \$2.50, closing 2 waste sites, funding coming - there are big gaps in their financial proposal.

Barb - Rideau Lakes collects curbside waste and recycleables including glass. She doesn't think we'll come up with a consensus around the lake, that we probably wouldn't even have consensus on the Board. Isn't there a saving in gas, green house gases driving to and from the dump?

Robert - is in D/NE, they pick up on private roads, collector spots with rules, e.g. garbage has to be in a closed garbage can. It's working well.

Reid - What should the OLA Board's position be? We have concerns about the consultation process, information needs to be circulated to residents, slow process down.

Robert - we could say that we have surveyed a number of full time residents (Board members) who are opposed to dumpsters.

Anne - we want more information sent to all, there are some strongly held views - wishes of private roads should be taken into account. Cottagers should hear the concerns of the full time residents, since they aren't thinking of the effects of the garbage, the smell, the bugs, etc after they've dropped off their garbage on the way home. We haven't arrived at a firm position. She would be prepared to move that Reid is trusted to convey things discussed at this meeting to TVT and this is what we'd like - information dissemination, consultation process, the implementation slowed down.

Derek - mention flawed information and communication, based on preliminary information we have strong technical concerns about what is being proposed.

Reid - Gordon Hill (CLA) is now on Waste Management working group of TVT, also on Aging Population Task Force in TVT. Garbage pick up is arguably a component of aging population support structure. It would be advisable that lake associations be active.

**Action** - Reid will prepare information which Barb will send out to the TVT residents of Otty Lake.

**Septic Workshop** – will be held at the Baxter Centre near Kars, 2 hours on the morning of June 16th. Attendees will see current septic systems as well as future designs. Each Lake Association can send 2 representatives. Derek was going to attend but now has a conflict. Barb is attending in his place.

**Next Meeting** – last year, we didn't have the traditional Meet & Greet due to so many projects underway. We would like to have it again this year. There could be business to discuss, e.g. waste management, RVCA report. Kyla offered to host. She will chat with Jason and pick a date in August for the get together. It'll be a good opportunity for the 2 new Board members to meet everyone.

**Septic Reinspection** – Robert asked how this was going. Reid spoke with Eric last year, and there was only one residence needing to be visited.

**Caterpillar Spraying** – Krista asked for an update on this topic, which was discussed at our last Board meeting. The spraying was only done on the Oliver's maple forest. Murray – the company offering the spraying service approached each property. They would have to opt in for the spraying, at a cost. It would have been prohibitive. There were enough maple syrup producers in this area to make it beneficial for the Sault Ste Marie company to bring their helicopter and provide this service.

**Facebook page** – Krista asked who can post on the OLA Facebook page. Anyone who is a member can post. Krista wants to post the bass nesting video of last year on the Facebook page to inform folks what they would be interrupting if they go bass fishing as of June 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Adjournment** – Robert moved the meeting be adjourned at 11:32 am.