



Otty Lake Association Board & Counsellors Meeting Minutes

Sat May 2nd, 2015

10:30 am (McMartin House)

Present: David Allcock, Phil Anderson, Dave Bell, Robert Cosh, Evelyn Dore, Craig Greenwood, Chris Harrison, Ginger Hay, Sandra Hanna, Barb Hicks, Marlene Hudson, Karen Hunt, Christine & Reid Kilburn, Bill McLeish, Roger Nuttall, Joan Potter, Wally Robins, Anne Scotton, Peter Siemons, Derek Smith, Marie Tamming, Wendy Wagland (23)

Regrets: Cathy Buffam, Rosemarie Hoppe-Wilhelm, Cathy Kari, Ian McDonald, Gail Reid, Ross Hollingsworth, Tiger Tanner (7)

Introduction: Robert welcomed everyone. Those present introduced themselves. Robert invited everyone to share any concerns, information, challenges.

Counsellors' sharing - Phil led this discussion.

- Phil asked if there were any e-mail address changes. Craig indicated he had sent Christine the new Burgesswood (BW) address.
- Phil recommended the counsellors advertise the website when speaking with residents, that Barb is doing an excellent job of keeping information updated.
- When the Counsellors collect membership renewals, they can call Phil, or get the money to Dave Bell, our Treasurer.
- Ask residents if there are any changes to their contact information. If so, take note of the changes and let Dave Bell know, since he updates the database.
- Robert discussed the fields on the lists of residents. We have about 525 residents. Roughly half are members. Talk about the great things happening around the lake, about the fact that we are one of the strongest lake associations, about the shoreline planting (info in the Summer Information Package (SIP)), fish habitat (Wally will discuss later in the meeting).
- Phil talked about Counsellor vacancies & thanked Wendy for her years as Counsellor. She has a possible replacement for herself. Phil will take on one of the vacant areas.
- Barb mentioned that we can add e-mail addresses if others want to receive info. But only one newsletter will be sent to each household.
- Robert advised the Counsellors that the primary person/household should be identified with a #1 if there is more than one.
- We would like to get away from mailing hard copies of newsletters. Mailing is expensive. Copies are black & white, on screen it can be viewed in colour.
- Barb went through the contents of the Summer Information Package.

- If someone indicates they do not have the Shoreline Handbook, Phil has a few left. It's also on the website.
- Dave pointed out that annual newsletter mailings require 50 memberships to cover the cost. The SIP's cost 25 memberships. It's not yet time to charge more if a member wants a hard copy. Promote saving the OLA money if members move from hard copy to soft copy. For BW Craig offered that we send him all information, including the newsletter, via e-mail. He'll forward to BW residents electronically. For the SIP's, continue to provide hard copies.
- Contributions of photos for the website are welcome and should be sent to Barb.

Fish Habitat Project - Wally's enthusiasm for this work was evident. The OLA and RVCA have a joint partnership initiative, started in 2013. The project's goal is to enhance small mouth bass spawning habitat in the lake to stabilize and improve their population. This is the largest project of its kind in Eastern ON. Phase 1 was implemented in 2013, when RVCA and OLA constructed 90 small mouth bass spawning sites, and deposited about 70 wood structures (sunken trees) in Otty Lake to provide cover and resting areas for females to go, relax, and eat after the rigours of spawning. In 2014, RVCA's Jenn Lamoureux who specializes in fish and aquatic habitat and is excellent, and Wally monitored sites created in 2013, looking for usage of new nests. If they saw a male on the nest, he'd be guarding the eggs or newly hatched fry. Their wildest hope was for 15 to 20 percent used. They were elated when they found it to be 45%. They knew they were on the right track, had chosen the right areas and the right material. Phase 2 occurred in Sep 2014 when a similar exercise was undertaken over 2 days. The vast majority of the work team was comprised of Otty Lake property owners, unlike the previous year. A couple in their 80's worked for a full day. The gentleman's activities had to be curtailed, since he was carrying pails filled with rock. This couple has had property on Otty Lake for 40 years. They came up from their home in Pennsylvania for 2 days to help. They wanted to give back. In Sep 2014 94 new nests were constructed and about 100 wood structures were dropped in deeper water for females and for the young. Jenn sourced some grant money. Almost 200 nests have now been built. Wally and Jenn will monitor visually and hopefully with underwater cameras in the next few weeks. (An update will be provided at the AGM.) Another 3 years of funding has been approved by the OLA Board. A Queens U scientist specializing in fish will provide free consultative advice to Jenn and Wally, as to where we go in the future. He has the technical competence which Wally doesn't have. Habitat enhancement work will continue, but it doesn't have to be fish. We could identify species at risk, frog population, wood lot, wetlands, birds. OLA is committed to giving back to nature. Wally can't commit to the 3 year plan as yet. Otty Lake has received high recognition, press coverage in national publications - all a win-win situation. Wally thanked Dave Bell for arranging for the launching of the boat at Maple Glen. The work area at Maple Glen has been phenomenal. 5 metric tons of rocks were delivered. Dave collected used Christmas trees so they had a supply of wood to sink into the lake.

Craig asked Wally if Otty Lake would qualify as a trophy fishery. From what Wally knows about trophy fisheries it would not. Wally has fished on Otty Lake for 63 years.

AGM - Robert advised the Counsellors that the AGM will be held on July 11th at the Legion. There is a flyer in the SIP. Please remind everyone. Send any photos of lake activities to Gail for inclusion in the rolling slide show to take place prior to the meeting.

Picnic - July 25th at Maple Glen. This year we are asking for donations of \$3 to cover the cost of food and the magician.

Paddle Power - Evelyn advised everyone that this non-OLA event will be on August 9th, and all those interested are to gather at 10:30, leave at 11. This year will be at Hazard Island and Millar Bay Rd. There is a flyer in the SIP.

Shoreline Planting - Evelyn advised that the cost to residents is \$4 for each plant, with the OLA paying for the other half. There is a flyer in the SIP. July 4 is plant pick up at Gail Read's, 9 to 1. An accountability initiative is being introduced this year for the first time. As part of this, Evelyn and Gail will be following up on such topics as:

- Post planting - are they being planted at Otty Lake?
- It is recommended that plants be caged, especially the shrubs on which wildlife likes to browse.
- Take photos. Evelyn and Gail are offering to help cage and photograph.

At the moment there are lots of plants left.

Shoreline Surveys Report - Karen reminded everyone that the individual surveys were done in 2013. There is a summary in the SIP. It's good news. Shoreline stewardship efforts have really paid off. When comparing 2005 to 2013 there has been improvement, e.g. in the reduction of ornamental and degraded areas. The full report will be on website.

Future events - Robert asked for suggestions for future events, e.g. a dinner dance.

- Derek mentioned that water sampling will begin on May 11th. It's an educational way to spend 2 to 3 hours. Derek would be happy to have others join him and Murray.
- Regarding zebra mussels, Derek plans to try ways to affect their reproductive systems. They die over the winter, but it would be a good idea to brush them off dock barrels, etc before putting them back in the water.
- Derek informed everyone that as was done last year, the State of the Lake Report will be prepared again this year, with the 10 different areas.
- Derek spoke about the possibility of having an infrared aerial photo taken, which would cost \$8,000. It would be a wonderful educational item to have. Chris H has a black and white aerial photo from the '70's. Derek would be happy to have it. Craig asked about taking photos from some of the planes which fly over, using an infra

red camera. It would cost less than \$8,000. Derek felt the quality would not be sufficient.

- Karen suggested we might organize a pontoon boat expedition to educate those interested about what we have learned about the lake.
- Derek suggested a forestry workshop. He has a line on a forester who would come and help.

Invasive Species Workshop – Karen talked about the workshop some Board members attended in Feb, organized by FOCA. It was primarily about water invasive species. Some information has been included in the SIP. Our residents need to be aware of what's out there and what could come next. If invasive species can be identified early, perhaps we can do something about these species. To stop bringing in more, boats need to be washed. Wally said that in some States it's mandatory to wash boats before they go in to a lake. The owner pays for it. Otty Lake doesn't only have public access for boats. Species can come in on the bottom of canoes, kayaks. There is no simple solution. Education is useful, but won't solve the problem. Wally shared some information about gobies in Lake Ontario, which were considered invasive. They turned out not to ruin the lake.

Pitch-in – David Allcock passed on a request that we take part.

Adjournment

Robert adjourned the meeting at 12 pm.