

Draft Recommendations for the Otty Lake Management Plan

Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Tasks for Otty Lake

July 2007

Otty Lake Management Planning

The Otty Lake Management Planning process is fortunate to be supported by the Lake Management Planning Program which has received funding from the Community Stewardship Council of Lanark County, Rideau Lakes Environmental Foundation, TD Friends of the Environment Foundation and the Ontario Trillium Foundation



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Vision Statement for the Otty Lake Management Planning process “To protect and sustain the health of Otty Lake through the combined efforts of the residents and users of the Lake and its watershed, and of concerned community partners in government and non- government organizations”

Before recommendations could be developed to protect the long-term health of Otty Lake, decision makers and property owners needed to know the current condition of the watershed.

Guided by the lake community’s vision for the future of Otty Lake, the **Report on the State of Otty Lake and its Watershed** was compiled to provide an overview of trends as well as historical and current information based on the eleven issues that were identified through a community survey and focus groups as important to people that live, work and play at the lake:

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| 1. Surface water quality | 7. Shoreline protection/health |
| 2. Aquatic Vegetation | 8. Mining rights/claims |
| 3. Groundwater quality and quantity | 9. Impacts of boating |
| 4. Water levels | 10. Responsibility of landowners in protecting lake health |
| 5. Development pressures and their impacts on the watershed | 11. Partnerships in lake management |
| 6. Fish and wildlife health | |

Information about Otty Lake that had been collected and conserved through the years by individual property owners, government and non-government organizations was tracked down by Otty Lake volunteers and staff at MOE, MNR, RVCA, TVT, D/NE and others. Summaries of the material assembled by volunteers were compiled and edited to produce the **Report on the State of Otty Lake and its Watershed**. Copies of the original data and reports are held by the Otty Lake Association.

After all the available information was compiled and the Report made available to the community, the next step in our lake planning process was to provide an opportunity for everyone with an interest in the lake to come together to discuss their concerns and begin developing strategies to deal with the identified issues on Otty Lake. To facilitate feedback from the broader community, a workshop was held for the community partners in October 2006 and two public workshops held in February and May 2007 respectively for the lake community. These workshops were advertised in the local media, in the Otty Lake newsletter, through direct mailing to members of the Otty Lake community and on the Otty Lake Association, RVCA, TVT, D/NE and FoTW websites.

The **Draft Recommendations for the Otty Lake Management Plan** are the result of the input from the workshops as well as the many emails, letters, phone calls and informal discussions that took place around the lake. These draft recommendations have been developed by you, the lake community, and our community partners, to protect the health and special character of Otty Lake by:

- Identifying and protecting the characteristics of Otty Lake that are valued by the lake community
- Promoting community discussion, education and action
- Setting goals and objectives for the protection and enhancement of Otty Lake
- Recommending land use policies that will influence development on Otty Lake
- Recommending stewardship actions (ways to better care for Otty Lake for future generations)

Although every effort was made to include everyone with an interest in Otty Lake in the process, there may be people that have not yet taken the opportunity to provide their input. This is your chance to review the Draft Recommendations for the Otty Lake Management Plan and provide your input and ideas on how to protect Otty Lake. Once the draft recommendations have been reviewed and discussed by the Otty Lake community and our community partners they will become the core of the Otty Lake Management Plan.

Rest assured that the Otty Lake Management Plan will be a living document and will be reviewed and revised on a regular basis. ***The OLA encourages community input and participation in protecting the health of Otty Lake at any point in the process.***

Draft Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Tasks for Otty Lake Management Plan

Vision

To protect and sustain the health of Otty Lake through the combined efforts of the residents and users of the Lake and its watershed, and of concerned community partners in government and non-government organizations

MOE: Ministry of the Environment
MNR: Ministry of Natural Resources
RVCA: Rideau Valley Conservation Authority
OLA: Otty Lake Association
OP: Official Plan
ZBL: Zoning Bylaw

M.A.P.L.E: Mutual Association for the Protection of Lake Environments
TVT: Tay Valley Township
DN/E: Drummond/North Elmsley
LMP: Lake Management Plan
CMAG: Citizens Mining Advisory Group

1.0 Water Quality			
Issue: Nutrient loading, bacterial contamination, water clarity, aesthetics			
Goal: Protect, maintain and improve the water quality of Otty Lake			
	Objective	Actions	Details
1.1	Monitor water quality to identify sources of water quality impairment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue and enhance the monitoring programs as needed to provide an ongoing record of water quality parameters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nutrient loading Bacterial levels Dissolved oxygen Invasive species
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain partnerships between Otty Lake volunteers and MOE, MNR, RVCA and others in order to make available the needed supports for the monitoring programs 	Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sampling by Otty Lake volunteers under the MOE Lake Partners Program Participation by Otty Lake volunteers with the RVCA in

			macroinvertebrate benthic monitoring and Watershed Watch and invasive species monitoring
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage the RVCA to continue their active involvement in monitoring water quality at Otty Lake through their Watershed Watch Program or similar programs 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage volunteer participation in monitoring programs and provide adequate training resources on approved methods of data collection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote training programs/opportunities e.g. MOE Lake Partners Program
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to keep the Otty Lake community informed about the results of the water quality monitoring • Continue to make water quality data and information on collection methods accessible to the Otty Lake community and its partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newsletter • Website • Updatable, central and accessible baseline water quality database available through the OLA and RVCA
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to modify/expand sampling locations as needed to identify sources of water quality impairment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a 'Good Water Quality' program that is geared toward responding to water quality issues as they arise
1.2	Reduce or eliminate sources of water quality impairment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and improve septic systems (see 5.3) 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote awareness of threats to water quality through education and good stewardship practices (see 10.1) 	
2.0 Aquatic Vegetation			
Issue: Excessive growth, interference with recreation, aesthetics			
Goal: Manage excessive aquatic vegetation growth in problem areas of Otty Lake			
	Objective	Actions	Details
2.1	Monitor aquatic vegetation in Otty Lake	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop volunteer-based aquatic vegetation monitoring program to monitor species diversity and vegetation density 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research algae and algae blooms specific to Otty Lake • Create a 'What We Know' report on the state of aquatic vegetation including species types, where growth occurs and what we can do to deal with the issue
2.2	Identify and manage inputs contributing to excessive weed growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage research into which factors are contributing most to growth of aquatic vegetation by working with universities, RVCA and other partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does aquatic vegetation have cyclical growth? Is growth influenced by precipitation? Temperature? • Try to attain evidence: how much does commercial and cosmetic fertilizer run-off contribute to phosphorus input into the lake -total phosphorus migration
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor water quality (see 1.1) 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educate property owners about the causes of excessive aquatic vegetation growth and good stewardship practices (see 10.1) 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the input of total phosphorus to the lake (see 1.2) 	

2.3	Promote sustainable, lake friendly alternatives to manage excessive weed growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with groups of shoreline owners for targeted, effective aquatic vegetation removal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • communal boat paths from docks • OLA to work with MNR to clarify aquatic vegetation cutting permit process
3.0 Groundwater			
Issue: Contamination, overuse, lack of information			
Goal: Protect groundwater resources in the Otty Lake watershed			
Goal	Objective	Actions	Details
3.1	Prevent groundwater contamination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educate all landowners in the watershed about protecting groundwater (see 10.1) 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage groundwater studies within the Otty Lake watershed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Universities • Volunteer monitoring of private wells • Determine a water budget for Otty Lake in partnership with the RVCA (as per the Tay River Watershed Plan)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with municipalities and health unit to ensure that there is an inventory and database of all (new and old) wells in the watershed 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that groundwater is protected from the impacts of mining activity through legislation (see 7.0) 	
4.0 Water levels			
Issue: Too high, too low, property damage, impact on the lake ecosystem and wildlife			
Goal: Preserve natural water levels in Otty Lake			
	Objective	Actions	Details
4.1	Promote understanding of naturally fluctuating water levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine the natural fluctuations in water level over time in Otty Lake 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue volunteer monitoring of water levels for clear concise base data • Geodetically reference the lake so multiple water level measures can be compared
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educate the lake community about natural lake water level fluctuations (see 10.1) 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a reporting protocol to respond to property owners concerns about water levels (through RVCA and municipalities) 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage property owners to make appropriate development choices respecting natural water fluctuations 	
4.2	Ensure adequate flow into and out of Otty Lake	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on reports of problems, investigate beaver activity on Jebbs Creek 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain partnership with the RVCA Beaver Management Program
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor for other impediments to water flow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes human activity and development

5.0 Development Pressure

Issue: Overdevelopment, water quality, shoreline hardening, loss of habitat, quality of habitat, erosion, quality of life, privacy, rural character

Goal: Protect the Otty Lake environment and ecosystem from the impacts of shoreline development and redevelopment.

	Objective	Actions	Details
5.1	Ensure that the Official Plans (OP) and Zoning By-laws (ZBL) for Tay Valley Township (TVT) and Drummond/North Elmsley (DN/E) have development and redevelopment policies that will protect the long term health of the lake	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage DN/E and TVT to work towards consistent, sustainable lake-wide development and redevelopment standards and policies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore the concept of a County-wide Official Plan to help provide consistency between adjoining municipalities • Policies to address: Building height, shoreline setback distances, sleeping cabins, percentage of lot coverage, boat houses, vegetation buffers with 30 meter setbacks, septic system setbacks, use tertiary treatment systems on Lots of Record, light pollution, etc.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage TVT and DNE to strengthen Official Plans (OP) and Zoning Bylaw (ZBL) statements to limit development <i>disturbance</i> on waterfront (i.e. no vegetation or soil disturbance within setback described when development or re-development occurs) Or strictly define “development” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For example, make the language more specific
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request that the recommendations of the Otty LMP be integrated into the municipal planning documents for Tay Valley and Drummond/North Elmsley 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with conservation partners and municipalities to identify and update information for Otty Lake in order to provide input to the Official Plan Schedules, and Zoning By-laws 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information relating to wetlands, fish habitat, special habitats for species at risk and other wildlife including loon nesting sites, etc.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that shoreline buffer areas are protected or enhanced during/following development (see 8.3) • Ensure that all relevant Conservation Authority regulations are being applied to any shoreline development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through site plan control and enforcement or other appropriate means
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educate all landowners in the watershed about development pressures and how they can be minimized (see 10.1) 	
5.2	Establish and manage to the ecological carrying capacity of Otty Lake	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request that RVCA prepare a Lake Capacity Report using the updated lake carrying capacity model, or alternatively, that RVCA work with TVT, D/NE and the Otty Lake Association to develop an alternative method to determine the development capacity of Otty Lake 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request that RVCA apply the most recent and accepted lake carrying capacity model to Otty Lake
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply an existing model for measuring the carrying capacity for light, noise, recreation and other human factors affecting Otty Lake 	

5.3	Maintain and improve septic systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage municipalities to develop and implement an ongoing septic re-inspection program all around the lake (for both TVT and D/NE properties) and expand to entire watershed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lobby municipalities for the use of more progressive and aggressive septic re-inspection measures
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage the Province to develop legislation that requires all residences within 100m of water to have an engineer's wastewater report as a condition of land transfer or inspection of septic systems on sale of property 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lobby for change in current Ontario Building Code and municipal by-laws OLA to follow up with municipalities to determine if a municipality can pass a by-law to require an engineer's wastewater report for transfer of land
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage both municipalities to develop septic pumping guidelines and an incentive program to ensure pump-outs every 3-5 years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lobby for pre-paid septic pump outs included in tax bill to ensure regular septic maintenance
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage municipalities to provide incentives to homeowners that replace their marginal/defective septic systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low interest loans Promote use of the Rideau Valley Rural Clean Water Program
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with municipalities and health unit to ensure that there is an up to date inventory and database of all (new and old) septic systems in the watershed 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage the Province to develop legislation that requires all cottage conversions to require an engineer's report on sewage disposal. 	
5.4	Ensure a transparent planning and development process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that the approval process (i.e. the limitations and regulations) for re-development applications are open and understood by property owners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OLA will continue to keep open dialogue with property owners about re-development applications before presentation to municipalities
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage the municipalities to implement a collaborative approach for development discussions as a plan is being conceived and before positions have been established 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Property owners, municipalities and lake association involved in the discussions
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue and strengthen the existing communication partnership between the municipalities and the OLA Maintain that the OLA be informed of all severance and variance applications by the municipalities so OLA can provide comment on the community's behalf and benefit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain OLA presence at municipal meetings Get OLA members on municipal planning committees and committees of adjustment
6.0 Fish and Wildlife Health			
Issue: Loss of habitat, poaching, exploitation of gamefish			
Goal: Protect wildlife, terrestrial and aquatic habitats and ensure sustainable management of watershed resources			
	Objective	Actions	Details

6.1	Protect, maintain and enhance indigenous fish and wildlife diversity and their required habitat in the Otty Lake watershed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure sustainable populations of all fish species are maintained 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore the possibility of the Otty Lake community establishing temporary fish sanctuaries during spawning season • Expand signage program re bass spawning season/areas • Lobby MNR for greater number of MNR patrols to enforce current fishing laws • OLA to encourage the MNR to create an accepted monitoring protocol for volunteer based surveying of Otty Lake fisheries i.e. Lake Partners Program • Continue to support catch and release and selective harvest of smallmouth and largemouth bass • Promote the harvesting of alternative species (panfish) for human consumption to reduce pressure on gamefish • Continue to provide annual creel data of smallmouth and largemouth bass caught and released to MNR
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with appropriate agencies to create a specific, more comprehensive Otty Lake Fisheries Report to ensure that there is appropriate data and recommendations to ensure the sustainability of the Otty Lake Fishery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure fish habitat is protected 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize and consider bass spawning areas along shorelines in development discussions • Encourage good shoreline stewardship • Strongly discourage the use of aquatic pesticides to remove wetlands and weeds
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct wildlife census and surveys to determine presence/abundance within the watershed and monitor for changes over time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Rideau Valley Field Naturalists to set up a reporting system for people to be able to report wildlife presence and behaviour • Take part in existing monitoring programs e.g. Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas, Feeder Watch, Frog Watch, Christmas Bird Count, continue the Canadian Lakes Loon Survey,
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote and implement programs to preserve or improve indigenous wildlife habitat, terrestrial ecosystems and locally significant wetlands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess forest resources in the Otty Lake watershed for stand conditions, habitat value, species and age composition, ecological features and significance to overall watershed health • Identify existing, critical or potential wildlife corridors/habitats and encourage protection or appropriate plantings and fencings to manage and enhance these areas • Identify and protect loon nesting habitat and maintain

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> existing osprey nesting platforms • Explore the need for more of these structures in partnership with Stewardship Council Programs, Ducks Unlimited • Tree planting program • E.g. for small local wildlife populations • Promote private land stewardship and land donation/public acquisition
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educate the Otty Lake Community about the importance and role of indigenous fish and wildlife diversity and habitat in Otty Lake and its watershed (see 10.1) 	
7.0 Mining			
Issue: Property damage and devaluation, water quality, quality of life			
Goal: Protect the Otty Lake watershed from the impacts of all mining activity			
	Objective	Actions	Details
7.1	Protect all privately owned Surface Rights Only lands from mining claims, exploration and extraction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner with CMAG and the Townships to improve protection for privately owned “Surface Rights Only” lands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop specific information points that can be used in concerted letter writing campaigns by permanent and seasonal residents • Review the Mining Act in relation to current environmental standards and legislation and recommend environmental assessments before mining operations commence, best practices in mining regulations regarding mining explorations and operations
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educate property owners about mining issues (see 10.1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage community members to recommend the establishment of a task force to explore exclusion of certain land (e.g. south of certain latitude or in proximity to populated areas) from mining activity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • send petitions, lobby the government
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lobby the provincial government and opposition parties on a collective and individual basis for a revision to the Clean Water Act and the Mining Act to protect rural surface and ground water sources from the impacts of a Section 78 “assessment work” of the Mining Act of Ontario 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and request assistance from lake residents with specific expertise e.g. lawyers, geologists, media people
8.0 Shoreline Protection and Health			
Issue:			
Goal: Restore and maintain a healthy ribbon of life around Otty Lake			
Goal	Objective	Actions	Details

8.1	Promote re-naturalization of altered shoreline by all property owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to communicate M.A.P.L.E. (Mutual Association for the Protection of Lake Environments) shoreline survey results to property owners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual property feedback sheets and recommendations
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow up M.A.P.L.E. (Mutual Association for the Protection of Lake Environments) shoreline survey with targeted shoreline restoration projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize community planting days using M.A.P.L.E. shoreline plantings Develop demonstration sites showing various restoration techniques, providing appropriate signage (e.g. Burgesswood and Maple Glen Beaches) Assist property owners to reforest vacant and marginal lands through RVCA reforestation program, Lanark County Stewardship Council
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repeat the M.A.P.L.E. shoreline survey at set intervals to determine the state and rate of progress of shoreline restoration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-visit priority areas and sites determined from M.A.P.L.E. shoreline survey to determine a strategy for future shoreline remediation efforts
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educate property owners about how they can make good land stewardship decisions (see 10.1) 	
8.2	Recognize and reward good shoreline stewardship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create recognition awards to be presented with ceremony at AGM or other gatherings and events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In recognition of property owners who have maintained, protected or have taken effective action to restore their shoreline or other natural features of the watershed, protected a wetland, re-forested abandoned or marginal land, etc. An annual award to a group/individual who has served the lake community e.g. a nature group, a school group, or an agency, specific volunteer groups, committees, board members ensure that awards presentations are highly publicized in local papers, newsletters and websites
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop signage on demonstration/award winning properties to identify great/good shorelines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
8.3	Ensure the ribbon of life is protected by municipal planning policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that municipal official plans and zoning bylaws identify the location of all wetlands (provincially and locally significant), fish habitat and other habitat deemed to be locally important and establish policies to ensure its protection. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure adequate and appropriate wordings to prevent inappropriate removal of buffer strip vegetation e.g. tree removal bylaws
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage the municipalities to develop, implement and enforce Site Plan policies and other by-laws and guidelines to ensure the ribbon of life is protected/rehabilitated for all development and redevelopment applications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> e.g. no hardened surfaces within 30m of water etc (% and set back) , retain vegetation or replace, no use/application of pesticides/fertilizers within set distance of the water
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage the development of a monitoring/re-inspection program to ensure that site control or development conditions are being met 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refundable deposits for shoreline/development work to insure remedial/Best Management Practices are completed, or perhaps small tax incentive/reduction

9.0 Boating			
Issue: Personal safety, erosion, noise			
Goal: Minimize the negative impacts of boating on Otty Lake			
	Objective	Actions	Details
9.1	Ensure the Otty Lake community is aware of the impacts of specific boating behaviours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educate boaters, canoeists and kayakers on how they can minimize disruption of nesting birds and wildlife (see 10.1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide seasonal removable signage with regard to nesting birds Encourage loon nest protection and promote responsible distance separation by watercraft from nesting birds
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educate boaters about how to minimize their impact on the lake Encourage the use of non-motorized watercraft e.g. canoe, kayak, sailboats or upgrading to new low emission engine technology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider identifying a 'Day of Tranquility' – Challenge the community to set aside on day a summer when no motored vehicles will be heard/seen on Otty Lake Clean boating tips and climate change facts
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey property owners around the lake to determine boating trends 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frequency of use, 2 stroke vs 4 stroke, boat type, sizes etc.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lobby for more OPP patrols to enforce existing regulations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and post speed and "Watch your wake" signs in areas where boats are close to shore or where the shoreline is susceptible to wake damage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post near large dock areas, between islands, between islands and shore Identify sensitive shorelines i.e. areas prone to erosion, loon nesting areas and monitor
9.2	Protect Otty Lake from the introduction of additional invasive species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to provide information about the introduction of invasive species and their impact on the lake Maintain monitoring program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OLA newsletters, Summer Information Packages, presentations at AGM Evaluate and explore the feasibility of providing facilities for washing boats Post additional and larger signs warning of invasive species at public access points
10.0 Responsibility of Landowners in Protecting Lake Health			
Issue: Apathy, lack of knowledge and understanding, lack of unity			
Goal: Encourage and promote environmental awareness, responsibility, education and action			
	Objective	Actions	Details
10.1	Educate the lake community about the issues affecting the lake and their role as good stewards of the lake and the watershed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop education programs and information on good stewardship practices for topics of concern identified by the lake community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See details for each issue separately
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Topics Include: septic system installation, design alternatives and maintenance, fertilizer and pesticide alternatives, protecting the riparian zone, toxic materials around water, promotion of septic friendly, low phosphate "green products", use of 4 stroke or new 2

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> stroke engines • Create a program to help Otty Lake residents understand their actual “nutrient footprint”
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aquatic Vegetation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topics include: causes of excessive weed growth, impact of cutting riparian vegetation, use of fertilizers
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groundwater 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide professional consultation services on a confidential basis that provides customized advice on a per property basis • Connect landowners with potential funding support for septic and well upgrades e.g. RVCA Rural Clean Water Program • Continue to promote the Well Aware Program and advocate for its continued funding • Continue the RVCWP incentive program and provide for partnering for education about ground water protection
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development Pressures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topics include: septic system design alternatives and maintenance, protecting and restoring natural shorelines and lake character; architectural design guidelines, light pollution, noise pollution • Encourage stewardship of Crown land, as well as of private property (reduce littering and graffiti on the islands) • Through research, establish that lake decline will result in lower property tax values, and under the current property tax system, lower tax revenues. Communicate information with municipalities
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water levels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor climatic conditions on an annual basis and relate to water level data • Relate to historical records
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topics include: the impact of wake, erosion, habitat protection, invasive species, new technologies in both 2 and 4 stroke engines, positive effects of motor maintenance, boating distance from shore, speeding, boating regulations and safety • Continue to invite the OPP to the Otty Lake Association AGM • Publish annual OPP marine stats in Captain Otty’s Log
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fish and wildlife Health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topics include: how to behave in the presence of threatening wildlife (e.g. wasps, skunks, bear), preventing wildlife from becoming nuisance animals (e.g. no pet food outside, tight garbage control, MNR’s

			Bear Aware Program), habitat needs of various birds and animals, invasive species prevention, fishing ethics and the importance of conservation (with MNR), species at risk
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mining 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topics include: provincial mining legislation, potential impacts of Surface Rights Only property ownership, threats to groundwater and surface water quality
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shoreline protection and health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topics include: best management practices, shoreline restoration, shoreline classification survey results and recommendations • Encourage community planting days. • Promote the incentive programs which offer co-operative approach between regulatory/planning requirements and incentive programs (RVRCWP, CFWIP etc) • Encourage local real estate agents to explain benefits of natural waterfronts to buyers e.g. increased property values). Agents could provide shoreline plants from MAPLE to buyers as gifts • Circulate RVCA brochure about dos and don'ts of shoreline protection to encourage property owners to remedy their own practices. • Connect with local horticultural associations and expertise and organize garden tours to promote "wild" rather than "cultivated" landscapes • Participate in Docktalk-like programs to provide personalized shoreline recommendations
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using a variety of means, distribute educational material in a targeted manner to all property owners within the watershed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshops, newsletters, OLA website, brochures, check-lists, summer information packages, new property owner packages, lake association meetings, newspaper articles, Dock-talk program, fact sheets, email, signage • Communication campaigns focused on a theme each season • Provide information kits about specific topics annually to all residents. • Continue to deliver information person-to-person when possible • Provide the executive summary of the Lake Management Report in brochure format • Create user-friendly checklists, e.g., inspect your boat motor, other annual tasks. • Circulate RVCA brochures

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create simple fact sheets • Compile a list of resources for watershed residents, e.g., funding resources available for septic upgrades. • Work in partnership with organizations to offer workshops, training sessions and educational materials • Create demonstration sites • Create a directory for shoreline issues; include email addresses or telephone numbers to access free information
10.2	Engage the lake community in protecting Otty Lake	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase number of Otty Lake watershed residents and property owners that are involved in the association and actively serving on OLA committees, subcommittees and specific initiatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the OLA through the various camps and local events • Encourage increased membership in the OLA of non-waterfront property owners (subgroups) and local businesses within the watershed • Determine and undertake new programs or events that could unify the community through work, play, social interactions and common goal setting (e.g. a lake clean-up competition between areas – Great Canadian Shoreline Clean-up) • Continue to encourage and endorse community participation in Pitch- in Canada • Brainstorm and implement strategies to attract new thinking and talent to the executive, hold workshops on volunteerism and board development • Prepare a record of initiatives, accomplishments, needs assessment and outstanding tasks as a vehicle to recruit volunteers and new membership • Promote a “Youth OLA”, designating projects, programs, monitoring and restoration challenges that would engage our local young people in the lake management plan on levels of volunteerism, personal service and growth, kid fishing days • Recognize each season’s accomplishments and the participation of community members in stewardship programs and activities (e.g. Pitch-In Canada Program)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage reporting of observed violations of environmental laws and regulations to appropriate authority or agency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure reporting to municipality is set up to allow for anonymity
11.0 Partnerships in Lake Management Issue: lack of unity, lack of communication and coordination, inability to accomplish goals independently Goal: Establish, maintain and expand upon effective partnerships in lake management			
	Objective	Actions	Details

11.1	Maximize opportunities for the lake community and its partners to participate and cooperate in the protection of Otty Lake	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase public awareness of the lake management plan and engage all parties in its implementation • Maintain the established partnerships with government organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link and enable people with common goals in the implementation of specific aspects of the plan while maintaining accountability to the community as a whole • Provide support as available and explore additional resources where needed. • Maintain a proactive approach of reaching out and extending opportunities for participation • Explore specific and manageable tasks that can be benchmarked and effectively built upon • Continue to coordinate efforts and streamline delivery of resource programs and services at all level of governments • Communicate in varied ways and on an ongoing basis to build public awareness of OLA initiatives, progress and next steps • Liaise with other interest groups, local businesses, lake associations or communities within the area to strengthen and expand upon contacts • Reach out to youth and the lake community to instill a sense of ownership and stewardship
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate open discussion and consultation between interested property owners and greater community partners, and government organization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nurture partnerships with our municipal councils, provincial organizations, environmental agencies, media and the lake community.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involve local schools and organizations in protecting Otty Lake 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take active part in school programs (health, science, social science) to enhance the quality of lakes and rivers. • Get teachers, local school boards, and Scouts/Guides involved in a lake clean-up, monitoring, restoration, etc.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish effective, open and ongoing communication with watershed property owners and community partners for the purpose of exchanging data, information and understanding of mutual needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • including but not restricted to the forwarding of newsletters and updates, representation at meetings, invitations to and follow-ups from special events • Communicate OPP statistics or reports on crime rates, e.g., break-ins, vandalism, water safety infractions, alcohol infractions