

April 2005

Captain Otty's Log

Newsletter of the Otty Lake Association

President – Karen Hunt

Vice President – David Reesor

Message from the President

Hello everyone, I hope that you have had a good winter and are looking forward to another great summer at Otty Lake.

Summer only visitors to the lake may be surprised to know that the lake is busy with activities over the winter too. This year there were several excellent rinks and skating paths cleared at numerous sites along the shore. Hockey games were played and cross country ski trails crisscrossed the lake. Many lake residents were observed out “walking on the lake” or simply sitting and sunning at the “water’s edge”. Otty Lake is a wonderful place to be in all seasons!

Over the winter, Jack Lynn, Chair of the Environment Committee and a team of volunteers have worked diligently to gather information about the impact of water levels and weed growth on Otty Lake in order to help us understand and respond appropriately to these conditions. **The results of their research has been gathered into a report which will soon be sent in a separate mailing to Otty Lake residents.**

As we move towards summer a major project before all of us is the continuing work on the Otty Lake management planning program. In speaking with lake residents over the past year we have clearly heard that you want to preserve the many special aspects of Otty Lake - natural shorelines, clean healthy water, good habitat for fish and wildlife etc. for the generations to come. **I can’t express often enough or strongly enough that the responsibility for lake management planning must belong to all of us who are the residents of the Otty Lake shoreline and near shoreline area – the Otty Lake community – Not just to the Otty Lake Association!** The lake

management planning committee wants to hear from you and work with you.

And PLEASE:

- Watch for the notices about workshops and discussion opportunities.
- Attend and share your ideas and concerns or contact a member of the lake management planning committee.
- Express your opinions and be part of the planning for the future.

If you have comments or questions about Otty Lake Management planning you can contact Karen Hunt at mkhunt@perth.igs.net or Tressa Oliver at treeworks@perth.igs.net

We are exploring all possible sources of funding for the lake management planning work and would certainly be pleased to hear from any Otty Lake residents who have expertise in this area. Over the past few months representatives from the Otty Lake Management Committee have worked with representatives from the Friends of the Tay Watershed, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority and Tay Valley Township to develop a collaborative Trillium Funding Application to support a lake management planning program for the local lakes. We are anxiously waiting to hear the outcome of our Application - it will probably be early summer before we have any news from the Trillium Foundation.

Members of the lake management planning committee are currently collecting historical data on the lake and surrounding area. This information along with new updated data to be collected this summer will help us understand the current condition of the lake. With the combined efforts of Otty Lake residents and users and our “community partners” (the municipalities, Conservation Authority, government agencies and

other relevant organizations) we can then determine what we need to do to ensure the long-term health of our lake. **Later in the newsletter you will find a table which details the different steps of the lake planning process along with the players we will need involved and a projection of the timing that we are aiming for.** I hope that this information will help you better understand the many aspects of our lake management planning program.

Lake Management Planning provides an opportunity for our Otty Lake community to work together to develop guidelines and programs that will protect the water quality and natural environment of our lake in the years ahead.

I look forward to working with and hearing from many members of the Otty Lake community in the months ahead. You may reach me at mkhunt@perth.igs.net or 613 264 -9273
Regards, Karen

Board of Directors

A very sincere thanks to all members of the OLA Board of Directors and to all the other Otty Lake volunteers who do so much on behalf of all of us.

Over the winter there has been a change in the make-up of our Otty Lake Association Board of Directors. Colin Code resigned from the Board and stepped down from the Communications Committee. We offer sincere thanks to Colin for all his many efforts as a member of the Otty Lake Association Board of Directors and most especially for all the work he has done with Captain Otty's Log and the OLA website.

Bob Melville, a permanent resident in the Little Otty area, has joined the Board and assumed responsibility for the Communications Committee, including the newsletter. Many thanks to Bob for his commitment to our Otty Lake community and his willingness to become involved.

Photos.

Many thanks to the North Shore residents for sharing their Winterlude pictures.

Workshop Notice

Sunday, May 15, 2005 - 1:30-4:00 p.m.

**Deer and Beaver - Love Them or Hate Them - they're Part of our Environment!
Why do they do what they do?**

Come and learn more about these creatures who share the Otty Lake Watershed Environment with us .

Location - Lion's Hall, Perth Fairgrounds

Presenters provided by the Lanark County Stewardship Council.

This workshop is a partnership activity by BurgessWood Community Association, Otty Lake Association and Lanark County Stewardship Council.

2005 Fishing Season

Wally Robins

With the arrival of warm temperatures and open water, anglers are drooling about the prospects of wetting a line again. To enable people to understand and respect the laws about fishing on Otty Lake, here are some facts about the upcoming season.

The pike season opens on Saturday, May 14th and remains open until December 31st.

The season for both largemouth and smallmouth bass begins on Saturday, June 25th and closes on October 15th.

There is no closed season on panfish.

I am often asked what can be done if an individual suspects illegal fishing on Otty. Here are a few tips should you witness people fishing on the lake prior to the opening of bass season.

First, be certain that a crime is being committed. Remember that anglers can target pike in mid-May and early June. This corresponds to the time that bass are spawning. Therefore, *do not* automatically conclude that the boat in front of your home or cottage is illegally angling for bass.

Even if you witness a bass being caught, this is not an indication of an intention to break the law. When fishing for pike in the spring, it is inevitable that some bass will be caught as bass spawn in locations that pike frequent at this time of year.

But what about people who specifically fish for bass during the spawning season who use the excuse "I don't keep them"? Even though they don't kill the fish they catch, they are seriously damaging the bass fishery. Bass caught on the spawning nest will likely leave the area exposing the eggs or newly hatched fry to panfish and other predators. As well, female bass caught just after spawning are very weak having lost up to 20% of their normal body weight. The additional stress of being hooked may result in death.

Should you see someone who appears to be fishing specifically for bass before the season begins, jot down the date and time of the potential infraction, a description of the boat including its registration number and its occupants. Ideally, record the registration number that appears on the side of the boat. Taking a picture of the boat is even better. If you choose, you can also speak to an angler who is fishing out of season. I recommend that this conversation be polite as opposed to confrontational. (If the boat has a stringer of bass attached to it, "being polite" is optional!).

The Ministry of Natural Resources has a hot-line that can be used to report suspected violations of fishing regulations. The toll-free number is 1-800-222-8477. As with all Crime Stoppers initiatives, there is no requirement for you to identify yourself when making a report.

Tay Valley Township Update

Brian Campbell, TVT Councillor, Chair of Tay Valley Township Public Works Committee

In Tay Valley Township there are 225 kms. of gravel roads and 35 kms. of surface treated roads. In 2004 Council did a road needs study in order to determine future maintenance and road improvements needed on our road network. The study identified the daily volume of traffic on each road, the travelling surface width, shoulder widths, deficient curves and hills, and the length of each

road. We then determined the amount of capital required to improve these roads and the number of years required to complete. Presently Council is putting money away into a reserve fund in order to look after our roads as well as our 15 bridges in the municipality.

Tay Valley Township Contact Information

Municipal Office 613-267-5353

Email cao@tayvalleytwp.ca

Website www.tayvalleytwp.ca

Captain Ott's LOG by email

Many lake residents receive their newsletters by email and this saves dollars and saves paper – dollars which can then be used on projects and saves the ecology. Email also provides the opportunity for the association to send updates to lake residents between newsletter printings. Pictures are in colour too! Email addresses can be sent to ottylake@sympatico.ca or sent with membership fee.

N.B. Lake residents' email addresses are confidential and are never provided to other organizations.

Otty Lake Winterlude - January 2005



Did you know?

In researching the history of the Otty Lake area, Lake Management Planning Committee Member, Tressa Oliver noted that 2005 is the 200th anniversary of the first registered deed for a lot near what was to become known as Otty Lake (the lake was not even named at that point!) 1805- Benjamin Brown was granted a deed to 200 acres – Lot 25, Concession V111.

Otty Lake Management Planning

Steps	Action	Players	Timing
Determine Values and Issues	Questionnaire	Otty Lake residents and users, OLA	Spring, Summer 2004
Establish Lake Management Planning (LMP) Committee	Recruit committee	OLA/Lake Management Planning (LMP)Committee	Ongoing
Meet with Partners: TVT, D/NE, MOE, RVCA, MNR, Health Unit, NGO's etc.	Meeting re: issues, what can they contribute	OLA/LMP Committee/ Partners/Facilitator	Fall 2004
Newsletters	Done regularly to keep open communication	OLA/ LMP Committee	Ongoing
Identify Information Needs	Define what is needed to do lake management plan	OLA/ LMP Committee/Partners	Jan. 2005
Identify Information Availability	Letters, calls to gov't agencies and other partners	OLA/ LMP Committee/Partners	Feb./Mar. 2005
Prepare Preliminary Budget and Work Plan	Define study content, needs, resources to complete project	OLA/ LMP Committee/RVCA	Feb. 2005
Define Sources of Funding	Research funding sources	OLA/FoTW/RVCA/ Stewardship Council	Feb/Mar 2005
Collect Needed Data	Historical information research, field monitoring,	OLA/ LMP Committee/ RVCA/others	Winter 05/Field Season 2005
Compile Data	Pull together to one source	OLA/ LMP Committee/Consultant	Summer 2005
Run Lake Capacity Model	With collected inputs run model to determine lake carrying capacity	RVCA	Summer 2005
Prepare State of the Lake report	Interpret data and create report	OLA/ LMP Committee, Consultant	Fall/Winter 05/06
Re-evaluate Issues/Values	Meeting of Players	Facilitator/Lake residents/ Community Partners/LMP Committee	Summer 2006
Define Vision Statement	Workshop to define	Facilitator/OLA LMP Committee/Lake residents	Summer 2006
Devise Goals and Objectives and Management Strategies	Workshop to define based on information and issues	As above	Summer 2006
Review Goals and Objectives	Present to all Players	OLA/ LMP Committee, all players	Summer 2006
Develop Lake Management Plan(LMP)	Compilation of all efforts into strategic planning document	Consultant	Fall 2006/early 2007
Seek Approval for LMP	Present to all players	OLA/ LMP Committee, all players	Winter 2007

Projected cost for above Lake Management Planning Process could be as high as \$40,000 including the costs for project management... depending on how much work we do ourselves. Please see note about search for funding in President's Message.

Otty Lake - March 2005



Private Roads and Fire Vehicle Access

*information provided by Tay Valley Township
Councillor Maureen Towaij*

Ontario Fire Code Regulations Section (1.1.1.1) states that the property owner shall be responsible for carrying out the provisions of the Code and further, under Section 2.4.1.3, states that Fire Route Access shall be maintained to be immediately ready for use at all times by fire department vehicles. At a pragmatic level, and based on discussion with our Fire Chief, Rick Hannah, private roads, laneways should be maintained by the property owner to a minimum of 15 feet wide and 15 feet high. Should a road have bends, then common sense needs to be applied in ensuring appropriate access by fire vehicles.

HELP NEEDED

The Communications Committee which brings you Captain Otty's Log is in need of someone to input the newsletter information into the established template.

If you are available or would like more information, please contact Bob Melville, Chair of the Communications Committee at bmelville@storm.ca

Otty Lake Winterlude - January 2005



Annual General Meeting **Advance Notice**

Please mark your calendars for
Saturday July 9th, 2005.
Otty Lake Association AGM
Lions Hall - Perth Fairgrounds

9:00 am – Displays, discussion,
refreshments and membership renewal
9:30 am - Business of the Meeting

O.P.P / Lake Associations Communication **Link . David Reesor**

On March 30th, representatives of 8 Lake Associations met with members of the O.P.P. to discuss safety and security issues. Karen Hunt and I represented Otty Lake. Also in attendance were members of the Tay Valley Township Police Services Board.

The encouraging news was that the number of break ins, during 2004, were much lower than 2003. As you will recall, a number of Otty Lake residents were affected in 2003.

One of the issues discussed at the meeting was the accuracy of directions to lake residences on the 911 system. If access to a home or cottage is complex, we were advised to keep detailed instructions close to the phone. In the event of an

emergency, it will make it easier to give the 911 operator the details needed to find you.

Marine Patrols were also discussed. During 2005 we can expect the O.P.P. marine unit to make between 6 and 8 visits to Otty Lake. Their focus, as in previous summers, will be on liquor violations and compliance to boating regulations. Most drownings occur because individuals aren't wearing a life preserver. Make sure you have one available for everyone on board. It's the law.

Now that the ice is leaving Otty Lake, many of us will be keen to be back on the water. Remember to take extra caution especially when canoeing and kayaking. The water will be dangerously cold until late May.

We expect to receive more safety and security tips from the O.P.P. in the next month and we will include them in our June newsletter.

Following the O.P.P. meeting we all participated in a brainstorming session to assist the T.V.T Police Services Board in developing their plans for policing for the next 3 years.

Our next meeting will take place in October and you'll hear more news following that meeting.

ZEBRA MUSSELS IN OTTY LAKE !

OLA Environmental Committee - Jack Lynn

Most Zebra mussels live to about 3 years and are generally less than 3 cm long , although adults have been seen up to 5 cm. in length. Zebra mussels attach to any available underwater

surface, including boat hulls and motors, clams, water intake pipes, rocks and docks. They consume large quantities of plankton which may reduce the amount of food available for young fish. Their filter-feeding has also resulted in the water in many of our lakes to become clearer, encouraging the growth of aquatic vegetation, causing often harmful alterations to fish habitat. By attaching to boats, Zebra mussels cause increased friction and decreased fuel efficiency. To discourage settlement on the boat's hull, remove your boat from the water after use, if possible, and always keep your motor tilted upwards when at dock.

Wear water shoes on the beach and in the water to avoid being badly cut. Zebra mussels may colonize your intake pipe if your water source is Otty Lake. You may want to protect your intake pipe with a Zebra mussel control device. Neither the Ministry of Natural Resources nor the Ministry of the Environment and Energy endorse any particular product, however, a brief test showed filtering devices to be more effective than magnetic or electrostatic devices. O.L.A. has arranged a quantity discount for an effective Zebra Mussel filter. Call Jack Lynn (267-4786) or e-mail jlynn@ripnet.com for details.

Remember to inspect your watercraft and associated equipment BEFORE leaving ANY water body, removing visible plants or animals. Empty your bait pail on land... NEVER release live bait-fish into any lake or waterway. Boat traffic is the major way Zebra mussels and other invasive species are spread. Drain any residual water and be sure to wash your boat with hot water or high pressure water spray before moving your boat to another body of water (as is the practice of the O.P.P.) For more information about Zebra Mussels, or a copy of the Zebra Mussels Brochure: "A guide for Boaters and Cottagers " please visit the website at www.invadingspecies.com, or phone the invading species HOTLINE at 1-800-563-7711.

As you are well aware, we ALREADY have Zebra Mussels in OTTY lake, but, we should be very concerned with spreading this infestation to other lakes. Also there are other invasive species like SPINY WATER FLEAS etc. to be aware of and

we must prevent the transfer of these other species to OUR LAKE.

Where Did They Come From?

Wally Robins

Ever wonder where all the fish in Otty came from? Well, it turns out that Otty's current healthy population of bass had some human help along the way.

Last December, I visited the MNR office in Kemptville and reviewed the historical files the Ministry has compiled on Otty Lake. I discovered that, from 1921 to 1968, various fish species have been stocked in Otty. Some species thrived while others disappeared after their introduction to the lake. Here's a brief history of the Ministry's stocking initiatives and results over the past 80 plus years.

In 1921, mature and fingerling walleye, lake trout, rainbow trout and smallmouth bass were stocked in Otty Lake. From 1921 to 1967, over 100,000 smallmouth bass were released into Otty. As well, in 1969, young adult smallmouth and largemouth bass in the 9-11 inch range were transferred into Otty from Little Silver Lake. During the mid-point of the 20th century, 20,000 lake trout were stocked. In the early 60s, nearly 4,000 rainbow trout were introduced to the lake. Approximately two million walleye fingerlings were stocked in Otty by the Ministry from 1921 to 1940.

So what happened to all those rainbows, lakers and walleye? Are there lake trout, rainbows and walleye swimming in Otty? The answers are "no", "no" and "very few".

While the Otty Lake eco-system has many characteristics that would support a lake trout fishery, one important ingredient is missing. There is an insufficient level of dissolved oxygen at the mid-lake depths during the summer months to sustain a healthy lake trout population. Otty's thermocline (the depth where a major underwater temperature change occurs) consists of a very narrow band of water. This compresses cold water fish like lake trout into a narrow corridor in which they can feed and thrive. Otty's environment does not include a sufficient layer of oxygen rich, cold water for lake trout.

The beneficiaries of the stocking of rainbow trout were resident bass and pike. For them, it was an underwater buffet table! Natural predation was responsible for the demise of most rainbows while others likely died of natural causes (or the fear of being eaten!), or exited the lake via feeder creeks during the spring when water levels were high.

Walleye suffered a similar fate. Many fingerlings became dinner for other predator fish and the survivors may have migrated out of Otty during high water times. Since initial stocking initiatives, the rare walleye has been caught in Otty. In 1967, my father caught a gorgeous 8 pound walleye. I caught a 3 pound walleye a number of years ago. I'm still not sure who was most surprised...me or the fish!

The next time you're battling a feisty bass, remember that the fish could be a descendent of a stocking program that took place over half a century ago.

Burning Permit Procedures (Fire Permits)

Information from Rick Hannah A.I.I.C.

Fire Chief, BBD&E Fire Department 267-2596

Each year, Residents are asked to refresh their memories on fire bans and burning requirements. Residents who wish to burn brush and other outdoor fires require a burning permit, and must verify that there is NO BAN on burning at the time.

1. Burning Permit. If a resident obtained a permit after January 1, 2002, it is still valid and residents are only required to verify that there is NO BAN and advise that burning will take place, as described in 3. below.

Residents who do not have a burning permit, or have a permit issued before 2002 01 01, are requested to contact Chief Hannah , 267-2596 (Fax 264-8561, Email bbde@perth.igs.net)

2. Status of Burning Bans. Residents must call one of the following to verify that there is NO BAN on fires. If there is a burning BAN, no outdoor burning is permitted for safety of people and security of property.

-BBD&E Fire Station 267-2596 (see below)

-Drummond North Elmsley 267-5000 (Ofc hrs)

-Tay Valley Township 267-5353 (Office hours)

3. Before Burning. Call 267-2596 and verbally complete a three day extension to your permit. Leave your name, telephone number, permit number, civic address (sign number and street name of burning location) and the date that you wish to burn. You can also burn on the 2 days following this date, or call in again. Residents should note that financial penalties may apply if the Fire Dept responds as a result of burning during a fire ban.

A Snippet of Local History

JEBBS CREEK, the main outlet for Otty Lake, was named for **SIR JOSHUA JEBB**, a British Military Engineer, who, along with a party that included **CAPT. ALAN OTTY**, surveyed waterways from Kingston to the Ottawa River.

Following the War of 1812 it was deemed necessary to find an alternate water route from Lower to Upper Canada as the Americans could easily cut the St.Lawrence communication and supply route. In 1816, Jebb was assigned the task of surveying the Rideau waterways in order to build a secure river, lake and canal system between Kingston and the Ottawa River. After Jebb's survey was completed in June of 1816 military settlements were established at Perth, Richmond and March.

In 1820 Joshua Jebb returned to England where he became noted for designing penal institutions. His most famous was Pentonville which was long regarded as a model for prisons. After Jebb retired from the military in 1850 he was appointed chairman of the managing board of all prisons. He was awarded KCB in 1859. Sir Joshua Jebb died in 1863.

Joshua Jebb was an artist, as were many surveyors of his era. An Otty Lake resident and genealogist found a print of a water colour over pencil entitled Two Ottawa Chiefs from Michillimacinac and Lake Huron c. 1813-20 by Joshua Jebb, in possession of the Public Archives of Canada. Most of Jebb's paintings that were completed while in Canada are held by Harvard University at Cambridge, Mass.

NOTE: When construction of the Rideau Canal was begun in 1826 Col. John By did not follow Jebb's survey as By felt that low water in some areas, particularly in the Irish Creek area south of Smith Falls, made Jebb's route impractical.

Drummond / North Elmsley Update

Paul Snider, Clerk/Treasurer indicates that D/NE will provide an update on some of the Council activities for our June issue of Captain Otty's Log. Municipal Office 613-267-6500

Email admin@drummondnorthelmsley.com

Website www.drummondnorthelmsley.com

**BUILDING THIS YEAR ?
OR RENOVATING ?**

Call your building inspector for helpful advice and information.

Tay Valley Twp -- E. Tkachuk at 267-5353

D/North Elmsley – Ray Scissons at 267-6500

2004-2005 Otty Lake Association Board of Directors

		Otty Lake Tel.#	other Tel. #	Email Address
Past President Membership	Dick Atkinson	267 – 4587	613 825-5619	atkinsonr@sympatico.ca
President	Karen Hunt	264-9273		mkhunt@perth.igs.net
Vice-President Counsellor- Co-ordinator	David Reesor	326 - 0094		davidanddaphnereesor@yahoo.ca
Treasurer	Rhoda Atkinson	267 – 4587	613 825 – 5619	atkinsonr@sympatico.ca
Secretary	Judith Robertson	267 – 6643	416 929 1791	jnrobertson@sympatico.ca
Director/Chair of Land Use Committee	Bill Hale	267 - 4426		bill.hale@sympatico.ca
Director/Chair of Communications and Education Committee	Bob Melville	264-2626		bmelville@storm.ca
Director/Chair of Services Committee	Willie Newsome	267 - 7518		wnewsome@netcom.ca
Director/Chair of Environment Committee	Jack Lynn	267 4786		jlynn@ripnet.com
Director	Tressa Oliver	264 - 8612		treeworks@perth.igs.net
Director	Don Hill	267 - 3869		hilbeck@perth.igs.net
Director	Marg Barrie	267 - 5107		barrier@perth.igs.net
Director	David Code	267 – 5053	613 722 – 0339	dcodec@rogers.com
Director	Elsbeth Menendez	267 - 2759		ejmenendez@ripnet.com
Director	Wally Robins		613 727 - 6129	wally.robins@sympatico.ca