

NOVEMBER 2006



Captain Otty's Log

Newsletter of the Otty Lake Association

President – David Reesor

Editor – Bob Melville

Otty Lake October 31, 2006



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

David Reesor

President's Message – David Reesor

Welcome to fall everyone! We certainly didn't have an Indian summer this year. Instead we have had wet and cold fall weather with rain almost every day. With water levels up, please make sure your docks, boats, rafts and water toys are well back from the shore and secured for the winter. Two years ago we had similar water levels and on stormy days, in November, a wide variety of items were accidentally launched including a pontoon boat!

This fall we are trying to connect with Otty Lake Residents who haven't renewed their membership for 2006 and a reminder will be included with your copy of Captain Otty's log if our records indicate that your membership isn't current. We do this every fall as there are always some members who may have missed their counselor's visit or may not realize they haven't renewed. Strong membership support from our Otty Lake community is essential to the success of the work of the Lake Association

As President, I hear from a lot of Otty Lake residents throughout the year. I must say topics are varied and always

interesting and sometimes difficult. Several of you have asked how the OLA spends the money it receives or more directly.....what do I get for my \$20! I'll answer that shortly.

Some lake residents have expressed concerns about the OLA using membership money, in the past, for OMB hearings. This has been a topic at recent AGMs and many of you have spoken to me or your area counsellor about it as well. There are mixed opinions on this and it has caused some members to leave the Association. In the past the working relationship between the OLA and the Townships on land use issues was sometimes confrontational. We're trying to resolve these issues differently now. With Karen Hunt's leadership from 2003 to 2005 strong relationships were built with the 2 councils. This summer, as we have done before. we took the Reeves and Councillors on boat tours of the lake to show them Otty Lake from the water and to make them more aware of the risks of development close to the water. We are very pleased to say that both Councils are now working with our Lake Management Planning Committee in the development of a Lake Management Plan for Otty Lake. Together we can accomplish a lot.

So how is the membership money spent??

The OLA does not cover Board members expenses like mileage or lunches but we are reimbursed for photocopies and postage. Also after much discussion we have decided not to have Insurance for liability and for Directors. We depend on our personal

liability insurance and we practice Risk Management as a Board.

Board Expenses	\$ 200
Kid's Fishing Derby	\$ 300
(Our first of many we hope)	
Captain Otty's Log printing & postage	\$1,800
FOCA Membership (I'll explain below)*	\$ 950
WRAFT Membership (I'll explain below)**	\$ 300
Water Testing	\$ 300
Summer Info Pac	\$ 200
Additional mailings to members	\$ 300
Website	\$ 500
AGM	\$ 300
All Candidates Meeting	\$ 75
Well and Waste Water Workshop	\$ 50
Subtotal	\$5,275
Lake Management Planning	\$4,500
Total	\$9,775
Our annual membership 340 x \$20 =	\$6,800

These are all averages or budgeted amounts and if we didn't have Lake Management Planning in progress we would show a surplus of \$ 6,800 – \$ 5,275 or \$ 1,525 in our budget. We have about \$ 6,000 in a GIC and that is how we will fund overspending on LMP. This will be the second year of LMP and by next spring, we will have approximately \$ 3,000 left in our surplus depending on membership and LMP actual expenses. Implementation of the LMP will require funding in future years so any surplus will be consumed and we may need to do some fund raising as well.

*FOCA (Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations). A big

expense for our Association but they do lobby the Government on our behalf and they provide programs and information for members. Our recent Dock Talk Program was funded by FOCA. The Board reviews our membership in FOCA each year and we feel it is an appropriate and beneficial expense for our Association.

****WRAFT-** A lobby group for fair taxation for waterfront properties. We decided to join for one year and evaluate at the end of the year.

Your money is being spent carefully and to the benefit of Otty Lake and its residents.

If you have any comments about how the OLA Board operates or how it spends your money, please phone me or email me.

613-326-0094
davidanddaphneeresor@yahoo.ca

Otty Lake Management Planning November 2006

Karen Hunt

We're moving forward
On October 17, 2006 twenty-two participants representing community organizations who have a vested interest in the long- term health of Otty Lake and its watershed area (Tay Valley Township, Drummond/North Elmsley Township, MNR, MOE, RVCA, Rideau Valley Rural Clean Water Program, Community Stewardship Council of Lanark County, Friends of the Tay Watershed, Scouts Canada, Lanark and District Maple Producers Association,

REAL (Rideau Environmental Action League), Leeds, Grenville and Lanark Health Unit) met to discuss the (draft) Otty "State of the Watershed" Report.

Background: The Otty "State of the Watershed" Report is a compilation of all available current and historical information about the issues, concerns and values identified by Otty Lake residents, users, and concerned community partners in the first stage of our lake planning process. It covers topics such as water quality, water levels, development pressures and land use, fish and wildlife health, mining rights and claims, shoreline protection and health, impacts of boating, responsibility of landowners in protecting lake health, and partnerships in lake management.

Wally Robins, an OLA Board Member and a member of the Otty Lake Management Planning Committee, facilitated the meeting.

The meeting participants were very positive about the Report as a sound basis for developing a plan to protect the long- term health of the Lake and watershed area. Participants were asked to identify key objectives, goals and action strategies that they felt would assist the Otty Lake community in this task. (We will post the Summary Record of this meeting on the OLA website www.ottylake.org shortly in order that you can read about the meeting in more detail).

The next step in our lake planning process is to make the Report available to all members of our lake community. We plan to place this rather large Report on the OLA and RVCA websites to

facilitate access. This work will take place over the next few weeks. We will have copies of the Report available for Otty Lake residents in CD format and will also have some paper copies available. Over the winter and early spring, we will be inviting members of the lake community to provide input through email, telephone calls, and letters and by participating in focus groups and community meetings.

We will need your help to develop further goals, objectives and action strategies on how we can plan for the long-term sustainability of our lake and its watershed area through both land use planning and stewardship activities. This feedback will provide the basis of our lake management plan.

Our goal is to have the plan ready by next summer and begin to work with members of the community as well as with the community partners to implement the recommendations of the Otty Lake Management Plan. If you have any questions about the lake planning work please contact Karen Hunt at mkhunt@ripnet.com or 613 264-9273.

OLD SEPTIC SYSTEM??

You need to Read This – David Reesor

One of the biggest threats to Otty Lake is an old technology septic system. This summer the OLA co-sponsored a Well and Wastewater Workshop, in conjunction with other lake associations. We also had information available at our AGM. One of our lake residents was renovating their cottage and changing it from seasonal use to year round use. As

a precaution a free inspection of the septic system was arranged through REAL (Rideau Environmental Action League) and the Well Aware Program. The inspection determined that a steel septic tank was in use. It had been installed in the 1960s. There was no obvious sign of malfunction but due to the age of the tank it was advised it be replaced. The cost to replace it was \$ 3,000 but grants were available to cover ½ of the cost. When the tank was removed, I came by to see its condition. It was rusted out completely. There were holes in the sides and when it was removed, it collapsed. If you have a steel septic tank, you will have an identical problem. The good news is that the Rideau Valley Rural Clean Water Program can help you with funding. In the spring why not have your system inspected. Susan Brandum from REAL can help. If you know it is a steel tank, just get on with it. The OLA can help you or you can contact Martha Bradburn at the RVCA and she will help with the Rideau Valley Rural Clean Water Program Application. You'll benefit by saving money and Otty Lake will benefit from a properly functioning septic system!!

Susan Brandum REAL can be reached at 613-267-2257 or susan.brandum@cogeco.ca
Martha Bradburn RVCA can be reached at 1-800-267-3504 or martha.bradburn@rideauvalley.on.ca

ZEBRA MUSSELS

David Reesor

If you have noticed any changes in the Zebra Mussel population (when you removed your dock or boat) please let

me know. If there were more or less or the same as last year, that would be helpful information. I have been contacted by 3 residents in the last 10 days and all of them saw a marked reduction in the number of Zebra Mussels they saw when they removed their docks and boats for the winter.
613-326-0094
davidanddaphnereesor@yahoo.ca

2006 SAILING REGATTA

David Code

The annual running of the Otty Lake sailing regatta took place on September 3, a day that looked cool and felt cool and damp. Although this annual event is open to all types of sailboats, it was Lasers that made the day. The race was hard fought until the finish line, but the winner was Brian Burrell, who captured a repeat victory and a renewed hold on the Trophy. He was closely followed – a mere 5 seconds back – by Bob Melville.

The competitors gathered later at the Code cottage for warmth and sustenance.

HELP WANTED

Otty Lake residents are always needed to participate in the work of the OLA Board and its committees. If you are interested in volunteering your assistance, please contact: Karen Hunt at 613 264-9273 or mkhunt@ripnet.com or David Reesor at 613 326- 0094 or davidanddaphnereesor@yahoo.ca

Specific areas where support is still needed include:

a) Otty Lake residents with background in biology or environmental sciences to assist the lake steward and lake management committee in

understanding current conditions of the lake and planning for the future health of the lake.

b) Communications Committee Chair Bob Melville would welcome additional support to assist with the development of a communication strategy as well as the formation and distribution of Capt. Otty's Log.

c) The lake management committee continues to seek additional permanent and seasonal lake residents to assist in developing a community-based plan to protect the long-term health of the lake
d) We need a counsellor for Area 3 A to be the link for area residents with the OLA. Sadly, this past summer, we lost a counsellor of many years and great friend of Otty Lake, Paul Fleming. Paul was always available to provide help and pass on information to area residents. Area 3A includes Miller Bay Road, Blue Heron Lane and part of Colin Farmer Road

RIDEAU VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY REQUEST FOR HELP

The RVCA has requested help in finding healthy Butternut trees. In early 2006, with funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, RVCA and the Ferguson Forest Centre started a Regional Butternut Recovery Program to locate and assess mature seed-producing trees with particular emphasis on locating butternut trees that exhibit signs of resistance to the canker. They are seeking assistance from field staff and interested parties to inform them of locations of apparently healthy Butternut trees. They are interested in urban "backyard" trees as well as woodlot

butternut. If you have information on the locations of Butternut please contact:
Rose Fleguel, Butternut Recovery Technician. Phone: 613-258-3678 Fax: 613-258-6187
Email: rose.fleguel@rideauvalley.on.ca

Please fax or email the following information on Butternut locations to Rose: Your name, Phone #, Butternut location-name of landowner, phone number, civic address, lot and concession, geographic township.

NOTICE BOARD

As a service to our members we have started a notice board where we will post your notices, or notices from others we consider of interest to you. The notices to be; lost and found, services wanted or services available etc. To submit a notice to the Otty Log contact us at the following address;

**Otty Lake Association
Box 20122
Perth Mews Mall
Perth, ON Canada K7H 3M6**

As this is a trial service please give us your feedback.

Request for 2006 Fee, \$20.00

Please support the Otty Lake Association by sending your annual fee to:

**Otty Lake Association
Box 20122
Perth Mews Mall
Perth, ON Canada K7H 3M6**

If you are not already a member please consider joining. With your membership our voice is strengthened and we are heard as we work towards improving this lake we all love as well as preserving it for future generations.

Thank you