

APRIL 2007



Captain Otty's Log

Newsletter of the Otty Lake Association

President – David Reesor

Editor – Bob Melville

OTTY LAKE WINTER SUNRISE 2007



Photo by Lynne Stockless

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

David Reesor

Who Cares About Otty Lake

????????????

This may seem like an unusual title and question but it is not. Hopefully the answer is “I do” or “we all do”.

For several years now a dedicated group of Otty Lake residents, lead by Karen Hunt, has been working on a Lake Management Plan to protect the long term health of Otty Lake. Recently, with the input of Community Partners and Area Residents, a

Draft State of the Watershed report was completed. On February 3rd, a workshop was held for residents to provide feedback on the draft report and identify goals, objectives and action strategies that will be used to develop the recommendations for the Lake Management Plan. This is where the “Who cares about Otty Lake????????????” question comes in to play. If nobody cares then nobody would come to the meeting. Well, as you might expect, this was not the case. We had 53 participants attend the meeting, a terrific turnout for a February Saturday.

Feedback and suggestions were also received from others unable to attend the meeting as a paper copy of the draft report was circulated to

more than 150 residents prior to the meeting. We also had many residents view or download the report from the RVCA website.

**But we need more from Otty Lake residents!!
Read on...**

Missed the Feb. 3 Lake Management Planning Community Meeting?

A second community workshop/ meeting will be held on **Saturday, May 12, 2007** at the North Elmsley Hall, 121 Station Road, Port Elmsley to offer additional Otty Lake residents an opportunity to come together to discuss the Otty "State of the Watershed" Report and identify goals, objectives and action strategies that will be used to develop the recommendations for the Otty Lake Management Plan. We hope to have a draft of the Lake Management Plan ready for presentation to the Otty Lake Community at the OLA Annual General Meeting on Sat. July 14.

All members of the Otty Lake community are invited to attend on May 12. Your participation is very important!

For questions about the meeting, please contact Karen Hunt, Chair, Lake Management Planning Committee at mkhunt@ripnet.com or 613 264-9273

Our objective is to try and communicate with everyone and that is a difficult challenge. This is one of the reasons Captain Otty's Log is sent to everyone whether they belong to the OLA or not because we believe **"Everyone cares about Otty Lake!!!!!!!!!!!!!!"**

Now not all of the feedback and suggestions we received were positive. There was an occasional negative comment or concern. We want those as well. One issue raised was that **the OLA does not have a mandate**. We may have the majority of

Otty Lake Residents as OLA members but that doesn't mean they support the work we are doing and perhaps the recommendations that will form the Lake Management Plan (LMP).

That was excellent feedback. We need to be certain that our LMP contains the recommendations that the majority of Otty Lake Residents support. Even better would be a measure of support and a prioritization of recommendations. The report must be reasonably compact and not just a list of the many comments that were received.

After the draft LMP is completed, we will seek feedback and comments starting at our AGM July 14th. **Before the LMP is finalized, a survey will be sent to all Otty Lake Residents. This will be another opportunity for you to guide the final result.** We feel that this will answer the question of mandate and support for the plan. Only those recommendations supported by the majority of Otty Lake residents will be included and we will be able to prioritize recommendations. This will also provide guidance and direction for the Otty Lake Board and Otty Lake Association for the future.

Here is the best example I can provide. Land use is the most difficult issue for Otty Lake Residents and the OLA. There are times when our Land Use Committee does not support an application, for a variance, by an Otty Lake Resident. Along with the RVCA we are asked by either Drummond/North Elmsley or Tay Valley Township to comment before the variance is considered. Sometimes we suggest changes and on occasion we just can't support the request at all. When a request is denied by either Township some lake residents have expressed concern that the OLA was involved.

This is one of these "mandate" issues I mentioned earlier. Almost everyone who provided feedback on the State of the Watershed report commented that OLA involvement in Land Use issues was important, necessary and should continue. Many of those opposed to this involvement didn't provide feedback so by surveying **all** Otty Lake Residents before finalizing our LMP (or should I

say **your** LMP) we will be able to determine how important Land Use issues are to the Otty Lake Community and whether the OLA should continue to be involved in them.

This is why we need everyone's involvement:

**Come to the Community Meeting May 12th.
Come to the AGM July 14th.
Complete and return your Survey when you receive it.**

We want everyone's voice to be heard.

Enjoy the Spring and please send me any comments you may have about my message or any other Otty Lake related issue.

You can reach me at 613-326-0094 or davidanddaphneesor@yahoo.ca

WHATS ON LOCALLY

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

For information about activities in Perth visit:

www.beautifulperth.com

For information about Tay Valley Township:

www.tayvalleytwp.ca

For information about Drummond North Elmsley Township:

www.drummondnorthelmsley.com

SPRING IS COMING! NOW IS THE TIME!

Have you been considering some plantings along your shoreline this year? Do you need advice on what to plant and where to find those plants?

Would you like information on how to reduce your environmental impact on the lake?

Once again Otty Lake residents are fortunate to be able to participate in the Docktalk program being

sponsored by the Federation of Ontario Cottagers Association (FOCA).

Through this program, property owners are offered confidential site visits which will provide information on healthy waterfront living including solutions specific to their property.

The number of times and spaces available for site visits at Otty Lake will be limited so contact Barb King now at 613 273 – 8174 or barbaraeking@yahoo.ca if you are interested in a visit this spring or summer

UPDATE ON OTTY LAKE MANAGEMENT PLANNING

Karen Hunt

After many months of gathering, compiling and analyzing data the Otty "State of the Watershed" Report was released to the Community at the beginning of January 2007.

Please see

http://www.rideauvalley.on.ca/programs/LMP_Program/otty_lake.html for more information on the Report.

The intent of the State of the Watershed Report is to provide a summary of what is currently known about the Otty Lake Watershed and identify how that information relates to the 11 main areas of concern identified by the Otty Lake community at the beginning of the lake management planning process.

Following up on input received from the community through emails and written reports and at the Community Workshop on February 3, we have been revising the State of the Watershed Report and will have copies of the final version of the Report available for the community later this spring. **Please let us know if you'd like a copy (either in CD or paper version) as the printing is expensive and we need to know what is required. See notice later in this Log to order your copy**

As noted elsewhere in this newsletter, anyone who missed the first Lake Management Planning Community Meeting on February 3 is invited to attend the Community Workshop to be held on

Saturday, May 12, 2007 - a second opportunity to participate in this stage of our lake management planning and provide your input.

Simultaneously while revising the State of the Watershed Report, the Lake Management Committee has been reviewing the input received from the community suggesting what we as a community should be doing to respond to the current conditions around each of the issues dealt with in the State of the Watershed Report. **That input will be used to develop the recommendations and action strategies that will go into the Otty Lake Management Plan.**

Within the Lake Management Plan will be suggestions for stewardship activities that members of the community can undertake and there will also be suggestions for actions that will need to be addressed by others e.g. land use planning recommendations for the municipalities)

We are aiming to have a draft of the Otty Lake Management Plan ready for distribution at the Otty Lake Association Annual Meeting on July 14. **Mark this date on your calendar now to ensure that you are available to receive your copy of the Report and be part of the related discussions!**

Following the AGM we will spend the summer seeking input from the community on the information in the draft Report, on identifying priority actions and then finalizing the Plan and beginning to implement its recommendations

Throughout we need to continue to work together as an Otty Lake Watershed community and in partnership with the Community Partners (TVT, D/NE.,RVCA. FOTW, MNR, MOE, Stewardship Council, Health Unit, REAL, etc)

It is a lengthy and challenging process but the future health of Otty Lake depends on all of us!

SHORELINE WORK RESTRICTIONS FOR FISH SPAWNING

From information circulated by RVCA

Just a reminder to waterfront property landowners, cottagers and construction project managers that there are timing restrictions for in-water work on rivers, streams and lakes in our area. Many are in place now although they vary with weather, temperature conditions and types of fish that inhabit the waterways. These timing windows restrict construction activity in or near the water. The best advice is avoid the fines and penalties under the provincial and federal legislation and delay your in-water work until after the restrictions have passed.

The purpose of these timing windows is to allow an appropriate time and stress-free environment for fish to spawn and raise their young in our local lakes and streams.

Here are the main timing restrictions when **no in-water work may occur** in areas of the Rideau Valley:

- warm water fish communities: from March 15 to June 30
- mixed fish communities: from October 1 to June 30 (e.g. Big Rideau Lake)
- cold-water fish communities: October 1 to May 31
- Ottawa River (only): work restricted from March 15 to July 15

The timing windows are researched and set annually by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources staff who have the mandate to set, enforce and allow exceptions or extensions. People wishing to report violations, ongoing in-water work or other problems are encouraged to contact their local Conservation Authority, Department of Fisheries and Oceans or Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources office.

The LandOwner Resource Centre (LRC) in Manotick (613)692-3571 or 1-800-387-5304 can assist if you are considering shoreline work such as docks, boat slips or shoreline erosion

protection measures. Staff can assist and advise you on permit requirements or restrictions. Different timing restrictions apply in some areas of warm, mixed and cold-water fish communities, so it is important to check **before beginning work** on projects near the water.

Construction in or close to water can affect fish by disturbing the soil and causing erosion. The release of construction runoff and soil into the water can stress fish and reduce their chances of survival in the following ways:

- reduce spawning success by smothering the eggs and preventing them from hatching
- inhibit young fish's ability to see prey and feed properly
- suffocate young and adult fish
- inhibit movement and migration of fish
- change water temperature
- reduce water quality.

For information on the shoreline work restrictions in our area, call [Jennifer Lamoureux](#), RVCA Biologist at (613) 692-3571 ext 1108 (1-800-267-3504 ext 1108) or the MNR Area Biologist (Kemptville) at (613) 258-8204 .Make sure you know the rules. The quality of our environment is at stake.

DO YOU USE ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY CLEANING PRODUCTS?

In response to several requests from members of the Otty Lake community, the OLA is developing a list of environmentally friendly cleaning products and **we need your help!**

Please let us know which products you've tried and what you'd recommend or not and why.

Send your comments to Karen at mkhunt@ripnet.com or call 613 264-9273.

We plan to compile all the information we are able to collect into a list that will be distributed to Otty Lake residents.

SAFE BOATING

*Constable Paige Whiting
Community Services Officer / Lanark
County O.P.P /*

Spring is upon us and with it boaters will be taking to the waterways. It is important for all boaters to remember to incorporate safe boating tips to ensure that each and every trip is a safe and pleasurable one.

Ensure You Have Necessary Equipment On Board: The Small Vessel Regulations identify the minimum equipment required on board your pleasure craft according to vessel length. Failing to have the proper equipment not only jeopardizes your safety but also can result in monetary fines. Having a personal flotation device or life jacket for everyone on board is mandatory but remember to actually wear it. If you are involved in a serious boating incident you are 5 ½ times less likely to drown if you are wearing a flotation device.



Don't Cruise With Booze: Fatigue, sun, wind, and the motion of the boat can dull your senses. Alcohol intensifies these effects and can leave your judgment impaired. It is illegal to drink and drive whether on land or water and a first offence can result in a heavy fine including the loss of your driver's license. Avoid the consumption of alcohol while on the water whether behind the wheel or not. By doing so, you will increase your safety and that of others.

Be Courteous: Recreational boaters must be prepared to share the waterways with wildlife, swimmers, divers and other boaters. Learn the right-of-way rules, and be considerate by operating at a safe speed. Consider the effect your boat's wake might create when choosing your speed. Ontario has adopted province-wide restrictions limiting shoreline speed restrictions to 10 km/h within 30 meters



from shore on all waters. The few exceptions to the shoreline speed restrictions can be found in the Safe Boating Guide. In addition drive safely. A fine of over \$250.00 can be incurred for operating a vessel in a careless manner. Think of others and ensure everyone has an enjoyable time.

Call 911 In Case Of An Emergency:

Whether a full time resident, or a cottager know your 911 addresses, the townships you reside in, and which fire or police agency services you. Keep this information in a handy location along with the administrative telephone numbers for police, fire or ambulance should you need to make a non-emergency telephone call. When on the water familiarize yourself with the names of any islands, inlets or bays you are traveling near. Knowing your location will assist emergency workers in locating you faster should you require assistance. Remember...9-1-1 should only be utilized in case of an emergency.



For more information on necessary equipment, rules of the waterway or to obtain a copy of the Safe Boating Guide visit www.boatingsafety.gc.ca

INTERESTED IN HELPING TO CARE FOR THE HEALTH OF OTTY LAKE?

The Environment Committee is in need of a Chairperson. Could you fill this role?

Committee members are in place and are already working on a number of activities to support the environmental projects of the Otty Lake Association. If you feel you could help or would like more information, please contact Karen Hunt at mkhunt@ripnet.com or 613 264-9273 or David Reesor at davidanddaphneesor@yahoo.ca or 613 326 -0094

Participate in Pitch-In Week April 23 - 29, 2007

Your help is needed!

As the snow and ice recedes from along roadsides, ditches and the Otty Lake shoreline once again large amount of debris are clearly evident!

The Otty Lake Association is again participating in the Pitch-In Week campaign and we encourage individuals, road associations and local community groups within the Otty Lake watershed to be good stewards of our community. As families or neighbourhood groups, please volunteer a few hours of your time to pick up the debris from along the roadsides, ditches and shoreline near you and take it to your local land fill sites.

Both the Townships of Tay Valley and Drummond/North Elmsley are supporting this special week in which members of the community are encouraged to help clean-up our local environment. If you are in Drummond/North Elmsley, **special yellow Pitch-In Week garbage bags** are available from the township to hold the trash. In Tay Valley Township participating groups are asked to register with the Township by Friday, April 20 to get your **free bag tags**.

Your help is needed to make this program effective!

For more information about the Pitch-In Canada campaign please go to www.pitch-in.ca.

Please contact Karen Hunt at mkhunt@ripnet.com or 613 264-9273 if you have any questions about our local Pitch-In campaign.

A SHORELINE GARDEN

Check it out! This spring or summer plan a visit to Tay Valley Township's Demonstration Site Shoreline Garden – located beside the Tay Valley Township Office located at 217 Harper Road, just outside of Perth.

The “Shoreline Garden” provides cottagers and permanent residents with information on which plants are best for a waterfront, how they may be used and why they would be successful to help keep a lake or river clean and healthy. A healthy shoreline will protect and improve water quality conditions and aquatic habitats. It also contributes to soil retention, and habitat that provides opportunities for aquatic species, wildlife and birds.

From the RVCA ‘Around the Rideau’ newsletter

During the coming months the Ontario Rural Wastewater Centre, in cooperation with the Ottawa Septic System Office is offering practical professional courses on septic systems at the RVCA’s Baxter Conservation Area south of Kars, On. For more information about upcoming courses see www.rideauvalley.on.ca under “Events Calendar”

State of the Watershed Report

Would you like a copy of the final Otty State of the Watershed Report to use as your family reference for Otty Lake watershed information?

Would you like your copy in CD or paper print version? (Printing is expensive so we will only print copies for those members of the Otty Lake Community who have requested a paper copy.

Please contact Karen at mkhunt@ripnet.com or 613 264-9273 or the Otty Lake Association at Box 20122, Perth Mews Mall, Perth, ON, K7H 3M6 or ottylake@sympatico.ca

From FOCA

News on property tax reform in Ontario!

On March 9, 2007 Ontario's Progressive Conservative (PC) leader John Tory announced his party platform on property tax reform. The cornerstone of the PC platform is a proposal to limit yearly assessment (not TAX) increases to maximum 5%. This approach is consistent with the recommendations that FOCA, WRAFT, and CAPTR have discussed with Ontario Finance

Minister Sorbara, numerous MPP's, and senior Ministry of Finance staff over the past 3 years. This policy announcement from leading political contenders is a significant milestone, and can be attributed to our efforts over the past several years.

We look forward to hearing the Liberal plan for reform from Ontario Finance Minister Greg Sorbara when he delivers the 2007 Ontario Budget on March 22, 2007 . www.foca.on.ca

Also from FOCA

Mining and Property rights updated

Despite 4 years of intensive effort within the Minister’s Mining Act Advisory Committee (MMAAC) as an ardent champion for private property rights and less intrusive mining and prospecting practices, FOCA is still awaiting action. The MMAAC recommendations were incorporated in the new Mineral Strategy for the Province, which has been approved by cabinet. FOCA remains concerned that the Provincial government has to date failed to bring legislative reform to the 100-year-old Mining Act. We continue to work with the Minister to develop and refine the recommendations of MMAAC in the hope that the result will be better-regulated relationships between the Mining and Prospecting industry, and private landowners throughout Ontario. For more information, and to make your voice heard, visit the Mining and Exploration section of the FOCA website. www.foca.on.ca.

Did you know?

The Eastern Black Ratsnake , a species considered threatened in Ontario is sighted fairly frequently in the Otty Lake Watershed area. If you'd like to learn more about this member of our local wildlife community, you can borrow a video provided to the OLA by the Friends of Murphy's Point Provincial Park (contact Karen at 613 264-9273 or mkhunt@ripnet.com) or go to the Friends of Murphy's Point website at www.friendsofmurphyspoint.ca

OTTY LAKE WINTERLUDE 2007

Once again the Otty Lake Winterlude games took place under a beautiful sunny day. Organized by Patti Boyd and friends the annual event took place on February 24th due to the lack of ice, but better late than never. Many families and friends gather to participate in the Olympic games. The events featured such fun games as three legged races, tug of war for children, ladies and men; golf with a soggy tennis ball; toilet seat horse shoes toss, turkey curling, ski relay and a new game the "Boat Pull". The teams were based on competition between the North Shore and the South Shore, family and friends, and people from all around could join in. After each game the winning team received points. The team with the highest score wins the home made "Golden Boot" trophy and

bragging rights for another year.

Over the past six years many friends and families have helped make the day such a success. These include the Boyd's neighbors Susan and Jamie Mannion, Gillian and Jay Taylor and Marsha and Andrew Rivington. Pictures from the past six year were displayed and put in a beautiful scrap book by Susan Mannion. The amazing 260 feet hockey rink was plowed by Paul Carson with able assistance. The two 12 foot ice Inukshuk sculptures were designed and cut by Mike Avery and Andrew Rivington. An additional sculpture "Ice shooter Bar " took eight men to put together. Many long cold night hours were taken by these guys to build and assemble these amazing sculptures.

The outdoor BBQ of hot dogs, and hamburger and homemade chili was provided this year by the neighbors mention above and cooked by Jesse Boyd and Colin Burchell. The lovely Otty Lake cake was made by our friend , Marlene Rockburne.

Good news travels fast and so this year the Perth Courier was on site taking pictures and names to feature this event in the paper, look out next year, maybe the Citizen!!

As the sun set the large crowd watched the spectacular fireworks.. Once again the day was a huge success and it's a great opportunity to get outdoors and meet new people around our beautiful Otty Lake.! The winner this year was the South Shore! See you next year.

Request for 2007 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*