

# Captain Otty's Log

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## From My Dock to Yours

Karen Hunt, OLA President

It's time to get ready for another summer at Otty Lake! Seasonal residents are opening up their cottages and those of us who overwintered here at the lake welcome familiar faces returning to the shorelines and roadways. The weather over the spring and early summer has been striking with lots of sunshine and little rain. Many of the other local lakes and rivers are experiencing low water levels but thus far this summer, the level of Otty is within normal levels.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the OLA Annual General Meeting at the Perth Lions Hall, Perth Fairgrounds on July 10. Please come out and participate. Remember that this is your association. The morning begins with coffee and Displays at 8:30 followed by the Business Meeting at 9:30. The early morning gathering time is always a wonderful opportunity to connect with friends and neighbours that you may not have seen since last summer as well as a great source of information provided by the Displays.

Over the last few months, members of the Otty Lake Association Board have been working on revisions of the Otty Lake Association Constitution. This has been a challenging task.



BioBlitz Photo by Paul Sturmeay

Potential changes are included as an insert for your consideration. Please take the time to read through the material carefully and contact the lake association with any questions or comments. At the AGM, the membership will be asked to vote on the revisions.

Monday, October 25 is Voting Day for the 2010 Municipal Elections. As usual, we have invited the Reeves and Councillors from Drummond/North Elmsley and Tay Valley Townships to attend the Otty Lake Association AGM. This may be a good opportunity for you to connect with some of your currently sitting municipal politicians.

The guest speaker at the AGM will be Emily Conger, President of the Algonquin to Adirondacks Conservation Association (A2A). A2A works with local people to connect wildlife habitat in the area between Algonquin Park in Ontario and Adirondack State Park in New

In This Issue	
President's Message.....	1
Happy Summers .....	2
Fire Safety.....	2
Lyme Disease .....	3
BioBlitz.....	4
Fast Outhouse.....	5
Propane Safety.....	7
AGM Notice.....	8
Pirate Days.....	8

## How To Have A Happy Summer

*Following a recent OPP/Lake Associations Meeting, long-time Otty-Laker and OLA Director Wally Robins passes these tips along*

### *Reminder - Pleasure Craft Operator's Card*

It is now illegal to operate a motorized boat without a Pleasure Craft Operator's Card. This requirement applies to boats and motors (including electric motors) of any size. The initial fine is \$250. (Editor's note: the OPP have already visited our little bay to inspect a boat for compliance).

### *Reminder - Protect Your Property*

Leaving valuables on your dock or in your boat overnight is an open invitation to thieves. Electronics such as fish finders, fishing tackle, and portable radios or CD players are easily stolen. Take a few minutes when you dock your boat for the night to unload these and other portable items.

### *Reminder - Protect Your Property*

Engrave your Driver's Licence number on power tools, TVs, cameras, and other expensive items that you have in your home or cottage. If stolen and then recovered by the police, the items can quickly be returned to you.

### *Reminder - Boating Safety*

One way to be safe while boating is to assume that every other boat operator doesn't know the water "rules of the road". Boats don't have brakes or turn indicators, and most

boaters have far less experience operating a vessel than they do a vehicle. Being cautious is better than being drowned.

### *Reminder - Protect Your Property*

Two popular items for thieves are boat trailers and stainless steel outboard motor propellers. Consider chaining your boat trailer to a tree or fence and removing your stainless steel prop from your boat if left unattended overnight or longer.

### *Reminder - Boating Safety*

It is required by law that you have a working flashlight on board. This rule includes kayaks, paddleboats and canoes, as well as motor powered vessels. Pack spare batteries in a Zip-Lock bag in case the batteries in your flashlight fail.

### *Reminder - Boating Safety*

If you are charged with operating a boat while impaired, a conviction can be applied to your motor vehicle driver's licence. Don't be stupid. If you think you might be over the limit, do NOT operate anything with a steering wheel or motor. It's not worth it.

## Fire: The Worst Nightmare

Many Otty Lake cottagers and year-round residents don't give much thought to wildfires: after all, surely they can't happen here. But if you dig down a few inches in the woods near your property, you may find a thin layer of black carbon which gives the clue that at some time a fire has swept through your area.

Although our volunteer fire departments in Tay Valley and Drummond/North Elmsley are superb, wildfires can advance too rapidly to be stopped before destroying homes and property. The best way to protect your buildings is to do a fireproofing assessment. The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) publishes The FireSmart Manual, which gives you an 11-point hazard assessment and an 18-point protection plan.

This season has started abnormally hot and dry, so the risk is higher than ever. If you are interested in obtaining the guide, you can download it at

[http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/AFFM/Publication/STEL02\\_163790.html](http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/AFFM/Publication/STEL02_163790.html).

You can also see the current fire status for the province at

<http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/AFFM/2ColumnSubPage/268862.html>.



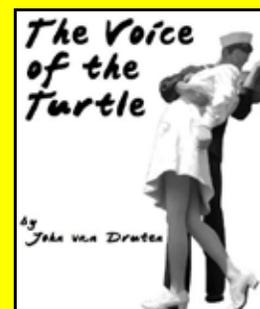
## Classic Theatre Festival

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[www.classictheatre.ca](http://www.classictheatre.ca)



**A Timeless Romance**  
August 6  
to August 29

# Lyme Disease

*Adapted from the Otty Lake Shoreline Handbook*

Lyme disease (named after the town in Connecticut where it first emerged) is caused by the bite of a black-legged tick infected with the bacteria. The bacterium that causes Lyme disease (*Borrelia burgdorferi*) has been in North America for over a century and has more recently been identified in Eastern Ontario in areas close to Otty Lake. These bacteria are maintained in the bodies of wild animals and are transmitted through the bite of an infected tick. Ticks should be removed from your skin within 18-24 hours to reduce the risk of infection. Your body does not maintain a natural immunity to the disease, so you can be re-infected.

A red rash may appear after three days, and up to several weeks, following the bite; a bull's eye rash may be present in the area of the bite. You may also have a fever with the rash.

Symptoms of Lyme disease may include fever, headache, fatigue, muscle and joint pain. These may disappear within ten days, but if left untreated, Lyme disease can progress and affect the nervous system, joints and the heart.

## *How do I avoid ticks?*

- Wear light-coloured clothing. It makes ticks easier to see and remove before they can attach to feed.
- Wear long pants and a long sleeved shirt.
- Wear closed footwear and socks.
- Tuck your pants into your socks.
- Use a tick-repellent that has "DEET" (following the manufacturer's directions for use). Apply it to your skin and outer clothing. Avoid your eyes and mouth, as well as cuts and scrapes.
- Put a tick and flea collar on your pet and check the pet for ticks periodically.
- If you frequent the areas where black-legged ticks are established, examine yourself thoroughly for ticks. It is important to do this each day. Pay special attention to areas such as groin, scalp and armpits. Use a mirror to check the back of your body or have someone else check it.



*Blacklegged Tick  
(Ixodes scapularis)*

## *What do I do if I find an attached tick?*

- Prompt removal of ticks from your skin will help prevent infection, since transmission of the Lyme disease agent usually requires the tick to be attached for more than 24 hours.
- Using fine-tipped tweezers, carefully grasp the tick as close to your skin as possible. Pull it straight out, gently but firmly.
- Don't squeeze it. Squeezing the tick can cause the Lyme disease agent to be accidentally introduced into your body.
- Don't put anything on the tick, or try to burn the tick off.
- After the tick has been removed, place it in a screw-top bottle (such as a pill vial or a film canister), and take it to your doctor or local health unit. They can send it to the Ontario Public Health Laboratory for identification. Establishing the type of tick may help to assess your risk of acquiring Lyme disease.
- It is important to remember where you most likely acquired the tick, which will help public health workers to identify areas of higher risk.
- Thoroughly cleanse the bite site with rubbing alcohol or soap and water.

For further information

[www.healthunit.org/hazards/documents/lyme.htm](http://www.healthunit.org/hazards/documents/lyme.htm)

[www.health.gov.on.ca/en/public/publications/disease/lyme.aspx](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/public/publications/disease/lyme.aspx)

[www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/id-mi/lyme/fs-eng.php](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/id-mi/lyme/fs-eng.php)

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# FIRST BIOBLITZ SETS NEW RECORDS FOR OTTY LAKE



*Jeff Ward and Stephanie Popiel Gauthier with young scientists  
Photo by Karen Hunt*

What an amazing experience! For 24 hours starting at 3 pm Saturday 15 May and running through until 3 pm Sunday, an energetic and enthusiastic crew of 60 participants joined in Otty Lake's first BioBlitz. A BioBlitz is a race against the clock to identify and record all the species of plants, birds, bugs, reptiles, amphibians and mammals that can be found in a 24-hour

period. The participants, who ranged in age from three years to considerably more senior, found 292

species in 12 categories of flora and fauna! Detailed results, which are posted on the OLA Web site, will help to establish a baseline of plant and animal life for the future.

The BioBlitz was held at the north end of Otty Lake, where Roger and Diana Nuttall, and Rosemarie Hoppe-Wilhelm and George Ticehurst, kindly allowed their properties to be temporarily invaded by hordes of observers with binoculars, nets, bottles, field guides, and clipboards. The properties include several types of habitat, so the eager crews could check out a great variety of life forms.

As the results came in, the dedicated duo of Rick Stojak and David Reesor entered each species in a database at the base camp.

The partners in the BioBlitz were the OLA, the Community Stewardship Council of Lanark County, the Rideau Valley Field Naturalists, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA), the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), and the Lanark County Camera Club. All the partners and a small army of volunteers worked together to make the event run smoothly.

The 24 hours were filled with walks 'n' talks. On the first day:

- Mike Yee (RVCA) led the first tour, in which he scoped the BioBlitz. The BioBlitz results form a baseline that can be used to help to "design with Nature". At Otty Lake, in contrast with overdeveloped lakes such as Mississippi, we still have enough natural habitat that we can ensure the



*Roger Nuttall and Jeff Ward agreeing on identification*

lake's resilience, for example, against invasive species. Mike described the four habitat requirements: food, water, space, and shelter, and showed his group how energy, species, and habitat interact in the cycle of life and death.

- In the late afternoon, Susan Samila and Edith Lepine led a group investigating Plants That Like Wet Feet at the shoreline.

- At sunset Heather and Simon Lunn led a tour listening to Creatures of

Page #4



*Damien Benson collecting samples*

the Night, demonstrating how you can identify birds without being able to see them. The younger members of the group were fascinated by Heather's lively illustration of how owls see and hear. The adult members were privileged to learn from Simon the real meaning of the word "crepuscular" (look it up).

- At night a partly successful attempt was made to set up an illuminated bedsheet to lure moths. After it became clear that the moths were taking the night off, the bedsheet was used successfully by Stephanie Popiel Gauthier's children to do wild animal shadow shows.

- Overnight, Mike Yee and two exchange students from France camped out. Mike introduced them to a Canadian culinary favorite, 'smores' cooked over their first bonfire. Nearby, the intrepid Dan Woods from BurgessWood braved it in his pup tent. They all appeared

*Continued on P.5*



*Fascination with bugs and plants*

Continued from P.4



Rick Stojak and David Reesor entering data, Jeff Ward Supervising

chipper in the morning.

- Sunday's events included:

Several forays led by James Page of MNR to his 12 live traps, yielding a deer mouse and a chipmunk. With the assistance of Meaghan McDonald, James showed how to distinguish a deer mouse from other types (it's hard).

For people who like to look up when exploring, Sam Kingdon led a Birding walk and Fred Lepine and Jim Agar led a Tree-Hunting expedition.

For people who like to look down when exploring, Edith Lepine and Susan Samila led a walk seeking Plants That Don't Like Wet Feet, Jay Fitzsimmons led an Insect walk, Mike Yee did Reptiles and Amphibians, and Jim Ronson sought Damselflies and Dragonflies.

Near the base camp, a display of invertebrates and aquatic plants was set up and explained by Adrienne Lewis, Sarah McLeod and Stephanie Popiel.

A continuing theme through both days was the delicious homemade goodies, always available at the base camp, under an enormous shelter lent by the Scouts.

The BioBlitz wrapped up with a barbeque at 3 pm Sunday. The tallies were taken and Rick Stojak presented the numbers. Karen Hunt thanked everyone for their participation and set the scene for a follow-up Blitz. Everyone agreed that the event was a complete success: fun, informative, and useful. Many thanks to Karen Hunt and Meaghan McDonald, BioBlitz Program Intern, who organized and coordinated the event. Karen maintained her unbroken record of ensuring sunny weather at Otty Lake events.



Roger Nuttall and Dan Woods examining raw material for sasparilla beer.



## WORLD'S FASTEST OUTHOUSE

There is no truth to the rumour that Mr. Paul "Hotrod" Stender of Indianapolis will be appearing at Otty Lake in July 2010. Mr. Stender is the owner, designer, and operator of the world's first jet-powered biffy. Seated astride his 1000-horsepower jet engine and hurtling down Kenyon Road at 110 km/hour, Mr. Stender gives new meaning to the expression "gotta go". (photos courtesy flickr.com)



*From My Dock to Yours Con't. from P.1*

York (the Otty Lake watershed is part of this area). Connecting and enhancing habitat is key to the survival of many plants and animals unique to this area.

Members of the Otty Lake community have had a busy spring.

**Pitch –in**

Did you notice all the Otty Lake folk out along the local roadsides a few weeks ago, plastic bags in hand? Good stewards from amongst the Otty Lake community once again formed work groups and pitched in to clean up shorelines and roadways. They made quite a difference! Sincere thanks to all those who participated in this program.

**Shoreline planting**

Extra thanks are due the Otty Lake residents who are the new custodians of the almost 500 plants the Otty



*BurgessWood Pitch-In Crew  
Photo by Edith Lepine*

Lake Association distributed at the beginning of May. These people have had to work extra hard through the recent warm dry weather to keep their shrubs and bushes well watered. The OLA partnered with the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority through their Shoreline Naturalization Program to obtain these native plants for members of our lake community. Participating in this program helps protect the health of the lake by enhancing the “ribbon of life” along the shoreline.

**Otty Lake BioBlitz**

A super turn-out and collaboration between members of the Otty Lake community (of all ages), Rideau Valley Field Naturalists, local experts, and staff from resource agencies including Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA), and the Community Stewardship Council of Lanark County made this event a great success and a lot of fun! Photographers from the Lanark County Camera Club came along to participate in the events and took some outstanding photos. Everyone who participated has commented on how much they learned – and that they had a great time doing it! As well, we now have additional information about the plants and animals that make their home in this part of the Otty Lake watershed.

Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to bring the BioBlitz together. We were very fortunate to work with the Lanark County BioBlitz Program and especially the BioBlitz Program Intern, Meaghan McDonald. Special thanks to Otty Lake residents Diana and Roger Nuttall and Rosemarie Hoppe-Wilhelm and George Ticehurst for generously allowing us to hold the BioBlitz on their properties.

Please see photos and other coverage of this Otty Lake “first” elsewhere in the newsletter and on the OLA website.

**Looking for information about living at the lake?**

This summer all Otty Lake shoreline residents will receive a binder of resources that will answer questions about many of the issues that confront lake residents. In the development of the binder material, we

were fortunate to be able to use a template created by the Algonquin to Adirondack Conservation Association (A2A) and Centre for Sustainable Watershed (CSW) for a lake association in another watershed area. After many hours of editing and re-writing, the information has been customized for use by members of the Otty Lake community. Watch for your copy of the Otty Lake Shoreline Handbook to be delivered by your Area Counsellor early in the summer. If yours does not arrive, please check in with your Counsellor – perhaps they need an extra hand to get this special delivery package out to all their neighbours in a timely fashion. The Otty Lake Shoreline Handbook is coming to you in a three ringed binder in order that you can add additional resource material in the years to come. Thank you to the Township of Drummond/ North Elmsley for providing some of the funding needed for this undertaking and to Municipal and RVCA staff for their assistance in ensuring that the information was accurate for the Otty Lake watershed.

*Continued on P.7*

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From My Dock to Yours Con't. from P.6

Mark your calendars for July 24th!

**Pirate Day** is shaping up to be an exciting day for members of the Otty Lake community! More information is available elsewhere in the newsletter.

**Let's make this a safe and happy summer on land and on the water!**

Boat safely whether you travel by canoe, kayak or motorized vessel! Respect the rights and safety needs of fellow boaters and of those along the shoreline that you boat past.

Boaters are reminded that everyone driving a motorized vessel must now have a Boat Operator's Card.

**Don't let fires get started!**

After a winter of low snowfall, the spring brought little rain. The woods are very dry. Early forecasts for the summer suggest that we may have warm and dry weather. Potential for fires will be increased! I encourage everyone to be extra careful on your property and in the woods this summer.

Although as of this date of writing (June 5) the Drummond North Elmsley Tay Valley Fire Service has lifted the ban on OPEN AIR BURNING, fire bans may be extended or cancelled depending on conditions so check with the fire station at (613) 267-2596 or the municipal office (613) 267-5353 (TVT) or (613) 267-6500 (DNE) before your burn!

## Get the Latest News From Your OLA Website

Rick Stojak, our Webmaster, keeps the site up-to-date with items that arise between issues of the Log. Please visit the site to find information about:

- photos of life at the lake and events
- water levels and water quality measurements
- Otty Lake Management Plan
- contact information for OLA board members and counsellors
- minutes of meetings
- OLA constitution
- archived copies of Captain Otty's Log (highly recommended)

Here's the link: <http://www.ottylakeassociation.ca>

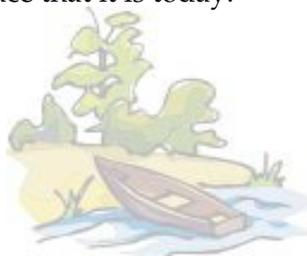
**Reminder:** All open air burning requires a fire permit. Permits may be obtained free of charge at the Township Offices during regular business hours (Mon.-Fri., 8:30 am to 4:30 pm)

\* If you have renters or guests using your property this summer, they should be made aware of the above information as well.

## Getting your well water tested?

You may need to know ....The Smiths Falls office of the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit is in a temporary location situated at 94 Beckwith St. North, while the permanent building is being completed. The temporary office is located in a mall at the corner of Elmsley and Beckwith (kitty corner to the Library). For more information please go to: <http://www.healthunit.org/>

As members of the Otty Lake community we are very fortunate to be able to spend time in this wonderful area alongside a beautiful lake. Along with our good fortune comes responsibility. Let's work together to ensure that Otty continues to be the special place that it is today!



## Transporting Propane by Dick Atkinson



When I used to work (I'm now long retired), my company required managers to conduct a monthly five-minute safety meeting. We used to groan and complain that we knew all that, it was a waste of time, and so on. But it was statistically proven that, with these quickie safety meetings, there were fewer 'on-job' accidents and fewer absences due to home accidents.

It will certainly take less than five minutes to read the following, because you know all this, right?

When you transport that propane tank, full or empty:

- never in the trunk of the car, only in the cabin of your sedan, SUV or van, or in the open box of your pick-up.
- fasten the tank with the seat belt or onto tie-down rings to prevent it from becoming a 15 kg+ flying object, should something happen
- if you leave the vehicle with the tank in it, put two windows about 1/3 down. When you return to the vehicle, sniff at the window, and if you smell that distinctive "rotten cabbage" odour you'll know that the tank has vented or is leaking. Do not press any buttons on your key ring, do not open any doors. Call 911 and let them deal with it.
- never take the tank inside your home. "Well ventilated area" means outside or a shed with ventilator grills.

The Web has a lot more tips on lighting the BBQ, safe grilling, maintenance and storage.



## LET'S HEAR FROM COTTAGERS AND SEASONAL RESIDENTS!

At our June Board meeting we discussed the need to attract more seasonal residents to the OLA Board. Although seasonal and full-time residents have many attitudes, ideas, and concerns about Otty Lake in common, they do have some different priorities and outlooks. The Board would like to do anything we can to find ways to encourage and attract seasonal residents to join the Board.

Wally Robins (wally.robins@rogers.com) and Anne Scotton (ascotton@sympatico.ca) are Board members who are seasonal residents. Could you please take a moment to share with them any ideas you may have about how to encourage more involvement by seasonal residents? The Board values your ideas, and plans to act on them.

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Please attend the Otty Lake Association  
AGM:

Perth Lions Club, at Perth fairgrounds  
Saturday 10 July 2010

8:30 Coffee, displays, and meeting friends  
and municipal representatives

9:30 Business meeting, guest speaker  
Emily Conger, President, Algonquin to  
Adirondacks Conservation Association

## OTTY LAKE PIRATE DAYS JULY 23 – 25, 2010

Fly your pirate flags from the cottage, the dock, your deck, the back of the canoe . . . wherever you can find a spot. Hold a pirate party – invite your friends, your neighbours, or the neighbours you wish you knew. Have some pirate fun!

**July 24 From 10:00am – 2:00 pm**  
**Pirate Day at Maple Glen's recreation area**

### *Agenda*

10:00 – 12:00 Otty Lake Survivor Skills and Treasure Hunt– All Ages PRIZES!

10:00 – pick up your Treasure Hunt list

10:45 – edible wilds – take a short hike and find edible plants and more items on your list

11:15 – fishing skills – learn how to bait a hook, cast from the dock, identify fish and fillet your catch

12:00 – Treasure Hunt Awards

Pirate Costume Awards: Ages 14 and under – best pirate boy & best pirate girl

Ages 15 and over – best pirate & best pirate wench

12:15 – 1:15: BBQ – FREE hamburgers, hotdogs and pirate grog (help us be environmentally friendly, bring your own reusable plates and cups)

12:30 – (tentative) Canoe Races – bring your own canoe or we will have some available to borrow (everyone participating must bring and wear their own lifejacket) PRIZES!

1:00 – Obstacle Course / Relay – All Ages PRIZES!

1:30 – Water Gun Fights – bring your own gun . . . unlimited ammunition available!

**More information? Please contact Darlene Bishop (267-1494) or Joanne Oatway (267-7256)**

### Pirate Days Photo Contest

Submit your favourite weekend photos to Rick Stojak [ottylake@sympatico.ca](mailto:ottylake@sympatico.ca)  
by September 22 (the last day of summer). Photos will be posted on the OLA  
Website. Winning photo will receive an OLA cap and t-shirt.