

Captain Otty's Log

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New OLA
logo by David
Bromley

From My Dock to Yours

Karen Hunt, OLA President

Otty is a beautiful lake in all seasons, from the magnificent colours of fall, through the winter's snow and ice when lake residents can explore the lake by skate and ski, to the early days of spring when the sun warms and the ice thins until the exciting moment of "ice out". Spring flowers magically emerge from the earth, and birds, insects, animals, and people are once again all about. Soon it will be long-awaited summer and days in and on the lake as we soak in the warmth and joy of summer days.

As we move into the summer of 2011, let us all enjoy the lake and our country properties remembering to be respectful of one another and the world about us. Many times we don't consider how much our behaviours affect either other members of the community or the environment and this leads to considerable stress on humans and our lake and its watershed area. Please remember that the impact that each of us has on our neighbours and on the lake adds up significantly so we should remember to be gentle in our interactions.

My thanks to all Otty Lake Association Board Directors, Area Counsellors and members of the committees who work on behalf of all of us throughout the year. Information about those activities



Photo by Bill Bonner

is shared with you by Rick Stojak through the OLA website (www.ottylakeassociation.ca), Don Beattie with Capt'n Otty's Log and Bill Hale with the email circulation of updates. Thanks to these individuals and all others who keep us updated, informed and involved.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the 2011 Otty Lake Association AGM on Saturday, July 9. The meeting will once again be held in the Lions' Hall at the Perth Fairgrounds beginning with coffee and muffins at 8:30. This Display and Discuss Time is an opportunity to connect with friends and neighbours hardly seen over the winter – and also a time to explore the many displays available for your perusal... water quality, water safety, threatened turtles, septic systems, 2012 calendar and the list goes on. **The Business Meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m.** It is an election year for the Otty Lake Association – please come out and participate. This is your lake

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President's Message continued from P.1

community and your lake association.

Gail Read and her team from the Lake Plan Action Committee have prepared a wonderful **2012 Otty Lake Shoreline Calendar** beautifully illustrated by photos contributed by Otty Lake residents. Don't forget to order your calendars early! They make great Christmas gifts!

Darlene Bishop and her committee are working on plans for a second Pirate Day which will be held on Saturday, July 30th. This is a follow-up to last year's Pirate Day and promises to again be a day of fun and learning more about the Otty Lake watershed for the whole family. Watch for more details!

This year Linda Church has guided the production of the 2011 Summer Information Packages which will be delivered to you by your Area Counsellor. Please take the time to check through your Information Package. If you have already renewed your OLA membership, your new Otty Lake map should be included in your Package.

Did you notice the spring cleaning taking place along the roadsides and shorelines? Members of the Otty Lake community from all around the lake have been out there picking up litter and other debris and making the Otty Lake watershed a cleaner healthier environment. Sincere thanks to all who were involved in the 2011 **Pitch-In**.

A special tick warning – and a useful tool!

Black-legged ticks which are known to be potential carriers of Lyme Disease are beginning to be regularly seen at Murphy's Point Provincial Park and are probably here in the Otty Lake watershed as well. As the Government of Ontario brochure says: Get tick smart. Know the bug. Know the bite. Know what to do. Information about Black-legged ticks can be found in the 2011 Summer Information Package and in the Otty Lake Shoreline Handbook. This spring I had a personal encounter with a tick that imbedded itself in my neck. Using regular tweezers it was a challenge to remove in one piece so that it could be sent away for testing. Recognizing that more members of the Otty Lake community will likely be facing a similar challenge, the OLA has been looking for a special tick remover at a reasonable price and we are hoping to be able to make a tick removal kit available FREE to the community as a community service. If everything comes together we plan to have the tick removers available for pick-up at the AGM or you can call me at 613 264-9273 to make arrangements for pick-up in advance of the AGM.

Best wishes for a wonderful summer at the lake.

OTTY LAKE PIRATE DAY JULY 30, 2011

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

Dress in your Best Pirate Costume

Otty Lake Survivor Skills and Treasure Hunt

Edible wilds – take a short hike and find edible plants and more items on your list

Fishing skills – learn how to bait a hook, cast from the dock, identify fish and fillet your catch

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

Obstacle Course

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

Submit your favourite weekend Pirate photos to Rick Stojak
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



A Day in the Life of a Lake Steward

On a cold, damp, blustery afternoon in early April, Murray Hunt is clambering down a Rideau Ferry Road embankment towards Jebb's Creek, where the creek runs under a bridge at the north end of Otty Lake. As part of his job as the OLA Lake Steward, Murray has been measuring water level and flow rate in the creek once per week, and more often in high-flow periods. These measurements were begun by Lorne Gold, the former lake steward, a seasonal resident who kept records during the warmer months for many years. Murray has been keeping records for the past five years.

When Murray reaches the bank of the stream, he sees a stage gauge attached to the bridge support and extending downward into the frigid water. The gauge is a 2-meter white vertical ruler, similar to the ones we see surveyors using on county roads. The gauge was installed by the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA), at the instigation of the OLA, and is referenced to the height above sea level of the water in Jebb's Creek. After recording the water level measurement, Murray climbs back to the road to carry out another measurement.

This second measurement will establish how many cubic meters of water per day are flowing out of Otty Lake through Jebb's Creek. To calculate the water flow volume, Murray must first measure how fast the water is passing under the bridge, using a high-tech method that is familiar to anyone who read A. A. Milne's *The House at Pooh Corner* as a child. In the book, Pooh and his animal friends play a game called Poohsticks, in which the animals drop sticks into the water on the upstream side of a bridge, then rush to the downstream side to see whose stick appears first. Murray's technique requires three Poohsticks, to be sure that his sticks won't be confused with other sticks that happen to be floating down Jebb's Creek. Murray's task is more demanding than the Poohsticks game, because he must start a



stopwatch at the precise moment the first stick passes exactly under the upstream side of the bridge, then stop the watch precisely when the stick appears at the downstream side.

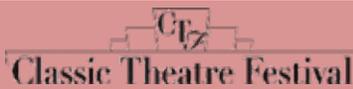
When Murray returns home he will complete the flow calculation, starting with the average transit time of the Poohsticks. Knowing the width of the bridge, he can calculate the speed of the water on the surface of the creek. The cross-sectional area of the stream under the bridge is calculated using the reading of the stage gauge. Finally, applying a formula that accounts for water friction on the bottom and sides of the creek, Murray can calculate the flow out of Otty Lake on the day of the measurement.

The results of these regular measurements are revealing. Most OLA members would assume that the flow out of Jebb's Creek is strong only in the spring, and weak in the fall. The truth is that the flow is highest October-April, ranging over the year between 10,000 and 200,000 m³/day. On 5 April 2011 when the measurements described in this article were taken, the flow was 130,000 m³/day, which is typical for March and April.

A benefit of making regular flow measurements is that the total outflow from Jebb's Creek can be calculated. Knowing the total volume of Otty Lake, the average time to turn over all the water in the lake can be found (it's about four years; please see Otty "State of the Watershed" Report (Update) - January 2007 on the OLA Website).

Benefits also come from the water level measurements, which provide a long-term historical record of water levels, which can be used to interpret short-term variations in water levels. The water level measurements in Jebb's creek also give an indication of the effect of beaver dams in the creek (Editor's note: in September-October 2010, 24 beavers were trapped on Jebb's Creek).

Taking reliable measurements twelve months per year, rain or shine, requires a sustained commitment over many years. Thanks to Murray Hunt for his devotion and thoroughness!



Classic Theatre Festival

Bell, Book & Candle
by John van Druten
A Bewitching Romance
July 8 to 28





The Fourposter
by Jan de Hartog
Memoir of a Marriage
August 5 to 28

Ottawa Valley's Professional Summer Theatre

Mason Theatre, 13 Victoria Street, Perth
Tickets: 1-877-283-1283
www.classictheatre.ca

John E. Hopkins Memorial Fund

Karen Hunt

Over the winter the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation (not the RVCA) contacted the Otty Lake Association about a sum of money (\$1500) remaining in a fund set up several years ago to finance an artificial loon nest platform building program.

Amongst current Board Members no one remembered details about this fund. The Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation told us that there had been no action on this project for several years.

After some weeks of searching through old boxes of files and speaking with a number of Otty Lake people who each remembered some portion of the story, we determined that the money came from a fund established by family and friends through the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation around 1995 in memory of an Otty Lake resident, John E. Hopkins, who felt that Otty Lake loons were important and wanted to support them (the fund was never included as a part of the Otty Lake Association financial records). We also discovered that, aside from an initial loon platform, no additional loon nest platforms were built. Through the years it was apparently felt that there were sufficient natural nesting locations on Otty's shoreline and islands to meet the needs of resident birds, so artificial loon nest platforms were not needed.

But what should be done with the monies being held by the RVC Foundation? The Foundation was asking for direction.

The Otty Lake Association Board of Directors considered this question carefully and consulted with the current owner of the Hopkins property who was a close friend of John E. Hopkins. It was recognized that the Otty Lake loon population seems to be quite healthy and in no need of the support of artificial loon nest platforms.

Accordingly, the Otty Lake Association has now asked the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation to transfer the remaining money to the Watershed Watch Program. The RVCA's Watershed Watch Program annually carries out an extensive water quality monitoring program on Otty and other lakes in the Rideau Watershed. Our lake community, and the loons that nest and raise their young on Otty Lake shores and islands, all benefit from the significant work of the Watershed Watch Program in monitoring for water quality.

We felt that this re-direction of funds would continue to support a healthy environment for the loons of Otty Lake and would be an appropriate alternative use for the monies of the John E. Hopkins Fund.

Sincere thanks to everyone who assisted in locating the historical details of this project.

Don't Touch That Firewood!

At the Lake Links Workshop held at the Perth Civitan Club last October, Jeff Ward, Lanark County Stewardship Co-ordinator, described the increasing devastation on ash trees in Ontario being wrought by the emerald ash borer. Jeff's important message was DON'T MOVE FIREWOOD. Moving firewood from one area to another carries with it the potential of transporting the emerald ash borer with the wood.

Emerald ash borer infestation is difficult to detect because the decline of the tree is gradual. Dead branches near the top of the tree, or wild, leafy shoots growing out of the lower trunk are indicators of possible infestation. The adult emerald ash borer's colour (you guessed it) is a lovely emerald. If you don't spot the insect, you can check your ash trees for the telltale exit holes, which are shaped like the capital letter D. The photo shows the hole highlighted with red paint.

Ash can die for a variety of reasons, not only due to the emerald ash borer. Jeff Ward's recommendation was that if you have ash trees that seem to have a problem, have them checked out by a forestry professional.

For more information about emerald ash borer call 1-866-463-6017 or go to www.inspection.gc.ca (click on Pests)



City Pets and Cottage Living

Wally Robins

For virtually all of my life, I've owned pets. Travis and Sierra, my two Golden Retrievers, are family members. Whether I'm cottage bound to Otty for a weekend or for a three week period, my dogs come with me. Here are a few lessons I've learned over the years about bringing pets to the cottage. They may save you both money and unwanted crises.

Your responsibilities as a dog or cat owner don't disappear when you leave the city. Picking up your pet's waste is paramount to avoid contaminating the lake. Dogs that bark incessantly are equally annoying to your neighbours at Otty as they are in Nepean or High Park. Pets that wander and soil the property of others are unwelcome visitors too. If Fido or Fluffy tends to wander, either leash or train him to stay at home. Remember that not everyone is as big a fan of our furry "kids" as you are. City pets can also get lost in a strange environment. Either ensure that your pet's collar includes a tag detailing your coordinates or have a microchip inserted into your pet for tracking purposes. Better yet, do both. Dog owners should be aware of the worst case scenario - if your pet is found chasing livestock or deer, it can be legally shot by the property owner or by MNR officials. Plus, you'll be liable for damages incurred by your pet.

Rural life exposes pets to very different situations from what they encounter in an urban setting. From a health perspective, pets can contract annoying and even life threatening diseases at the cottage. It is imperative that your pet's vaccinations against rabies, distemper and parvovirus are up to date. Skunks, raccoons, foxes and bats are the main carriers of rabies in Ontario. There is no shortage of these species around your cottage at Otty.

On a lesser scale, pets can contract various gastrointestinal ailments such as "Beaver Fever." Been there, done that with my pets - trust me, it's not a whole lot of fun! I now subscribe to the old adage of an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure and have a supply of prescribed meds for vomiting and diarrhoea at my cottage. A consultation with your vet about prescribed and over-the-counter treatments for wasp/bee stings, cut pads, botulism, and other common medical issues is highly recommended.

Finally, cat owners should be aware of the damage their pet can do while vacationing at the cottage. Felines are extremely proficient predators. Birds are very vulnerable to predation by cats. The songbird population in Ontario is in serious decline due to loss of nesting habitat and industrial pollution. Please monitor and restrict your cat(s) while at Otty.

A Message from OPP
Inspector Gerry Salisbury
Commander, Lanark County OPP



As summer begins, it's once again time for lakeside residents to enjoy activities such as boating, fishing, and yes, some partying with friends. Safety and respect for others must be paramount. The OPP in Lanark County and Central and North Frontenac are committed to have full-time marine patrols focusing on enforcement and proactive measures. I ask that all persons enjoy the water in a manner that is safe and fair for everyone. I offer the following tips for everyone to follow:

- don't drink alcohol and operate a vessel. They don't mix, and part of the penalty includes suspension from operating not just your boat, but also your car
- know the water you are swimming in. Don't dive in shallow water and always have a swim buddy
- respect other peoples' property. If you plan to party, pick up your garbage, don't start unsafe fires, and keep the noise down. Nobody wants to hear you partying all night!!
- keep the speeds of your vessel responsible, and respect the shoreline
- have all required safety equipment and your marine operator's licence with you
- be a good neighbour and watch out for each other
- if you see an activity that is dangerous, report it, don't take the attitude that it's someone else's responsibility, it may cost a life !!

It is our goal that everyone has a healthy and enjoyable summer. One marine fatality is one too many!!!

LASTING LEGACY THROUGH LAND DONATION

Charles Billington

When Dr. Eva Furesz thought about what she would ultimately do with her summer island property, she already knew she wanted it to stay as it is: a natural, refreshing, restorative place for people to visit and enjoy. She and her family had enjoyed 30 years of peace and quiet on the one-acre dot in the middle of Upper Rideau Lake. She considers the island about as close to paradise on earth as anyone could ever hope for.

But, as in many families, the Furesz children grew up and moved away to start new family traditions in far-away places. Eva continued to enjoy the island but it was becoming a burden to maintain the paths, the dock and the cabins.

Eva approached the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation (RVCF) for advice. The Foundation has an active land securement plan and strong track record in managing donated land through agreement with the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA). Other groups, such as the Rideau Waterway Land Trust Foundation, local municipalities, and the Nature Conservancy of Canada similarly accept gifts of land in exchange for a charitable tax receipt for the fair market value of the property. Several donation options are available.

Within a short time, a plan to donate

the island to the RVCF firmed up in her mind. With a call back to the Foundation, she was put in touch with Kristy Giles, Conservation Lands Planner at RVCA. The island meets many of the criteria the RVCF uses to determine if the property is of interest to them. Of particular value to RVCF are key parcels of ecologically sensitive or unique water-related lands (wetlands, shoreline and aquifer recharge areas). Islands are near the top of the list. As if its unique waterfront wasn't enough incentive for protection, the island is home to the Black Rat Snake, an identified species at risk in the watershed.

And so the process was underway... letter of intent, lawyers, appraisers, application to Environment Canada's Eco-Gifts program and eventually to the transfer of title.

"We really appreciate the individuals and families who consider donating their beloved properties for conservation purposes in perpetuity", says Kristy Giles. Dr Furesz sums it up this way: "I draw great satisfaction from knowing that my little island will remain, as my family enjoyed, as a gift to the people of the Rideau Valley. To know that there is a small piece of wilderness somewhere to escape to is good for the soul." This beautiful island with its special habitats and species is now protected by the Conservation Foundation.

Although they are donated, donated lands are not free. Each land donation could have a cost of up to \$15,000 for legal, surveying and appraisal fees plus

the ongoing taxes, maintenance, signage and monitoring of the new property. Donors are sometimes in a position to offer a much-appreciated monetary gift to a maintenance fund in addition to the land itself. Indeed, some trusts and conservation groups may only accept new lands if such gifts are forthcoming.

The Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation takes a slightly different approach to the transfer and ongoing maintenance costs. It has set up a growing fund to help offset the cost of accepting these lands on behalf of the public. Gifts received from many sources go into the Environmental Land Fund and the Conservation Land Endowment Fund for just that purpose. This way, we can continue to accept key pieces of environmental land for public benefit without causing undue pressure on public budgets.

Eva's island (formally known as the Dr Eva Furesz Natural Area) is one of fourteen wonderful, gorgeous, unique water-based parcels owned by the Conservation Foundation and managed by the Conservation Authority. The Rideau Waterway Land Trust owns as many or more throughout the Rideau Waterway. All of these lands were donated by wonderful, gorgeous, unique, community-minded people who believe that some things can and should be preserved forever.

Charles Billington
Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation
613-692-3571 or
1-800-267-3504 ext . 1116charles.billington@rvca.ca

Otty Lake Shoreline Calendar 2012 Order Form

Members of the Otty Lake Association:

- I wish to order one (1) calendar at \$8.00.
 I wish to order three calendars for \$20.00.

Non-members of the Otty Lake Association:

- I wish to order one (1) calendar at \$12.00.
 I wish to order three calendars for \$30.00.

Number of calendars ordered: _____
Cost of calendars ordered: _____
Cost of mailing (\$2/calendar): _____
Total amount enclosed: _____

Calendar pick up: _____ AGM on July 9, 2011
_____ Arrangements will be made by email
_____ Please mail my calendar(s) at \$2 each

Name: _____
Contact Info: _____

Cheques should be made payable to Otty Lake Association. Please send to OLA, Box 20122, Perth Mews Mall, Perth, Ont., K7H 3M6



The Three Rules for Fishing with Kids

Wally Robins

For cottagers and year round residents of Otty, introducing kids, grandkids or nieces and nephews to fishing is a ritual. Sometimes it's as simple as catching sunfish off the dock. Other times it involves a boat ride w-a-y across the lake to a secret fishing hole. No matter where or how you take a little one fishing, follow these three rules to make your time together fulfilling.

Rule # 1 - Keep It Simple

There's no need for fancy equipment to outfit a kid for fishing. For 4-6 year olds, a short ice fishing rod with a closed face, push button reel with 6 pound test line is ideal. Older children can use a longer rod. Leave traditional lures at home and go with live bait. Every fish that swims can't resist a piece of worm dangled beneath a float. Slip bobbers work like a dream. These inexpensive tools allow you to determine the amount of line between the bait and the bobber with the use of an easy to use bobber stop. As well, the bobber stop can be reeled through the guides of the rod allowing the angler to cast.

For older children a 6 1/2 foot spinning rod with 8 pound test line has the versatility to use either live bait or lures. In addition to live bait, small spinners, top-water plugs and spoons catch panfish, bass and pike. If you are an experienced angler, setting up such an outfit is second nature. If you're not, visit a local tackle store for advice. Nothing ruins a day for an eager young angler than malfunctioning equipment.

Rule # 2 - Focus on FUN!

Kids will continue to do things as long as they're having fun. Having fun fishing when you're 7 means catching fish....lots of them! Panfish are the ticket. Otty has a huge population of rock bass, sunfish, bluegills and perch. You'll find scads of them around every shoreline and weed bed in the lake. Panfish are always ready to bite and will amuse your budding angler for hours. Best of all, they bite all day so there's no need to be on the water at the crack of dawn.

At the first sign that your young angler is getting bored, go to Plan B. Plan B could be a boat ride, or wading the shoreline to catch frogs or crawfish, or going to the beach for a swim. Every parent knows that children have a short attention span. Don't expect them to enjoy a 4 hour fishing excursion, especially if the fishing is slow.

Rule # 3 - Reread rules one and two!!

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

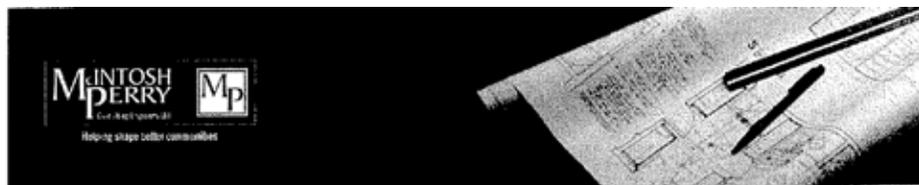
Perth Lions Club, at Perth fairgrounds

Saturday 9 July 2011

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

9:30 Business meeting

Openings exist for positions on the Board of Directors. If you are interested in running for a position, please contact David Reesor (davidanddaphneresor@yahoo.ca or 613-326-0094).



Introducing McIntosh Perry



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- Professional Land Surveying
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- Aggregate Resources Planning

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