



CAPTAIN OTTY'S LOG

OTTY LAKE ASSOCIATION • JULY 2017

President's Message

from

Reid Kilburn



We were all hopeful that after last year's drought we would start our summer season on the lake with an abundance of water. For some, I know, it was a bit too much. Docks floated away and for a brief while unwelcome navigational hazards were observed bobbing across the lake. While levels are still on the high side we can be thankful that they are returning to normal in time for summer at the lake. Welcome cottagers and to everyone best wishes for a wonderful summer at the lake.

We have several activities planned for 2017. Look for information and updates elsewhere in this newsletter and in future notices concerning: celebrating Canada 150 planting of 150 maple trees in our community; the OLA picnic; Paddle Power; and the launch of our OLA 40th Anniversary 2018 commemorative calendar. I would also like to thank our board members, counsellors and volunteers for their research, activities, and educational pieces, all of which help us to better appreciate and enjoy a healthy lake.

I would like to take a moment to express my heartfelt thanks to Peter Dillon-Parkin for his work over the past years as the layout specialist for Captain Otty's Log. Although working from England, Peter has become a member of our community contributing to the success of our main communication medium with our members and friends. Thank you Peter from all of us at Otty Lake.



Photo: Mary Beaudoin

It gives me great pleasure to welcome David Bromley as our new layout specialist for Captain Otty's Log. He's already been a tremendous help in creating our recent Cookbook. David is a Professor of Graphic Design at Algonquin College, a local historian and loves to spend his summers at the cottage at Otty Lake. Welcome David.

I'd be remiss if I didn't recognize and thank Barb Hicks who will continue as Editor and Don and Shari Beattie and Robert Cosh for their roles in distribution of the Log. And thanks to all others who keep us updated and informed.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the 2017 Otty Lake Association AGM on Sunday, July 9. The meeting will once again be held in the Perth Legion beginning with coffee and muffins at 1:00 PM. This Display and Discuss Time is an opportunity to connect with friends and neighbours, a time to explore the many displays available, and pick up your copy of the 2018 OLA 40th Anniversary commemorative calendar. **The Business Meeting will begin at 2:00 PM.** Our keynote speaker this year will be Dr. Shelley Ball who will be speaking on global warming, our

carbon footprint and what we can do to reduce our footprint and help protect our lake.

If you have any suggestions or questions or would like to volunteer please get in touch with your Board via ola@ottylakeassociation.ca.

Enjoy the summer, boat and play safe. Respect our shorelines and help prevent further erosion by observing speed and wake laws. Again, hope to see you at our AGM.

IN THIS ISSUE

Fish Habitat Monitoring	2
Nesting Boxes	2
Grey Rat Snakes	3
Build Smart on Website	4
150th Anniversary Project	4
Paddle Power Aug. 12	4
Pitch in 2017	5
Snapping Turtle Hunting Banned	5
Wild Parsnip Spraying	6
2018 Calendars Ready	6
Around the Lake	7
Hazardous Waste Depots	8
Water Levels	8

FISH HABITAT MONITORING

Over the past four years, the Otty Lake Association has supported the improvement of bass habitat on our lake. The number of community members taking part in the habitat builds have increased every year. Fun is had by all. The first three years were dedicated to smallmouth bass habitat, and the September 2016 project related to both smallmouth and largemouth bass. Over these four years, approximately 275 nests have been built. The success rate, namely nests being occupied, has increased yearly, from 41% occupancy in 2014 to 55% in 2016. A huge thanks goes out to our own Wally Robins, in conjunction with the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) team, led by Jennifer Lamoureux and supported by Adrienne Lewis and Justin Roberts.

The monitoring of the success of the nests this spring has just taken



Photo: RVCA Staff

place, on May 26th and May 31st. Due to the lake being almost 1 metre higher than usual as well as inclement weather, our RVCA folks have been unable to see almost 50% of nests. So another visit is planned around the middle of June. Last year at this time the eggs had been laid and in a few instances some fry were

even visible. This year, the eggs haven't even been laid yet, so everything is about a month late. We're hoping more information will be available during the next trip on the lake. Stay tuned, and come to our AGM on July 9th to get the latest update!

Christine Kilburn

NESTING BOXES

In 2015 and 2016, with the help of RVCA and volunteers from around the lake, we held two workshops to build homes for feathered friends. During those two days, we assembled 15 swallow boxes, 17 wood duck boxes and 26 bat boxes. Those in attendance had a great time constructing these homes, and getting to know their neighbours. Special thanks go out to Richard and Jay Hendry for all their efforts in acquiring materials, patterns and pre-cutting and pre-drilling all the boxes!

This spring I conducted a survey to determine the success rate of these homes. I had a 35% response to my e-mail which went out to 51 residents. Based on these responses, 67% of the boxes were unoccupied. It takes time for our wildlife to find these new



opportunities to take up residence and RVCA was pleased with these results. We should see a higher success rate next year. As with fish, everything is about a month late this spring. So keep an eye on your boxes—there may still be

activity. In some cases, birds could lay a second clutch of eggs, so we could see occupancy up to the end of July. Please keep me informed of any activity you observe.

Christine Kilburn

HELP PROTECT OUR GREY RAT SNAKES – HARMLESS, BUT BECOMING HOMELESS



Source: Friends of Murphy's Point

Have you seen grey rat snakes (formerly known as black rat snakes) around your lake property? Or perhaps sunning themselves on the road?

These harmless reptiles have a difficult life in this area. They can be found only in the Perth/Rideau Lakes/Brockville area. Their next closest habitat is along the north shore of Lake Erie. In our area they have to contend with a short season, winters and predators (fox, coyote, mink, hawk, humans), as well as loss of habitat. They mature much later and grow slower than in the States. They don't reach maturity until they are nine or ten years old, and then lay eggs only every two to three years, vs annually south of the border. Their numbers are declining, yet they are a benefit to have around, controlling our rodent population. In Canada, they were designated a "threatened" species in 1998 and specifically in our area in 2009.

The grey rat snake is harmless. It can vibrate its tail, but it is not a rattlesnake. It has been confused with the Northern water snake, which is browner. The grey rat snake prefers to spend a large amount of time in trees, or sunning itself in edge habi-

tat, where meadows and forests meet. It needs the heat of the sun to warm itself, and shade to cool its body temperature. It enjoys dead trees, downed logs and rock piles. If you have these

on your property, leave them for the snakes and other creatures to enjoy.

The concept of protecting these snakes is largely foreign to us. We fear them for a number of reasons, among them their ability to appear suddenly on the ground and in trees, and from holes—making them really good at surprising us. Seeing a snake-like shape on the ground can cause stress, anxiety, and fear. However, we have the ability to modify our responses to the serpentine image. Snakes are under our skin, but our latent fear of them does not have to drive us to harm them. We can shed some of our deeply rooted myths and misunderstandings.

When you see a snake on the road, please try to avoid harming it.

If you have to move a snake, do not move it any farther than 100 metres from where it was found, otherwise it could die.

To read more about the grey rat snake, visit www.ottylakeassociation.ca and the article on page 6 of the [October 2013 Newsletter](#). Alternatively, consult the [Friends of Murphy's Point website](#) or [Ontario Nature](#). Education on the grey rat snake will also be available at our AGM on July 9th.

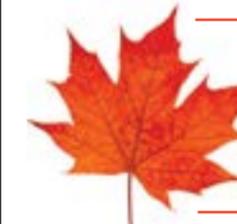
• • • • • Christine Kilburn

• We would like to get a sense of how many grey rat snakes are around Otty Lake. Their preferred habitat is along the north and southwest shores of our lake. We are asking you to help by letting us know when you spot a grey rat snake.

• Photos of your snake would be appreciated.

• If you could provide the closest civic address and the approximate length to wildlife@ottylakeassociation.ca then we will be able to document findings around Otty.

OLA FAMILY BBQ AND GAMES!



Saturday, July 22
10:30 - 1:00
Maple Glen Waterside Park

- Join your friends and neighbours on Otty Lake for a fun-filled intergenerational social event!
- Games galore with prizes to be drawn for top participation!
- A full BBQ lunch for just \$3 per person!
- Face painting for the children in celebration of Canada 150!
- Snake Presentation!

BUILD SMART

Have you noticed? There's a new drop-down menu on our website?! It's called "Build Smart"!

In the past, there has been a Land Use Committee of the OLA Board. As the make-up of the Board changes, skills and interests naturally also change. We currently do not have volunteers available to consistently represent our community at township meetings reviewing minor variances or building applications.

The Board has taken a different direction in supporting its residents in this area, namely that of educating property owners. Thus – the new website feature! Currently, when you click on Build Smart, you will find a

nine-page document whose purpose is to:

- provide contact information for guidance and approval for various types of construction projects,
- educate residents on the environmental reasons for some of the building codes, and
- list other sources for additional information.

We would appreciate it if you would visit the website and have a look at this document. Your feedback is valued and we would like to hear your comments or suggestions for additional information to this part of our website. Feel free to get in touch with us at ola@ottylakeassociation.ca.

Christine Kilburn



Photo: Brenda King

150TH ANNIVERSARY PROJECT



Photo: Maple seedlings awaiting pickup. Christine Kilburn

As you no doubt read in our broadcast emails, the OLA introduced an initiative to celebrate Canada's 150th anniversary. We had a goal to plant 150 maple trees in our Otty Lake community! And sure enough—all 150 trees have found homes!

Thanks to our partner, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) we had 70 Sugar Maple, 40 Silver Maple and 40 Red Maple bare root trees delivered to our home on May 10th. With the help of Eileen and

John Johnston, Ian McDonald and Gail Read, and Kyla Haley we got all 150 trees potted. They grew beautifully over the next month, and were picked up by their new owners on June 10th. Most owners took advantage of fencing to ensure the little trees did not become meals for deer and other wildlife.

Thanks to everyone who supported our project.

Christine Kilburn

Photo: Eve Dore

PADDLE POWER AUG. 12

2017 will be our fifth annual Paddle Power event. Since it is also Canada's 150th anniversary, we would like to integrate these two occasions. A theme of red and white is encouraged with all the flags, hats, clothing and creative accessories you can incorporate!

Last year's location received good reviews as it is a central point on the lake. So we will once again be meeting on the water off the end of Baxter Lane and Colin Farmer Road.

Please come out in your paddle powered watercraft on Saturday, August 12th. We will gather at 10:45 a.m. and group photos will be taken at 11:00 a.m. For more information, please contact [Ian McDonald](mailto:Ian.McDonald@ottylakeassociation.ca) or [Ev Dore](mailto:Ev.Dore@ottylakeassociation.ca).



PITCH IN 2017

I would like to thank everyone who braved the cold and wet to pick up garbage around all of Otty Lake. For a few days it looked pristine until coffee cups started to appear again; we seem to get a lot of take-out food containers and bottles and cans of all shapes and sizes from Town. We did along Rideau Ferry Road from Jebb's Creek to the Park and Ride on County Road 21, covering certain sections of Elm Grove Road, along Long Lake Road and up to Otty Lake South West Shore Road; for some people this is a lot of walking. I am hoping that next year people from Adam Lake may be interested in filling in the gaps along Elm Grove Road. Some of our neighbours pick up on their daily walks, and I would like to thank them also.

A report from the other side of Otty from John Byers was that on Earth Day, April 22, the folks there had "another good clean-up thanks to the work of many volunteers. Once again they collected a trailer full of Gawd-Awful Trash from Otty Lake Side Road, Kenyon and Wildlife roads. They ratcheted-up the recycling this year and were able to sort and separate two and a half bags of



Mira and Nathan Perkins from Maple Glen and Barry Splaine John Byers from Burgess Wood.

plastic and very close to three bags of cans, plus glass and some refuse for recycling". John also wished the roads would stay as clean as they left them. Twenty-two people turned out on a cloudy, wet, day, some having done this dirty job year after year. There are many residents who, during their daily walks, carry bags to pick up rubbish and he extends his thanks to them.

John and I wish to thank both townships for their support in providing the garbage bags and accepting them free of charge at the two dumps, and also loaning us picks (D/NE), which were very useful.

John Byers and Elizabeth Allcock

SNAPPING TURTLE HUNTING BANNED



Photo: Derek Smith

As of April 1, 2017, the trapping and hunting of snapping turtles is officially banned. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry has amended its regulations after several

months of public consultation on the issue. A strong public response favouring the ending of the snapping turtle hunt in Ontario was reported. Previously, it was legal for Ontario residents with fishing licences to kill up to two snapping turtles a day in the summer

months. There was no annual limit on the number they could kill. The main nestin season runs from early to mid-summer. Snapping turtles are known to live as long as 90 years and possibly well over 100. It takes about

Otty Lake Association Annual General Meeting

Sunday July 9th, 2017
Perth Legion

Displays 1PM to 2PM

- Otty Water Quality – see algae through a microscope!
- Youth presentation on invasive species
- Murphy's Point with live grey rat snake
- Tay Valley Township
- Drummond/North Elmsley Township
- Community events around the lake (picnic, PaddlePower)
- OLA Clothing for sale
- And more!

Meeting 2PM to 4PM

- Elect new Board members
- Presentations about:
 - Otty Lake's Water Quality
 - Township updates
 - Grey Rat Snake conservation
 - Feature presentation by Dr. Shelley Ball on climate change, and our lake, and how to reduce our impact
 - RVCA Fish and Wildlife Habitat
- And more!

We look forward to seeing you at the AGM, and hearing your thoughts and concerns. Together, we care for our lake.

15 to 20 years for them to reach maturity and begin reproducing.

We hope that this hunting ban will make a difference in sustaining the species. Turtles of all types may be spotted crossing roads, in areas with lakes and streams, to reach their nesting sites from May to as late as October. If you spot a snapping or other turtle, you can report your sighting to the Toronto Zoo Adopt-A-Pond at this link: www.torontozoo.com/Adopta-pond/turtletally.asp.

Noreen Dertinger
Kennebec Lake Spring 2017 Newsletter
Reprinted with permission

WILD PARSNIP SPRAYING IN LANARK COUNTY



Friends of Lanark County, a group of concerned residents, lobbied hard to make it clear to area councillors that they and many other Lanark citizens are opposed to roadside spraying against wild parsnip. But councillors were divided on the issue, and spraying is going ahead on many Lanark County and municipal roads.

Wild parsnip is commonly found on roadsides and along abandoned railbeds in Lanark County. Some people have experienced blistering rashes from the sap coming in contact with their skin, particularly when exposed to sunlight. The County of Lanark, which is responsible for 562 km of roads, plans to spray county roadsides with Clearview. But while effectively dealing with the wild parsnip, the pesticide kills all broad leaf plants it comes in contact with, and can move through soil and water and potentially harm aquatic plant and animal life as well. The short and long term health implications for humans are not well-documented but are worrisome.

Is spraying necessary? There are some alternatives. People could be taught to avoid and minimize their risk of rash from contact with the plant without resorting to eradication. Some feel that the wild parsnip does not need to be controlled at all.

It has not been proven conclusively that spraying is an effective control of the weed, so some doubt it is worth the risk and expense. Other suggested methods of control include mowing or pulling.

Local Situation. Individual Lanark County municipalities had the option to opt out of spraying the roads that they maintain in their jurisdiction. Tay Valley, Mississippi Mills and Beckwith decided not to spray their roadsides this year, but County roads going through their township will be sprayed. Lanark Highlands, Montague, and Drummond-North Elmsley agreed to the spraying on municipal roads within their townships. Tay Valley did request permission to also opt out of spraying on county roads within their municipality, but lost the weighted vote by a very narrow margin.

Spraying Program. A list of particular stretches of Lanark County Roads to be sprayed is available on the Lanark County website. Warning will be posted after spraying, but individual notices for residents on the spray route are not available. Spraying began on May 24 and will continue until June 30, weather permitting. Some of the weed control will be by boom spraying, and other locations will be spot sprayed. Periodic updates on the roads completed are available online. spraying will not take place within 10 m of freshwater habitat, or on ditches maintained by the property owners. Sprayers are also turned off near mailboxes or if a person is nearby. If necessary, residents can report pesticide incidents such as a health reaction, or improper spraying near water or on a windy day to the Ministry of the Environment.

Opting Out for Residents. A few options were made available by the Public Works Committee of Lanark to residents who did not want their properties along Lanark County roads sprayed, but the May 18 application deadline has passed.

Barb Hicks



Photo: Kyla Haley

2018 LIVING FORESTS CALENDARS READY

Calendars celebrating the forests surrounding Otty and recognizing the 40th anniversary of the OLA have been printed and are available for purchase. More than 300 photos were submitted for consideration by more than 40 photographers. The photos are amazing and really demonstrate appreciation for the incredible diversity of plant and animal life around our lake. Exceptional effort was made to try to include photos representing as many photographers as possible! Each of the 16 months includes a selection of photos along with an informative paragraph representing a sub-category within the overall theme of the calendar, the "Living forests of Otty Lake". Examples of sub-categories are "Seasonal Changes", "Biodiversity of Forests", "Creating Supportive Habitat", and "Nurturing Future Forests", among others.

Thanks to Gail Read for spearheading the project, and the rest of the committee, Kyla Haley, Murray Hunt and Cathy Kari. Calendars are priced very reasonably at \$10, or 2 for \$15, with additional copies \$7 each. Place your orders with Gail Read at read2read@outlook.com, and note whether you will be collecting your calendar(s) at the AGM or arranging pickup after July 9th. Payment due on pickup. Cheques should be payable to the Otty Lake Association.

Kyla Haley

AROUND THE LAKE

Loon Survey: The Canadian Lakes Loon Survey (through Bird Studies Canada) is about to get underway on Otty Lake! Data will be collected and mapped in order to estimate the number of loon pairs and offspring present on Otty this year. Volunteers are needed—simply record the locations of any loons observed on trips around the lake (on your watercraft of choice!) and send in the observations! To volunteer or to ask any questions you might have, please contact our loon survey coordinator at ottylakeloonsurvey@gmail.com.

Spring/Summer Information Packages (SIPs): Area Counsellors have been busy delivering SIPs to every resident in their area since their May 13 meeting. With their visits they also encourage people to begin or renew their membership in the OLA, confirm contact information, answer or relay any questions they may have about the lake or lake activities, and generally be neighbourly! If you don't know your area, see the area map on our website. We hope you will find the materials useful. If you think you have been missed, contact the Coordinator, Gail Read at read2read@outlook.com, or see the electronic versions of the material on the sidebar of the [meetings page](#).

Tay Valley Waste Collection: Tay Valley Township through its TTV Waste Management Working Group has been investigating offering curbside pickup of household waste and recyclables for township residents beginning sometime in 2018. For many, the notion of improved services in this area was well received but at the same time many have



Photo: David Reesor

expressed concern with the proposed implementation plan.

Pressure and concern from residents and lake associations, in particular the Christie Lake Association, has resulted in a delay in the process and, importantly, the scheduling of a public information session. That Session is currently scheduled for Saturday, June 24, 2017 at 9:30 AM at the Glen Tay School, Harper Road.

An additional public meeting will be held in August. TTV Council and Committee of the Whole minutes are available on the [TVT website](#).

Miller Bay Road Parking: If you make use of the Tay Valley Township's boat launch, you should be aware of these parking restrictions. There is "No Parking" at any time in the following areas on Miller Bay Road:

- From County Road #21 (Elm Grove Road) to Otty Lake, including the boat launch circle - South Side.
- From County Road #21 (Elm Grove Road) to Colin Farmer Road - North Side.

There are, however, three designated parking spaces on Miller Bay Road: from Colin Farmer Road to the intersection of Miller Bay Road and Blair Poole Farm Lane - Both North Side.

Water Sampling: Another year of water sampling has begun on Otty Lake. It has been nine years since the introduction of our Lake Management Plan, and water quality continues to be the number one concern of members of the Otty Lake Community. Once again Murray Hunt and Derek Smith are systematically collecting water samples to add to one of the most robust lake water quality data sets in eastern Ontario. The Otty Lake Association takes great pride in its water sampling program and the consistency of results. The next time you see Murray and Derek on the lake, take a moment and give them a nod of appreciation for their stewardship of your number one concern.

Otty Lake Clothing: Some changes are coming to the OLA "spirit wear" available to order. If all goes well we will have hoodies, women's sized T-shirts and a new source of golf shirts. Thanks to Michelle Soucy for looking after this. The updated order form will be on our [OLA Store](#) page, under the About Us tab on the website by late June.

Kids Stories Wanted: We're looking for kids' contributions to Captain Otty's Log. If you are under 12 this might be something to help occupy a rainy summer day! Tell us a story about your time on the lake this summer, like an interesting wildlife encounter or an interesting summer tradition of your family. Just send us your poem or story by September 15 to editor@ottylakeassociation.ca No more than 200 words, please. Photos or drawings to accompany your tale are welcome, too. Don't forget to include your name and age. We'll print a selection of them in upcoming newsletters.

USE YOUR TOWNSHIP'S HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DEPOT

Just a reminder to seasonal and permanent residents alike to make use of your municipality's Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) depot this season. This is where you take materials that are dangerous, flammable, poison, toxic or corrosive. Take care to make sure these items are not included with your regular garbage, put down the drain, poured on your driveway or anywhere else, but are disposed of properly through one of these Ministry of the Environment licensed depots.

Drummond-North Elmsley: Residents have access to the HHW depot on Patterson Crescent in Carleton Place. It operates Saturday mornings from 8:00 a.m. until noon from May

20, 2017 to September 2, 2017. Several other municipalities also use this depot. [Find out more here.](#)

Tay Valley Township: Residents can take their HHW to the Middleville Depot operated by Lanark Highlands at 4686 Wolf Grove Road, Lanark, from the Victoria Day weekend to the Thanksgiving weekend. Hours are Mondays 3 to 6 p.m., Wednesdays 5 to 8 p.m. and Saturdays 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. [Get more details.](#)

For residents of either township:

- Be prepared to show ID proving you are a resident
- Waste items must be identifiable and in a sealed container
- The facility cannot combine

containers, so do not expect to get your container back.

- These depots are for residential waste only.

Here are a few items that people often ask about:

- Fire extinguishers. Yes, take them to the depot.
- Smoke detectors. The amount of radioactive material in them is negligible, so they go in the regular garbage
- Ammunition, explosives or flares. Take them to any OPP detachment.
- Compact fluorescent bulbs and fluorescent tubes. To the depot.
- Incandescent bulbs. Regular garbage.
- Pharmaceuticals. Take them back to your pharmacy, or watch for drop-off days organized by OPP or other organizations.

Barb Hicks

UPDATE ON LAKE WATER LEVELS

(AS OF MAY 30, 2017)

Water levels at Otty Lake have been on a roller coaster ride. I knocked a hole in the thin ice along our shoreline on April 9 and measured a level of 132.22 metres above mean sea level. This was 70 cm higher than the level measured in December 2016, just before the lake froze over. That was a good recovery from a very dry year in 2016 when our watershed was classified as in a "severe drought" from August to December. By May 1, 2017 the lake level had dropped by 25 cm and then rose again to a level of 132.25 m a week later due to the very heavy rainfall in early May. At the time of writing this article near the end of May, water levels have fallen to the May 1 value.

These decreases in water level can be attributed to the large flow in the outlet stream, Jebbs Creek.

These intense rainstorms and fluctuating lake water levels should give us pause to consider how we could make changes to our properties to help reduce our impact on the lake.



Drone Photo: Ken Johnson

Naturalizing your shoreline will help reduce shoreline erosion, reducing the amount of sediment entering the lake. In addition creating a vegetated riparian strip along much of your waterfront will reduce the amount of nutrients entering the lake. The vegetation will slow down the runoff from rain, allowing the plants and shrubs to absorb the nutrients that would otherwise be carried by the runoff into the lake.

You can start or augment this riparian strip by putting away your lawnmower. Rather than mowing to the lakeshore, leave it natural. This

area should be augmented by growing native plants and shrubs. Also consider carefully the negative impact of hardened surfaces near the lakeshore, such as decks, paved or gravel lanes, etc.

We can all do our part to promote the health of Otty Lake.

Murray Hunt

CAPTAIN OTTY'S LOG is produced by the Otty Lake Association (OLA) three times a year, and is distributed by e-mail or Canada Post to all OLA members. Contributions to the Log are welcome.

Coordinator: Barb Hicks
Proofing: Don Beattie
Distribution: Robert Cosh, Shari and Don Beattie
Layout and Design: David Bromley

To find out more about the OLA, or to see past issues, please see: www.ottylakeassociation.ca. Or write to: The OLA, Box 20122, Perth ON K7H 3M6.