

February 2013



# Captain Otty's Log

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Distribution: Robert Cosh, Rick Stojak, Shari Beattie

## President's Message

**H**appy New Year!

I hope you all had a happy holiday, and are looking forward to a couple of months of calorie burning outdoor winter activities.

Many thanks, thumbs up, and a big "Like" to our Web Master Rick Stojak for all the work he does maintaining our web site, and bringing you this edition of Capt'n Otty's Log. Nice work Rick! The Otty Lake Association web site is located at [www.ola@ottylakeassociation.ca](http://www.ola@ottylakeassociation.ca). Thanks also to the other members of the OLA Board of Directors, and the many volunteers who plan and organize OLA activities throughout the year. You help turn a shoreline into a community.

We have lots planned for 2013. See elsewhere in this newsletter and in future notices concerning a Shoreline Survey, Shoreline Planting Program, the Pitch-In clean-up program, and many others. Again this year we are planning a mid-Summer Otty Lake picnic, under the heading of "Capt'n Otty Day", with lots of fun for all ages. If you have some ideas for activities, or would like to help, please contact us.

We have another calendar in the works, so send us photos of wildlife and human activities on and around the lake. Also, historical photos with captions or a write up are a welcome addition to the web site. Contact Gail Read at [read2read@hotmail.com](mailto:read2read@hotmail.com).



*Photo: Wild Turkeys, Otty Lake North Shore*

Do you have a literary flair? Why not write an article for the newsletter! Need help writing it up? Just email your notes to the Log Editor, Don Beattie, who will happily ghost write it for you. Topics could range from family history on the lake, to experiences with local wildlife. Don plans to hang up his red pencil and retire from the Editor's desk after the summer 2013 edition. Don is looking for volunteers to work with him on the next edition, and for someone to assume the role of Newsletter Coordinator. For more info, contact Don at:

- [indigocomms@gmail.com](mailto:indigocomms@gmail.com).

*Continued overleaf*

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If you have suggestions or comments on OLA plans, activities or priorities, or wish to get involved with OLA activities, visit us at <http://www.ottylakeassociation.ca>, click on "contact us", and email us your thoughts. You can direct your email to a particular Board member or to the Board in general.

If you wish to pay your 2013 OLA dues, please send your cheque for \$20 (or \$15 if you pay before 1 April 2013) to:

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

Advice for winter on the lake: Make safety your first priority, and still have lots of fun. Stay warm and dry. Wet patches may look like surface melt, but may indicate areas where spring water has melted the ice from underneath. Capt'n Otty suggests that we stay close to shore and avoid all wet patches in winter, and stay out of the water except in summer!

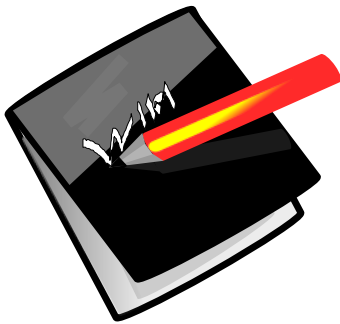
Support the Otty Lake fishery! When it comes time to put in your dock this spring, try to avoid disturbing bass nesting areas. You can spot these easily: Look for circular patches on the bottom of the lake near the shore.

Have a great winter and a great 2013! I'll see you around the lake, enjoying the deep snow, figuring out which footprints belong to which species of shoreline or back lot resident.

**Robert Cosh**  
**President OLA**

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## Notes and Comment



### **46th Annual Pitch-In 21-27 April 2013**

When the snow recedes we see garbage strewn along most roads in the Otty Lake area. The annual Pitch-In campaign mobilizes volunteers Canada-wide to clean up, and this year Elizabeth Allcock has volunteered to organize the Otty Lake crews. If you are interested in helping to make our roadsides and ditches rubbish free, please contact her at (613) 264-9075, or [lizofthelake44@gmail.com](mailto:lizofthelake44@gmail.com). Thank you!

### **Changes to 2013 Fishing Regulations**

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources has made a significant change to the regulations governing bass fishing. In 2013, the bass season

opens on the THIRD Saturday of June (June 15th) and will remain open until December 15. The opening day of bass season is now one week earlier. More details at:

<http://www.ottylakeassociation.ca/FishRegsBass2013.pdf>  
<http://www.ottylakeassociation.ca/FishRegs2013.pdf>

Please report any boat seen fishing for bass before the opener by calling the MNR TIPS line at 1-877-847-7677. There is no need to identify yourself when reporting illegal fishing.

### **2012 BioBlitz Full Report**

BioBlitz, 17-18 July 2012, described in the September issue of Captain Otty's Log, achieved an enormous count of fauna and flora. The participants, guided by experts, counted 189 types of fauna. Invertebrates (113 species) eclipsed second-place birds (49 species). The total flora count was a staggering 364, including 220 trees, shrubs and forbs. If you want to see what forbs are, or read the well-written and well-illustrated report, go to:

▪ [ottylakeassociation.ca](http://ottylakeassociation.ca)

...then click on **OL Mgmt Plan** and download the **Otty 2012 BioBlitz Report**.

### **Otty Woods Subdivision Update**

After six years of planning and approvals, building lots for custom homes are now available for purchase at Otty Woods off the Elm Grove Road. Each 2-5 acre lot comes with deeded access to a shared waterfront on Otty Lake. The amenities will include a pontoon boat and a fishing boat. Owners will be encouraged to store their own small sailboats, windsurfers, canoes and kayaks on racks by the gazebo. The developers, Stephan Katz, Nikki Pora, and Richard Hofer state "*We have established strict design and building standards to preserve the environmental values close to the heart of all of us who treasure life at Otty Lake.*" They hope to have homes under construction by the Spring, and have offered any OLA members a personal walking tour of the site. Please call 613 238 4830. Further information is at:

▪ [www.ottywoods.com](http://www.ottywoods.com)

# Lake Links 2012: Climate Change

## How to Build Resiliency in Our Lakes

The 11<sup>th</sup> annual Lake Links workshop was held at the Perth Civitan Hall on 20 October 2012, comprising five presentations by experts, 11 displays and a panel discussion. More than 100 persons attended. Bob Sneyd of Centre for Sustainable Watersheds opened the workshop by stressing the need for cooperation among organizations. He introduced Lynn Preston as the highly disciplined M.C. who would keep the speakers on schedule, which she proceeded to do with enthusiasm.

The first speaker was Gary Neilsen, Climate Change Coordinator, Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) in Peterborough. Gary distinguished between mitigation (avoiding what we cannot manage) and adaptation (managing what we cannot avoid). He defined adaptation as reducing vulnerability or enhancing resilience in response to climate change and extreme weather events. He focused his presentation on adaptation, e.g., building the Confederation Bridge one metre higher to allow for unavoidable sea level rise due to climate change.

A theme of his presentation was the 73-page Practitioner's Guide from the Ontario government which can help organizations and practitioners prepare for climate change. The guide doesn't give answers, but instead provides a process to plan for uncertainty. The guide introduces climate change and gives risk assessment tools and a six-step framework to adaptation. The guide is very specific to climate change, with lots of concrete examples. You can download the Practitioner's Guide from <http://ontario.ca/s364>. At the MNR website there is also a Climate Change Adaptation Toolbox ("Cool



### *Speaker Gary Neilsen answering questions at a break*

Tools for a Hot Climate") that gives 46 downloadable tools for practitioners.

Gary ended his talk with a dramatic photo of a palm tree growing beside Lake Erie at Port Dover (Captain Otty hopes this item was Photoshopped).

Speaker Paul Lehman, General Manager of Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority, began his presentation by quoting weatherman David Phillips: "Climate is what we *expect*; weather is what we *get*". Paul had lots of measurements of what water flows and temperatures the Mississippi Valley *got* during the past 90 years, from which he could extrapolate what climate change we can *expect*. He analyzed the years 1974-2002, then calculated predictions for three 30-year periods ending in 2099, using the A2 emissions scenario from the authoritative International Panel on Climate Change.

The results showed that winter water flow will increase 70% but the

minimum summer water flow will decrease by 44%, with more variation. The spring freshet will come earlier, and the low summer flow will last longer. These climate changes will mean:

- more flood risk in winter
- more shoreline erosion
- unsafe ice conditions
- large variation in spring, giving runoff problems just after farmers have spread fertilizer
- need for floating docks because summer water levels will vary more.

Although Paul's graphs and tables were low-key, the unavoidable results of climate change will give Mississippi Valley residents (and everyone else in the lake communities) reason to think hard about their own adaptation strategies.

The third speaker was Dr. Robert McLeman, Wilfrid Laurier University. He described a three-university study of the impacts of climate change on people living near Plevna and Bon Echo Provincial Park. This area is rural, with a seasonal economy. Most employment is in tourism, construction, retailing (mainly in the summer), and forestry. In recent years the winters have been warmer and shorter, with less snow and thinner ice on lakes. The result has been a drop in winter tourism and a shorter winter forestry season, though contractors can work longer and heating bills have decreased. The hotter, drier summers attract tourists, but wind damage and fire risk have increased.

Dr. John Casselman, Dept. of Biology, Queen's University spoke about fish as indicators of environmental change including climate change. The otolith growth rings in the ears

# Lake Links 2012 (Continued)

of fish can show variations in climate change from year to year. During cooler years a warm-water fish would grow less, whereas a cold-water fish would grow more and vice versa in warmer years.

With three classifications of fish in Eastern Ontario, warm-water fish (those preferring temperatures above 25°C such as smallmouth bass and white perch), cool-water fish (those preferring temperatures between 15-25°C such as yellow perch and northern pike) and cold-water fish (those preferring temperatures less than 15°C such as brook and lake trout) climate change will affect how many fish are produced and their size. Because the water temperatures are increasing, fewer cold-water fish survive, and the survivors don't grow as large. On the other hand, more warm-water fish survive, and they grow larger. Most cool- and cold-water fish won't adapt, so they will be displaced. The audience appeared to include a cadre of fishing enthusiasts, judging by the number of questions posed to John Casselman.

Jacqueline Oblak, environmental management consultant, was the final speaker, saying that we humans tend to react to threats only after we experience them directly. It would be better to learn from others first, and to anticipate both extreme weather events and long-term gradual changes. Ms. Oblak discussed the effects of Hurricane Irene in Vermont in 2011. Ironically, the disaster response headquarters had to be relocated due to flooding.

Adaptation is needed at all levels: government may lead and support, but without local organizations and individuals getting involved, adaptation won't work. Ms. Oblak raised the idea of local champions in each area, who understand the importance of adaptation and who work to influ-



*Susan Brandum (R.E.A.L.) and Betty Cragg (Eagle Lake Property Owners)*

ence their communities using a cooperative approach. Finally she presented a general project management approach applied specifically to climate change, which included a five-step plan and many examples.

Thanks are due to all the persons and groups who made Lake Links 2012 such a success: our speakers, the Centre for Sustainable Watersheds, BioBlitz, Community Stewardship Council of Lanark County, French Planning Services, Friends of

the Tay Watershed, Frontenac Stewardship Council, Leeds Grenville & Lanark Health Unit, Mississippi-Rideau Septic System Office, Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority, Quinte Conservation, Rideau Environmental Action League, and Rideau Valley Conservation Authority.

All the presentations can be downloaded by clicking on **Outreach and Lake Links** at:

- [www.watersheds.ca](http://www.watersheds.ca)

## WANTED: COORDINATOR FOR CAPTAIN OTTY'S LOG!

**After the June 2013 issue we need a new coordinator for the Log. This is an interesting volunteer position for someone who would like to edit a dynamic newsletter, organizing contributors, writing, and putting together three issues per year.**

**If you're interested in hearing more about the position, please contact Robert Cosh ([robertcosh@hotmail.com](mailto:robertcosh@hotmail.com), 267-5723) or Don Beattie ([indigocomms@gmail.com](mailto:indigocomms@gmail.com), 264-9276).**

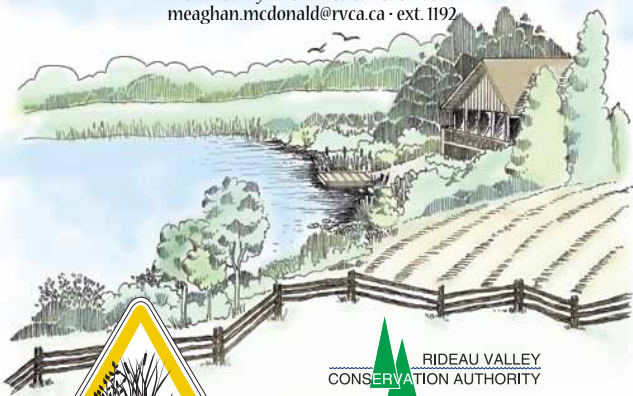
# Want to protect your shoreline?

This year RVCA's **Shoreline Naturalization Program** is providing free FREE shoreline projects to landowners in target areas. Our shoreline projects are varied and flexible and may include:

- Site visits with a qualified shoreline expert
- Customized planting plans and species lists
- Minor erosion control solutions
- Native shoreline trees and shrubs (potted and bareroot)
- Project management and installation (i.e., planting)

All at absolutely no cost to landowners!

Contact Andrea or Meaghan for more details.  
613-692-3571 or 1-800-267-3504  
andrea.klymko@rvca.ca · ext. 1173  
meaghan.mcdonald@rvca.ca · ext. 1192



RIDEAU VALLEY  
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

This project was undertaken with the financial support of:  
Ce projet a été réalisé avec l'appui financier de :



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Canada

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## The Otty Lake Chef: Zebra Mussels Marinara

In the June 2012 issue of the Log, Captain Otty asked for zebra mussel recipes. Robert Cosh and Rick Stojak have inspired the creation of a true Otty Lake recipe. The recipe is still under development but we are printing the preliminary version, adapted from a public-domain recipe. The recipe not only provides a unique eating experience, but also improves the health of Otty Lake by removing zebra mussels.

**Preparation time: 16 months**

**Cooking time: 15 minutes**

### Ingredients:

- 1.4 kg zebra mussels
- 15 ml cold-pressed, extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 small onion, minced
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 125 ml VQA dry white wine
- 375 ml marinara sauce (please see below)
- 50 ml minced fresh parsley
- Marinara sauce
- 25 ml cold-pressed, extra-virgin olive oil
- 4 cloves Lanark County garlic
- 2 cans whole tomatoes
- 15 ml balsamic vinegar
- 1 pinch salt
- 1 pinch granulated Otty Lake maple sugar
- 1 pinch hot pepper flakes
- 10 fresh basil leaves

### Marinara sauce preparation:

In saucepan, heat oil over medium heat; fry garlic, turning, until golden, about 3 minutes. Remove pan from heat. Add tomatoes, mashing with potato masher. Stir in vinegar, salt, sugar, hot pepper flakes and basil. Return to heat and bring to boil; reduce heat, cover and simmer, stirring occasionally, for about 45 minutes or until thick enough to leave space after spoon is dragged through. Let cool. In food processor or blender, puree sauce.

### Mussel preparation:

Place 25 rocks, either pre-Cambrian granite or Ordovician limestone in the shallows of Otty Lake before the bass spawning season. Leave undisturbed until July of the following year. By this time the rocks will be covered with zebra mussels.

In Dutch oven, heat oil over medium-high heat; fry minced onion and garlic, stirring occasionally, until softened, about 5 minutes. Stir in wine, sauce and half of the parsley; bring to boil.

Add mussels and their rocks; cover and cook until mussels open, about 8 minutes. Discard the mussels and eat the rocks. Or if you substitute blue mussels from the grocery store, the dish will be less crunchy.

## Otty Lake Calendar, 2014

### With Whom We Share Our Watershed: Flora and Fauna



Photographer: Derek Smith

Photos of flora and fauna found in the Otty Lake watershed are needed for the 2014 edition of the Otty Lake calendar. Please take time to review your best shots over the past years. Be it plants or animals, our coexistence is critical and fascinating.



Photographer: Roger Nuttall

**Calling resident photographers ~ new and experienced!!**

**Next photo deadline:** March 1, 2013  
**Email address:** read2read@hotmail.com

**Calendar availability:** June, 2013

# Home Sweet Home For Snapping Turtles

By Evelyn Dore

On the morning of June 11<sup>th</sup>, my husband Derek noticed a large Snapping Turtle on top of a pile of loose sand and stone behind our house which was the remnants of an earlier construction project. Only two days prior to this event we participated in a turtle workshop put on by the Toronto Zoo Adopt-A-Pond Program in co-ordination with the OLA. The workshop was designed to increase awareness of the diversity of life that depends on wetland habitats by passing on information to the lake community. We learned about turtle species in our area and how to protect them and their eggs and to pass on our knowledge to the community. With that newly acquired knowledge we quickly realised the turtle could have laid her eggs there and we proceeded to cover the area with a screen which would protect them from predators.

The female chose the typical location to lay her eggs: a sunny location on a south facing slope of a mound of soil/sand/stone mixture. Snapping Turtles can lay a 'clutch' of 30-45 eggs which hatch in 60-90 days. With this information in mind we waited patiently.

The one limiting factor to this grand event was that the pile of dirt the eggs were buried in was destined to be moved due to a landscaping project. It is not recommended to move or



*Emerging from shell. Photo: Derek Smith*

disturb turtle eggs however given the circumstances we deemed it necessary to relocate them rather than destroying them. Fifty-eight days after they were laid, we carefully excavated a total of 36 ping pong ball shaped eggs, gently placing them into sand filled containers, keeping the same orientation for transport. In a nearby location we constructed a new site using the same sand & soil and proceeded to bury the eggs in much the same pattern as found.

The new nest would not only be monitored by ourselves but by our neighbours' three children as well as our landscaper.

On day 79 and following a full moon which our landscaper predicted would be a perfect time for eggs to hatch...they did! By the end of the day, 21 tiny Snapping Turtles broke free of their shells, climbed through the soil and emerged with legs in full motion. These wide eyed reptiles, with an attitude, quickly made the trek



*Pointing at the tiny turtle. Photo: Derek Smith*



*On the way to Otty Lake. Photo: Derek Smith*

to the water either on their own or with the assistance of Tommy, Alice and Sophie.

Over a two day period, it appeared that 33 of 36 eggs had successfully hatched.

Having a turtle lay her eggs on our property and then abandoning them gives one a sense of ownership and responsibility to protect them until they can fend for themselves.

Will the same turtle or her offspring return this year? Turtles have an attachment to previously used nesting areas. The Snapping Turtle is currently listed as Special Concern under the Ontario Endangered Species Act, so we will prepare the site and hope to see her again.

Otty Lake has an abundance of wildlife and vegetation to support a healthy ecological environment. We appreciate living in such a special place. For more information about Ontario turtles visit:

- [www.torontozoo.com/AdoptAPond](http://www.torontozoo.com/AdoptAPond)

## Memorial Trees

by Charles Billington, RVCA

Planting a tree is a very special way to express sympathy for the loss of a friend or loved one. It is comforting to know that a living tribute will be planted here in the Rideau Valley where the person so enjoyed the outdoors and spent so many good years. Your tree eventually takes its place in a vibrant new forest of the future providing life-sustaining benefits like clean air and water to the community for another 80 years — that's more than comforting; that is visionary. More information at:

[charles.billington@rvca.ca](mailto:charles.billington@rvca.ca) or  
613 692-3571 Ext. 1116 or  
1-800-267-3504 Ext. 1116

# Renewing Your OLA Membership!

By Phil Anderson, Membership Chair

For those who renewed their memberships last year, thank you, and welcome to all our new members. Our year runs from January 1 to December 31. If you pay your membership before 1 April you receive a \$5.00 discount! Tick it off your To-Do list today!

Please talk to your cottage neighbours and encourage them to join our association. The more members we have, the more we can do together, from checking water quality and participating in BioBlitz, to having fun at Captain Otty Day.

Please show your continued support for the work of the OLA by sending your \$20 annual membership fee (\$15 if you pay before 1 April!) to the address on the form.

Just fill this form and pop it in an envelope with your cheque. This is also a good way to mention concerns or respond to any questions the OLA might have have posed to members.

## MEMBERSHIP FEE FORM

Please support the work of your lake association by mailing your cheque for \$20.00 (\$15.00 if paid before 1 April) to:

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Lake address \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ Prov./State \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code or ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Please check your preferred delivery method for Captain Otty's Log:

- Canada Post
- e-mail
- the Log by Canada Post, and updates by e-mail.

The Board would very much like to hear from you, especially your concerns, ideas, suggestions, top-priority interests, lake management, projects and activities. Please take a few minutes and let us know.

Are you interested in volunteering? We always need volunteers and would like to have you join the team. Please speak to any of the Board members.



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**Get the Latest News From Your OLA Website**

**R**ICK STOJAK, OUR Webmaster, keeps the site up-to-date with items that arise between issues of the Log. Visit the site to find::

- Photos of events and life at the lake
- Water levels and water quality measurements
- Otty Lake Management Plan
- Contact information for OLA board members and counsellors
- Minutes of AGMs
- OLA constitution
- Lost and found
- Lake and local events

<http://www.ottylakeassociation.ca>  
New e-mail address:  
[ola@ottylakeassociation.ca](mailto:ola@ottylakeassociation.ca)

# 2013 Lake Plan Implementation Initiatives

## A. 2013 Otty Lake Shoreline Survey Program

The 2013 Otty Shoreline Survey will be carried out through a partnership with the Centre for Sustainable Watersheds and the Canadian Wildlife Federation under the Love Your Lake Program.

- This shoreline stewardship program will provide Otty Lake property owners with a great opportunity to learn more about their shoreline and will offer recommendations on how to better protect their property through a survey and a confidential property owner's report.

- Survey will take place summer 2013 and the reports will be available to Otty Lake property owners in the spring of 2014.

- The support of the Otty Lake community for this program is really important. Any property owner who is aware of an error in the identification of their property on the Otty Lake map, please be in touch with the OLA ASAP (surveying will begin in early summer).

## B. 2013 Otty Lake Shoreline Planting Program

(in partnership project with the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority's Shoreline Naturalization Program)

Want to help keep Otty healthy? Want to improve your shoreline?

- Once again the OLA is offering native shrubs for shoreline planting. For 2013 the shrubs are **FREE** to Otty Lake shoreline residents as the RVCA is covering the full cost in a special 2013 Tay Watershed program. Please see the notice elsewhere in the newsletter for the more extensive RVCA program and call Andrea or Meaghan if you want to be part of the broader program described there.



*Happy plant-selling crew in 2012. Photo: Murray Hunt*

- For our Otty lake program we have ordered Red Osier Dogwood, Sweet Gale, High Bush Cranberry and Shrub Willow in one gallon pots. Plants are again sourced from the Ferguson Forest centre in Kemptville.

- First come, first served. Email Karen at [mkhunt@ripnet.com](mailto:mkhunt@ripnet.com) now to reserve your shrubs. Quantity is limited. Maximum number of shrubs per property owner is 15. Pick up day will be Sat. July 6<sup>th</sup>

- **NEW THIS YEAR!** Through Philip Frye at Old Field Garden and Wildflower Nursery, we have also ordered some **wildflowers in 5.5" pots for shoreline planting**. These include Joe Pye Weed, Blue Flag Iris, Canada Anemone, Great Blue Lobelia, and Cardinal Flower). **These will be for shoreline planting only.**

- The \$8.00 per 5.5" pot cost for the wildflowers will be cost shared between the OLA and the shoreline property owner. **Cost to residents=\$4.00 per plant.** Email Karen at [mkhunt@ripnet.com](mailto:mkhunt@ripnet.com) now to

reserve your wildflowers. Quantity is limited. Maximum number of wildflowers per property owner is 5.

Pick up day will be Sat. July 6<sup>th</sup>.

## C. 2013 Otty Lake Wetland Inventory Workshop

*(in partnership with the Toronto Zoo Adopt-A-Pond Program)*

- Wetlands assist in groundwater discharge and recharge, moderate flood waters during high water times, and provide habitat for fish production and for local birds and other wildlife species

- We know that there are several wetland areas in the Otty lake watershed but we have little information about them

- During this June workshop, we will try to learn more the soil types and the wildlife species found in a specific Otty Lake wetland

- Outcomes from the workshop will be shared with the Otty Lake community at the AGM on July 13th.

- For more information, please contact [mkhunt@ripnet.com](mailto:mkhunt@ripnet.com).

*Karen Hunt*