



Captain Otty's Log

The Newsletter of the Otty Lake Association

June 2014

President's Message

from
Robert Cosh

Whew! Winter has finally released its icy grip on the lake. Following the latest ice out in years, kayakers are venturing out, and water skiers will soon be taking that first cautious plunge into the still frigid waters. And what amazing weather! Thunderstorms quickly followed by blue skies and fresh breezes, followed by dinner on the deck. Sometimes it seems like three seasons in a single day. Enjoy it, for tomorrow it may snow! With the onset of warmer weather, Captain and Mrs. Otty report an increase in mosquitoes, and the reappearance of ticks. After being outside, remember to check your pets and yourselves.

To all of you "Hello!" and to you cottagers, "Welcome back to the lake!"

We have several activities planned for 2014. Look for information elsewhere in this newsletter and in future notices concerning the Shoreline Planting Program and other related activities.

Thanks to our board members, counsellors, and volunteers for their research, activities, and educational pieces, all of which help us to better enjoy a healthy lake.

Again this year, the Maple Glen community is generously opening their waterfront recreation area to



Photo by Daphne Reesor

all who share Otty Lake, for a picnic with fun for all ages, including hot dogs, hamburgers, and drinks. Bring your family, bring your neighbours, bring a friend, Saturday, July 26. Mark it in your calendar.

We hear that kayakers and canoeists plan the second annual Paddle Power event on July 13, the day after the AGM. Raise your paddles and join in an attempt to set a Guinness record for the largest assembly of paddlers.

Repeat! Repeat! Repeat! Here is an important message we sent you last year about algae. The situation hasn't changed. **Reduce algae by starving the lake of phosphorus.** The health of Otty Lake is a high priority for all of us, and positive steps are being taken to improve and maintain lake health for swimmers, boaters, fish, and other wildlife. Drummond/North Elmsley and Tay Valley Townships' manda-

tory septic re-inspection programs are in full swing. Besides ensuring a properly functioning septic system, experts recommend that we, as individual property owners, avoid the use of fertilizers, and maintain

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The Importance of Vegetated Shoreline Buffers

How do vegetated buffers help?

A lakeside, naturally vegetated buffer zone is a critical element in reducing the human impact on an otherwise healthy lake. A vegetated buffer zone will filter nutrients from land uses surrounding the lake. Grasses, shrubs, and trees in the buffer zone will slow the runoff of rainwater carrying nutrients and sediment towards the lake. This will allow nutrients to be taken up by the plants and other vegetation, and for the sediment to settle in the buffer zone. On the other hand, an abundance of nutrients entering the lake will promote profuse aquatic vegetation and/or algal blooms.

Vegetation near the water's edge will also reduce shoreline erosion and therefore reduce the amount of sediment, and its phosphorus, from being added to the lake. The roots of trees, shrubs, and grasses serve to stabilize the lake shoreline. In addition, a naturally vegetated shoreline buffer will usually be populated by a range of native plants and will provide vital habitat for insects, amphibians, reptiles, and mammals.



This near-shore zone is important in supporting the food chain of the lake, as well as providing natural habitat right to the water's edge. Trees and shrubs can also provide a canopy and shade for aquatic species on warm sunny days.

What does a vegetated buffer contain?

A vegetated buffer should contain native plants, as these are the best adapted to thrive with minimal attention. Optimally, the buffer should be a mixture of long-rooted grasses, shrubs, and trees. The trees and shrubs should be of a density to allow understory growth. The easiest way to start a buffer is to put away the lawnmower. This should be augmented by planting native shrubs and trees. Advice can be obtained from the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, Shoreline Naturalization Program. The OLA makes

native plants available through their Shoreline Planting Program.

How wide should a vegetated buffer be?

Researchers have offered various answers to this question. To some extent it depends on the circumstances. Steep slopes require deeper buffers to slow the runoff and the type of soil (or lack of) influences the effectiveness of the buffer.

Narrow buffers will help reduce shoreline erosion. Much of the research points to the use of wider buffers of 10m for a major reduction in the transport of nutrients to a lake. However, any size of vegetated buffer will help. We also recognize that you need access to your waterfront. Try to choose a corridor to your shoreline that will channel rain runoff into the vegetated buffer. Please also consider the potential impact on the lake as you consider adding additional hardened surfaces on your lakeside property. If everyone makes a contribution to naturalize their shoreline, it will increase the enjoyment of the lake for all.

Murray Hunt

President's Message (continued from Page 1)

a vegetated shoreline buffer to help absorb nutrients, which would otherwise end up in the lake as food for algae and Eurasian milfoil. Your individual effort may not accomplish much, but collectively, we can make a difference. If we follow recommended practices, we will help lower nutrient levels in the lake, which in turn will contribute to the reduction of aquatic vegetation, and enhance the appearance, enjoyment and value of our waterfront properties for current and future generations.

If you have suggestions or comments on OLA plans, activities, or priorities, or wish to get involved with OLA activities, visit us at 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.

Thanks to those of who paid your 2014 dues before April 1, and received a \$5 discount.

If you haven't paid yet, please support the work of the OLA by sending your cheque for \$20 to:

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

Captain Otty has this advice for summer on the lake: Swim and boat with a buddy. Protect our fragile shoreline — don't make megawake on the lake. Have fun, be on the watch for ticks, and play safe.

Have a great summer, and I'll see you at the OLA Annual General Meeting on Saturday, July 12, at the [Perth Legion, 26 Beckwith Street E.](#) for displays and coffee at 8:30, and presentations and meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Robert Cosh

Otty Lake Association Annual General Meeting

- **Mike Yee** will present on aquatic plants
- **Jennifer Lemoureux** will report on the fish habitat enhancement project
- **Derek Smith** will explain a well water sampling opportunity
- **TVT** and **D/NE** will provide updates
- **MANY** displays will address healthy waterside living!

Saturday, July 12, 2014

Displays open 8:30 a.m.

Speaker and AGM commences 9:30

Note the new location this year:

Royal Canadian Legion
26 Beckwith Street East, Perth

Fishing News

Fishing Regulations

The 2014 bass season opens on Saturday, June 21, and runs through mid-December. The daily possession limit is six if you have a sport fishing licence and three with a conservation licence. The pike season begins May 10 with the same possession limits as bass. There is no closed season for panfish (bluegills, sunfish, etc.).

Illegal fishing, particular during the bass spawning season, should be reported immediately to the Ministry of Natural Resources hot-line at 1-877-847-7767. This is an anonymous tips line. Provide the day and time of the offence and, if possible, a description of the boat (make, colour, and registration number on the side of the boat), and a description of the occupants. You do not have to identify yourself during this call.

Habitat

Enhancement Work 2014

Last October, a major spawning habitat enhancement initiative took place on Otty Lake. It was co-financed by the OLA and the RVCA. A total of 92 nesting sites were created for smallmouth bass. In September of this year, more work will be done. Volunteers from the Otty Lake community are needed. Work will occur on September 15 and 16. In particular, we need at least one person with a pontoon boat who can help transport material to areas on the lake. If you are interested in helping rebuild the Otty Lake bass population, please contact Wally Robins by e-mail at wally.robins@rogers.com.

Lake Water Levels



Smallmouth bass on nest below Otty Lake bed

This was a long winter and when spring finally arrived, water levels were high throughout the Rideau Watershed and the Tay Subwatershed. Otty Lake was no exception.

The maximum lake level at Otty this year was an elevation of 132.28m (unofficial) on April 16. This is a record high level based on the observations over the past 30 years by Norm Hull of Echo Bay. The previous high lake level recorded by Norm was on March 26, 2011. At the time of writing, May 14, the

lake water level has dropped by 29 cm from this record high. Nevertheless this level is higher than average for the time of year. Many people have delayed putting in their docks, waiting for lower water levels.

The flow through Jebb's Creek has been extremely large this spring. It was estimated at 3.7 cubic metres/second (cms) on the day of the high water record. A normal spring high flow is about 1.5 cms. The previous highest estimated flow since monitoring began at Jebb's Creek in 2005 by the OLA was an estimated flow of 2.9cms on April 17, 2008.

Murray Hunt

Crown Islands Project

During collection of information related to the Otty Lake Management Plan, the issue of the use of Crown islands on Otty Lake was raised. These are the islands, such as Clover Leaf Island, owned by the provincial government and accessible to the public for responsible use. Resource restrictions at the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources means that monitoring these properties generally falls to representatives of the beneficiaries, in our case, the Otty Lake Association.

One of the few occupants of these islands are breeding loons who intelligently select these locations due to the general absence of humans and their domestic pets, who might disturb loons, hatchlings, or eggs. Since my main function for the OLA is counting loons, I was volunteered to head up a group to review the use of Crown islands on Otty.

In discussing this project with fellow Otty cottagers, concerns were raised about camping on these islands and the associated campfires. It became apparent to me that



Photo: Norm Hull

I was not even completely confident as to the rules about fire permits on my own property let alone Crown islands. There is anecdotal evidence of unrestrained domestic animals on these islands, such as the time I spotted a large dog chasing a fawn on Cloverleaf Island.

Crown islands are shared with the Otty community, so acting responsibly is very important. I, perhaps like other people, need to be continuously educated as to how

to enjoy the lake, these islands, and even my own property responsibly.

This group thought it prudent to take until perhaps mid-August to monitor the islands and talk to the Otty Lake community to determine how significant any problems might be. For sure there has been partying and camping on these islands, and of course no washrooms exist, but if safe, sustainable, and sanitary use of our Crown islands is observed, perhaps little action is required. But other lake associations (in collaboration with the MNR) have resorted to newsletters or even signs to provide information as to what responsible use of these areas entails.

Our current goal is to provide the OLA with a brief report including a recommended action plan sometime in the fall of 2014. If you would care to join in these discussions, please contact Bill McLeish at billmcleish@rogers.com. Time commitments will be kept to a minimum since we will all be enjoying the Crown islands.

Bill McLeish

Otty Lake Family Picnic

Fun in the Sun with your Family, Friends, and Neighbours!

Saturday, July 26, 2014 from 10:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Maple Glen Recreation Area,

Northwest Shore, off Otty Lake Side Road



- Fun and games for all ages
- Reptile Rain Forest Roadshow at 11:30 a.m.
- Free burgers, hotdogs, salads, fruits, and drinks



For more details: Chris Harrison

chrisc@myhighspeed.ca or

(613) 264-1163 (cottage)

Attention Facebook users!

We are starting an "Otty Lake Association" Facebook group to encourage some more informal interaction within the lake community. This would be the place to share your favourite Otty Lake photos, wildlife sightings, notices of lost or found items, experiences with sourcing and using eco-friendly products, and to find others on the lake who share your interests. Several administrators will be able to add you once you issue your request to join the group. We will be restricting membership to OLA members. Watch, too, for a revamped OLA website later this summer.

Love Your Lake Shoreline Survey Comments

Last June and early July, all Otty Lake shoreline properties (about 480) were surveyed through the Love Your Lake Program.

The Love Your Lake Program was available through the Centre for Sustainable Watersheds (CSW) in partnership with the Canadian Wildlife Federation (CWF). The intent of the Love Your Lake Program is to provide shoreline property owners with information so that they can look for stewardship opportunities on their shoreline through which they can help protect the health of their lake.

The individual, confidential reports for Otty Lake shoreline property owners were prepared by the CWF based on the data collected by a CSW staff person through observations made from a boat offshore each property.

In the reports, the positive things that shoreline property owners have done along their shoreline to im-

prove lake water quality were identified and constructive recommendations were included for restoring or protecting your property to improve shoreline health.

To date, we have received many positive comments from property owners about the shoreline survey reports. We have also heard from some property owners who did not agree with the comments on their reports. The CSW will respond to questions and concerns sent their way.

The fact that there was a strong response to the Love Your Lake offer of free shoreline naturalization work and that many plants have been ordered through the 2014 Otty Lake Shoreline Planting Program suggests that many Otty Lake property owners valued and acted on the information in their reports.

Here are a few of the comments received from Otty Lake shoreline property owners:

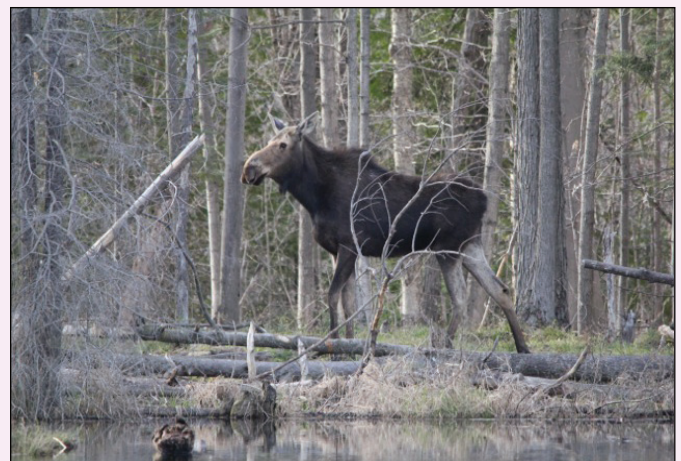
- *We received our shoreline survey in the mail today. What a lovely report! Very informative, and well laid out. Thanks so much for coordinating this on our behalf. That report of course prompted me to order some more plants. Have to plant more on the slope to the water. So — here goes!*
- *I was reading my “Love Your Lake Property Report” and noted the opportunity to apply for one of the free shoreline naturalization projects ... Thank you for enabling Otty Lake residents to benefit in so many ways from the information and opportunities provided.*
- *We are very pleased with the report on our shoreline and will try and correct and improve the areas that are mentioned in the report.*
- *How lovely to get personal assessment of our shoreline property, it is nice to know we are doing something right.*

Otty Lake Pitch-In

Captain Otty would like to thank everyone who volunteered to Pitch-In around our lake. This is a wonderful opportunity for friends and neighbours to get together and clean up our roads, which we did when the weather warmed up and it stopped raining. Dave Bell and Fred Lepine organized a clean up crew from Burgess Wood to Maple Glen, including the Otty Lake North Shore Side Road to the Scotch Line, and Wildlife Road. Their total weight of bags was 400 pounds!

On the west side we had people working along Otty Lake Southwest Shore Road to and along Long Lake Road. We covered parts of Elmgrove Road, but most of the side roads. We picked up along Rideau Ferry road from the park 'n' ride to Wildlife Road. The staff of Barker Willson cleaned up the rest of Rideau Ferry Road to South Street after work.

Thank you again everyone. We will do the same thing again next year.



This moose was spotted on Apatite Pond behind the Conlon/ Quesnel home, and headed onto the trail behind other Burgess Wood properties in early May. Photo by Barbara Conlon.

Elizabeth Allcock

Jebbs Creek In Winter

Have you ever wondered why Jebbs Creek often is not frozen over in winter between Otty Lake and the Rideau Ferry Road bridge? When the temperature is -20C to -30 C for a few days the creek freezes across, but when the air temperature warms from -5C to 0 C, it opens up again.

You might reason that the current in the creek is wearing away the ice, but there is much less current in Jebbs Creek than in the Tay River, and the Tay stays frozen over for months at a time most winters.

The first few falls I lived here the weather was wet and the water table was so high when the cold weather set in that I went canoeing on Jebbs Creek in January. Then we had a very

dry fall so that the water table was low at freezeup and the creek froze over at the same time as Otty Lake. It stayed frozen until mid-January when we had a warm period with heavy rains. The creek opened up, and for the rest of the winter it only froze over whenever the temperature was below -15C for a few days.

When the water table is high in the shallow aquifer that underlies the area around the north end of Otty Lake and the upper end of the creek, my sump pump runs regularly and the spring at the edge of my swamp has open water around it for much of the winter. When the water table is low, the sump pump does not run nor is there open water around the spring in winter.

When the water table is above the level of the creek, the water flows out of the aquifer through springs into the creek. This spring water is warmer (6C to 8C) than the water running out of the lake (0C to 4C) and it prevents formation of ice on the creek until the surface water of the creek is cooled to 0C.

The wetter the fall is, the higher water table will be and more warm water will be coming from the springs and the colder the weather must be to freeze over the creek.

When the water table is below the creek bed the springs do not flow and the creek freezes at the same time as the lake.

Roger Nuttall

Phosphates in Home Cleaning Products

Since July 2010, Canada has restricted the percentage concentration of phosphates allowed in laundry detergents, dishwasher detergents, and other household cleaning products (including hand dishwashing liquid) to 0.5% of total weight. Prior to that time, household laundry detergents were restricted to 2.2% phosphate per weight, and dishwashing detergents were not restricted at all. Commercial cleaning products, for example those used in a hospital situation, are still only restricted to 2.2%. Generally, phosphate levels are extremely low in hand dishwashing detergents anyways.

The problem with excess phosphate use became apparent in the late '60s when excessive algae and plant growth were observed in the Great Lakes, suffocating fish and other plant and animal life. Canada was one of the first countries to restrict phosphate use in 1972 when the Canada Water Act restricted phosphates in detergent to 5%. Auto-

matic dishwashing detergents were exempt from the regulations as products had not been developed to clean dishes properly without phosphates. Those detergents contained anywhere between 3.7 to 8.7% phosphates. So the new regulations are definitely an improvement, but perhaps do not go far enough with commercial cleaners.

Phosphates become a problem because wastewater treatment systems cannot fully remove phosphates from wastewater. Nor do conventional septic systems fully remove phosphates from water. The decomposition processes mean the phosphates remain in soluble form, so can pass through into the septic bed. With high concentrations, the thin or non-existent soils and fractured bedrock of Otty Lake, and proximity to the lake, there still is the potential for phosphates used by Otty Lake cottagers to enter the lake. Use cleaners containing phosphates sparingly, if at all, and don't use these products out-

doors or anywhere near the lake.

Unfortunately, phosphate-free cleaning products are not necessarily environmentally benign, as they can contain many other toxic ingredients. In fact, phosphates and ammonia are biodegradable, so don't let biodegradability be your measuring stick. Cleaning products in Canada do not have to include a list of ingredients, so look for the Green Seal or EcoLogo certifications to avoid products with other harmful ingredients. Such ingredients include the antibacterial agent triclosan, chlorine, phthalates, optical brighteners, synthetic dyes, volatile organic compounds, and microbeads. A good source of information on eco-friendly products available in Canada is Adria Vasil's book [Ecohollic Home](#). Just search Google Books on the web and check the detergent ratings on page 24. You may also find the American internet tool [GoodGuide.com](#) helpful.

We're Almost There!

Five Year Review Report Otty Lake Management Plan

Over the past year the OLA, members of the Otty Lake community, and our community partners have worked together to review what had been accomplished to preserve and improve Otty Lake over the previous five years and to identify areas that still needed work. This information has been compiled into the Five Year Review Report Otty Lake Management Plan (OLMP).

An Executive Summary of the Five Year Review OLMP was prepared and is being distributed to members of the Otty Lake community through the 2014 summer information packages

A draft of the full Five Year Review report will be posted on the OLA website, www.ottylakeassociation.ca.

The Five Year Review OLMP will be taken to the AGM on July 12 and the membership asked to approve the document.

Looking Ahead

Protecting the health and preserving the special features of Otty Lake remains an important focus for members of the Otty Lake community.

In the almost six years since the OLMP was released, members of the Otty Lake community have had many opportunities to learn more about the factors affecting lake

health and much has been accomplished by the community working together with our community partners.

There are still concerns to be addressed about the health of Otty Lake and in the years ahead there will be new challenges as the lake and lake community evolve. It is essential that Otty Lake residents, the OLA and the governmental and non-governmental organizations who are our community partners continue to accept their shared responsibility for the protection of the health of the lake and work together to care for this special lake called Otty.

Karen Hunt

Around The Lake

Area Counsellors and Summer Information Packages

By now you have likely received your summer information package from your area counsellor. We recommend you keep this information, as well as your Love Your Lake Shoreline Report in your Otty Lake Shoreline Handbook (white binder). We are still looking for counsellors for areas 8B (some of Mary Miller Road, Loon Drive, Bayside Road), 9B (Apatite Bay, MacGowan Lane, Beaver Dam Lane) and 11 (McLaren Lake). If you could volunteer for one of these positions, or think you have been missed, please contact Phil Anderson, Counsellor Co-ordinator, at anderpg13@hotmail.com or (613) 264-0072.

Otty Lake Clothing

T-shirts, golf shirts, and sweatshirts stitched with the OLA logo are available in men's and ladies' sizes in a wide selection of colours, and

are ordered as needed. We also sell one-size-fits-all visors and ball caps in royal blue. Place your order with [Ginger Hay](#) using the form on the OLA website, or at the July 12th AGM.

Free Shoreline Naturalization Projects Coming to Otty this Summer

As reported in the February newsletter, the Love Your Lake Program received funding from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, allowing them to offer five free shoreline naturalization projects for completion on Otty during the summer of 2014. This project is a follow-up to the shoreline surveys completed on Otty last summer.

The OLA received a number of enthusiastic letters from Otty Lake shoreline residents and we are pleased to tell you that successful applications were received from property owners on Sunset Drive, Three Bay Road, Healey Drive, Kenyon Road, and Mile Point Road.

Congratulations to the successful applicants who have taken this important step to protect their shoreline and help keep Otty Lake healthy! Watch for further updates in the fall newsletter.

2014 Otty Lake Shoreline Planting Program

Wow! Otty Lake shoreline property owners have responded positively to the 2014 Shoreline Planting Program. All plants have been pre-sold. Pick-up day will be July 5.

Thanks and congratulations to all who have ordered shrubs and wildflowers. Establishing a shoreline buffer area or enhancing what you already have along your shore is a great way to protect the lake from excess nutrient run-off.

Please send photos of the results of your 2014 shoreline planting to the OLA at the end of the summer. It would be great to see the photos posted on the OLA website or in the fall newsletter.

Karen Hunt (mkhunt@ripnet.com)

OTTY LAKE: PADDLEPOWER 2014

SUNDAY, JULY 13

The second annual PaddlePower gathering at Otty Lake will be held on Sunday, July 13, 2014. Paddle gatherings are a recent phenomenon in Canada and the United States. Groups are brought together for various reasons, ranging from “just for the fun of it,” to Guinness World Records. These gatherings of paddle-powered watercraft normally consist of kayaks and canoes, but we also encourage row boats to participate. The goal for this year will be to increase our number of participants from last year’s total of 65 watercraft. Residents, families,

and friends are all welcome, with children being the responsibility of their guardians.

Again, this year’s gathering will be in a triangular region created by Cloverleaf Island, Mile Point, and Maple Glen, in the north end of our beautiful lake. Boats will congregate between 10:00 and 10:30 a.m., followed by a photo opportunity at 10:45 a.m. The area will be outlined by several participants wearing bright t-shirts reading “Otty Lake PaddlePower.” We suggest that paddlers travel to this location by water rather than attempting to

launch at Maple Glen.

Formation will be broken at 11 a.m. with participants invited to paddle as a group around the north end of Otty Lake. Souvenir t-shirts may be ordered at this time.

We look forward to your participation. Questions may be directed to our dedicated email address: paddlepower2013@gmail.com.

(Note: The date for this event was incorrectly reported in the February Log. The event will happen the day after the AGM.)

Captain Otty: Just Passing Through

Captain Allen Otty, an officer in the Royal Navy, for whom Otty Lake is named, really didn’t have a close connection with Otty Lake.

Allen Otty was born in North Yorkshire, England, in 1784 and began his career in the Royal Navy at age 19, first arriving in Canada in 1814. On May 16, 1816, Colonel Cockburn, Captain Otty and several others set out from Brockville for the Rideau Lake area. Writes Jean McGill in *A Pioneer History of the County of Lanark*, “They travelled down the Lake to the Carrying Place [Oliver’s Ferry, now Rideau Ferry] where they left their sleighs, and crossed the neck of land to an inner lake which Colonel Cockburn named Otty Lake after the Captain.” They walked there by snowshoe. Cockburn is also credited with naming the stream that led out of the

lake into Pike Creek (later the Tay River) “Jebb”. Later that month, Captain Otty returned to Kingston. He and Lieutenant Joshua Jebb of the Royal Engineers investigated water communications between Kingston and Ottawa via the Rideau Lakes that spring. But from there, Captain Otty had other duties on Lake Ontario.

Barbara J. Griffith took up the challenge of finding out more about Captain Otty and produced a very detailed biography of the Captain in 2000. Captain Otty was granted various properties in Upper Canada, but after marrying in 1818, settled in New Brunswick and became a prominent citizen, farmer and entrepreneur. He and his wife Eliza had ten children, and he died there in 1859 at age 74.

Two other places in Ontario bear the Otty family name. Otty Point

projects into Lake Ontario east of Port Hope, and there is an Otty Island in the St. Lawrence River’s The Navy Islands, close to Gananoque.

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 Otty Lake cottagers and residents. Contributions to the Log are welcome.

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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.**