



Captain Otty's Log

The Newsletter of the Otty Lake Association

June 2015

President's Message

Hello, and Welcome Back to the Lake!

The OLA has several activities planned for 2015. Look for information elsewhere in this newsletter and in future notices concerning the Shoreline Planting Program, OLA picnic, and other activities.

Mark your calendar for Saturday, July 25. The Maple Glen community is generously opening their waterfront recreation area for the OLA picnic, with fun for all ages, including hot dogs, hamburgers, drinks, and a magic show. Bring you family. Bring your neighbours. Bring a friend.

Repeat! Repeat! Repeat! Here's your annual reminder about algae. The situation hasn't changed, but we can all help reduce algae by starving the lake of phosphorus. Otty Lake's health 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. D/NE's and T/VT's mandatory septic re-inspection programs are in full swing. Besides ensuring a properly functioning septic system, experts recommend that we avoid the use of fertilizers and maintain a vegetated shoreline buffer to help absorb nutrients that would otherwise end up in the lake as food for algae, Eurasian milfoil, etc. Col-



Bubbles - Photo: Chris Harrison

lectively, we can make a difference. By following recommended practices, we help lower nutrient levels in the lake. This, in turn, helps reduce aquatic vegetation and enhances the appearance, enjoyment, and value of our waterfront properties for current and future generations.

Want to help? Perhaps you have some work experience that would help us achieve our objectives. Visit us at <http://www.ottylakeassociation.ca>, click on "contact us," and email us your thoughts.

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Underwater Shoals and Hazards

The OLA does not monitor the placement of shoal or hazard markers on Otty Lake. Any you see—usually large plastic bottles—have been placed by other lake users. Give wide berth to these markers, as they may not indicate the full size of the hazard—just a high point where a marker could be fixed. Not all shoals are marked, and the hazard of these shoals varies, depending on water levels, which fluctuate during the boating season.

Boaters should practise caution when navigating the lake and familiarize themselves with shoals and shallow areas, whether marked or not. Consult another experienced Otty Lake boater for advice.

The discussion of hazard marking does arise periodically within the Association. The decision usually comes down to liability. If the OLA undertook a shoal marking program, it would be responsible for marking all hazards and would need insurance to protect against liability. (See [FOCA fact sheet http://foca.on.ca/shoal-marking-risk-management-considerations/](http://foca.on.ca/shoal-marking-risk-management-considerations/)) Also, approved markers are both costly and not easily sourced. They would also need to be placed in the spring, monitored throughout the boating season, removed in the fall,



Photo: Barb Hicks

and stored over the winter, at considerable volunteer effort. While the OLA cannot take on this responsibility at this time, a number of area lake associations do look after shoal markers, including Mississippi, Sharbot, Greater Bobs and Crowe, and Big Rideau. See the Mississippi Lakes Association site to see how they address hazard marking: <http://www.lakemississippi.ca/buoys.html>

In undertaking a hazard marking program, lake associations must conform to the Private Buoys Regulations as laid out by Transport Canada. Perhaps, not surprisingly, an

empty beach bottle or milk jug does not meet the standards, including the 30.5 cm (12”) minimum height above water requirement. However, as FOCA explains, “marking (vs. NOT marking) a known hazard is a positive contribution to a safer boating experience. We have all heard tales of serious damage to boats when persons were not aware of aware of local conditions.” The OLA encourages individuals to continue marking hazards and maintaining those markers as a courtesy to their Otty Lake neighbours.

Barb Hicks

President's Message

(Continued from page 1)

You can direct your email to a particular Board member or to the Board in general.

Thanks to those of who paid their 2015 dues. If you haven't paid yet, please support the work of the OLA by sending your cheque for \$20 to: Otty Lake Association, Box 20122, Perth, ON K7H 3M6.

Advice for Summer: 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 look forward to seeing you at the OLA AGM on Saturday, July 11, at the Perth Legion, 26 Beckwith St. E. Coffee at 8:30 a.m., meeting at 9:30.

Robert Cosh

Lost and Found

The OLA is willing to use our email list to help reunite pets, boats, docks and so on with their owners. Just send an email to ola@ottylakeassociation.ca.

Please be as specific as you can with your description, and attach a photo.

Otty Lake Association Annual General Meeting

8:30-9:30 a.m. Displays and socializing

- Chat with fellow residents involved in lake improvement projects
- Share your questions with environmental partners and discuss their involvement
- Remain current and seek solutions with township and emergency response representatives

9:30-11:30 a.m. Presentations

- Updates on resident-led OLA improvement projects.
- Description of initiatives, current and projected, e.g., algae, invasive species, fish spawning enhancement
- Q & A

Take an active role in your lake.
Be informed! Share your ideas!
Participate!

We are all responsible for the stewardship of Otty Lake!

Saturday, July 11, 2015

Royal Canadian Legion
26 Beckwith Street East, Perth

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Workshop



Eurasian milfoil on boat

FOCA introduced a new AIS prevention and monitoring toolkit at a workshop held at the Perth Civitan Hall on March 13. A strong contingent from the Otty Lake community joined other lake association representatives to learn about the program and receive a crash course from Matt Smith of the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters on identifying AIS in their own lakes. The program will help lake associations undertake a comprehensive approach to surveying and monitoring AIS using volunteers, but the information is just as valuable to individuals. As Deanna Panitz, acting programs co-ordinator, explained, *“The first step is raising awareness of AIS with those on your lake and starting the conversation about how to prevent introduction and spread. You know your lakes best, and will likely be the first to notice if a plant or group of plants looks suspicious.”*

Workshop participants were shown how to use [EDDMapS Ontario](http://www.eddmaps.org/ontario/index.cfm) (<http://www.eddmaps.org/ontario/index.cfm>), an online mapping tool for all invasive species, including AIS. Individuals can report sightings via computer, or on the spot using an app for their smartphone or iPad/tablet device. Resources from the workshop are available on our website’s [invasive species](#) page.

Barb Hicks

Otty Lake Family Picnic

Have Magic in Your Heart!

Saturday, July 25, 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m.

Maple Glen Waterfront Park
(Otty Way off Otty Lake Side Road)



Fun games for
all ages!



Magic show by
RyGuy Magic

Donations of \$3 per person would be appreciated. All additional costs are covered courtesy of the OLA

Otty Lake Canada Geese

Seventy years ago, the only Canada Geese we saw in southeastern Ontario were those migrating between their wintering grounds in the eastern U.S. and their nesting areas in northern Ontario and Quebec. Once in a while, a flock would land in a grain field to glean any seeds left after harvesting. These migratory geese were smaller than the geese that nest in our area today, weighing about 2kg compared to 4kg for our now local geese.

In the 1950s, a few “giant” Canada Geese were captured in Minnesota and bred in captivity. MNR obtained some of these birds and bred them in captivity at the bird sanctuary near Upper Canada Village on the St. Lawrence River. In the mid-1960s, 40 were brought to the Perth Wildlife Reserve, where the RVCA had prepared a large, fenced pond.

The geese had the feathers clipped on one wing, so they could not fly away, and were fed grain to supplement the vegetation that grew near the pond. The breeding success of these first Wildlife Reserve geese was poor. Geese are very territorial during their nesting period and will



Canada Geese - Photo: Rick Haas

attack anything that gets too close to their nest, including other geese. With twenty pairs trying to nest in the fenced-in area, they spent more time fighting than nesting, and few young were produced during the first year. The solution was to remove the fence and let the geese spread out to nest. The geese still had one wing clipped, and they were penned and fed during the winters. Consequently, the reproduction rate improved, with the number more or less doubling each year, and it wasn't long before there were more than 300. The RVCA stopped clip-

ping the wings, so the geese could fly, and banded all the geese. When the northern geese were migrating that fall, the Wildlife geese were encouraged to join them, by firing a shotgun near the pond. Within a few weeks, RVCA was receiving reports of these banded geese from the Chesapeake Bay area in Maryland.

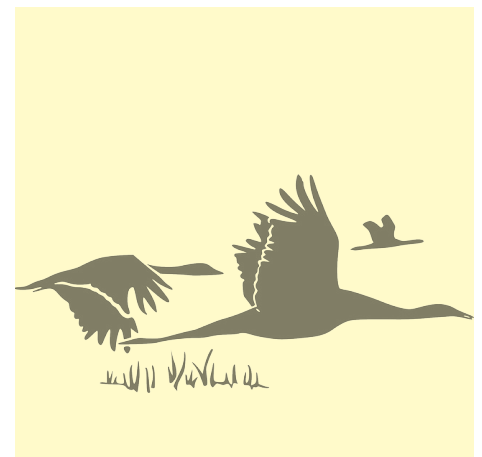
The rest is history. The geese returned the following spring, and nested in and near the Perth Wildlife Reserve. By the 1990s, they were nesting on Jebbs Creek all the way to Otty Lake. Now, all of eastern Ontario has breeding Giant Canada Geese, and the numbers continue to increase. The goose hunters are happy, but others maybe not so much.

Roger Nuttall

Crown Land Use

A number of Otty Lake islands are Crown-owned (i.e., Ontario government) and accessible to the public for responsible use. Some islands, such as Clover Leaf Island and the centre island of the Three Sisters are used frequently. Please remove all trash, observe fire bans, bring your own firewood, and maintain a respectful noise level, as sound carries across water.

According to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, overnight camping may take place on Crown islands if the island size warrants. As a general rule, islands having a diameter of 200' or more are considered appropriate. Smaller islands may be suitable, if campers bring “luggable loos.” Additional tips for island use will be posted on our website's [environment page](#).



Building Permit Fun. Oh, Really!

So, you want to construct an addition to your lake home. Perhaps the family is growing and another bedroom would be welcomed, or perhaps you want to extend the spring and fall seasons by adding a screened, three-season room to keep those nasty mosquitoes at bay. The prospect is both exciting and perhaps a little daunting. Where do I start? Who can I go to for assistance? So many questions.

There are a couple of options. The first is to hire a qualified building contractor and, fortunately, the Perth area is blessed with an abundance of competent tradespeople. A contractor can take the project from permit application stage through to final inspection by the building inspector. The general contractor is your representative on the job. The second is to take on the contractor job yourself. This option can be overwhelming, frustrating, and stressful, especially if you have no building experience. You will be responsible for all aspects of the project, from securing permits, to hiring and co-ordinating the necessary trades and inspectors, sourcing materials, and ensuring the job is done properly.

If you choose Option No. 1, how do you find the perfect contractor for you? Ask your neighbours,



Photo: Brenda King, Little Silver Lake.

Speak to friends, and consult anyone who could make a recommendation. From that list, choose three; meet with them to discuss your project and show them your drawings and notes, so that they can provide an estimate. Remember, the lowest quote is not always the best choice. Ask questions. Ask for references. Be sure you finalize all construction and design details in writing before signing the contract. Make sure you feel comfortable working with this person. These preliminary steps will help minimize any difficulties that may arise during construction.

What's this about construction drawings? How do I get those? While there is software for do-it-yourselfers, you may have to hire a Provincial Building Code Identification Number Certified designer or architect, depending on the scale

and complexity of the project. The costs for drawing services will vary.

Once you have two sets of drawings, a site plan and possibly a survey of your property, you are ready to submit a completed building permit application to the municipality. Upon approval, you must keep the permit and a copy of the approved drawings on site.

I would strongly recommend you meet with Township Planning and Building staff prior to making your application to avoid potential delays and possible disappointments. Building permit forms are available online through your township's website; fees are payable at time of application. Friendly and knowledgeable township staff will review your application for zoning and Ontario Building Code compliance, as well as septic system compliance and RVCA approval, if applicable.

One more thing. Regular building inspections are mandatory as laid out in the Ontario Building Code Act. The homeowner or building contractor is responsible for calling for inspections at the appropriate stage of construction. Ask the township planning department for a list of required inspections, or consult the township website.

Peter Siemons

Otty Lake Pitch-In

Pitch-In has officially finished for this spring, but volunteers are still welcome to clean up the roads and verges around Otty Lake. Sadly, we did not have the usual response to help clean up around the west side of our lake. However, Fred Lepine is very pleased with the response he received for BurgessWood, Maple Glen, and Wild Life Road, the area he organizes. After 17 years on the job, he is retiring and handing over the reins to John Byers.

We would like to thank everyone who got their hands dirty cleaning up after thoughtless people who think it is socially acceptable to foul our highways with their garbage.

Elizabeth Allcock

Blue-Green Algae: What You Should Know About It

Blue-green algal blooms occurred on four local lakes in 2014, an increase over previous years. The OLA has discussed a plan of action if blue-green algal blooms are suspected at Otty Lake.

What Is Blue-green Algae?

Blue-green algae is the common name for cyanobacteria. It is not a true algae, such as the green algae that can produce blooms on Otty and other local lakes at various times during the warmer months. However, blue-green algal blooms have some of the same characteristics and a similar appearance of true algae, hence the same name.

Blue-green algae is present in most lakes in minute quantities distributed throughout the water column. However, under certain conditions, blue-green algae will flourish in algal blooms with much higher concentrations. This can cause concern, as blue-green algal blooms can contain toxins, which in sufficient concentration can affect the health of humans and their pets as a result of using lake water for swimming, drinking, and other household uses.

Blue-green algal blooms normally occur in mid to late summer in shallow, still water. The conditions that favour the production of these algal blooms are warm water and air temperatures, calm wind and strong sunlight over a period of a few days. However, blue-green algae blooms can also occur in deeper, cooler water. Higher nutrient levels in the lake are also a key factor in the formation of blue-green algal blooms. Blue-green algal blooms will often dissipate in a few days with changing weather conditions.



Photo: Upper Rideau Lakes Association

What does a blue-green algal bloom look like?

Blue-green algal blooms may give the water a bluish-green tint or they may look like pea soup or turquoise paint with various swirls. Fresh blooms may smell like freshly mowed grass. Degrading blooms may smell like rotting garbage. On the OLA website's Environment page you will find photos of blue-green algal blooms. On the same page are links to presentations from the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) and also from the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark Health Unit on the characteristics of blue-green blooms and how to report it. These presentations were provided to representatives of local lake associations at a meeting in April.

What should you do if you see a potential blue-green algal bloom?

If you are uncertain of your identification of a blue-green algal bloom, you can contact the Lake Association for assistance. [Derek Smith](#), 267-5225 or [Murray Hunt](#), 264-9273 from the Lake Association Environment Committee can come to the site of the algal bloom to assist you in the identification.

A potential blue-green algal bloom should be reported to the MOECC Spills Action Centre at 1-800-268-

6060 (a 24/7 service) as soon as possible. Their staff will confirm if the bloom is blue-green algae and will take samples for analysis to determine if the bloom contains toxins and if so, the level of the toxins. This information will be forwarded to the Public Health Unit for the appropriate action.

MOECC may take a few days to determine if an algal bloom is blue-green algae and if it contains toxins. However, it will likely take more than a week from the time of reporting a potential blue-green algal bloom until the level of toxicity is determined through further testing. During this evaluation period the Public Health Unit advises against drinking, swimming, fishing or using the water for household use in the area of the algal bloom. For this reason it is important that anyone contacting MOECC of a potential blue-green algal bloom at Otty, also inform the Lake Association so that they can advise the lake community of the situation. The Public Health Unit will issue the appropriate advisories as the results of the evaluation become known.

Please note that conventional cottage water treatment systems that use UV or chlorine will not reduce toxins from blue-green algae. Boiling lake water for drinking will promote the release of the toxins of blue-green algae.

The bottom line

Blue-green algal blooms at Otty remain a small possibility. However, if we are vigilant, any blue-green algal blooms that might occur can be quickly identified and the appropriate steps taken to protect your health and that of your neighbours.

Murray Hunt

Fish Spawning Enhancement Monitoring

The fish spawning enhancement monitoring team completed their first day of post-effective monitoring on May 29, and will be heading out again the first and second weeks of June for a couple of days. Early results are consistent with last year. Approximately 43% of the beds we installed were being monitored by the male small mouth bass and 7% had been cleaned. The nests that had been installed in shallow water were not as heavily occu-



ried, as the water levels are low due to drought conditions. This is one reason we installed the nests at the 1–5m range. The 2–3m nests were highly occupied this year, which is great news. We are very pleased with these results for our Year 2 of monitoring. The cool temperatures and low water levels will certainly be factors in the spawning results this year.

*Jennifer Lamoureux
Aquatic & Fish Habitat Biologist, RVCA*

Around The Lake

Board Nominations

Thanks to the nominating committee for seeking candidates to fill upcoming board vacancies, including the position of president. After preparing an information package, the committee approached approximately 20 people. The names of those willing to stand for election will be made public at the AGM. Many who opted not to let their names stand offered to assist the OLA in other ways, so, overall, it was a valuable recruitment exercise. Thanks to Linda Church, David Reesor, Karen Hunt, Christine Kilburn, and David Bell for ensuring we have a strong board to represent the Otty Lake community.

Development Setbacks in TVT

Following a close vote by TVT council on April 28, the existing Site Plan Control Bylaw will remain in place. Any proposed development within 100 m of a body of water will require a site plan control agreement (SPCA). It had been proposed that the trigger be reduced to 30 m.

These agreements typically address maintaining shoreline vegeta-

tion, keeping roof runoff and construction debris out of the water, and limiting the shoreline access area. The SPCA is required to protect the buffer along water, which protects lake water quality, as well as fish and wildlife habitat, and protects a property against flooding and erosion. Four lake associations, including Otty, Farren, Big Rideau, and Adam, as well as a Lake Networking Group rep, provided comments to the township in advance of the meeting supporting maintaining the 100m setback trigger.

Algae and Aquatic Plants Project

Research and public education activities are ongoing for the People, Aquatic Plants and Healthy Lakes project announced in May 2014. Look for summer and fall workshops, an updated citizen report website, and the Algae and Aquatic Plant Education Manual. Otty Lake is one of 20 area lakes included in the study. Sediment cores have been taken from the lakes and their diatoms analyzed. For most of the lakes, this has indicated a minimal to moderate amount of warming water temperatures and nutrient enrichment. Aquatic beds in each

of the lakes will be mapped this summer. By the end of this project, Carleton University, Friends of the Tay Watershed, MVCA, RVCA and the local lake communities will better understand what is causing green algae blooms and profuse aquatic plant growth in local lakes and rivers. The project is funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

Shoreline Assessment Summary

Condition of the Otty Lake shoreline directly impacts the health of Otty Lake. The recently complete Otty Lake Shoreline Assessment Summary Report is a new resource that provides baseline data that will help in planning future Otty Lake shoreline stewardship activities. The Report is a lake-wide summary of information gathered through the 2013 If Love Your Lake survey of 474 Otty Lake shoreline properties (totalling 93.3% of the Otty Lake shoreline). The summary report is available on the [OLA website](#).

Summer Information Packages

Most of you should have had a visit from your area councillor with your summer information package.

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Around the Lake (continued)

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Summer Information Packages (continued)

He/she is your contact point with the OLA and can fill you in on OLA activities. New and renewing members can submit their \$20 membership fee to their area councillor. If you haven't received a visit or a package, please check with [Phil Anderson](#), our Councillor Co-ordinator. We still have a couple of openings for area counsellors. If you would like to spend some time getting to know your Otty Lake neighbours, please contact [Gail Read](#).

Cap'n Otty's Log

Just a reminder that the OLA newsletter is available by email or snail mail three times a year. We ask that you specify your delivery preference when you renew your membership. The email version links to the PDF version on our website, and allows you to see the photos in colour, as well as access the various links. Issues dating back to November 2013 are also available on the website.

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.**



Boating Bums - Photo: David Reeser

OTTY LAKE: PADDLEPOWER 2015 SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 2015



Rain or shine!

Gathering time: 10:30 a.m.

Raft formation: 11:00 a.m.

Meet in your paddle-powered craft (no motors, please) in the open water between Hazard Island and Miller Bay Road. Let's see how many boats we can gather together in one place.

For more information contact: PaddlePower2013@gmail.com