



Captain Otty's Log

The Newsletter of the Otty Lake Association

October 2015



Paddle Power Panorama - Photo: Jason Ball

President's Message

From Reid Kilburn

Greetings,

Hopefully your summer on the lake has again left you with good memories and stories that will last generations (I'll come back to this thought). This volume of Captain Otty's Log is packed with stories of accomplishments, tips on how we can help our lake and preserve it for the next generation, as well as the latest news from around our lake. I invite you to browse these articles and get back to us with your thoughts and comments via our website: ola@ottylakeassociation.ca.

Christine and I moved to Otty Lake five years ago in May and shortly after moving in we were greeted by an OLA Area Counselor and presented with our very own OLA Shoreline Handbook. Now you have to put this in context, two people who never had the opportunity to live or cottage on the water, receiving a binder of what we soon discovered was an excellent education resource. From that day forward

we have been continually learning about our lake, its inhabitants, wildlife, flora and fauna and our community and its goals and objectives for our lake.

Being a relative newcomer to the lake I realize that I am still on that learning curve but I think you will find that I am approachable and a sponge when it comes to learning and understanding the challenges that good stewardship faces these days. It is an honour to be your OLA President and I look forward to serving you and hopefully meeting you as we work together for the good of our lake.

Now back to that earlier thought of memories and stories for generations to come. Our community has a rich history some of which has been documented by people such as David Code in his 2006 book and also Roy MacSkimming and Don Beattie in their March 2013 presentation to the Perth Historical Society. As you read this history it is interesting to note that we have previously faced challenges similar to those of today and this community has consistently found the will to

work together with our partners to address these challenges.

There are probably numerous other collections out there that I am not aware of at this time so as we prepare to celebrate the 200th anniversary of settlement in the area, the 40th anniversary of the Otty Lake Association in 2017, and Canada's sesquicentennial, please give a thought to helping us build a more comprehensive library of stories, memories and facts about Otty

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Promoting Thriving Waterfronts Across Ontario

It's heartening to know all over the province, a network of people who treasure time in cottage country and care about clean, safe lakes are working to preserve Ontario waterfronts.

This network is the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA). FOCA has been operating for 50 years and represents more than 500 lakes. The Otty Lake Association (OLA) has been a member for several years. We contribute to the organization. And we benefit from it. FOCA works on many issues, including these key priorities:

- The long-term environmental integrity of Ontario's freshwater resources
- Fair property taxes
- Effective land use planning.

An Information Bridge

FOCA acts as a bridge between its members and policy-makers. For example, when the OLA was involved in mining issues in the early 2000s, FOCA took those concerns forward to the provincial government. It sits at the table where individuals cannot.

FOCA connects community groups with each other. The OLA is a founding member of the Lake Networking Group, representing a cluster of 34 lakes in Eastern Ontario, which meets to discuss mutual interests, such as policing, shoal marking and water quality. FOCA distributes

the group's work province-wide.

FOCA helps build thriving waterfront communities by providing news, workshops and toolkits for lake and road associations. For example, in March 2015, FOCA held a workshop in Perth on [monitoring aquatic invasive species](#). Participants learned how to prevent, detect and track non-native flora and fauna in our watershed.

Lake Planning

Lake planning is fundamental. FOCA has published a handbook of ideas to help shoreline people engage their neighbours, promote environmental stewardship, and plan for the future. The handbook is based on the collective experience of many lake associations, including OLA.

In fact, FOCA gave its annual achievement award to the OLA in 2008 to recognize the vision and leadership of our [lake management planning](#).

Benefits to the OLA

The Otty Lake Association benefits from belonging to FOCA's province-wide network. The OLA gets:

- Updates on breaking issues and legislation, e.g., [new rules for ATVs](#)
- A [toolkit for associations](#)
- Support for water monitoring, key steps in improving water quality
- Funding for lake links meetings that help put good ideas into practice

- Solid advice on governance issues
- Contacts with like-minded people.

Benefits for Individuals and Families

People who belong to the lake associations that are members of FOCA are entitled to benefits too. In other words, every paid-up member of the OLA can take advantage of certain benefits.

Here's what you and your family can get:

- "CottageFirst", an insurance plan for cottagers available exclusively for FOCA members
- Seminars, such as workshops about cottage succession ("keeping the family in the family cottage")
- Discounts to [Cottage Life](#) and [Boats & Places](#) magazines
- Free one-year membership to the Canadian Canoe Museum.

Strength in Numbers

The FOCA website (foca.on.ca) posts loads of practical info in the [Resources](#) section. It's worth signing up for the [electronic newsletter](#) (aka Elert). This crisp, monthly digest will keep you up-to-date on the latest waterfront issues, news and events. Then, get involved in creating a sustainable future for the beautiful lakes and rivers of Ontario.

There is strength in numbers.

Beatrice Schriever

President's Message (continued from Page 1)

Lake. Depending on your response we may incorporate your input in a 200th or OLA anniversary project of our own. So again please send along your thoughts or ideas via our website: ola@ottylakeassociation.ca.

At the risk of being accused of running on by our editor I have one more thought to share at this time. Under our Past President, Robert Cosh, we created a Project Enabler function on the Board. While the Board has a number of key projects underway that respect your priorities as identified in the Five Year Review

of the Otty Lake Management Plan, we would like your ideas for any new projects that would complement current initiatives or contribute to enhancing Otty Lake community life in general. Please send them along and we'll be in touch.

Reid Kilburn

Fish & Wildlife Enhancement Project

An impressive contingent of Otty Lake volunteers gathered September 21 to complete the third phase of the fish and wildlife enhancement project begun in 2013. Jennifer Lamoureux, Aquatic and Fish Habitat biologist with the RVCA, thanked her hardworking crew:

A very sincere thank you to each of you for volunteering your time towards the 2015 Otty Lake Fish and Wildlife enhancement Project. Each year our volunteer numbers have grown which shows the extreme dedication and enthusiasm that you have for your lake. I think we doubled our numbers this year!

The numbers are in: We installed 49 spawning beds, 75 cornerstones and nine brush bundles. We installed or delivered eight wood duck nesting boxes and seven swallow boxes to specific locations around the lake, with more to be installed shortly. A total of 27 volunteers for a total of 189 volunteer hours assisted with the project on September 21st 2015. Thank you to each of you for offering your time to volunteer - we couldn't do this without you.

Plans for 2016 include monitoring of the installed spawning beds in the spring of 2016, more nesting box construction (for wood ducks,



*Volunteers working on the fish and wildlife enhancement project
Photo: Jennifer Lamoureux*

bats, and swallows) and additional fish habitat enhancement work. We will continue to work on creative plans for next year!

It is a real privilege to work with all of you. Thank you once again for your dedication to stewardship on the lake.

See you next year!

For photos of the day's work, see the RVCA website http://www.rvca.ca/otty_lake/index.html



Purple Loosestrife Now Under Control

Purple loosestrife, *Lythrum salicaria*, was brought to North America from Europe in the 1800's as a garden flower. Because it had no natural predators in North America it spread quickly throughout the wetlands, crowding out the native plants and destroying the habitat of many of our native plants and animals.

In 1992 biological control was tested on a plot of purple loosestrife, introducing four species of European insects, with favourable results. In 1993 two types of these insects were released in a 5000

square-metre patch of purple loosestrife in southern Ontario. Over the next four years these insects multiplied, and reduced the biomass of the purple loosestrife by over 90%, which allowed the native plants to re-establish in this wetland.

I think it was in 2001 that the OLA and the RVCA bought \$1500 worth of three types of larva of these insects. This small handful of larva was released at the RVCA's Perth Wildlife Reserve, 5 km south of Perth, off Rideau Ferry Road. The following summer showed that the purple loosestrife in the area of re-

lease was stunted and had holes in many of the leaves. Four years later, the purple loosestrife all along Jebb's Creek up to Otty Lake was being attacked by these insects.

Now, in 2015, much of the purple loosestrife in our watershed is stunted and has holes in the leaves and the native plants are regaining their place in our wetland habitats.

At the time of their release I wasn't sure that we had made a good investment in the bugs but time has shown it was an excellent choice for the OLA and RVCA.

Roger Nuttall

Welcome to New OLA Board Members

We are fortunate to have enlisted some new blood for the OLA Board elected at the July AGM. We welcome two new directors, Chuck Shenkman & Krista Hearty McLean, returning director Wally Robins, and new President, Reid Kilburn.

Chuck Shenkman has been a resident of Otty Lake since 2000. He operates a music business and has a Bachelor of Environmental Sciences from McGill University. Most importantly Chuck loves being out on Otty Lake both summer and winter, and pitching in for community causes, e.g., the Stewart Park Festival.

Krista Hearty McLean has been a high school science and biology teacher, and has led many environmental activities at both Perth and Smiths Falls high schools. One year she enlisted the help of OLA's Karen and Murray Hunt to help teach PDCI students about water quality assessment with a benthic monitoring activity along the Otty Lake shoreline. As property owners on Otty Lake, Krista and her husband Michael McLean, along with their two year daughter Emery, love to enjoy the beauty and biodiversity of Otty.

Wally Robins has been a seasonal resident on Otty for more than 60 years. He is an avid and knowledgeable fisherman, and has countless articles in print in various Canadian fishing publications. He is retired from a career in public service. Wally has been an OLA board member on two previous occasions, chairing the Environment Committee, contributing to the Lake Management process, and more recently, is the contact person for the Fish Spawning Enhancement project. Wally is keen to contribute his expertise to the board for another term.



OLA Presidents: Robert Cosh, 2011-2015; Reid Kilburn, current President; David Reesor, 2005-2007 and 2008-2009; and Karen Hunt 2009-2011

Reid Kilburn was elected our new OLA president, and is new to the board as well. Reid has enjoyed paddling and camping by many waterways over the years. Five years ago he and Christine moved to Otty Lake, where they both learned to value the work of the OLA. Since retiring from a career at Bell Canada and CGI, a Canadian information technology company, he has been involved in many other community organizations. His broad management experience will serve him well as he works with the OLA board and lake residents.

Our thanks to Robert Cosh, who has earned the title of Past President after having served two two-year terms. Robert worked hard to provide value for membership dollars

by seeking out evidence-based policies and projects.

Cathy Kari remains a Vice-President, Dave Bell Vice-President Finance and Treasurer, and Christine Kilburn our Secretary. Other returning directors are Barb Hicks, Ian McDonald, Roger Nuttall, Gail Reid, Anne Scotton, and Derek Smith.

A big "thank you" to our retiring directors Phil Anderson, Ginger Hay, Karen Hunt, Bill McLeish and Peter Siemons. We sincerely appreciate everyone's contributions and willingness to work together to keep Otty Lake beautiful.

A complete list of board members and their contact email addresses is available on [our website](#). There is currently one board vacancy.

Paddle Power 2015 Sets Record!

The third annual Otty Lake Paddle Power held on Sunday August 9 was a record breaking success! With perfect weather in our favour, approximately 80 boats, 102 people and two dogs formed a line then rafted their boats together between the shores of SW Otty, Hazard Island and BurgessWood. View the event photographs posted on the Otty Lake website to confirm our numbers!

We look forward to seeing you all again next year when we will set another record! Be sure to mark your calendar for August 7, 2016.

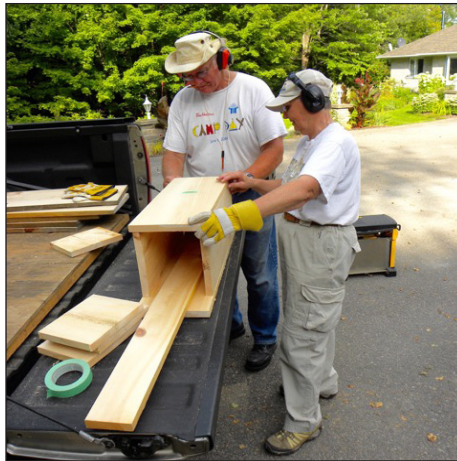
Ev Dore and Ian McDonald

New Home Construction for Wildlife

Duck, swallow, and bat boxes are part of the plans for Phase III of the Fish and Wildlife Enhancement project. A call for volunteers went out on our website and by email in late July and a number of volunteers responded including Richard and Jay Hendry who volunteered to co-ordinate the sourcing of wood and preparing bird house kits.

On August 31, Richard and Jay Hendry spent the day with Reid Kilburn in his workshop cutting the wood pieces required for the ten swallow/bluebird houses, and the ten wood-duck houses.

Then on September 3 additional volunteers gathered at the Kilburns' place to help put them together! Jay



Richard and Jay Hendry building nesting boxes - Photo: Christine Kilburn

and Richard, Christine & Bob Melville, Cathy Kari, Chuck Shenkman, and Reid helped with assembly, as did the RVCA folks, Jennifer Lam-

oureux, Justin Robert and Adrienne Lewis. The nesting boxes will make great homes for a variety of birds around the lake.

Potential plans for ten bat boxes are being reviewed by Jennifer Lamoureux and Richard Hendry and will be built another day.

After the construction, a few of the boxes were still unclaimed. If you would like to host one of these boxes on your Otty Lake property, or would like to help with another construction session (even next year), please contact [Jennifer Lamoureux](#) of the RVCA at 613-692-3571 ext 1108.

Barb Hicks and Reid Kilburn

Watershed Discovery Day, August 15, 2015

Watershed Discovery Day, held at the Farmers' Market in the Crystal Palace in Perth, was the place to be on Saturday August 15 for all your questions on local water and lakes and the programs underway to protect them. Organized by the Friends of the Tay Watershed, the day provided interactive exhibits and activities on the state of local water resources, the challenges facing them, and the programs and plans available to address them – and experts from several of the area agencies managing our water resources. As well there were fun and informative water related activities for the children.

Representatives were available from the Town of Perth, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, Watersheds Canada, the Invasive Species Awareness Program of Plenty Canada, the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, Friends of the Tay Watershed, and



Karen Hunt (OLA), Louise Heslop (OTF) and David Taylor (FoTW) cutting the Lake Management Plan anniversary cake Photo: David Zimmerly

local lake associations that have been developing lake management plans.

The 2015 Watershed Discovery Day recognized the 10th anniversary of the Lake Management Planning Program launch in area watersheds, with a display of the lake plans and an anniversary cake. A short ceremony included members of the original Lake Management

Planning Program steering committee, Louise Heslop from the Local Grant Review Team for the Ontario Trillium Foundation, municipal councillors from Tay Valley and Drummond/North Elmsley Townships, and representatives of area lake associations that have developed lake plans.

The anniversary celebration was a time to thank the Ontario Trillium Foundation and other donors for their support and belief in the importance of the Lake Management Planning Program. We also thank the many community partners and the local lake communities who knew what needed to be done and got on with the task. Other generous donors included the Community Stewardship Council of Lanark County, the Rideau Lakes Environmental Foundation, and TD Friends of the Environment Foundation.

Karen Hunt

Protecting Your Shoreline Plants

The shoreline of Otty Lake has been further enhanced by this year's shoreline planting initiative that was held on July 4, 2015. A total of 50 shrubs and 72 wildflowers were purchased by residents of our lake community to further naturalize their properties. Thanks to all who participated and to the OLA for their ongoing subsidizing of this project.

As we prepare for winter, it is important to keep our new plantings in mind. Protecting young shrubs and trees from our foraging four-legged friends is an important step in allowing time for root development. Creating appropriately sized wire cages is a relatively easy task. Smaller cages can be developed from chicken wire and can be held in place with the addition of two or three tent pegs. Large shrubs and trees can be well protected by a cage constructed from 2x4 corn crib wire to match the desired diameter.

In time, shrubs and trees establish themselves and can usually cope quite well. The lovely two-gallon Sweet Gale shrubs sold at this year's sale are an excellent example of this process as they were fully trimmed back by the growers last fall to demonstrate their resistance. Cages last well, so as your plants become established consider moving the cages along to support new plantings!



Gail Read

*Plant safe in 2 x 4 crib wire!
Photo: Gail Read*

Volunteer Opportunity Connects Residents on Otty Lake

Otty Lake Area Counsellors are a friendly group of lake residents who are interested in meeting their neighbours. They are a critical communication link between each Area and the Otty Lake Association. Counsellors represent their Area's interests, questions, wishes and concerns, providing a voice to the OLA Board. These volunteers are asked to attend a meet and greet BBQ and two meetings per year where they receive updates from lake committees regarding current issues and initiatives. They converse with their Area's resi-

dents, deliver spring packages and offer to accept OLA memberships for the upcoming year.

If you are interested in joining this vital group of enthusiastic and informed volunteers who represent our lake's 25 Areas, please consider the following openings and contact Area Counsellor Facilitator, Gail Read at read2read@outlook.com.

- 7B The far end of Mile Point Road including Sunrise Lane and Trillium Point Road.
- 9B Beaver Dam Lane, Apatite Bay and MacGowan Lane

- 8B Loon Drive, Bayside Road and a few on Mary Millar Road.
- 5A and 5B Sunset Blvd.

Please note: New volunteers may wish to cover their own community or another that is relatively nearby!

Gail Read



Photo: Mike Forhan

Picnic Participation Growing for Residents of ALL Ages!

Approximately 70 participants enjoyed a highly interactive family time at this year's OLA Picnic, held at Maple Glen's lovely waterfront on Saturday, July 19th. A variety of games including relays, target and toss, a giant sling shot, donuts on a string, bocce ball competition, tug of war and parachute fun were met with excellent participation! This year's BBQ was preceded by an interactive magic show with special guest Ry Guy Magic.



Three-dollar contributions were appreciated, with the remainder funded by OLA memberships.

To assist the planning of our busy lake residents, next year's OLA Picnic date has already been established for July 23, 2016!

Gail Read

Left: Ian McDonald presents prize to Mary Burke

Photo: Christine Kilburn

Around The Lake

Membership Update

Treasurer Dave Bell reports that we now have 270 paid memberships for 2015, as well as 12 memberships prepaid for 2016. He was encouraged that a handful of people were returning after having not paid for many years. The majority of renewals occur following delivery of the summer information packages, but memberships will continue to roll in until year end. Historically about fifty percent of lake property owners submit the annual membership fee of twenty dollars. Imagine what your board could do if the 50% membership rate rose to, say, 75%. Existing programs could be maximized and new activities created to maximize efforts to ensure the health and welfare of Otty Lake, for us and the generations to come.

AGM

The board received positive feedback for our 2015 AGM, held July 11 at the Perth Legion. Ninety four people, including board members, came out, a very respectable number amongst area lake associations. Careful planning

kept the meeting time to a lean two and a quarter hours by reducing the number of speakers, and carefully controlling each presentation's length. The meeting focused more specifically on Otty Lake activities than in previous years. Valuable summaries were presented, despite a few technological glitches. Rest assured that the organizing committee has a plan for remedying some of those difficulties. The committee is also considering ways to increase participation and allow for more input from the attendees.

Good Question

Following the presentation on fish spawning enhancement at the AGM, an attendee asked: "If Otty Lake gets a reputation for a large bass population, will we attract more fishermen, bringing in boats carrying invasive species?" Wally Robins answered that education on cleaning boats and fishing respectfully are key. Our public boat launch is a bit of a challenge for people, so we aren't likely to get more boats. It's not possible to come to Otty and fish for eight hours and catch 50 bass. There are

water systems far superior to Otty if that is what someone is looking for.

Past President David Code

David Code, who was president of the OLA from 1975 to 1987, passed away peacefully in July at age 85. David made significant contributions to the development and work of the OLA during his tenure, and served on the board for many more years after that. He had a life-long fondness for Otty Lake, which shows in his 2006 book "A History of Otty Lake", which can be borrowed from the Perth Library. Our thoughts are with his wife Joyce and the Code family who are all proud Otty Lakers.

Lake Links 2015

This popular annual workshop will be held at the Perth Civitan Hall Saturday, October 24. This year the focus is on strategies for protecting the fisheries in our lakes with a special focus on fish habitat restoration. Several OLA members generally attend, as do representatives from most area lake associations. To register, please contact

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Around the Lake (continued)

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Karen Ballentine at [Watersheds Canada](#), (613) 264-1244. The \$20 registration fee, payable at the door, covers lunch and refreshments. Please bring a non-perishable food item for the Perth Food Bank. The OLA has supported this valuable information sharing event with a \$100 contribution. For a detailed agenda, see the Watersheds Canada website.

Conservation Authorities Act

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry has initiated a discussion and review of the Conservation Authorities Act, which guides the work of Ontario's 36 conservation authorities, including the RVCA. The OLA plans to funnel their comments through the Lake Networking Group that represents lake associations from four different Eastern Ontario watersheds. You may find an interview with Paul Lehman, General Manager of the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority, on Lake 88's In Focus program helpful to understanding the role of conservation authorities. Listen to Paul's interview at www.Lake88.ca. Click on "In Focus" and scroll down to the July 30th interview.

Aquatic Vegetation Removal – Be Courteous

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry specifies rules for removing native aquatic plants that occur naturally in Ontario. Otty Lake property owners are entitled to remove aquatic vegetation in front of their property, provided various conditions are met as given on the MNRF website. To preserve fish habitat, hand removal and raking are the preferred methods.



Purple Loosestrife - See Page 3
Photo: Ontario Field Naturalists

Warm-water fish species spawn during spring and early summer, so do not remove aquatic vegetation March 15 to mid-July. Whether you pull aquatic plants from the roots or cut them, please be sure to remove them from the water so they do not drift into someone else's swimming area or re-root. Any plants removed should be disposed of well above the average high water mark.

Learning to Map Aquatic Vegetation

Representatives from a large number of area lakes and rivers took part in volunteer training on how to map aquatic vegetation on their shoreline using an echo sounder. Kaitlin Brady and Dr. Jesse Vermaire were very pleased with the interest shown in this part of the People, Aquatic Plants and Healthy Lakes Trillium project. Otty Lake's aquatic vegetation was already scheduled to be mapped by Dr. Vermaire and his students in 2015, and requests to borrow

the echo sounders from lakes not being mapped by the project were high. Reid Kilburn and Murray and Karen Hunt attended the August 1 training session and will aim to continue the Otty Lake mapping after the study project is complete. This will provide the OLA with longer term data to look at trends over time.

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.**