



# Captain Otty's Log

The Newsletter of the Otty Lake Association

February 2017

## President's Message

From Reid Kilburn

Greetings and Best Wishes for another memorable year on and around Otty Lake. Winter is a quieter time around the lake but still filled with activity albeit of a different kind. Deer were spotted crossing Little Otty in both directions, a red fox has also been crossing the lake regularly, a brave skater, and on more than one occasion, a happy skate skier was seen seemingly floating along over Little Otty. I am sure others have similar winter activity stories from around the lake.

Your Board and our members have been active:

In December some of our members took part in the Annual Christmas Bird Count. This year, in the week preceding and the one day blitz, 20 bird varieties which included 583 individual birds were spotted in the Otty Lake area. It is amazing to think of how many of our feathered friends choose to winter around Otty. We must be keeping our feeders full.

While one typically doesn't think about bees over the winter, one of our members is caring for thousands of these little creatures which are so vital to our environment. Please take a moment to read Dan Woods' fascinating article.

As many of you know, Perth is fast becoming one of the most recognized wedding destinations in Canada. That is great news for



Photo: Tom Burns

Perth and our local economy. However, this success has created a small challenge for the OLA this year in that virtually all venues e.g. Legion, Lions, Civitan are reserving their Saturdays for possible wedding dates. Our constitution says "there shall be an Annual General Meeting of the Association each July (preferably on the second Saturday in July and, if possible, in Perth)" so your Board has been exploring options that could best meet the intent of our constitution. As a result, your Board has approved moving our Annual General Meeting to the afternoon of Sunday, July 9th at the Perth Legion.

Our Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Project plans for 2017 will be addressed in late January in partnership with RVCA. Our small-mouth bass habitat enhancement project has met with acclaimed success and we are looking forward to exploring new directions that will continue to enhance the environ-

mental sustainability of our lake and its watershed.

Of course 2017 is Canada's 150th Anniversary and, as in the past, the OLA would like to recognize this significant event through participation in and creation of unique celebratory activities. First, your OLA Board has endorsed and supports participation in the [Lanark County](#)

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## Fun Bird Feeders to Make with Children

At our OLA AGM, our guest speaker was Dr. Paula Stewart, who enthusiastically told us of the Nature4Life initiative, and all the benefits for our young people of spending time outside. In keeping with this theme, I was contemplating projects we could do with our grandchildren. Since winter is here, I also thought of our feathered friends. What better project than building bird feeders? We can make feeders together and then watch and teach our young ones about the varieties of birds which keep us company over the winter.

### PINE CONE BIRD FEEDER

This project is a great way to use some of your children's nature finds and make something to benefit our feathered friends! You might even find different types of pine cones and learn which types of pines grow the various cones!

#### Supplies you will need:

- Pine cones
- String for hanging
- Bird food from your local pet food or hardware store
- Peanut butter or lard

#### Instructions:

1. Head outdoors with the children and gather up pine cones. You can identify from what type of pine tree the cone came, e.g. white, red, jack pines. Find the tree from which the cone would have fallen.
2. Tie a length of string to the top of each pine cone.
3. Give each child a pine cone on a plate, and have them spread peanut butter or lard onto each pine cone. Yes, it could get messy, but it will teach the children good knife handling skills.

4. Put bird seeds on each plate, and have the children roll the coated pine cones in the seeds. Make sure they are well packed.
5. Now everyone heads outdoors to hang the creative feeders!



### CHEERIOS BIRD FEEDER

Making these bird feeders will develop children's fine motor skills.

#### Supplies you will need:

- Pipe cleaners
- Cheerios
- Ribbon or raffia
- Optional – blueberries, grapes

#### Instructions:

Before the children begin threading, bend the end of each pipe cleaner to ensure the cheerios don't slip off.

1. Your children help themselves to cheerios which they thread onto each pipe cleaner. For added creativity, they can also thread blueberries or grapes among the cheerios. There might be some munching going on while working on this project!
2. Once the threading has been done, link and twist the ends of the pipe cleaner together. Your young ones can shape the pipe cleaners into circles, hearts, what-

ever suits their fancy.

3. Once this is done, tie a long length of ribbon or raffia to the top of the creation and make a bow.
4. Head outdoors with the children and find appropriate branches from which to hang your feeders.



This bird feeder teaches recycling and reuse, since it is made from a plastic bottle.

#### Supplies you will need:

- Empty plastic water bottle
- Small eyelet lag screw
- Twine or ribbon
- Pencils or wooden spoons – used as perches for the birds
- Bird food from your local pet supply or hardware store

#### Instructions:

1. Poke holes in water bottle where the pencils or wooden spoons will go. You can insert two in each bottle, at right angles to one another.
2. Cut a small hole above openings for the pencils/spoons. This is where the perched birds will reach in to get the seeds.
3. Insert the pencils/spoons.
4. Fill the bottle with seeds.
5. Insert the screw in the bottle cap and place on bottle.
6. Feed the twine or ribbon through the eyelet.
7. Head outside with the gang and hang your new bird feeder.

*Christine Kilburn*

*Continued from page 1*

[Legacy Cottage Program](#) and would encourage those in our community with legacy cottages to participate. We would love to hear your story and perhaps feature some of them in a future Captain Otty's Log.

Second, we are changing the focus of our annual shoreline plant-

ing initiative just a little for this year. Through the RVCA tree planting program we have requested 150 sugar maples and are encouraging members to participate by ordering one of these fine potted specimens and celebrating Canada's 150th Anniversary with a special planting event on your property.

Please continue to read through this issue of Captain Otty's Log for additional information on our Canada 150 projects and more. If you would like to volunteer for any of these activities please get in touch with the OLA via email at [info@ottylakeassociation.ca](mailto:info@ottylakeassociation.ca)

*Reid Kilburn*

# Waterfront Trends

A large Eastern Ontario crowd attended the annual Lake Links workshop at the Perth Civitan Hall Oct. 22, including at least six representatives from Otty Lake. The eight presentations and activities explored trends in shoreline ownership, how they affect lake stewardship actions, and how best to communicate with the different generational groups—all useful stuff for lake associations trying to engage with their communities to ensure the long term health of their lakes.

In Ontario's rural municipalities, a good one third of the properties are waterfront residential, so they represent an important economic force in their municipalities. Here are a few factoids that may be of interest to those of you who ponder the changing landscape of waterfront property ownership.

Some national ownership trends outlined in the ReMax Recreation Property Report, 2016:

- User-driven vacation rental websites are making it easier for owners to finance and sell recreational properties
- Millennials were most likely to have spent time at a cottage or cabin in the past year
- Baby boomers spark demand. They were driving demand in 83% of areas surveyed, as opposed to investors, and 53 per cent of regions surveyed report an increase in retiree or near retirement buyers compared to last year
- The typical buyer is a 52–70 year old couple, hoping to retire at their property
- The low dollar is prompting Canadians to sell their U.S. property and reinvest in Canadian recreational regions
- Foreign buyers account for about 10% of sales, and a large



Photo: Tom Burns

proportion are U.S. buyers.

Recent U.S. election results may bring in even more buyers.

- Prospective buyers most value cottages that are quiet (94%) and private (91%). A sandy beach (75%) and access to water (75%) are also high on their wish lists.

Pauline Aunger, local realtor and Past President of the Canadian Real Estate Association, commented on some Eastern Ontario trends, noting it is always best to get local information. A large proportion of the properties are about to change hands. But many of them will be leaving the family if the next generation is unwilling or unable to take over property ownership. Understandably, a year-round property is not as inheritable, and the higher end of the market is quieter. She noted that the trend to year-round homes is stronger on certain lakes, including Mississippi, Otty and Lower Rideau Lakes.

Pauline outlined a few issues potential buyers should and do ask about: cell phone and internet access, dock permits (especially if the property is on the Rideau Heritage waterway), wells, and septic systems (holding tanks are not an attraction for year round homes). Be sure to be clear of any rights of way, consider title insurance, and inquire about

past building inspections. Sometimes it turns out that past additions have been done without a permit. Buyers hoping to make alterations to an existing property should do their homework and make sure the work will be permitted before committing to the purchase.

Noelle Reeve, planner for Tay Valley Township, discussed local development pressures of rebuilding cottages on existing footprints, conversions to year-round homes, and secondary suites (attached apartments, granny flats, bunkies, etc.) More people are wanting to screen in decks in response to disease concerns (e.g. West Nile virus), and want to mow their lawn to the shore because they are concerned about ticks and Lyme disease. This of course is opposite to what is encouraged for shoreline protection. There have been several recent instances of illegal beach creation and small cottages being added to illegally, or overused in successive generations. However, she noted many positive trends in information and governance for enhancing lake protection that bode well for the future.

All of this year's Lake Links presentations are posted on the [Sustainable Watersheds](#) website.

**Barb Hicks**

## Pleasing Meals for your Feathered Friends

One of the delights of winter is watching the birds at a bird feeder. If you're a regular "bird feeder", you probably have a pretty good idea of what foods attract what birds. But if you don't, here are a few resources that might help you.

"[Holiday Feast](#)" by April Overall on the Canadian Wildlife Federation site gives a quick rundown of your options. Dried corn is a popular low-budget option. Niger seed is an expensive gourmet treat, especially for goldfinches, siskins, and redpolls, so use it with a Niger seed feeder to avoid waste. Most birds enjoy sunflower seeds, but choose the black oil type instead of the striped ones, as the thinner shells make them easier to open for a wider variety of birds. She suggests avoiding low-quality mixed seed because the birds will take their favourites and the rest will end up on the ground. Millet is enjoyed by ground-feeding birds such as quails, doves, juncos, and cardinals. Don't forget the suet for insect-eating birds such as chickadees, woodpeckers, jays, and nuthatches. Mockingbirds, catbirds, waxwings, and tanagers especially like fruit.

Project FeederWatch is a joint project of Bird Studies Canada and The Cornell Lab. They have an interactive tool "[Food and Feeder Preferences of Common Feeder Birds](#)." You can select by region of North America, food type, and feeder type to find photos of the birds and learn their preferred foods. The photos might even help you identify what's been showing up at your feeder.

If you are concerned about feeding dependency, don't be. Generally, the birds using feeders are not migrants, and rely on feeders for only about 25% of their diet. Most studies seem to indicate that bird feeding enhances birds' overwinter survival rates and they are in better physical condition at the end



of the winter, which leads to better reproductive success. [Read here](#) for more. However, once you establish a feeder, try to stick to your routine as the birds will time their visits accordingly.

In the article [Is Feeding for the Birds?](#), naturalist Charles W. Johnson wrote that he was concerned about unintentionally attracting other creatures such as mice, cats, wild turkeys and even bears; the pesticides used in the production of seeds used to stock feeders; and birds crashing into windows. But he concluded the birds had him well-trained, and wouldn't let him stop feeding them even if he wanted to.

*Barb Hicks*

### Paddle Power 2017



This year, in response to multiple requests, Paddle Power will be held on a **SATURDAY**. Please mark **SATURDAY, AUGUST 12TH** at 10:30 a.m. on your calendar.

In recognition of Canada's bicentennial our goal is 150 paddlers clad in red and white attire. Hats, flags and decorated boats are welcome! Again this year we will gather off the point at the end of Baxter Lane.

*Ian McDonald and Ev Dore*

### Lanark County's Legacy Cottage Program Celebrates Canada's 150th Anniversary in 2017

Lanark County, home to a multitude of lakes, rivers, and creeks, wishes to recognize the contributions that members of the cottage community have made to our communities by honouring each family whose cottage has been in the family for 50, 75, 100, or 125 years by designating their cottage a Legacy Cottage. Unlike a heritage building, there are no legal restrictions associated with the legacy cottage designation—a Legacy Cottage designation is commemorative only.

#### Designation Criteria:

- Direct descendant of the same family should have owned the cottage for 50, 75, 100, or 125 consecutive years
- A family member should still own the cottage property
- Cottages that have been rebuilt or converted into permanent homes are eligible
- The cottage can be on a lake, river, or creek in Lanark County
- The Legacy Cottage plaque features an etching courtesy of Tay Valley artist Franc van Oort
- The plaque measures 8 x 10 inches and is suitable to hang in your cottage or outside
- Government funding is not available for this program. Hence, recipients will be asked to pay \$60 to cover the cost of their plaque.

Legacy Cottage plaques will be presented in the summer of 2017. For those whose cottage is on a lake, the presentation will likely take place at the lake association's annual meeting (Otty Lake's AGM is scheduled for July 9.) Tay Valley Township is administering the program on behalf of the eight municipalities that comprise Lanark County: Beckwith, Carleton Place, Drummond/North Elmsley, Lanark Highlands, Mississippi Mills, Montague, Perth, and Tay Valley.

The application form for the Legacy Cottage Program is available on the [Lanark County website](#) and in municipal offices.

# Boating Safety – The Cost of Non-Compliance

Dreaming of getting back out on the water? The long winter might be the time to brush up on your boating safety, and if you haven't already, resolve to get your Pleasure Craft Operator Card. Here are a few things worth knowing.

## Who should have a Pleasure Craft Operator Card?

All boaters are required to have a Pleasure Craft Operator Card in order to operate a powered watercraft. There is no grandfather clause or age exemption—this law applies to all boaters. Powered watercraft includes watercraft fitted with any size motor—even an electric trolling motor. There are many online and in-class accredited course providers out there. You are expected to carry the card and identification with you in the boat.

## Horsepower restrictions for children

- Under 12, and not directly supervised: can operate vessels under 10 hp
- Between 12 and under 16, not directly supervised: can operate vessels under 40 hp
- Under 16: not allowed to operate a PWC
- 16 and over: no power restrictions

## Common boating offences and associated fines

- Not having enough approved lifejackets on board: \$200 per missing or improper lifejacket or PFD
- Violation of age and horsepower restrictions: \$250 (see above)
- Speeding in excess of 10 km/h within 30 metres of shore: \$125 to \$500
- Careless operation of a boat: \$250
- Absence of any piece of safety equipment: sound signalling



Photo: Patti Washington

device, watertight flashlight, heaving line, or paddle: \$125, no bailer: \$175

- Water-skiing towing offences: \$125. Offences include towing someone without a spotter, not having a seat for the person being towed, and towing from one hour after sunset until sunrise. The rules apply to any kind of towing, including tubing, wakeboarding and the like.

## Alcohol While Boating

In Ontario, alcohol may be consumed on board a vessel as long as the vessel has permanent sleeping facilities, permanent cooking facilities, a permanent toilet, and is anchored or docked. So that doesn't happen very often on Otty Lake.

The fine for boating with open liquor on board is \$200. You can carry unopened alcohol in a boat to transport it, but opened alcohol must be closed and secured out of reach.

Boating while impaired (over 80 mg/100mL) is an offence under the Criminal Code of Canada, with \$1,000 for the first fine. An Ontario boater convicted of operating a boat while under the influence of alcohol of drugs may also have their driver's license (for a motor vehicle) suspended for a minimum of one year.

Alcohol consumption is a factor in 65% of boat-related accidents in Canada. Don't become a statistic.

Sources: [Transport Canada](http://TransportCanada.com), [boat-erexam.com](http://boat-erexam.com) and [safetyafloat.ca](http://safetyafloat.ca).

## Otty Lake Calendar, 2018 Living Forests: Flora and Fauna



Photo: Kyla Simpson

Past engagement in calendar submissions has lead us to consider a new effort, a work of our bicentennial

Photos of flora and fauna found in the forests that thrive around Otty Lake are needed for the 2018 edition of the Otty Lake calendar. Please take time to review your best shots over the past years. Be it forest plants or animals, our coexistence is critical and fascinating.

Calling resident photographers ~ new and experienced!!

We know wonderful photos have been taken. Time to share!

Photo submissions: At your earliest convenience  
Photo deadline: March 31, 2017  
Email address for submissions: [read2read@outlook.com](mailto:read2read@outlook.com)  
Calendar availability: Late June 2017 and AGM

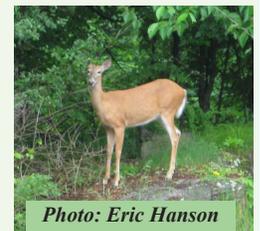


Photo: Eric Hanson

# What To Do If You Find a Sick, Injured or Abandoned Wild Animal

If you see what you think may be a sick, injured, or abandoned animal, don't remove it from its natural habitat. It may not need assistance and you could do more harm trying to help.

## Determining whether wildlife is abandoned

Some species leave their offspring alone temporarily, especially during the day. Deer and cottontail rabbits spend much of the day away from their well-camouflaged offspring to minimize the chance of predators finding them.

To determine whether a young animal has been abandoned, check it periodically for 24 to 48 hours to see if it is still around. Keep your distance. Keep cats and dogs away from the area. The adult animal may not return if it is noisy or if predators or people are close by.

## Figuring out what to do

- Contact your local Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry office to learn more about what you can do to help:
- Visit [ontario.ca/mnr/offices](http://ontario.ca/mnr/offices) to contact your local district office
- Call the Natural Resources Information Centre at 1-800-667-1940 Mon to Fri, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- View the [rescue a sick, injured or abandoned wild animal webpage](#)
- View a [list of wildlife rehabilitators](#) who have agreed to have their contact information included on the ministry's website.

## Signs of injury or illness

- Blood, wounds, swelling on the body
- Body covered in fleas
- Unusual or uneven loss of fur or feathers
- Substantial hair loss
- Difficult or raspy breathing or sneezing
- A dangling leg or wing
- Closed eyes and head tucked under wing

## Care necessary to help the animal

- You cannot keep wildlife in captivity without approval from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. However, a person may temporarily possess a wild animal for up to 24 hours to transport it to a [wildlife rehabilitator](#) or veterinarian.
- Contact a wildlife rehabilitator who can help you assess the situation and provide advice on what to do.
- In rare circumstances, immediate and specialized care is necessary to help an animal. If specialized care is needed for a wild animal, take it to a wildlife rehabilitator or a veterinarian within 24 hours.
- Take care in handling any wild animal. If you must handle the animal, follow the wildlife rehabilitator's instructions on how to minimize risk of injury to yourself and to the animal.
- Wear protective clothing and equipment, such as leather gloves, to avoid bites or scratches, and wash hands after handling the animal.

- It is important to recognize that many volunteer-operated wildlife rehabilitation organizations have limited capacity to accept animals, especially in the spring.

## Diseased or dead wildlife

To report dead animals, including birds or bats, contact the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative at [www.cwhc-rcsf.ca/](http://www.cwhc-rcsf.ca/) by email at [on-nu@cwhc-rcsf.ca](mailto:on-nu@cwhc-rcsf.ca) or by calling 1-866-673-4781.

If you suspect there is a public health risk from a sick wild animal, such as rabies, or if you or your pet had contact with a suspected rabid animal, contact your local [Public Health Unit](#) immediately. If left untreated, rabies is fatal for humans and animals. Symptoms of rabies and several other diseases in animals can include tremors, aggressive behaviour, partial paralysis, convulsions, and loss of fear of humans.

For information on wildlife in captivity, visit [ontario.ca/environment-and-energy/keep-wild-animals-captivity](http://ontario.ca/environment-and-energy/keep-wild-animals-captivity). For more information on wildlife, visit [ontario.ca/wildlife](http://ontario.ca/wildlife).

*Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry news release.*



## Otty Lake Association 2017 Membership Renewal

Your early renewal would be much appreciated, as our expenses occur year round. This completed form and a cheque for \$20 can be mailed to the **Otty Lake Association, Box 20122, Perth ON K7H 3M6**. Please complete the following so we can ensure our records are correct:

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Lake Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ Prov/State: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Email delivery of your Captain Otty's Log newsletter helps keep our costs down. We do not share our email list with other organizations, and you can unsubscribe at any time. Please check:

- I am receiving emails
- please add me to the email list
- send log by Canada Post
- send Log by Canada Post, but e-mail other notices.
- Call me about volunteering for the OLA.

*Thanks for supporting the OLA!*

## More Bees, Please!

The debate has subsided. There's now consensus that our world's pollinators are at risk. In fact, they're *disappearing* at a rate never before experienced in recorded history. The reasons for this are as countless as the anticipated repercussions of their disappearance. Neonicotinoids, pollution, climate change, insecticides, monocultures, loss of biodiversity, parasites and pathogens all factor into their demise.

Pollinators are—we're told—responsible for 1/3 of all we eat. Bees are perhaps our best known pollinators, but they do not act alone. Worldwide, over 100,000 insect and animal species pollinate more than 250,000 flowering plant species, each of which is suffering a magnitude of destruction similar to, and often greater than, that of our bees.

Is this the end of the road for our pollinators? Maybe. But as a "*My glass is half full kind of guy*", I prefer to see it as a "bump on the road". Albeit a BIG bump, it is a bump that I believe can be smoothed with appropriate action. Action must of course be taken within our legislative, corporate, agricultural and scientific communities. But there is much we can do within our own gardens and communities to help assuage our pollinator problems.

"*More bees please!*" Would a single beekeeper with a thousand bee hives make a difference to our local communities? Yes indeed! Is this likely to happen? No! What about a thousand beekeepers each with one hive? Would that make a difference? What about a hundred beekeepers each with a hive or two? Would that make a difference? What about ten beekeepers, each with one hive? *You know where I'm going with this!*

A bee hive is "only" one hive. But one healthy hive can contain 55,000 bees each



of which can, if necessary, pollinate plants 5–7 km away. For those of us on Otty Lake this means that bees from any hive near the lake can reach any garden around the Lake. As well, they can pollinate and gather nectar from gardens and fields as far away as Scotch Line Road and the Rideau River!

I've currently a couple of hives, and I'm thrilled with the adventure of it all. I try to visit my bees every day. Coffee in hand I'll watch my youngest fuzzy-bodied bees—wings still fresh, intact and untested—take their first orientation flights. I'll watch their older, wing-scarred sisters lumber back to the hive laden with the bright yellow dandelion pollen of early spring, the tawny-coloured basswood pollen of early summer and later in the year, the nectar of uncounted flowering species of our area. I'll watch bee 'water-carriers' at our bird baths, swelling their tiny honey bellies with water, *copious quantities of water*, to offload to hive-workers to help cool the hive or dilute a cell or two of honey. 'm daily awed by the simplicity and complexity of bee life: the enigma, the mystery, the selfless work ethic. The average life span of a honey bee is only 4–6 weeks. Worker bees are always female, and take 21 days to hatch. They spend their first

three weeks or so performing internal hive duties such as feeding new brood, cleaning and patching the hive, making honeycomb, storing pollen, ventilating the hive, and ripening nectar to produce honey. Only then are they allowed outside to practise their flying skills and begin to forage. During the next three weeks they will work themselves to death carrying loads of impossible weight. A load of pollen can weigh ¼ of the weight of the bee carrying it; a load of nectar, ½ of its total weight.

It's early January 2017 as I write this. My "girls" have been put to bed for the winter. Last fall they gave me more than enough honey for my needs and I left them with more than enough honey to see them through the winter. There will be losses before spring. Huge losses, for they'll be working feverishly to maintain a temperature of about 26 deg C within their winter cluster. This may cost them many thousands of lives before I examine them again in April, but as long as they keep their queen warm and alive, I suspect they'll be okay.

Then in the spring, against all odds, they'll be "back at it". They'll be feeding, breeding, pollinating and manufacturing honey as normal. But they'll be doing so within a progressively lethal tapestry of mites, parasites, poisons, predators and environmentally perilous conditions against which they have little defence. Anything we might do to assist them—a *hive or two, or a new bed of bee-friendly plants, or even a reduction in the herbicides and pesticides we use in our gardens*—would be a bee benediction indeed.

If I can assist anyone with further information about bees please don't hesitate to contact me: [dlwoods@gmail.com](mailto:dlwoods@gmail.com)

Dan Woods

## Update on Water Levels

The October 2016 Captain Otty's Log included an article on Otty Lake levels during the past year. At ice-in this December, the lake level was 131.52 metres above mean sea level, an increase of just 12 cm from the lowest level of the year in mid-October. This December 2016 level is exceptionally low when compared with the water level measurements taken by

Norm Hull since 1983. Due to the very dry conditions this past year, the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) classified the Tay watershed as in a "severe drought" condition in mid-August. This classification was only changed to "moderate drought" in mid-December and to "minor drought" in mid-January 2017. The RVCA notes that the "minor

drought" classification will continue until the spring run-off. Read the RVCA [low water news releases](#) here.

At the time of writing in mid-January, the ice level is noticeably higher than the water level at the ice-in in December. A snowy winter would help bring conditions on the lake closer to normal by spring.

Murray Hunt

# Around the Lake

## Cookbook Reprint Success

The original printing of 250 copies of “Our Table to Yours”, our Otty Lake recipe and community scrapbook, was sold out by late August. We decided to print an additional 80 copies which have all been spoken for. Thank you, everyone, for your tremendous support of this project, and to Karen Hunt and Anne Scotton for coordinating the distribution of this second batch.

## State of the Lake Report

Most of you received an email announcing that the 2016 State of the Lake report had been posted on the website. The seven page report summarizes the condition of our lake and the environmental activities that took place last year. Seven OLA board members and associates contributed to the report, and an impressive number of volunteers participated in the many activities described. If you missed it, [check the website](#). If you require a print copy, please call Christine Kilburn at 326-0493.

## Elsie Farmer Turns 100

Congratulations to Otty Lake resident Elsie Farmer who turned 100 on December 3rd. In addition to a birthday reception at her church, Elsie was profiled in the Perth Courier. Elsie was born in Saskatoon, but married Perth resident and Otty Lake cottager Bill Farmer in 1942. They lived many places, eventually settling at the lake permanently when they were left some property by family. Elsie commented that moving to Otty Lake and living “in all these trees” is one of the secrets to her happy life. She loves watching and photographing the birds and squirrels.



*Photo: Christine Kilburn*

## Pitch-In April 22–29

Pitch-In starts the third weekend of April this year. This annual spring event is a good time for Otty Lake volunteers to clean up litter on their stretch of road. Newcomers are especially welcome! Please send an e-mail to Elizabeth Allcock at [lizofthelake44@gmail.com](mailto:lizofthelake44@gmail.com) to arrange for your free Pitch-In garbage bags and to get any other details you may need. We’d love to have a photo of you and your gang pitching in for our summer issue.

## Canada Jay the Winner

The gray jay, also known as the whiskey jack or Canada jay, is *Canadian Geographic’s* official recommendation for National Bird of Canada. They are year-round residents of every province and territory, are intelligent, tough and trusting. You aren’t likely to see any around Otty Lake, but may encounter them if you visit Algonquin Park.

## Looking Ahead

**Calendar Submissions: Fri. March 31**

**Pitch In: April 22–29**

**Maple Seedling Pickup: Sat. June 24**

**AGM: Sun. July 9**

**Family Picnic: Sat. July 22**

**Paddle Power: Sat. August 12**

## Hydro One Seasonal Rate Class May Be Eliminated

Hydro One has filed an updated plan related to the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) order to eliminate the Seasonal rate class. Under the plan, 70,000 customers will be moving to the R1 class (Residential Medium Density) and close to 84,000 customers moving to the R2 class (Residential Low Density). Seasonal customers moving to all-fixed R1 rates would see a \$7 to \$9 reduction in their monthly bill, but seasonal customers moving to all-fixed R2 rates would be seeing increases of about \$65. Your current [service type](#) is printed near the top of page two of your Hydro One bill, opposite “Your electricity charges”, and you will be notified if it is about to change. FOCA will be intervening in the OEB proceedings on behalf of its member waterfront property owners, who are frequently seasonal, low consumption consumers. [See what FOCA has to say.](#)

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