CAPTAIN OTTY'S LOG OTTY LAKE ASSOCIATION • OCTOBER 2019

President's Message from Krista Hearty McLean



Short but sweet is what comes to mind when I think of the beautiful summer that just flew by! I trust that everyone enjoyed the season taking in all the joys and natural wonders of life on the lake.

I would like to thank all those who attended the AGM in July and supported my candidacy for President of the Otty Lake Association, especially Reid Kilburn who will be by my side as we experiment with a new Co-Presidency model this year in order to share responsibilities and create more opportunity to re-visit our strategy and organization model.

Reid has done such an incredible job over the past four years. His experience and guidance will be invaluable as we navigate slight shifts to the structure of the committee this year. I would also like to congratulate the newly elected Board members and thank them for their commitment to the OLA.

We are excited about this new approach and the opportunity to explore new ways of leveraging our members' skills and addressing environment issues that either impact or could potentially impact the health of our lake.

We had another stellar turnout for the AGM with approximately 100 members in attendance. We would like to thank those members who volunteered to assist the Board in areas like strategy, environment, and land use. We hope to engage all volunteers over the winter months and share our thoughts on these issues as well as our organization model at next year's AGM. Please be in touch if you were not present and would like to get involved.

The keynote speaker at our AGM this year was Tobi Kiesewalter from Murphys Point Provincial Park. Tobi's message focused on iNaturalist, which is an online global species data sharing platform that could be used to identify and catalogue wildlife and insects around Otty Lake. This is similar to what we've done in the past with the BioBlitz but our information can be added to the global database. Rather than being a snapshot in time, iNaturalist supports a living report on species around the lake that members of our community have photographed. (And don't we have some incredible photographers?) We look forward to working with Mark Read of Murphys Point Provincial Park to set up Otty Lake's iNaturalist project. We will announce further news on our website www.ottylakeassociation. ca

Harvest time is also the time of year for the collection of various reports and data points from our summer monitoring programs and the release of our State of the Lake Report. Please watch for it on the OLA website in the coming weeks. In addition to preparing for the State of the Lake Report, Derek Smith, our Lake Steward, has also been researching the possibility of a Gypsy Moth invasion around Otty Lake.

Thank you to all members and residents who assisted Tay Valley Township's Climate Change Study by completing their questionnaire on climate change. Tay Valley is now in the midst of gathering additional public input through public forums. The OLA looks forward to hearing the results of the study and determining if lessons learned could be applied to the stewardship program for Otty Lake.

As the leaves change colour and we dig out our cozy fall wardrobes it's easy to be thankful for the abundance of beauty on Otty Lake. Enjoy!

IN THIS ISSUE

	_
Cottage Succession Workshop	2
Facts About Gypsy Moths	2
Camp Shomria	3
Three Loon Chicks	3
Tagging Monarch Butterflies	4
Paddle Power	5
New Board Members	5
Lake Protection	6
Around The Lake	7
Lake Protection Workbook	8
AGM 2019	8

Photo: Beth Fischer of the Lake Report, Derek Smith, our

COTTAGE SUCCESSION PLANNING WORKSHOP

This popular workshop took place Sunday, July 7 at the Perth Legion. The event was sponsored by the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA) and the Lake Networking Group. Of the 98 attendees, 15 were from Otty Lake. Events like these are one of the benefits of being a member of FOCA.

The guest speaker was Peter Lillico, an estate planning lawyer. He was excellent and clear in his explanations of all the possible issues surrounding passing a cottage on to family.

The key issues surrounding cottage succession planning are:

• **Retaining** the cottage by the parents until time of succession

- **Managing** the capital gains tax upon succession
- **Choosing** which child or children to be the next stewards of the cottage
- **Compensating** the child or children who are not involved in cottage ownership
- **Cottage Sharing Agreement** to ensure a safe and secure structure for future family ownership
- Fairly Funding cottage expenses when all owners' pockets are not equally deep.

One of the best ideas is to establish a Cottage Sharing Agreement, which is a legal document and should be prepared by the parents in conjunction with the children. It:

• effectively addresses the fundamental financial challenges

- espects and reflects family dynamics
- provides a firm foundation for future generations.

The Cottage Sharing Agreement addresses such issues as:

- restrictions on transfer
- dividing responsibilities
- avoiding adversity
- Family Council
- sharing usage
- allocating expenses
- budgeting and financial reserves.

Those in attendance felt they learned a great deal. Many took advantage of speaking with Peter privately afterwards about their individual concerns.

Christine Kilburn

SOME FACTS ABOUT GYPSY MOTHS

Gypsy moths are an invasive and terribly damaging species. During an average year they defoliate a million acres of hardwood forest across North East Canada and the United States. Defoliation weakens trees and leaves them susceptible to disease.

The life cycle of gypsy moths consists of an egg, caterpillar, pupa and moth stage. Gypsy moth caterpillars (see photo) appeared on my trees in early July this year. They are 5-6 centimetres long and very distinctive with bristles and two lines of red spots down their back. They are prolific and I destroyed hundreds of them. By early August the caterpillar stage finished and after a brief pupa stage our woods were filled with small moths. The females are a dull white colour and can't fly. The males (see photo) are smaller, a light brown colour, and they flit through the trees low to the ground in an erratic flight pattern. The females emit a pheromone which attacts the males.

Females prefer to lay eggs on hardwood trees (oak, maple, birch, ironwood) but we found eggs on beech and even occasionally on white pine. Each tan colored egg mass (see photo) contains between 600 and 1000 eggs. The egg masses are easy to identify and usually found 1-3 metres from the ground. Eggs are dormant through the winter and hatch in late April or early May with warmer temperatures and the production of new tender foliage.

To date, we have identified and sprayed over 700 egg masses on 50 acres of our properties on Baxter Lane. I understand that a problem has also been identified in Burgess Woods. One caterpillar will eat an average of 1 square metre of leaves during its lifetime. Imagine the defoliation potential of 420,000 to 700,000 caterpillars!

There are several ways to potentially kill gypsy moth egg masses. 1) Scrape the eggs off the tree trunk into a paper bag and then burn the bag. 2) Spray and saturate the egg masses with a "horticultural oil" product. The oil and sprayer are inexpensive and are available at Home Hardware or any garden centre. Or, 3) Spray the egg masses with an insecticide such





Top: Male Gypsy Moth.

Left: Gypsy Moth Caterpillar

as Household Raid. I have used both oil and Raid and will report on their effectiveness in the spring. Note: Please exercise caution when using pesticides and follow manufacturers recommendations. Insecticides can be harmful if not handled properly.

Gypsy moth infestations occur every 7-10 years. Next summer may well be one of those years. Please inspect your trees and destroy all the egg masses you find.

For more information, see this <u>Health</u> <u>Canada reference</u>.

Derek Smith Otty Lake Steward

CAMP SHOMRIA HEART TO HEART PROGRAM

Camp Shomria is located on the north side of the lake, accessible from Kenyon Road. The camp is on the site of the former Otty Lake Park which was active during the 1920s and 30s. In 1942 the property was sold to the Zionist Camp Association. The following article is drawn from the <u>Heart to Heart website</u> and a <u>CBC Radio Doc Project program</u> "Could this Ontario summer camp hold the key to peace in the Middle East?"

The Heart to Heart program is a joint project between Givat Haviva, a nonprofit educational institute in Israel, and Hashomer Hatzair, a Socialist Zionist youth movement, in Canada. It's hosted at Camp Shomria. The mission of Heart to Heart is to support a new generation of young Jewish and Palestinian citizens of Israel to become leaders who recognize the importance of building a shared society and possess the relationships and skills to make it a reality. We [the Heart to Heart program] do not believe that peer-education among these youth is the entire solution to

creating an equitable, shared society. However, since 2011, Heart to Heart has equipped 180 program alumni with newfound perspective and skills and the motivation they need to determine for themselves what a solution may look like.

The core program is the Heart to Heart summer program. Each year, a group of 20 youth aged 14-15, half Palestinian citizens of Israel and half Jewish citizens of Israel, are selected to participate in an immersive 3¹/₂ week camp-based program which runs at Camp Shomria. During camp, the group lives together and participates in relationship building activities and facilitated dialogue about the narratives, politics, and power dynamics that shape their daily lives back home. The group also participates in camp activities such as sports, arts and crafts, games, hiking and canoe trips, a visit to Parliament Hill, and an additional four-day living experience with Canadian host families in the GTA.



The summer program is complemented by programming in Israel prior to the summer and again once the group has returned. Throughout the year following the summer program, the group works together to implement their "taking it home" project conceived during camp. At Heart to Heart, we are building a generation of leaders who will both recognize the importance of creating a truly shared society and possess the skills they need to make it a reality.

Gail Read

THREE LOON CHICKS A TREAT TO WATCH

What an incredible year for the loons on Otty! For the first time in several years, we not only did multiple chicks hatch, but three chicks survived the crucial early stage. Five chicks were confirmed hatched this year; three singletons and a pair. Breeding pairs were spread throughout the lake from one end to the other. The chicks of the four breeding pairs hatched June 21st (1 chick), June 26th (1), June 27th (1), and July 6 (2). Unfortunately the pair that hatched July 6th could not be found again after the first sightings.

Three surviving chicks were a wonderful surprise for everyone who enjoys watching the loons, as in the past two years we have only had one chick survive to the juvenile stage. In addition, expectations for chick survival were low this year as the late cool weather created favourable conditions for a particular type of black fly that causes nesting loons to abandon their nests during incubation (see this black fly reference.) According to Bird Studies Canada, a loon population must produce 0.48 young per pair in order to maintain the population. We estimate that Otty has five pairs of territorial loons, of which we know that four pairs produced chicks this year. Three surviving chicks, out of five pairs, is a survival rate of 0.6 chicks per pair. This year's rate in just slightly above the average required to maintain the population, and is definitely a promising outcome for a challenging nesting year.



In the coming weeks, the adult loons will begin leaving the breeding grounds for their overwintering locations down south. The juveniles will stay in the area until nearly ice-in and then will make their big journey south. We wish them well!

For more information please see: www.loonproject.org www.birdscanada.org/volunteer/clls Kyla Haley

TAGGING MONARCHS HELPS TRACK THEIR MIGRATIONS

We have fun watching the Monarchs. Wondering what I might do to help with citizen science, I heard about monarch tagging last year. If you haven't seen the movie about Dr. Fred Urguhart, the Canadian who figured out where Monarchs go in winter, you ought to see it! (CBC The Nature of Things - The <u>Great Butterfly Hunt</u>) Dr. Urquhart began tagging butterflies trying to determine where they went in winter, using price labels. Researchers finally found these butterflies in 1975, and now rely on citizens to track their migration. The Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve in Mexico, where Monarchs winter, has been declared a World Heritage Site.

First, some background. The monarchs travel north from the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve in early spring, reproducing then dying off several times between spring and summer, each time moving further north. Then, the "supergeneration" is produced in late August. The supergeneration Monarchs fly all the way south, to stay the winter. On their way south they eat pollen from a variety of flowers. In the new year, they begin all over again. This can be a difficult feat, due to habitat loss, climate change (i.e., drought), the lack of milkweed plants, pesticide use, logging in Mexico, and the like. Not only that, the biosphere in Mexico is fragile. The monarchs hang off the trees from November until March, resting, thinking of spring.

The monarchs roost in small groups on their way south in the fall. When they finally gather 4800 km to the south, they are susceptible to weather and climate. People are paid to look for the tags in the sanctuaries and Monarch Watch provides online reports. Then we wait patiently all winter, monitoring reports from Journey North. The reports tally how many have made it to the sanctuary, and report on conditions in Mexico. One year there was a drought that impacted the monarchs during reproduction and migration. Another year



there was a fire in the sanctuary. Happily, this year, the numbers reported have surged and Monarch watchers have been overwhelmed with the rise in populations. Last winter they had the highest number recorded since 2006: 14.9 acres of forest was covered in butterflies, a record high and an increase of 144%! This summer will prove to be another record, I am sure.

To become a citizen scientist, you simply order a tagging kit in the summer from <u>Monarch Watch</u>, which gives you directions on a) how to sex Monarchs, and b) where to place the tag. The trick is to hold the wings without harming the butterfly. Record your tag numbers on a tracking sheet, and register them. I tagged the butterflies we had on our property with the help of my granddaughters. You need a long-handled net and a steady hand.

Right now, you can help by ensuring you have milkweed seeds. Milkweed is the only plant on which monarch butterflies lay their teeny eggs. The caterpillars hatch, devour the milkweed leaves, and begin their 5-stage development. The Monarchs grow larger with each stage until they are mature. Then, they hang from a sheltered spot, form a 'J' shape, and the morphing begins. When they are about to break out they turn from their bright green to a dark colour. They will usually hatch out in the



morning, dry out their wings, rest a couple of hours, and then take off.

<u>Here's a little video I did of one but-</u> terfly emerging.

I hope you follow their progress. Our grandkids have really enjoyed watching them! You can help the biologists study our beautiful monarchs, and further our understanding of these fragile critters.

Jennifer Jilks

2017-2018 Board Members

President - Krista Hearty McLean

PADDLE POWER

PaddlePower 2019 went ahead in spite of the weather forecast, in calm waters with cloud cover. Lots of smiles and great social times as those very new to Otty Lake and those who have been here for years mingled. Children arrived in canoes powered by their parents and in kayaks as our new generation of solo paddlers!

Of the approximately 50 who participated, seven headed out to SW Otty afterwards. Four lived in the area and three others completed the return trip through calm waters but heavy rainfall.....a beautiful tour! Thanks to Ev and Ian for organizing and to ALL who participated!!! See you on the 3rd Saturday of August 2020 for the 8th annual PaddlePower! *Gail Read*



NEW BOARD MEMBERS

As a result of our AGM elections, the OLA welcomes several new members to the board. Krista Hearty McLean is returning to the board after a two year absence and takes over as President. Kirsten Brouse, Kevin Terrion and Linda Cuthbertson are entirely new to the board. Jacquie Mallory began filling in as our Recording Secretary since earlier this year.

Kirsten Brouse. Kirsten grew up spending time on Otty Lake at her grandparents' cottage and when Kirsten and her partner purchased the cottage three years ago, they were both delighted to join the Otty Lake community. Kirsten's background is as an organization development consultant and a program manager. She currently works for the Federation of Community Municipalities where she supports board governance work and strategic planning efforts. Though Kirsten will be juggling a number of commitments in the coming years (including a first child!), she is eager to contribute to the lake as a member of the OLA Board.

Linda Cuthbertson. Linda is retired teacher, having taught at Elgin, Chimo and Stewart schools. She has been actively involved in many community organizations, including St. Pauls' United Church, the Rideau Lakes Artists Association, and the Retired Teachers Lanark County Branch. Her related experience on the Three Bay Road/Road Committee as secretary/treasurer and her participation in the Rideau Valley Conservation shoreline planting program will be a great asset to the OLA.

Jacquie Mallory. Jacquie is a retired school administrator who has lived in this area for three years now. She has volunteered in the past with the Retired Teachers Association, Loving Spoonful (a Kingston food sustainability charity), as well as well as the Burgesswood Community Association.

Kevin Terrion. In the 14 years that Kevin, his wife Jenepher and their three children have been cottaging they have learned to value the simplicity of cottaging and particularly enjoy the wildlife and nature around

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Past President - Reid Kilburn
Recording & Board Secretary -
Jacquie Mallory
Treasurer - Christine Kilburn
Communications Secretary -
Monika Savage
Lake Activities Projects -
lan McDonald
Loon Surveys - Kyla Haley
Log Coordinator & Webmaster -
Barb Hicks
Director - Rachel Roth
Director - Anne Scotton
Director - Robert Cosh
Director - Cathy Kari
Director - Linda Cuthbertson
Director - Kirsten Brouse
Director - Kevin Terrion

If you would like to get in touch with any of these Board Members, please send an e-mail to ola@ottylakeassociation.ca identifying who it is you would like to reach and it will be redirected.

them at the lake. His past volunteer interests have been in hockey and he is now looking forward to getting involved with the people of Otty Lake and the community. Shoreline and fish habitat restoration are his areas of interest with the OLA.

Krista Hearty McLean. As an Otty Lake property owner with her Husband Michael and daughter Emery, Krista brings her experience as a former biology and environmental science teacher back to the OLA. She was previously on the OLA board of directors from 2015 – 2017 and after being away for a couple of years she has returned to serve as Co-President. *Krista Hearty McLean*

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WE ALL PLAY A ROLE IN LAKE PROTECTION

tty Lake has long been seen as a wonderful haven for rest, relaxation, and recreation. Growth over recent years has occurred at an unprecedented rate in both density of buildings and increase in yearround homes (renovations and new builds). As more people extend their time on the lake, it becomes imperative that we all work to preserve the lake environment that attracted us in the first place. "A Shoreline Owner's Guide to Healthy Waterfronts" is an informative read, provided by RVCA and used as a guiding document by Drummond/North Elmsley and Tay Valley townships.

Our lake is connected to a larger system or watershed. This area is defined as the land area that drains into it and might best be imagined by following the path of a raindrop once it hits the ground. Consider the roles played by topography, climate, and vegetation as they appeared prior to our arrival, and the impact on unfiltered run-off as forest cover has decreased, hard surfaces added, manicured lawns introduced, and shorelines cleared.

When excessive amounts of nutrients are carried into the lake, water quality is directly impacted in the following ways:

- frequent algae blooms
- excessive growth of aquatic plants
- (N.B. These regenerate quickly when cleared and set adrift!)
- decreased water clarity
- decreased levels of dissolved oxygen, resulting in increased fish deaths
- increased levels of coliform and E.coli.

As a caring resident of Otty Lake, consider how you can reduce or eliminate the use of fertilizer which, upon reaching the lake, results in rapid plant and algae growth. Has your septic or holding tank been pumped on a regular basis and is your current system reflective of your family size and the appliances that you currently use? Check your soaps and ensure that they are phosphate-free and that they are never used within 60 meters of the shoreline.

The shoreline is often referred to as the "ribbon of life" because it is the zone in which 90% of lake life is born, raised, and fed.

Impacts to this area result in erosion which:

- washes away important nutrients
- damages habitat and impacts animal life cycles
- invites geese to wander properties
- creates instability of root systems
- buries spawning beds
- bulles spawning be
- reduces clarity.

Residents can reduce erosion by creating a vegetated buffer zone to a minimum of 3 meters. "Rip rap", gabion baskets, bundles of branches, or loose rock buffer zones can dissipate wave action while shoreline plantings take root. With RVCA-assisted funding, residents are invited to further develop their property's ribbon of life each spring.

Work completed in or around the water can cause long-term harmful impacts to shoreline habitats and therefore require RVCA, MNR or Fisheries and Oceans Canada approvals. One of the most common in-water structures is dock building. Floating docks are easily designed and built, and are the best fish-friendly solution with the least environmental impact. Pipe docks also minimize contact with the lakebed, minimize shading of aquatic plants, adjust to water fluctuations, and allow water to flow freely underneath with little environmental impact.

Marine recreation is a favourite part of summer for most residents. Fun-filled activities should respect other community members as well as minimize ecological impacts.

A few tips to reduce your impact include:

• watch your wake, operating your boat below 10 km/h within 30 meters of the shore

- operate your boat on a plane to produce less wake than 'plowing'
- avoid waterfowl and their nesting areas
- use an environmentally friendly motor and refuel safely
- use non-lead fishing tackle and try barb-free hooks
- leave no trace, remembering that "if you pack it in, pack it out".

You can enhance the variety of wildlife on your property by leaving specific areas untouched with rocks, brush and fallen trees. Consider leaving aquatic plant populations intact by limiting your lake entry point and naturalizing other areas of your shoreline. Native gardens are inviting to our bee and bird populations and many bushes extend the natural feeding season before bird feeders are set out for the winter months. Attracting wildlife can be fun, and the many photos shared on our OLA Facebook page celebrate these successes but also encourage us to avoid habituating wildlife. Remember that unwanted voracious visitors, such as bears, survive best in nature without our garbage, composters, BBQs, and food-stashes.

A wonderful new tool, the Lake Protection Workbook, enables you to take a reflective look at your own property. See page 8 for more on the workbook.

Gail Read

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 OLA members. Contributions to the Log are welcome.

Coordinator: Barb Hicks Proofing: Don Beattie Distribution: Robert Cosh, Shari and Don Beattie Layout and Design: David Bromley

To find out more about the OLA, or to see past issues, please see: <u>www.ot-</u> <u>tylakeassociation.ca</u>. Or write to: The OLA, Box 20122, Perth ON K7H 3M6.

AROUND THE LAKE

Tweak to the Constitution. The membership approved a small change to the OLA constitution at the July AGM. Now it will be acceptable to operate with a board of 10-15 members, instead of the 15 members previously specified. As before, directors will all be elected, except for the Past President, who is of course, the most recent President. The President is nominated and elected separately. Our constitution was last amended in 2010. Some years it is difficult to enlist a full 15 members, so this will save some effort by the Nominating Committee, but ensure we don't run into trouble meeting quorum.

Membership Rates Increasing.

Following a motion from the floor at the AGM, our membership fee will be increased from \$20 to \$25 in order to further support stewardship initiatives. The rate takes effect in 2020, so if you still haven't paid for this year, it will still be \$20. As of the AGM, of approximately 500 families, 267 had joined this year. Memberships were just \$5 when the Otty Lake Pollution Control Committee started in 1976, were \$7 for a time, and went to \$10 in 1990. Our last increase from \$15 to \$20 happened in 2003. Membership is still a bargain and well in line with other lake associations.



Round Goby Discovered Locally. This invasive, small, bottom-dwelling fish, native to the Black and Caspian seas, was discovered last November near Smiths Falls in a lock of the Rideau Canal. Round gobies probably arrived via bait buckets or ballast water. This invasive species has already established itself in the Great Lakes and the Trent Severn system. They displace native creatures like crayfish, darters, and log perch and are voracious nest predators of smallmouth and largemouth bass. Remember to not release bait fish and be cautious if moving a boat between lakes. <u>Read</u> <u>the entire Cottage Life story</u>.



Photo: Vivian Butterworth

Hydro Rates Increasing. Hydro One rates are increasing, and due to a delay in the approval with the Ontario Energy Board (OEB), you may have to pay the higher rate retroactively. It has also been proposed, but not approved, that the seasonal class that most cottages belong to be eliminated because those ratepayers are not paying the full cost of what it costs to serve them. Those dwellings would then be considered in the R1 (medium-density) or R2 (low-density) class, depending on location. Terry Rees from FOCA predicts that slightly more than half of Ontario cottagers, or 84,000, would see their bills at least double. Hydro One said moving seasonal customers to a residential class would result in an increase of \$68 a month for 78.000 customers, and a reduction of \$7 a month for roughly 70,000 customers. It's complicated. Read a section of media articles on the topic on the FOCA site.

Water Extremes in Cottage

Country. Many Ontario cottages were badly affected by flooding this year. FOCA points out: "Flood damage caused by overland flooding is not generally covered by home insurance policies in Canada (although a few may now have it available), and seasonal properties are NOT covered by the Ontario Disaster Relief Assistance Program, a provincial financial assistance emergency tool." There is also a good writeup on flooding in the October 2019 issue of Cottage Life magazine. It includes suggestions on steps to take to prevent flood damage. For example, it recommends relocating HVAC systems and electrical panels to higher spots, and relocating electrical outlets on your lowest level to one metre off the floor.

New Chair for Friends of the Tay Watershed (FoTW). Glenn Tunnock was named the new chairperson of the FoTW this past June. Glenn is a semi-retired professional land use planner who has a home-based consulting business on Otty Lake. Glenn moved to Otty Lake in 2014 and has been a strong advocate of shoreline stewardship and lake management plans. The Otty Lake Watershed is located within the north eastern end of the Tay River Watershed.



Photo: Pam Weston

LAKE PROTECTION WORKBOOK: A USEFUL TOOL FOR SHORELINE PROPERTY OWNERS



Lake Protection Workbook A Self-Assessment Tool for Shoreline Property Owners



A tour AGM on July 14th the "Lake Protection Workbook: A Self-Assessment Tool for Shoreline Property Owners" was hot off the press and available for attendees. This workbook was developed by the Lake Links planning committee and printed with the support of Watersheds Canada and a generous donation from the Daniel and Susan Gottlieb Foundation.

The Lake Protection Workbook is designed for you to self-assess whether activities and uses on your property are protecting Otty Lake. Practical information, recommendations and space for recording improvements are offered to assist you in your lake protection efforts. Your completed workbook is for you to keep and is completely confidential.

Lake protection is everyone's responsibility. Your individual property is important to the overall health of our lake, and every action matters. If you are interested in learning more about this workbook, please get in touch with <u>christine.k@bell.net</u> You can also download the workbook from <u>Watersheds Canada</u>.

Christine Kilburn



AGM 2019



Murray using a secchi disc to assess lake water clarity.

A tour July AGM, Murray Hunt was presented with a certificate from the OLA in recognition of his efforts as a patient, persistent and active steward of our lake.

Murray has officially transitioned from Lake Steward to Consultant following over 14 years of dedicated service to Otty Lake. In addition to his Lake Steward role, Murray has written articles for Captain Otty's Log, maintained a database of water sampling results that span 40 years, helped out at many OLA events and remains an excellent resource and support to the Board.



Over 100 OLA members attended the Annual General Meeting at the Perth Legion July 14th. Our guest speaker was Toby Kiesewalter, an interpretive naturalist from Murphy's Point Provincial Park. His talk focused on iNaturalist, an online species data sharing program, and how it could be used by Otty Lake residents and visitors.