



CAPTAIN OTTY'S LOG

OTTY LAKE ASSOCIATION • FEBRUARY 2021



A SITUATION THAT IMPACTS US ALL!

Schedule 6 and Conservation Authorities

Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities, including the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, are local watershed management agencies, mandated to "ensure the conservation, restoration and responsible management of Ontario's water, land, and natural habitats through programs that balance human, environmental and economic needs" (Conservation Ontario).

What is Schedule 6 and what will it mean for Conservation Authorities – and for lake associations and lake communities?

Schedule 6, which proposed a number of changes to the Conservation Authorities Act and to the Conservation Authorities' role in land use planning, is a section of the Ontario Government's Omnibus Budget Bill, Bill 229, which was introduced in the provincial legislature on November 5, 2020. Because Schedule 6 was part of a budget bill, the government was not required to provide an opportunity for public consultation under Ontario's Environmental Bill of Rights.

Across Ontario, municipalities, environmental organizations and agencies, indigenous organizations, community groups including many lake associations, and a great many individuals spoke out with their concerns about the potential impact on the environment of these changes (e.g. Canadian Environmental Law Association reported that MPPs received 45,000 calls and emails, and 40 municipalities prepared related resolutions regarding Schedule 6). Nonetheless, Schedule 6, as a part of Bill 229, was passed in the Ontario legislature on December 8, 2020 with

limited changes, and an additional section was added referencing Minister's Zoning Orders (MZOs), giving the minister complete authority to override any other zoning controls.

The proposed changes to the Conservation Authorities Act and the Planning Act through Schedule 6 will significantly either limit or completely change the role of the Conservation Authorities to protect Ontario's environment and ensure people and property are safe from flooding and other natural hazards. Watershed (science-based) planning which supports communities will be limited (Conservation Ontario, December 8, 2020).

What were some of the specific concerns regarding Schedule 6?

In a statement on November 25, 2020, Sommer Casgrain Robertson, RVCA General Manager, stated that the proposed changes would directly affect municipalities, residents and watersheds explaining that they included changes to Conservation Board governance; new powers enabling the Minister to override a conservation authority and issue a development permit in a watershed without a hearing and with no appeal; the removal of enforcement tools and a conservation authority's ability to appeal planning decisions; potential provincial interference in local budgets and fees; and limitations on programs, with a decreased focus on environmental monitoring, stewardship and outdoor education.

Land use planning and environmental planning need to work together, e.g. there is tremendous concern that without Conservation Authority protection, vulnerable wetlands will be lost to development. Wetlands provide flood control, habitat for endangered species and other

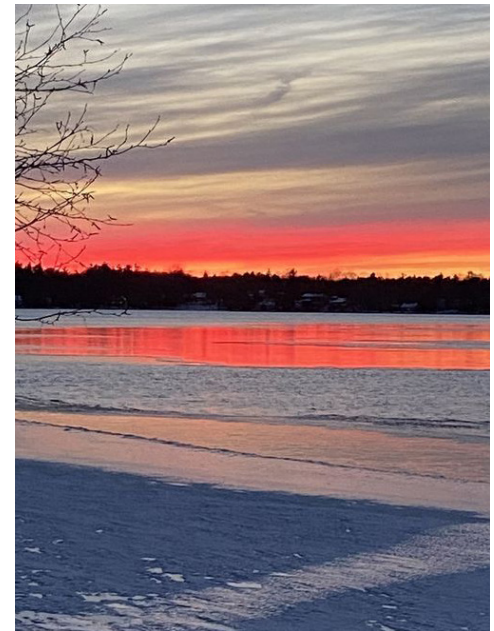


Photo: Cathy Franz

wildlife, help to regulate impacts of climate change and more. Another example: integrated watershed-based management advice from Conservation Authorities assists municipalities to make land use planning decisions that work across municipal boundaries. Upstream municipalities need to understand the potential impact of their decisions on downstream municipal neighbours. For decades, expertise developed by Conservation

continued on page 2

IN THIS ISSUE

2020 iNaturalist Posts	2
Otty Lake Park and Early Years	3
Climate Change & Dangerous Ice	4
Great Backyard Bird Count	4
Safe Boating	5
2021 Membership Information	5
Social Events During Covid	6
Rising Hydro Rates	6
The Frogs Are Calling	6
Around The Lake	7
Otty Lake Map Being Produced	8
OLA Board Needs You	8

2020 - A BANNER YEAR FOR INATURALIST POSTS FROM OTTY LAKE

Last year was a successful initiation of the Otty Lake iNaturalist project. In August we reached the 1000th observation with a pair of Northern Cardinals posted by "mountainmama17". Fifty-six Otty Lake neighbours have posted 1085 observations for a total of 589 different species. Observations have been recorded from all around the lake although there are a few areas that are under-represented (see map). The pie chart highlights there are many records of birds, plants and insects although very few of fish.

Here is a challenge for 2021 – document the fish of Otty Lake. You can catch them to photograph or use that GoPro camera you got for Christmas. You can even post photos

from previous years if you know the date, time and location of the encounter. If possible, record the size of the fish and any other details such as the habitat. You can obscure the exact location if you do not want to reveal your favourite fishing spot.

The photos you upload do not have to be beautiful images, just as long as they are recognizable. When possible a good idea is to include a ruler, coin or hand for scale. You don't even need to know what the critter or plant is because the program makes suggestions as soon as you upload an image or audio recording. Yes, you can even upload those strange sounds you hear in the night to find out what is under your cottage. Perhaps you wonder what that

bird is that wakes you up at 5:00am.

Once posted, other naturalists will confirm, make comments or corrections. It is a community of folks interested in the natural world. You do not need to be a biologist or have



Photo: Easter Pondhawk by Angela Darwin
continued on page 3

continued from page 1

Authorities has provided municipalities with this important information.

Important stewardship and educational initiatives will also be reduced. Local examples of Conservation Authority-supported stewardship activities that the OLA and the Otty Lake community have been involved in/have benefitted from have included important programs such as Otty Lake water quality monitoring, water level monitoring, shoreline naturalization, fish habitat enhancement, BioBlitzes, and development of the Otty Lake Shoreline Handbook and the Otty Lake Management Plan.

What happens next for Schedule 6?

Schedule 6 is still a work in progress. Regulations need to be developed so the various aspects of Schedule 6 can be implemented. The Province of Ontario has announced a Working Group to help the Government decide what will be included in the new regulations. At some point we will see what the new regulations look like.

Note: Although there was no opportunity for public consultation regarding Schedule 6, there is an opportunity for the public to comment

on the expansion of Minister's Zoning Orders through Environmental Registry Notice 019-2811. <https://ero.ontario.ca/index.php/notice/019-2811> Comments on this posting are due by January 30.

What can we do to support the conservation authorities?

- We need to speak up! Learn more! Get engaged in local issues!
- Work with the local Conservation Authorities on these issues.
- Let local Municipal and County Councils know that the work of our Conservation Authorities is important to us and to our community. We value their science and evidence-based decision making and taking care of our environment.
- We need to push for the Province to go back and have the public consultation regarding Schedule 6 that they didn't have in the beginning!
- There are difficult and uncertain times ahead for the environment in Ontario—and for the Conservation Authorities with whom the local lake associations work so closely! We need to stand up and speak up to protect what we care about!

If you would like to learn more about the current status of this most concerning situation, Environmental Defence Canada has posted a YouTube video of their January 12th webinar entitled Protecting Ontario's Environmental Future/ What Happens Next After the Gutting of the Conservation Authorities. The presenters were Tim Gray, Environmental Defence Canada who served as the host, Anne Bell from Ontario Nature, Anastasia Lintner from Canadian Environmental Law Association, and David Crombie, former head of the Greenbelt Council, former Mayor of Toronto, and former cabinet minister. Their words were both informative and powerful. You will find the video at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VcC3EyuUYv0/>

David Crombie expressed it well in the conclusion to his webinar presentation when he said ...

"How we treat the Conservation Authorities in this province will tell us how we will treat the environment. If the Conservation Authorities are diminished, so are we. If the Conservation Authorities flourish, so will we."

Karen Hunt, past OLA Board Member

OTTY LAKE PARK AND EARLY YEARS OF COTTAGE LIFE REVISITED

If you travel back a decade through the archives of Captain Otty ([October 2011 issue](#)) you will find a lovely tribute to Mary Catherine Dowsett Mahoney, known universally as Mayme Mahoney. Her maternal grandparents, Dr. Ed and Caroline (Carrie) Consitt, first came to the lake in 1916. Mayme visited Otty Lake as a baby in 1937.

Between 1900 and 1910 some summer cottages had begun to appear on the north side of Otty Lake. The site where Camp Shomria now stands was earlier referred to as the Connaught Hotel, the Bungalow Inn and later the Otty Lake Park. Easily accessible by road from Perth, locals would enjoy picnics, boating, and swimming in the area.

Upon the Consitts' arrival at Otty Lake in 1916, Mayme's grandfather, Dr. Consitt, her great-uncle and two of their partners bought this facility from Mrs. Devlin and continued operation of the hotel. By the mid-1930's her mother, Carrie, was a young wid-



Otty Lake Park hotel.

ow trying to support eight children. Uncle Jack Cavanagh, a prosperous miner in Quebec, bought Otty Lake Park for the price of the back taxes and kept the property (for which he had little interest) in the family.

Everything soon changed when Mayme's Uncle Jack and her father, Ernie Dowsett, played a poker game where the stakes were ownership of Otty Lake Park. Ernie and Mayme's mother Aileen became instant owners of what was to become a very successful hotel. Well-known bands playing at the dance pavilion, nearby cabins, a snack bar and gas pumps at the dock made it a hub of activity.

In her early years, Mayme, as many other children on Otty Lake, remembered moving to the cottage when school dismissed in June. Fathers worked in Ottawa and joined their families for the weekends. (I can certainly relate to how special Friday

nights were in the summer. Cars would roll in from the city, sounding their horns as they rounded the corners of the final country lanes. All would be excited to reunite at the lake and disappointed that Mondays would arrive so quickly. The pattern continued until Labour Day weekend when, like the migrating birds, we had to depart Otty Lake.)

In 1943 Ernie auctioned the property for \$3000 to the Zionist Camp Association, later to be known as Camp Shomria. The cottage properties to the east of the hotel site stayed in the Dowsett and Consitt families. The cottage that held so many memories for Mayme was originally an icehouse that was taken from across the lake one winter. The proximity of these four cottages that remained in her extended family facilitated many happy gatherings over the years.

Memories of hydroplane races and trophies at Rideau Ferry, boating and bass fishing on Otty were cherished. Throughout her years Mayme was an active member of life on this lake, caring for our lake community, and assisting as an Area Counsellor.

Mayme passed in October 2015 but will live on in our memories as one of Otty Lake's early and longtime residents. Her enthusiastic sharing of her wonderful stories made this recount possible.

Gail Read

continued from page 2

any prior experience. You are also encouraged to post observations of common things, so don't wait for that rare sighting. We set up a project to document everything we have seen on our property and we use it as a way to follow the seasons.

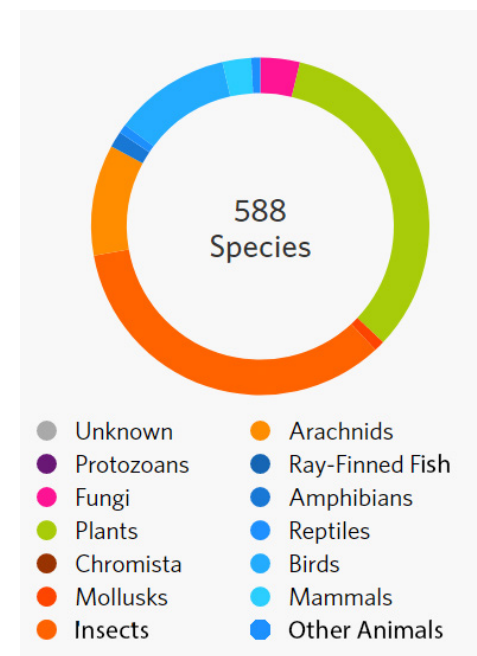
Most people use the camera on their cell phone since it is convenient but you can use any camera. On Jan. 6th Carson Armour's trail camera captured an image of the bobcat at night on Echo Bay. On Nov. 13th Evelyn Dore posted a great trail camera picture of a beaver chewing on a poplar tree at the end of Baxter Lane. We had a chickadee check out our trail camera as it took a blurry selfie. Bruce took this photo (see image), with a telephoto lens, of a

male Hooded Merganser on Parks Bay last April.

If you want to get involved, review the "Help" feature of FAQ's and "Getting Started" guide on the iNaturalist web page. You can post encounters with naturally occurring organisms that may be living or dead and can include tracks and nests. That means no pets or plantings from your garden – you can highlight them the Otty Lake Association Facebook page instead. If it is a "wild" tick on your dog or a mosquito biting your sister, it's fair game! Check out the web site and sign up:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/otty-lake>

Kit Muma and Bruce Smith



CLIMATE CHANGE IS MAKING WINTER ICE MORE DANGEROUS

Condensed from New York Times story, November 20, 2020 by Veronica Penney

A new study has found that cold-weather drownings are increasing sharply in warmer parts of the Northern Hemisphere.

The study, [published in the journal PLoS One](#), looked at drownings in 10 countries in the Northern Hemisphere, including Canada and the US, analyzing about 4,000 records over a span of 26 years. The largest number of drownings occurred when air temperatures were just below the freezing point, between minus 5 degrees Celsius and 0 Celsius. Some of the sharpest increases were in areas where Indigenous customs and livelihood require extended time on ice. Across the countries studied, children under the age of 9 and teenagers and adults

between 15 and 39 were the most vulnerable to winter drowning accidents.

Dr. Sapna Sharma, an associate professor of biology at York University in Toronto and a lead author of the study, said that people did not always realize how global warming is increasing the risks that come with winter traditions like skating, ice fishing and snowmobiling. Those ingrained habits can lead to a false sense of security, Dr. Sharma said.

The lack of sustained cold, which leads to more freeze-thaw events, is crucial. Each time ice thaws and refreezes, it gets a little weaker — and it can stay that way for the remainder of the cold season. “Milder temperatures mean that the ice is not as thick, or not as solid as it would otherwise be,” said Robert McLeman, a professor of geography and environmental studies at Wilfrid Laurier University.



“And so people are going out onto it and not realizing that the ice is rotten.”

The researchers found that more cold-weather drownings occur in spring, when daily low temperatures increase too much to support stable ice structures. At the same time, those warmer temperatures make it more enjoyable to spend time outdoors, meaning more people are spending time on ice.

The coronavirus pandemic could also put more people at risk. “If this winter is anything like this summer was,” Dr. Sharma said, “a lot of people spent time in cottage country in Ontario because we just can’t go anywhere.”

She said that ice with sitting water, slush or holes in the surface was generally unsafe. “Snow cover is when it gets tricky,” Dr. Sharma said. “People think there’s so much snow on the ice, the ice must be thick,” but snow can also act as insulation, melting the ice more quickly.

“We need to, as individuals, adapt our decision-making,” she added, and focus on how changing winters affect local rivers, lakes and streams. “It may not be as safe now as it was 30 years or 40 years ago.”



SEPTIC SYSTEM RE-INSPECTIONS

Over 2020, 124 existing septic systems were inspected by the Mississippi Rideau Septic System Office, including four on Otty Lake. Ten of those systems needed replacement, and 62% had no concerns. Commented Rob Rainer in his weekly Rob’s Report: “year after year, this program demonstrates how many more problematic systems are identified around waterbodies in TVT which are subject to mandatory

inspection, than are identified around waterbodies subject to voluntary inspection”. In 2021, 51 Otty Lake systems are due to be inspected. You will receive notification by mail if you are one of them. Usually a time can be arranged when the home-owner is present, and most are done in July and August. Here is the link to the [2020 Septic Reinspection Program report](#).

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: Christine Kilburn, Shari and Don Beattie
 Layout and Design: David Bromley

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.

SAFE BOATING

In our October 2020 edition of Captain Otty's Log we shared that the OLA and other Associations had provided safe boating concerns to the Lake Networking Group (LNG) and the Mississippi Lakes Association (MLA) to assist both organizations in compiling and addressing common safety issues across our local lakes and rivers. Our area was not the only area addressing this issue, in fact, Safe Boating was a feature presentation by the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) at the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA) meeting held via Zoom.

The OLA would like to thank the MLA for their efforts to create a great safety webinar which was shared on November 14th, 2020. The Safe Quiet Lakes/Decibel Coalition provided insight into their work to raise awareness of unsafe boating, boat noise and water safety and the OPP presented an informative briefing that provided data concerning water/boat related dangers. A link to the webinar is on the [Mississippi Lakes Association water-safety page](#).

On November 21st, Sgt. Dave Moffatt, Provincial Marine Co-ordinator, OPP, presented a Boat Update at the FOCA 2020 Fall Seminar – Lake Association Engagement Success Stories. He shared that there had been an increase in boaters and boat traffic this summer



as people stayed at home, purchased new water craft and spent more time on Ontario's waterways. Over the season, the OPP responded to calls concerning personal watercraft, aggressive operation, liquor, inexperience (primarily related to rental boats and operating in unfavourable weather) and courtesy or lack thereof. Courtesy calls primarily addressed operation and wakes. Vessels checked in 2020 totalled 47,492.

Sgt. Moffatt suggested that when you are in a no-wake zone i.e., within 30 metres from shore, check your bow. If your bow is up: "Bow down –

slow down".

Sadly, there were 31 marine fatalities in Ontario over 2020. It was determined that 86% of deceased victims were not wearing life jackets. Sgt. Kevin Gorman of the Underwater Search and Recovery Unit commented "I don't recover people off the bottom wearing life jackets." Some additional number on these fatalities are included on this page.

We hope you get a chance to check out the MLA website and the following two FOCA webpages: <https://foca.on.ca/safe-boating/> and <https://foca.on.ca/watch-your-wake/> as we all anticipate ice-out 2021.

Reid Kilburn

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR

Please take a moment to renew your membership in the OLA. Memberships are just \$25. You have two options:

- Mail a cheque made payable to the OLA to Box 20122, Perth ON K7H 3M6.
- E-transfer the funds to financial@ottylakeassociation.ca. Use "province we live in" for the security question and "Ontario" as the answer. Please put your name in the comment field, and send us an email if any details have changed.

If you are not currently a member, please see the membership form on the website. Print, complete and mail it to us with payment, or just provide the necessary information in an email.

Your prompt renewal would be appreciated, as our expenses occur year round. No need to wait until the summer. Thanks for your support!



SOCIAL EVENTS IN COVID TIMES – LEARNING TO PIVOT

Many lake associations spend much of their time on social events. But many of their usual social events (dances, corn roasts, craft fairs etc.) had to be put on hold in 2020. That didn't stop several associations from coming up with new events, or new twists on traditional events, to connect with each other. It is interesting to see their creativity and can-do spirit!

The Quest – Kahshe Lake Ratepayers Association, Muskoka Region. Usually a very social bunch, they could not hold their picnic, fishing derby, craft show or regatta, so the group set up a car/boat treasure quest for residents to complete over a six week period. A list with photos of 46 water and road access points was circulated, and people were to provide selfies to show they had been there. Participants received a commemorative ribbon and certificate of participation. Many people discovered areas of the lake they had not been to before.

Virtual Fishing Derby – Gloucester Pool Cottagers' Association, Trent Severn Waterway. This children's derby took place over four days. Some contest categories from previous in-person derbies were kept, like longest, widest and most unusual fish; youngest fisherperson; fishing story, and fishing hat decorating contest. New categories for this format were fishing fashion, fishing video, fishing dance and fishing music video. Pictures were uploaded by the participant or the webmaster to a members-only area of their website. A time and place to pick up the prizes, mostly gift certificates, was established.

Music on the Water and Lake Song Competition – Soyers Lake, between Haliburton and Minden. A local band was hired to perform on a dock late one Saturday afternoon and residents listened from their motorboats, kayaks and canoes. People had to RSVP to the event, stay behind an established noodle line, and anchor

bow and stern. The song competition happened in advance of that day. People were to compose song lyrics to the tune of any well-recognized song. The winner was chosen and the lyrics emailed out so that the band could lead a singalong of the new song on concert day.



Bingo – Stony Lake, Lakefield; and Brady Lake, Haliburton. Stony Lake posted a bingo card of fun activities on Facebook, and people were asked to post pictures of themselves completing the tasks. These were things like have a campfire with smores, ca-

noe to an island, or complete a puzzle. Brady Lake did a more traditional bingo game. Cards were purchased in advance, and people were asked to arrive 15 minutes early to the location and anchor their boats. The numbers were called from a dock and broadcast by Zoom.

Other fun, COVID-safe community-building events organized by lake associations include boat parades, camping themed online nature camps, and sailing races.

Do any of these inspire you? If you are interested in organizing something, please contact the OLA so we can talk about what support we could offer you. Many of the above were presented at the FOCA fall seminar or at Lake Links 2020, both of which happened virtually, if you would appreciate photos or further details. Or check those lake's Facebook pages.

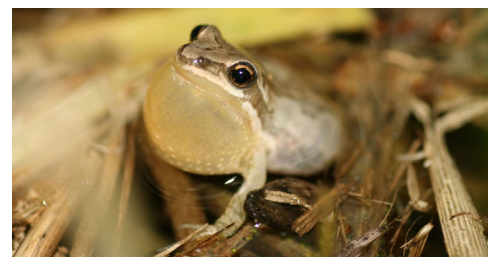
Barb Hicks

RISING HYDRO RATES

FOCA is preparing to launch a campaign to stop the elimination of the Electricity Seasonal Rate Class that was ordered by the Ontario Energy Board in October. The elimination will mean an additional \$60 a month in fees for the approximately 148,000 customers who are seasonal-rate. Nearly 80,000 of the seasonal-rate customers are cottage owners. To qualify for the seasonal rate, the property cannot be the owner's primary residence, and the owner must reside there for less than eight continuous months a year. Find your rate class on page 2 of your Hydro One bill, to the right of the blue house icon. If this issue concerns you, sign up for FOCA's new dedicated electricity e-newsletter, called The Power Line. Subscribe here: [Electricity E-news](#). For more background on this issue, visit FOCA's [Electricity Pricing webpage](#).

FROGS ARE CALLING

Blazing Star Environmental is looking for volunteers to complete three short daytime surveys during the western chorus frog calling season. These frogs are a threatened species in Canada and have experienced recent localized population declines. Volunteers pick their preferred number of sites and preferred travel distance, and are provided with training materials, the survey protocol, and site selection assistance, if needed. The frogs call between March and May. Find out more from their website <http://www.blazingstar.ca/> or [email them](#).



State of the Lake The 2020 edition of State of the Lake was sent out by email Nov. 10. This snapshot of lake conditions and environmental activities shows that due to our combined efforts, Otty Lake remains quite healthy. While some 2020 programs were limited due to COVID-19, we have been able to maintain continuity of data. Thanks to Kirsten Brouse, Kyla Haley, Murray Hunt, Reid Kilburn, Jenepher Lennox-Terrion, Wally Robins, Rachel Roth, and Derek Smith for their many contributions to the report. If you missed it, a link is on [our home page](#), and past reports are on our [Environment page](#).

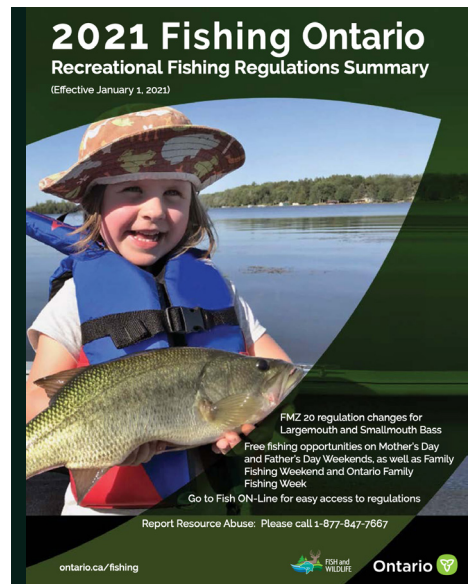
Radon It's winter, and with most of us spending a lot more time at home, it is a good time to test your residence for radon. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer after smoking. It can accumulate in any home, and the only way to tell if it has reached dangerous levels is to test for it. Have a listen to this interview with Joe Reid from the Health Unit on Lake 88 during November's National Radon Action Month. The Health unit is out of the free test meters but will put a notice on their website when they get more. [REAL, a local non-profit](#), has three meters it can lend for two-week periods. You can also buy your own meter online, as they are not overly expensive <https://takeactiononradon.ca/test/radon-test-kits/>.

Lake Links Presentations The annual Lake Links Workshop normally held each year in Perth was hosted online Saturday, October 24. The year's theme was "Effective Engagement for Positive Action". You can view the slides or access videos of the presentations on the [Watersheds Canada website](#). Sponsors included the S.M. Blair Family Foundation, Cataraqui Conservation, Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority, RVCA and FOCA. You may find interesting information in the [Community Initiatives Handout](#), showcasing recent projects and successes from lake associations and waterfront groups.



Power Couple Receive Award

Murray and Karen Hunt were presented with the Gord Rodgers Memorial Award by Mike Yee of RVCA at 2020 Lake Links, presented "in grateful acknowledgement for outstanding contributions and exceptional efforts to ensure the healthy future of our freshwater." The Hunts' contributions to lake protection are well known in the Otty Lake community. Even though they have moved into Perth, Karen continues to coordinate the Lake Networking Group. The award presentation is one of the segments on the Lake Links 2020 page mentioned above. Gord Rodgers, who passed away a few years ago, was a leader in lake stewardship in Eastern Ontario. This is the third year the award has been presented.



Fishing Regulations The 2021 Ontario Fishing Regulations Summary is [available online](#). It contains information about recreational fishing licences, open seasons and catch limits, as well as up-to-date fishing regulations for each fishing zone. Otty Lake is

in Fisheries Management Zone (FMZ) 18. It establishes, for example, that the Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass (combined) season runs the third Saturday in June to December 15, and that the catch and possession limit per day is six for someone with a sport fishing licence and two for someone with a conservation fishing licence.

Lake Partner Program In December, FOCA reported that they had entered into a new five year agreement with the Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (OMECPC) in support of the Lake Partner Program (LPP). This is great news for all lake associations, including Otty Lake, which has participated since 1996. The LPP provides the materials necessary, covers the postage, and does the lab analysis. Our Lake Steward takes the necessary water samples to determine phosphorus and calcium levels, and measures water clarity using a Secchi disc. The result is a great collection of data for comparing Ontario lakes which is made available through the [LPP website](#). (The 2020 data has not been posted yet.) The program has been vulnerable to funding cuts, and was suspended temporarily in 2020 over COVID safety concerns.

ROM Photography Course Ontario residents are invited to enter the 6th annual ROM (Royal Ontario Museum) Wildlife Photographer of the Year Contest. Sharing your images of the natural world may enable you to have your photo displayed at the museum, and of course, win some nice prizes. There is a category for 13-17 year olds, as well as one for those 18 and over. Rules and photos from last year's winners are available [here](#).



Photo: Bruce Smith

NEW OTTY LAKE MAP BEING PRODUCED

If all goes according to plan, the OLA will have a new map of Otty Lake available to residents and cottagers this spring.

Many of you may still have a copy of the 18" x 24" map of Otty Lake produced in 2010 by CGIS Spatial Solutions in Perth.

In discussing the issue of boat speeds in no-wake zones this summer, it was suggested that actually marking the 30 m zone on a map could visually demonstrate where boat speeds must be reduced within proximity to islands and the shore. Producing a new map would also be an opportunity to add additional information. Boaters have often requested a map showing the approximately 36 rocks and shoals which are a navigational hazard for boaters. Some of you may have the 1981 sketch map of shoals made available to sailing regatta contestants.

On the 2010 Otty Lake map, island names were not included. Not all

of the crown or private islands have approved names. These are names that have been approved by the Ontario Geographic Names Board (OGNB). We will use the approved names wherever possible. This may be confusing for some who traditionally referred to private islands by names associated with ownership. Some of the crown and private islands do not have approved names but have familiar given names. Some islands or small islets do not have any commonly used name. We plan to use another font or colour to differentiate between approved and given names, and between private versus crown owned islands. So some island names on the map may not be OGNB approved but we feel are useful for locals and lake residents to use when navigating the lake, locating places on the lake or for reference in the case of emergency services. The team will consider the feasibility of adding

the names of other features such as points, bays and the boat launch, although we don't want the map to become too cluttered.

The 2010 map included lots with their associated MPAC numbers. The lots and numbers will be updated but due to privacy concerns, there will be no addendum provided linking the numbers to names. The Tay Valley and Drummond/North Elmsley border will also be more clearly indicated. The Areas 1 to 11 used by the OLA to allocate Area Counsellors will still be marked.

The map team of Ian McDonald, Linda Cuthbertson, Reid Kilburn and Barb Hicks has met by Zoom several times already and is working with Jeff Dean of CGIS Spatial Solutions to create this new resource. Jeff, coincidentally, also has a cottage on Otty Lake. Look for an email blast about the progress of our mapping process this spring.

Linda Cuthbertson and Barb Hicks

THE OTTY LAKE ASSOCIATION BOARD NEEDS YOU!

The OLA is looking for some keen individuals who would like to contribute to their lake community by joining the OLA Board. The board meets about four times a year and communicates by email in between. In these COVID days, the board has been meeting by Zoom, but before that the usual meeting place was McMartin House in Perth, and occasionally a member's home. The board currently sits at 11 members, but ideally, would have 10 to 15 members at any time. So we have four positions available. Any OLA member is eligible, and it is nice to have a mix of ages, representation from all parts of the lake, and a mix of permanent and seasonal residents. Members agree to a two year term. If distance has been a deterrent before, Zoom meetings will make it possible for people who do not live in the area full-time to participate.

We also have some specific positions within the Board we would like to fill.

The Secretary position has been vacant since October. Thanks to our previous Secretary, Jacquie Mallory, for her service to the OLA. The secretary is involved in planning and taking minutes of our board and annual general meetings, responds to inquiries, and distributes relevant information to board members.

The board has also been without a President since July of 2020. A leadership team of Kirsten Brouse, Rachel Roth and Barb Hicks has been ensuring the board continues to run smoothly. However, Rachel is stepping back as she is facing some time constraints, leaving Kirsten and Barb "in charge". Ideally a new President will be ready to start in July 2021 when they would be voted in by the membership at the AGM, but would be welcome to join the board in the meantime.

New board members who are interested in helping out without taking on a specific position are most welcome, too, and can join the board at any point there is a vacancy. Becoming a board member is a great way to learn about the lake and the lake community, and is a chance to give back. We are all fortunate to enjoy Otty Lake, and that it continues to be healthy. But with a dense population, and varying priorities, we need to be vigilant to protect the natural environment, and ensure everyone is able to participate in the lake activities they enjoy. Maybe this is the year you take your turn to contribute to the well-being of Otty Lake.

You can read more about the board here or see past meeting minutes to get a better idea of what we are about. For more information, please contact Reid Kilburn, Past President at 326-0493 or reid.k@bell.net. A short bio or resume would be helpful.