



CAPTAIN OTTY'S LOG

OTTY LAKE ASSOCIATION • JULY 2021



WAGING A WAR ON A PLANT SPECIES

What Are Phragmites? When I first read about phragmites (frag-might-ee) I wasn't even sure how to pronounce the word, let alone identify the plant. Most of us have seen these tall reeds/grasses with large plume-shaped seed heads. Not all phragmites are labelled invasive. It is important that we are able to distinguish between our native phragmites and the invasive type.

Invasive Phragmites Invasive phragmites grow much taller, sometimes up to 3-5 meters. They have larger and more dense seed heads when mature. In the spring the seed heads aren't as big and are purplish brown in colour. The stem is a pale yellow in the summer and fall. The leaves are alternate, taper to a point, and often are at a 45-degree angle. Stands of invasive phragmites are very dense so you won't see many other plants growing there. Like other phragmites they are found in wetlands, along shorelines, or in roadside ditches. This perennial plant also goes by the name European Common Reed.

Why Is It the Nation's Worst Invasive Plant? Invasive phragmites form very dense stands that choke out all native plant growth and wildlife. The underground rhizomes, the phragmites' root network, make up about 80% of its biomass. Ontario's wetlands and lakes have been devastated by uncontrollable growth of this species. It destroys ecosystems. Native plant species and some at-risk plants can't compete for nutrients and germination sites in the altered habitat. Eight bird species in Ontario are considered under threat by invasive phragmites. The plant often alters water levels so reduces the amount of open water in wetlands and nesting sites. All amphibian and some reptile species are at risk as their

habitat is devastated. Turtles are impacted as the dense growth results in reduced movement, increased isolation and difficulty mating. Some fish species have been impacted by the alteration and reduction of suitable habitat. Some of Ontario's waterfront properties can no longer see the lake or river due to the mass of tall plants. Some waterways are no longer navigable in places.

It Is Here In Lanark County Invasive phragmites are in our wetlands and roadsides. We know where some of the sites are because there is a reporting system in place. Thanks to efforts by proactive citizen scientists in our area and the staff of Lanark County we have information about Phragmites identification, best management practices, and reporting available in a [brochure](#). One of the sites of particular concern for residents of Otty Lake is on Jebb's Creek.

Actions To Control This Plant Across Ontario municipalities are spending millions to eradicate this species. This doesn't include money spent by homeowners, conservation authorities, and other groups. There are informative websites. The one I found most useful is www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/resources/best-management-practices. As indicated previously, Lanark County has been proactive and supportive of local concerns about this issue. They have used a number of approaches to manage the spread along roadsides including the purchase of a remote mower. FOCA partnered with five other organizations to form the "Green Shovels Collaborative: Phragmites Collaboration in Action". The coalition was formed to address the need for increased awareness and support actions to reduce the spread of invasive phragmites.

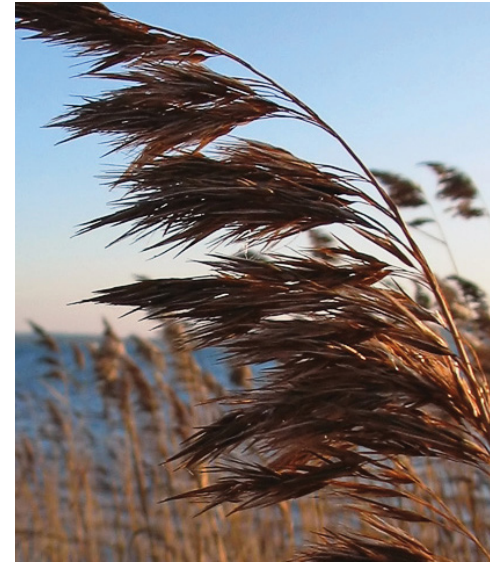


Photo: [Invasive Species Centre](#)

What Has the OLA Done About This Issue? The OLA Board applied for funding from monies set aside by FOCA to support lake associations wanting to participate in the Green Shovels Collaborative initiative. Our funding request was approved in April. The \$600 has been used to purchase equipment and supplies for

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use by teams to eradicate or control small stands. OLA partnered with Friends of the Tay Watershed to host a webinar to increase awareness and education about invasive phragmites on April 22, 2021. The webinar focused on a citizen science approach and generated a lot of positive response and media attention. OLA Board arranged for about 80 phragmites brochures from Lanark County to be available for distribution by area councillors.

What Can You Do?

You can become an invasive phragmites SIGHTER and FIGHTER. To be a SIGHTER all you have to do is report a sighting to www.eddmaps.org/on-tario. If you prefer to call about the sighting information you can phone Lanark County 613-267-1353. If the sighting is on private property you should contact the owners directly. Early detection of small stands and rapid response to prevent spread are the best way to wage war on this species. To be a FIGHTER you can be part of a team that will participate

in the removal and management of small stands with the support and approval of the county or landowner. OLA has received funding from FOCA and purchased the equipment and supplies needed. You would only need work gloves. One of the best times to do this removal is in August so by then, hopefully, COVID restrictions will be over. Please contact Linda Cuthbertson at 613-267-6001 if you would like to volunteer to be a SIGHTER and FIGHTER.

Linda Cuthbertson

SPRING PEEPERS



As the frigid winter landscape of Eastern Canada begins to melt into a slushy and muddy early spring, hopeful signs of less dreary days to come begin to arrive. Green buds emerge on the otherwise barren deciduous trees and plants sprout up from the thawing ground. Families of birds return from their winter retreats creating a symphony of different species including the rhythmic drumming woodpeckers, singing robins, and honking gaggles of Canada geese. A highly audible early indicator of spring's imminent arrival is the chorus of trilling tree frogs that rings through the woods and wetlands. These 1.5-inch tiny amphibians are often called Spring Peepers, named for their shrill mating calls or distinctive "peeps". The scientific name for these noisy creatures is *Pseudacris Crucifer*, and if you are lucky enough to see these little frogs they are visually recognizable by their tan skin marked with a darker x shape on their backs and white bellies.

Spring Peepers live in central-eastern parts of the US and Canada and have been found from Manitoba to PEI and as far south as Florida. Their summer home is often among the leaf litter that coats the forest floor. They are commonly found in wetlands and woodland ponds and the high-pitched chorus of peeps that emerges from our wetlands in the spring is the distinctive mating call of the species. These frogs are most active in the evening and at night, which is why my grandmother and I would often take post-dinner walks in the early spring to the nearby swamp to hear their special concert.

The male frogs produce a loud, high-pitched trill to advise other males to keep their distance and to maximize their chances of finding a mate. They breed between March and June with the females typically laying 800-1000 eggs. Tadpoles emerge from eggs within two weeks and feed on algae and microorganisms, completing their metamorphosis into full-grown peepers within a few months. Adult peepers are carnivorous, feasting on insects such as beetles, ants, flies, and spiders.

Despite being tree frogs these critters are rarely found more than a meter above ground. In the winter they cozy up under logs, bark, and under blankets of mud to hibernate. They are hardy frogs when it comes to chilly temperatures and they are able to be active and withstand temperatures slightly below 0C which is why they are one of the earliest frogs to emerge in and sing in the begin-

ning of spring. Most of their body freezes during hibernation, however a natural antifreeze in their blood keeps them alive throughout the frigid winter months.

They have a lifespan of roughly three years if they can avoid predators and if their habitat is kept healthy and intact. Spring Peepers' main predators are raptors, herons, salamanders, snakes, and carnivorous insects. Their current population is thought to be relatively stable, however populations in Toronto are reported to have disappeared, most likely due to development. The destruction of wetland habitats due to urbanization and agricultural development is the biggest threat to peepers and similar species. It is so crucial to protect our wetlands from destruction and environmental degradation if we want to maintain healthy ecosystems and ensure that these and other unique creatures survive this century. I am hopeful that the singing spring peepers will continue to flourish if we take collective action to protect their homes from development. I would like to see their populations thrive throughout their amphibian generations, and perhaps take my future grandchildren on evening strolls in the early spring to hear their distinctive calls.

Ella Rigby

This article was written for the Spring 2021 newsletter of the Chaffey's Area Lakes Association.

THE SYLVAN QUEEN

From "Postcards from Otty Lake" by lake resident Linda Tufts Davies

I think it would surprise most Otty Lakers to know that for a short time, there was a steamboat cruising the lake. The *Sylvan Queen*, a small pleasure steamer, was built in Brockville in 1863 and was owned by Deacon et al, a company located in Perth. The steamer was 47 feet long, 12 feet wide, and 4 feet deep, with

a 4-horsepower engine and paddles that turned by means of a belt. At the time, many felt that Otty Lake was destined to become a popular location for pleasure cruising. Unfortunately, the *Sylvan Queen* didn't cruise Otty Lake for very long – just in 1863 and into the summer of 1864. She caught fire at water's edge during the night of July 12 of that year. The cause of the fire was never determined, and the loss was estimated at \$1,400.

The Perth Courier.

PERTH, FRIDAY, JULY 15, 1864.

THE "SYLVAN QUEEN" BURNED.

We regret to state that the pretty little pleasure steamer, *Sylvan Queen*, running on Otty Lake, was burned to the water edge, while lying in the boat-house, on the night of the 12th, or rather the morning of the 13th July. No satisfactory conclusion has yet been arrived at as to the cause of the fire. Some appear to think it the work of an incendiary, but the general opinion is that it was accidental. The *Sylvan Queen* was owned by a company of six gentlemen in Perth, and was new, having been in operation only since last fall. The total loss will be about \$1400. No insurance.

NESTING TIME FOR LOONS



Photo: Mary Brown

The loons are back and well-established once again at Otty. If you are at the lake, no doubt you will have heard them calling! The first sign of the return was right around

ice-out, with that unmistakable call echoing across the lake.

Loons tend to call most from mid-May to mid-June although they certainly vocalize all summer as well! There are four categories of calls which are used for a variety of different purposes. [This link](#) describes the various calls with sound clips. [This link](#), from

Cornell University, has a video with some great information for anyone who wants to learn more about loon vocalizations!

At the time of writing there is one pair confirmed to be nesting. (Up-

date: a single loon was hatched on June 13.) Another loon pair attempted nesting, and will hopefully try again. There are likely other pairs currently nesting as well - it is estimated that Otty is home to five pairs every summer. Please remember that if you see a loon on a nest to give it a lot of room. Disturbance to nesting loons by humans can disrupt incubation and cause a nest to fail or be abandoned.

If you see a nesting loon or loon chick, please send the details of your observation to Kyla at ottylakeloonsurvey@gmail.com.

Kyla Haley

POLLINATOR PROJECT ON ELM GROVE ROAD

If you travel along Elm Grove Road to access your property, you have probably noticed evidence of a roadside pollinator project between Sunset Drive and Hughes Road. The goal is to create a native meadow habitat over the next three years. Benefits will include reduced maintenance costs, improved pollinator habitat, more carbon storage in the soil, and better resistance to invasive species such as wild parsnip. Lanark County is in the breeding range and along the migratory route of the iconic Mon-

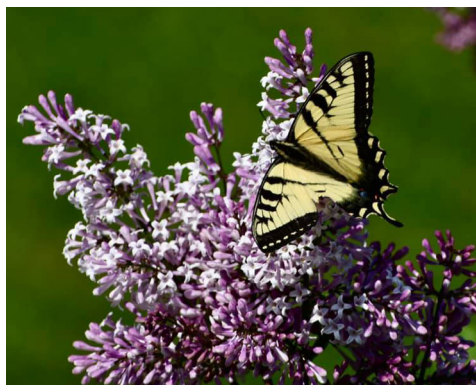


Photo: Tiger Swallowtail butterfly by Eileen Johnston

arch butterfly. An area about 350m long has been seeded with a custom native seed mix with native pollinator plant species and grasses and includes a cover crop to give the native seed time to establish in the first year. This is part of an ongoing partnership between Lanark County and the Canadian Wildlife Federation to restore and improve pollinator habitat on roadways in Lanark County.

A HARSH YEAR OF GYPSY MOTH ACTION ON OTTY LAKE



Gypsy moth caterpillars feeding on cattails
Photo by Kit Muma.

Residents from many areas of Otty Lake are commenting on the intensified population of European gypsy moth (*Lymantria dispar dispar*) throughout summer 2020 and early this spring. Ldd are an invasive and destructive pest that are irritating us in all neighbourhoods at this point! Gypsy moth caterpillars are on all types of surfaces, replacing outdoor relaxation with frustration, dropping from trees on their silken threads, noisily munching canopies, dropping feces from overhead, and leaving both old and young stands of trees exhibiting defoliation.

Based upon detailed sampling of the infected zones, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) predicted we would move from a moderate-severe level of impact to one of severe defoliation in 2021. Severe zones are currently established in portions of Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, PEI, and Nova Scotia.

Egg masses were laid last July and were impacted by small mammals and birds, including but not limited to chickadees, nuthatches, and brown creepers. These natural impacts were limited by the sheer population of last year's crop of Ldd. Long periods of temperatures at -20 to -30 C were

minimal in this region last winter, hence egg mass mortality was insufficient. An early spring with significant heat and longer daylight hours gave this year's early hatchings a start in mid April. Dry, warm conditions in this region minimized the impact of *Entomophaga maimaiga*, a fungus condition that arises with heavy rainfall and cool temperatures, causing spores to winter in the soil and infect the young offspring. As a result of our spring, 90% of our egg masses hatched by May 17-19th in Lanark County!

The Invasive Species Centre provides the following quick tips:

- Examine your outdoor household items on a regular basis during the spring and summer months. Furniture, camping equipment, trailers, and firewood can harbour egg masses.
- If caterpillars or larvae are found, wear gloves when handling the insects, as their hairs can cause skin irritation on humans.
- If eggs are detected, scrape the fuzzy, tan-coloured masses off of the equipment they are affixed to with a butter knife, and destroy them by submerging the eggs in a bucket filled with water and household bleach or soap for at least 48 hours before discarding.
- Never move firewood.

<https://www.invasivespeciescentre.ca/invasive-species/meet-the-species/invasive-insects/gypsy-moth/>

Management Strategies and Hope for Nature to come to the Rescue:

Different strategies of management are occurring around our watershed with many property owners combining a variety of approaches.

- Management starts with monitoring for defoliation and egg masses

throughout the season, including high risk trees, buildings, and vehicles.

- Hand removal of egg masses should be ongoing for 10 months, August to May, using a form of scraper and a container of soap and water.
- Biological control for private owners is available for purchase from local hardware stores. BTK is deemed very effective but can impact other species. Dormant spray has been found to be very effective to large property owners who have been testing efficacy during each of the gypsy moth stages.
- Larger scale forested areas, such as BurgessWood, have contracted aerial spraying by Zimmer with some initial success and ongoing observations.
- Burlap wrapping can be seen on many properties, with a recommended 45 cm wide strip around the tree at chest height with the string acting as a belt as the burlap is folded over itself. The use of double-sided carpet tape is frequently used in trapping.
- Another natural killer of gypsy moths is a virus called NPV (nuclear polyhedrosis virus). This spreads naturally through the population, especially when caterpillars are abundant, stressed, and more susceptible. This disease causes a major die-off approximately two years after the outbreak.

CAUTION: European gypsy moth caterpillars have long hairs that can cause skin irritation or allergic reactions for some people. For safety, use gloves while handling caterpillars. Remember that the female gypsy moth covers her egg masses with abdominal hairs, suggesting that similar care be taken with the removal of egg masses.

Gail Read

Note: The full version of this story is on the OLA Gypsy Moth webpage.

AREA COUNSELLOR UPDATE

Again this year the Area Counsellors responded to a survey providing input from their neighbourhood regarding interests and needs. This led to the development of a very comprehensive Spring Information Package that was sent to you electronically on May 21st. We have had excellent feedback on this project both in range and depth. Please remember that your interaction with your Area Counsellor is highly valued. They can answer a wide range of questions and have a good number of

local resources from whom to draw in seeking solutions.

The new Otty Lake map is available from your Area Counsellor with over 60% delivered by mid-June. Your membership entitles you to a free map. If your Area Counsellor has missed you when making visits, please make a contact and arrange to receive yours. If you wish an additional copy or are a non-member who is seeking a map for \$5, your Area Counsellor will assist.

We welcome three new Area Counsellors to our 2021 team: Susan Murray in Area 7A, Melodie Ashby in 3B,

and most recently Cynthia Struthers and Don McLeish in Area 9. A special word of appreciation to these new participants and an invitation for others who are willing to assume a communication role for their neighbourhood to please contact Gail Read at read2read@outlook.com. Only Area 8 has a vacancy at present, and Maple Glen will be looking for a new volunteer at the end of this season. Large areas can always benefit from the team work created by a second volunteer!

Gail Read

ICE HOUSES

From "Postcards from Otty Lake" by lake resident Linda Tufts Davies

Before the advent of electricity and refrigerators, harvesting ice during the winter was the only way to keep food cool during the summer months. In the early 1900s nearly every household had an ice box. Farmers found year-round employment in the harvest of ice during the winter.

By 1915 ice houses were springing up around Otty Lake's shore, and in January of that year a firm operated by R. Jackson and E. Hogan moved its ice production from the Glen Tay pond to Otty Lake in order to fill the growing number of ice houses.

During the winter months, a large section of the lake was kept clear of snow in order to ensure good-quality ice. When the ice reached a thickness of about two feet, it was cut into large square blocks using ice saws and then transported by horse and sleigh to the various ice houses around the lake. The ice was packed into deep holes and layered with hay or sawdust to keep it from melting.

Over the years the harvest continued. 1937 saw heavy rain and an early thaw, and one of the Perth ice dealers, R.H. Echlin, found it necessary to cut some of his ice supply from Otty Lake. Six trucks were en-

gaged that winter in hauling ice from Otty Lake into Perth. Mr. Echlin advertised this Otty Lake ice as "spring water ice" and assured his customers that this quality ice would not mean an increase in price.

Ice was still being delivered in the 1950s. Our house in Perth had a refrigerator but we had an ice box at the cottage. I remember the ice truck rolling down our driveway twice a

week to make our ice delivery. The driver would open the refrigerated back compartment of the truck, and with a large clamp he would dig out a big chunk of perfectly formed ice and haul it to the ice box in our cottage.

The remnants of ice houses remain on the lake. At the east end sits a small cottage on the former Burns property that was once an ice house; in fact, the Burns family still call it "the ice house". One of the Otty Lake Park cottages was once an ice house and one of the out buildings at the Colin S. Farmer Cottages Rentals on the south shore of the lake was at one time an ice house.

William Echlin

Ice Dealer

Season 1925—May 1st to Sept 1

10 lbs. daily for season	...\$12.00
20 lbs. daily for season	... 18.00
40 lbs. daily for season	... 24.00

MONTHLY

10 lbs. daily for season	...\$3.00
20 lbs. daily for season	... 4.50
40 lbs. daily for season	... 6.00

WEEKLY

10 lbs. daily 1.00
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EXTRA PIECE CASH

Any person finding quantity taken not sufficient during hot weather, can get next higher amount and will be charged for time taken only, for extra amount.

A double quantity will be left on Saturday morning until further notice. All 1925 accounts will be handed in for collection after May 15th.

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
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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.

ARTIFICIAL LIGHTING AT THE LAKE

When lighting the outside of your lake property, it's best to take a "less is more" approach: use enough to keep people safe, but not so much that it lights up the sky, annoys your neighbours, or affects wildlife negatively.

For safety's sake, light your address marker (so you can be found in case of emergency), steps and pathways. If there is a task area, such as where you take out the garbage, or bring in a boat after dark, use motion sensitive lighting so it is on only when that area is in use.

Wildlife, and even plants, need full periods of daylight and full darkness to function normally. Nighttime light can disrupt the natural habits and cycles of wildlife. Behaviour changes can include their ability to navigate and migrate; the amount of time they have to feed, forage and mate; their stress and hormone levels; and the predator and prey balance. Read more in this [Cottage Life story](#).

Over-illumination is using too many fixtures or fixtures that are too bright. It results in excess light reflecting off objects, such as buildings, the ground, or the water, and up into the sky. Municipalities receive frequent complaints of light trespass, when lights from one property shines onto another. Different fixtures or better shielding can help. Glare is caused by having a direct line of sight into a source of light, such as a light on a boathouse across the water can be both a nuisance and a navigation hazard.

A popular part of a cottaging or lake experience is stargazing. Over-lighting can obscure the night sky for stargazers. A related problem is the sky glow that can be seen as the halo of light that hangs over built up areas. A number of locations are being promoted as [dark-sky preserves](#), where astronomy buffs can watch the stars with next to no artificial light. Two such preserves are at Charleston Lake and in North Frontenac Township.

Here are some general tips to avoid contributing to light pollution:

- Don't use any more light than necessary
- Turn off lights when you're not using them or when you are not there
- Close your curtains after sunset
- If using lighting to accent an attractive feature, turn it off by 11 p.m.
- Turn off lights at bedtime

Consider where you use those lights:

- Set back lights from shoreline
- Direct shore lights away from water
- Don't shine lights on neighbour's property, or onto and across the river or lake
- Shield your lights from shining up into the sky
- Direct lights down
- Your goal should be to see the effect of the light, not its source

Choose the right kind of light:

- Consider motion-sensitive lights to avoid over-illumination—ones with pulse-scan technology aren't as easily tripped by wildlife
- Timers may be an option in some situations
- Reduce wattage to 15-20 watts
- Avoid floodlights
- Use "warm" (not white or blue) colour lights
- Consider LED lighting for energy efficiency, longevity and safety, as the bulbs stay cool to the touch.

There is legislation governing the use of lighting in both Otty Lake municipalities. Drummond/North Elmsley has an illumination bylaw, 4.16 available in this document. https://www.dnetownship.ca/images/ZB_Office_Consolidation_Nov_2019.pdf.

Tay Valley Township has a policy of dark skies in its Official Plan, section 2.2.5, and corresponding bylaws should be established by next winter. In the meantime, some residents will be governed by the Site Plan Control on their property. If you feel a neighbour is overdoing their outdoor lighting, consult your municipal office.

More reading

- [Four Outdoor Lighting Solutions for your Cottage Property](#)
- [Exterior Lighting Tips for Your Cottage](#)

Barb Hicks

POLYSTYRENE AND DOCKS

Bill 228 Keeping Polystyrene Out of Ontario's Lakes and Rivers Act, 2021, was passed at third reading on May 13, 2021. This bill applies to new docks and other floating structures (like rafts), not existing structures, and was supported by FOCA. Polystyrene foam degrades in the sun and water, leaching microplastics into the water. Those microplastics destroy the natural environment, end up in the food chain, and are even consumed by people. The bill requires that any person who constructs or reconstructs a floating dock, floating platform or buoy shall ensure that any expanded or extruded polystyrene in the dock, platform or buoy is fully encapsulated. The Federation suggests using alternate methods to build docks, such as barrels, closed foam, or sealed plastic billets. They are not as cheap, but they last longer and will not impact the environment. This was a private member's bill introduced by Parry Sound-Muskoka MPP Norm Miller, and was based largely on data gathered by the group Georgian Bay Forever. See more on [FOCA page](#).

Otty Lake Clothing. We are thinking it might be time to give this another try. You may have noticed an “OLA Store” page on the website that offers polos, T-shirts, sweatshirts, hoodies, and a ball cap embroidered with an Otty Lake or OLA logo. Most of this merchandise was sold at our Annual General Meeting, which of course was not in person last year, nor will it be this year. The previous coordinator has moved on, and the association would need to enlist someone to oversee the operation. This could go various ways – use the same supplier and selection of merchandise, spend more effort promoting it, offer some other clothing items or promotional products, find a supplier that will ship directly to the customer, find a local store that would supply these items etc. This might be a good way for someone to contribute to the Otty Lake community without going to meetings! Email ola@ottylakeassociation.ca if you would like to explore the possibility.

FOCA Spring Seminar. Thanks to David Murray, a new OLA Board member, for attending the FOCA AGM and Spring Seminar March 6. Topics covered included the Lake Partner Program, the new FOCA Phragmites project, some policy news, and the presentation of the FOCA Achievement Award to the Long Point Ratepayers’ Association on Lake Erie. Reported David: The main take away from the meeting is that volunteers are important in supporting the water and land use aspects that impact landowners of lake front property, and that FOCA has a lot of information about issues of concern as well as resources to help address them. Some of these resources require the OLA membership password; just ask if you need it.

Annual General Meeting. By the time you read this newsletter, our 2021 AGM will likely have taken place, as it is scheduled for Thursday July 8. This is the second year the board is holding the AGM via Zoom. You should have received an email

invitation, and the few people on our list without email received a paper invitation. If you missed it, the meeting will be recorded and of course there are always the minutes! We will provide a summary of any new developments in our October issue.

Membership Renewal.

We appreciate everyone renewing their OLA membership. The e-transfer option has saved a lot of paper and trips to the bank, but our team has wasted some time trying to identify payments! When paying by e-transfer, please make a point of using the message line to indicate your lake address. It is frequently unclear from the email address who it refers to ([e.g. sunseeker99@gmail.com](mailto:e.g.sunseeker99@gmail.com)) or the payment is made by someone in the household with a different surname than is on our database. If your cheque does not have identifying information printed on it, please attach a note.

Shoreline Plant Sale. This year’s Shoreline Plant Sale was very well-received by Otty Lake residents. The 230 trees and shrubs sold very quickly, and were all spoken for by March 16. Our thanks to resident Wendy Coombs for receiving the orders and handling the pickup from her home on Sat. June 12. Organizers will definitely aim to order more plants next year! If you would be interested in handling the orders in 2022, please contact us. This year’s selection included three shrubs: nannyberry, purple flowering raspberry, highbush cranberry as well as pin cherry and sugar maple tree seedlings. Thanks to the RVCA for making plants available for a substantial discount through their Shoreline Naturalization Program.

Tay Valley Website and ENews. Tay Valley Township launched their redesigned [website](#) on June 7. New to the site is the ability to fill out applications and forms online, use an interactive map to view property information, and the ability to search

by-laws. Users are able to subscribe to eNews for notices and emergency information, and can choose the particular topics they want to hear about. Note that if you were on their list for TVT notices before, you must [resubscribe on the new system](#).

Stand Up Paddleboard (SUP)

Safety Rules. You should wear a personal flotation device (PFD) and have a sound signalling device (like a whistle). A second option is to carry the PFD (not wearing it), but then you must have a whistle, a bailer and a floating throwing rope at least 15 metres long. So wearing a PFD is a better plan! Leashes are a good idea, but not required. Inflatable PFDs are prohibited for people who are under 16 year of age. The fine for boating without a PFD is \$200. Additional rules apply if you are using the paddleboard for navigation or between sunset and sunrise. This is a good reference for SUPS, canoes and kayaks: <https://www.northernontario.travel/paddling/kayak-canoe-and-sup-laws-in-ontario-life-jackets-safety-kits-lights-and-more>.



Barred Owl Photo: Mary Brown

PADDLE POWER 2021

After last year's cancellation due to the pandemic, we look forward to launching the 2021 Paddle Power on Saturday, August 21st (Our traditional 3rd Saturday of August!). Mark your calendar for a 10:30 gathering, photos at 10:45 a.m. and an after paddle convoy at 11 a.m. Further details will follow as we announce the exact location amongst the islands midway between the SW shore and Mile Point.

Celebrate your love for paddling as canoes, kayaks, paddleboards and any other similar facsimiles gather!! Weather permitting, we look forward to drone coverage this year!

Ian McDonald and Ev Dore



*South end of the lake beyond Boy Scout Camp.
Photo by Gail Read*

WILD TURKEY!

Now that I've got your attention, I won't be talking about the whis-ky, but rather about the bird.

Wild turkeys are native to Ontario but they were extirpated by 1909 largely due to unregulated hunting and habitat loss. In 1984 efforts began to restore the wild turkey to Ontario, and turkeys were brought in from as far away as Iowa and about 4,400 of them were released at 275 sites across the province. Efforts have been successful and I've seen wild turkeys on many occasions when out walking near my cottage on Little Otty, where they are present year-round. In summer, fall, and winter you will often see family flocks but you can also see gender flocks.

There are two species of wild turkey in Canada but in Ontario you will only see the Eastern species, *Meleagris gallopavo silvestris*. The wild turkey is a member of the order Galliformes, which includes pheasants, chickens, and quails. Males can weigh over 13 kg, while females typically don't weigh much more than 6 kg. The males are much more colourful than females, and sport heads with shades of red, blue, and white, and feathers of dark brown, purple, bronze, and iridescent green and copper. Female

turkeys are called "hens" and males are called "toms" or "gobblers", which refers to the gobble call males make to attract females. Mating takes place between February and June and females will usually lay 10-12 eggs in a shallow depression they believe is hidden from predators, often at the base of a tree. Baby turkeys are born well developed and covered with brown, pinkish and grey down.

Wild turkeys mostly walk but they can run and fly. When threatened, females often fly whereas males usually run. At sundown they fly to into lower limbs of trees and then move upwards. Their diet consists of a va-



PITCH-IN SPRING 2021

I would like to thank our faithful volunteers for their commitment to clean up the roads around the ElmGrove side of Otty. Everyone I e-mailed agreed to do their usual road and in some cases did more. Usually husbands and wives work together, but we have groups of people who pick up on their daily walks.

This year is different due to stay-at-home instructions, people are not driving as much and therefore not tossing their garbage onto the roadside and down the embankments.

I have had reports that not much garbage was there to be collected. I picked up two pathetic bags from 1 km of Rideau Ferry Road, usually a large source of rotting food and stuff that you don't want to know about.

Of course this is good news, pity it does not stay like that. This is not the most pleasant of jobs, but I think most of us consider it as a challenge.

We are flexible about when people do their clean-up, whatever works for them, as we go with the weather, when the ditches are dry, the grass not threatening to grow over the rubbish and before the insects are a problem.

So a big thank you to our friends and neighbours who get their hands dirty (of course we wear gloves) cleaning up after thoughtless people who foul up our highways with their rubbish.

Elizabeth Allcock

riety of nuts, fruits, seeds, and berries but they will also eat salamanders, snails, and insects.

Next time you're out walking, keep an eye out for wild turkeys, a fairly recent but definitely native addition to the neighbourhood! But do use caution as they, like us, are protective of themselves and their offspring.

Cathy Kari

Photo by Christine Kilburn