



# CAPTAIN OTTY'S LOG

OTTY LAKE ASSOCIATION • FEBRUARY 2022



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I don't know how your pandemic is going, but I can tell you, I've never felt more grateful to have a beautiful place to get away to. And being in a place as beautiful as Otty Lake surely places us among the luckiest of the lucky.

Our cottage doesn't have running water this time of year, but hiking up our unplowed driveway, and exploring the snow covered forest around our property is a salve for the soul in these unpredictable times. Just knowing that all that beauty is waiting for us whenever we need it, feels like a relief.

Last winter I read Robin Wall Kimmerer's book *Braiding Sweetgrass* and it fundamentally changed and enriched the way I understand the natural world. I've never been more motivated to continue to learn about our lake and all the ecosystems that exist here, and to help all those living things thrive (people included!).

As the Board thinks and meets over the winter, we're looking at questions like:

- What can and should the OLA be doing to continue protecting and enhancing the health of our whole lake ecosystem? We're looking at our current Lake Management Plan to help determine what next steps we might take with the priorities that it outlines. We're also thinking about water levels and how we'll continue the work needed to keep water levels within a consistent range.
- What can and should we do to adapt to climate change? We know that climate change will bring changes to our lake - and not just more heat and sun on the dock. With warmer waters, our lake will have reduced dissolved oxygen levels which makes it harder for fish to thrive, and



Photo: Iqbal Umar

makes our lake more sensitive to phosphorus. This means it has never been more important to keep fertilizers out of the lake, and ensure our septic systems are working properly. This winter I'm thinking about whether there is anything more the OLA can do to help mitigate the negative effects of climate change on Otty Lake.

- What role can the OLA play in reconciliation with Indigenous people, and how can that work inform our stewardship efforts? We know that the efforts that cottagers and residents have made to protect Otty Lake over the last few hundred years are only a blip on the historical timeline of the relationship between people and the land we live on. Starting this winter, we will learn more about the Indigenous history of the area, and what we can do now to help all people and beings thrive on and around Otty Lake.

If you have thoughts on any of these topics, or if you'd like to get involved, we'd love to hear from you.

In the meantime, a heartfelt thank-you to every one of you making efforts large and small to enhance the health of our lake. And if you're new to the lake, or wondering where to start, this Lake Protection Workbook

from Watersheds Canada is it! (If you prefer a print copy, contact your Area Counsellor.)

My very best wishes for the winter season. I hope you enjoy this edition of Captain Otty's Log cozied up somewhere warm.

*Cheers, Kirsten Brouse  
President, Otty Lake Association*

"To love a place is not enough. We must find ways to heal it."

*Robin Wall Kimmerer, Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants*

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## HIGH WATER LEVELS

As winter set in some of you may have noticed that Otty Lake water levels were higher than normal. This was partly due to higher than normal rainfall and partly due to the ever diligent beavers in Jebbs Creek. You may recall that water levels were high in the spring as well until our partners RVCA and Lanark County collaborated to breach a beaver dam immediately upstream of the bridge on Rideau Ferry Road.

On December 10th RVCA visited Jebbs Creek and on this occasion, identified two new dams. The primary dam observed was located adjacent to the Perth Wildlife Reserve. A secondary minor obstruction was noted immediately upstream of the bridge on Rideau Ferry Road and both dams were breached.

On December 31st, RVCA reported that the lake level was down approximately 12 cm and there was still good flow through the breached dams.



Photo: Mary Brown

Concerns about water levels on OttyLake and the role that beavers play in altering the water level has long been an issue for the OLA. This was one of the areas of concern documented on Page 33 of the Report on the State of the Lake and its Watershed, part of the development process for the Otty Lake Management Plan. Dealing with beaver issues

and navigating landowner and jurisdictional, regulatory authority can be a challenge at the best of times. Over the years, the OLA, depending on location and jurisdiction, has dealt with several partners and stakehold-

ers including Tay Valley Township, Drummond/North Elmsley, RVCA, MOECP, Lanark County and adjacent landowners. If you are experiencing a problem with dams or blockage the OLA is available to help you navigate through the partner/stakeholder engagement process. Please email your concerns to [lakesteward@ottylakeassociation.ca](mailto:lakesteward@ottylakeassociation.ca).

*Reid Kilburn*

## SHOAL MARKING PROGRAM

The OLA is planning to implement a shoal marking program in the Spring. Many lake associations have put similar programs in place in recent years, including Pike Lake and Bob's Lake, with a view to improving boating safety. Although the program is still under development, the following are some key highlights:

- Approximately 10 to 15 "high priority" shoals will be marked with Transport Canada approved buoys and in accordance with Transport Canada guidelines.
- Buoys (and any necessary installation hardware) purchased by the OLA.
- Buoys installed around the May long weekend, and removed around Thanksgiving.
- Notices placed on the OLA website, Facebook page, and in



newsletters each year, containing relevant information and appropriate disclaimers. Signage would also be placed at the public boat launch in Miller Bay.

- Process for cottagers to notify the OLA if a buoy is out of place, or to request that the Board of the OLA consider a new buoy to be added to the program.
- Program to be reassessed in Fall/Winter 2022 to gauge success, improvements, sustainability, and cottager feedback.

### We Need Your Help!

A number of directors and other members of your OLA have already volunteered to "adopt" a shoal. This means that they will install "their" marker (buoy) on "their" shoal in the Spring, remove it in the Fall, monitor it on a periodic basis throughout the boating season, and report back to the OLA coordinator (e.g. a quick email or text) to confirm the buoy's status. However, we need a few more volunteers to adopt shoal markers. Would you be willing to adopt one of the shoals that our committee has identified? If so, we would love to hear from you! The success of this program depends on a few awesome volunteers to help out. Email [ola@ottylakeassociation.ca](mailto:ola@ottylakeassociation.ca) if you can help.

*Keith Desjardins*

## ROUND GOBY IN THE RIDEAU CANAL

An invasive fish species, the round goby, was spotted in the Rideau Canal in 2019 around the Edmonds Lockstation just southeast of Smiths Falls. The closest known population of round gobies was over 100 kilometres away, so the suspected source of transmission is either water from a boat's bilge or bait bucket release. Adult round goby can be between 6-16 cm long with a cylindrical body and rounded snout. They are fully scaled and mostly brown or olive with dark brown and black spots. And they can spawn several times a year.

Their discovery at Edmonds Lock led Parks Canada to partner with Prof. Steven J. Cooke and PhD candidate Jordanna Bergman from Carleton University, and others, to study the impacts of the species and ways to prevent it from spreading. The goby were caught and tagged with electronic transmitters, and their movements monitored. It was determined that some fish were able to get into the locks by entering through the opened valves on the downstream doors. So it is possible that modifying lock operations and infrastructure



to minimize passages could reduce their spread. So far the fish have been contained mostly around Edmonds Lockstation, but there have been sightings near Old Slys Lockstation and closer to Kilmarnock.

The round goby is affecting the ecosystem by displacing smaller species like crayfish, darters, and log perch. They stay near the floor of waterbodies, attacking the nests of species like the small-mouth bass and the large-mouth bass. Unfortunately, once the round gobies are established, there is no way of getting rid of them. Oddly enough, in places where the goby are well-established, such as the St. Lawrence, larger small-mouth bass have been feeding on the gobies. Note that it is illegal to possess live round goby or use them as bait in Canada. If you do come across a round goby, go to <https://www.eddmaps.org>, to report its location.

## LDD EGG SCRAPING

In October 2021, Lanark County hosted their second annual LDD Moth Egg Scraping Challenge. The LDD moth (previously known as the European gypsy moth) severely defoliated trees throughout Lanark County in the summer of 2021. To reduce next year's infestation, the challenge encouraged residents to remove LDD moth egg masses from trees within the community. The extended periods of extreme cold temperatures that we are experiencing can kill LDD moth egg masses that are above the snow line. However, egg masses that are under the snow line are likely protected from the extreme cold. So in the spring, focus on scraping egg masses that are low to the ground, as they are more likely to still be alive. The LDD moth outbreak was first observed in the western portion of Lanark County. In 2021, the outbreak expanded across the entire County. The LDD moth population is expected to collapse over several years due to natural population control from a virus, fungus, and predators.

*Source: Lanark County Climate Newsletter, January 2022*

## OTTY LAKE MAPPING PROJECT UPDATE

The Otty Lake Mapping Project was launched in the Spring of 2021. The goal of this project was a map to promote safe boating as well as orienting the users to various landmarks, including island names and shoals. Four hundred maps were distributed to OLA members free of charge or sold to non-members for \$5.00 each. (We have held additional copies for members who have not been contacted, or for others who wish to purchase a map. Just email me at [india.mike51@gmail.com](mailto:india.mike51@gmail.com).)

A second phase of this project was begun during the fall of 2021 with two considerations: post a copy of the map on the OLA website with possi-

ble enhancements to the electronic version, and secondly, have a copy of the map displayed at the Tay Valley Township (TVT) boat launch at Miller Bay.

A PDF of the Otty Lake map has been added to the OLA website and it has been determined that no further enhancement is required at this time.

The Mapping Project Committee has had a positive meeting with TVT in December to explore a partnership. TVT plans on upgrading their boat launch area and will install a 4 foot x 8 foot kiosk style sign which will incorporate the OLA map. The committee has made some other suggestions for pertinent messages that could be included. Our next meet-

ing will be held at the boat launch in the spring of 2022 to evaluate the structure and its contents. Funding requirements will be taken to Council for budget approval. It is anticipated that installation of this project and further ramp upgrades will occur in the spring of 2023.

*Ian McDonald, Committee Chair*



It's been five and half years since we created "Our Table to Yours" (OTTY), a recipe book put together in honour of the 200th anniversary of the Perth Military Settlement, the naming of Otty Lake, as well as the 40th anniversary of the OLA. But it was much more than a cookbook. About half the space is devoted to photos and anecdotes from Otty Lake's past, many contributed by past and current residents, cottagers, and

visitors. In addition to the personal contributions, the team made frequent use of David Code's "A History of Otty Lake" and Roy MacSkimming's "BurgessWood: Evolution of a Community" for historical references, as well as Kay Rogers's "At Home in Tay Valley" and Jean McGill's "A Pioneer History of the County of Lanark". The group also searched the Otty Lake Women's Institute books at Archives Lanark, past issues of this newsletter, as well as past OLA reports and records.

Two printings quickly sold out that first year and there are absolutely no print copies available for sale. In the interest of sharing this great collection with the community, it has now been posted on our website at <https://www.ottylakeassociation.ca/documents/OurTable2022.pdf>. If you did not get a copy back in 2016, we hope you enjoy the recipes, recognizing your neighbours in the photos and stories, and gain a better appreciation of the heritage of the area and of Otty Lake.

Barb Hicks



Sample Page

## BE LESS SALTY

We all want clean, safe water for our future. Protecting our drinking water sources is the first step. Our drinking water comes from water under the ground, called groundwater, or from water in lakes and rivers, called surface water. In our climate road salt is used to keep our roads, walkways and parking lots, safe and passable. Even though it helps to keep us safe, road salt can get into our drinking water sources and contaminate them. Not only can surface water and groundwater be impacted by road salt, but also vegetation, aquatic life, wildlife, and soils. Cars, concrete, clothing and footwear can be damaged too.

### What can you do?

- Choose a 'green' de-icing product or use sand or kitty litter on slippery areas.



- Use de-icing materials in the amounts and as directed on the package.
- Redirect downspouts away from walkways and driveways to prevent ice buildup.
- Do not apply road salt when the temperature falls below -10 Celsius (14 Fahrenheit) as no melting will occur.
- Make time to shovel. Shoveling can be good exercise when done properly.
- Wear footwear designed for snow

and ice to help prevent slips and falls.

- Put snow tires on your car.
- Give yourself extra time in the winter and help prevent slips, falls and car accidents.

Source: Kawartha Conservation's "Know your signs" Source Water Protection campaign.

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](http://www.ottylakeassociation.ca). Or write to: The OLA, Box 20122, Perth ON K7H 3M6.

## OTTY LAKE ASSOCIATION INVASIVE PHRAGMITES PROJECT

A number of phragmites actions were undertaken by the OLA last year to educate the community of the threat posed by this invasive species. Tall stands of these grasses are so dense that they choke out native plants, reduce water levels, and alter wildlife habitat. They are becoming very evident in Lanark County wetlands and on roadsides.

The OLA partnered with Friends of the Tay Watershed to offer an informative zoom webinar on the topic for Earth Day, April 22, and a letter was sent to Lanark County commending them on their efforts to eradicate phragmites. A Lanark County brochure on the topic was made available in our spring info package, and Committee Chair Linda Cuthbertson wrote "Waging War on a Plant Species" for the July edition of this newsletter.

A grant from the Green Shovels Coalition Initiative made it possible to buy supplies and equipment necessary for a phragmites removal day October 13. A group of volunteers came together to remove a small stand of phragmites from a property on Loon's



Way. The group learned first-hand that rhizomes go deep and are very difficult to extract. It would take days not just hours to dig up all the rhizomes in even a small stand. The team was able to cut down all the stalks and remove the seed heads but only removed a few rhizomes in strategic locations. It is hoped that tarping in the spring will be effective in killing the roots. Thanks to Reid Kilburn, Christine Kilburn, David Murray, Selik Shainfarber, Glenn Tunnock, Dan Woods, and Linda Cuthbertson for their participation.

Another phragmites site on a creek that feeds into our lake is being monitored by the county as well as volunteers. Thanks to OLA awareness efforts, more residents on Otty are alert to the signs of phragmites spread.

You can report sightings in Lanark County to [roads@lanarkcounty.ca](mailto:roads@lanarkcounty.ca) or (613) 267-1353. If the phragmites are on private property, you could also contact the owners directly. Early detection of small stands and rapid response are the key to controlling this invasive species.



Photos: Christine Kilborn

## HI LAKE NEIGHBOURS!

Adam and I are excited to offer the Shoreline Planting Program to you this year. We have partnered with the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority to offer discount trees and shrubs for your respective shorelines. Shoreline Planting has been a focus area for the Otty Lake Association to help keep our lake healthy. Planting along the shores of our lake reduces flood water damage, protects your property from erosion, and improves overall water quality. We will be selling native trees and shrubs this year. The list of species is yet to be determined. We will reach out via email with more information.

All the best - and we look forward to connecting with you very soon.

*Adam and Rachel Roth*

## IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR

Please take a moment to renew your Otty Lake Association Membership. Membership is just \$25 for the year. Your prompt renewal would be appreciated.

You have two options:

By cheque: Payable to "Otty Lake Association"

Mail to: Otty Lake Association

Box 20122, Perth ON K7H 3M6

By E-transfer: Please provide your lake address with payment information.

Send to: [financial@ottylakeassociation.ca](mailto:financial@ottylakeassociation.ca)

Password: Ontario

If you are not currently a member, please go to our website: [OttyLakeAssociation.ca](http://OttyLakeAssociation.ca). Please print, complete and mail the [membership form](#) to us with payment. If you have questions about your membership status, please email [membership@ottylakeassociation.ca](mailto:membership@ottylakeassociation.ca).

*David and Susan Murray*

A green poster for the Otty Lake Association Shoreline Planting Program. It features a logo of a plant growing from a globe. The text reads: "Otty Lake Association", "SHORELINE PLANTING PROGRAM", "Let's make our lake—and our world—a greener place.", "JUNE 11 | 10:00 AM", "183 MILE POINT RD.", and "Organizers: Adam and Rachel Roth".

Otty Lake Association

SHORELINE PLANTING PROGRAM

Let's make our lake—and our world—a greener place.

JUNE 11 | 10:00 AM  
183 MILE POINT RD.

Organizers: Adam and Rachel Roth

# WELCOME TO WINTER ON OTTY LAKE

Winters on Otty Lake can be most enjoyable, especially for those who enjoy outdoor recreation. Skating, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, and trekking are popular. Many anticipated an early start this year. November temperatures resulted in shoreline freezing with high water crashing along the shorelines due to strong windstorms. Protected bays witnessed early ice formation but the mid-lake areas froze and broke up on several occasions. Many residents shared emails or posted observations on OLA Facebook including the following:

The Moat froze over:  
November 20

Parks and McKay Farm Road bays froze over: December 20

Hockey game on Parks Bay, Skating on Carson Bay: December 30

Open water mid-lake between Camp Shomria and McKay Farm Road: January 7

Ice in: during the night of January 7th, 2022.

Ice is normally near melting point so temperatures above -3C can compromise ice. Deeper water takes longer to freeze, and spring-fed shorelines and ponds can be hazardous due to the constant flow of warmer water.



From Sutcliffe Lane Jan 4, 2022

Daniela Klicper, coastal stewardship co-ordinator with the Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation, states that "recent research shows that Great Lakes ice coverage is 22% lower than it was 50 years ago". In 2021 they recorded 38% of the surface of the Great Lakes was covered, which fed more snow squalls,



Facing Camp Shomria Jan. 7, 2022

decreased shoreline protection, accelerated evaporation, and decreased the propagation of Whitefish amongst others. Klicper stated that "the highest ever (ice coverage) was 28 years ago, in 1994. We hit almost 98% ice coverage." (<https://london.ctvnews.ca/where-s-the-ice-great-lakes-ice-coverage-well-below-average-1.5311263>)

Every winter, many Canadians experience life-threatening ice-related incidents. You may recall a rescue on the Mississippi River on New Year's Day 2021 when a man was pulled from the icy water after his friend contacted 911. (Video footage of the event is available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l-CvmYL05I9M>.) Many rescues are not this successful, and an average of 25-30 Canadians die of such causes each winter.

**ICE SAFETY TIPS** as published by *The Lifesaving Society of Alberta and NWT Branch*

Please check local area signage, authorities, and media before going onto the ice.

No ice is without risk.

- **Use designated ice surfaces** that are thick enough and maintained regularly.
- **Spring Ice is Rotten Ice** and can no longer be trusted.
- **Measure ice thickness in several locations** as currents and water depths can affect ice thickness. Recommendations for ice thickness are based on clear, blue, or green ice:

3" (7cm) or less - **STAY OFF!**  
4" (10cm) - ice fishing, walking, cross country skiing

5-7" (13-18cm) - one snow mobile or ATV

- **Avoid traveling on ice at night** due to open holes in the ice and poor visibility.
- **Never go onto the ice alone** as a buddy could aid in a rescue or emergency situation.
- **Wear a thermal snowmobile flotation suit or a lifejacket** for buoyancy and warmth.
- **Take safety equipment with you** (e.g., a pocketknife, compass, whistle, a cell phone).
- **Don't drive on ice. If unavoidable, have an escape plan.**
- **Always actively supervise children playing on or near ice.**
- **Ice Rescue** is from the shore. If you see someone in trouble, call 911.
- **Avoid alcohol** which impairs your judgment, coordination and reaction time and speeds up the development of hypothermia
- For further details please visit <https://www.lifesaving.org/public-education/water-smart-tips2/ice-safety-tips>.

## WALKING SAFETY TIPS:

Walk like a penguin by keeping your center of gravity over the front foot, keep hands out of your pockets and use designated pathways when possible. Consider wearing ice trekkers and using poles.



## Rather Precarious!!

This year's ice has had an unstable beginning and remains such as of this writing. The conditions vary greatly amongst our bays and deeper water. Fluctuating temperatures and high winds have created pack ice, fissures, and the lovely song of tinkling ice as bays have cleared and refrozen. Be cautious. Stay safe. Enjoy the winter.

Gail Read

**State of the Lake.** In case you missed the January 6 email, the [2021 State of the Lake report](#) has been posted on our website. These annual reports are intended to give a snapshot of the year's lake conditions and environmental activities. Thanks to everyone who contributed: Derek Smith, Kyla Haley, Rachel Roth, Bruce Smith, Wally Robins, David Murray, Christine Kilburn, Murray Hunt, and Kirsten Brouse. Past reports are available on the [Environment page](#).



*Photo: Ice Crystals, Mary Brown*

**Lake Links 2021.** Presentations from the October 23 Lake Links are available on the [Watersheds Canada site](#). This year's theme was Take the Challenge. Guest speakers focused on connecting what we say and actually do in order to protect our lakes and rivers. There are presentations on the health of Lake Simcoe, the Lake Protection Workbook, how the Dog and Cranberry Lakes Association is approaching community engagement, and environmental sociologist Dr. Nathan Young addressed "Connected Values and Actions for Conservation Goals".

**Electronic Waste.** There are many year-round options for discarding end of life electronics in the area. Recycling your old computers, stereo



*Photo: Bruce Smith*

systems, cell phones, and televisions ensures that toxic elements like mercury and lead do not enter the environment, saves space in landfills, and allows other materials to be recovered. DNE accepts e-waste at the Code Road landfill, and TVT accepts it at the Glen Tay Waste Site. If you prefer to contribute to some local charities, take your e-waste to 1 Sherbrooke E., Perth, to benefit the [Perth Children's House](#) or to the [REAL Deal](#) at 85 William St. W., Smiths Falls to benefit REAL. Please check hours before using any of these depots!

**Bass on the Rideau.** An interesting inclusion in the Rideau Reflections Fall/Winter newsletter <http://www.rideaufriends.com/newsletters/fornews-fall2021-web.pdf> was a summary of a presentation on declining bass populations on the Rideau. Tournaments themselves don't seem to be a big problem for populations, but gut hooking, declining reproductive output, and fishing during bass spawning season were factors.

**Mandatory Septic Reinspections.** The Jan. 18 TVT Council meeting featured a presentation by Eric Kohlsmith of the Mississippi-Rideau Septic System Office on the results of the 2021 Septic System Re-inspection

Program. You can read it on pp 32 – 83 of the [agenda package](#). A total of 109 properties were inspected, 103 through the mandatory program, and six through the voluntary program. 58% of the systems inspected had no concerns and three systems required replacement. Pump-outs required and baffles requiring maintenance were common problems mentioned for the others. Otty Lake is one of nine lakes in the township subject to the mandatory inspections. Forty-nine Otty Lake properties were subject to a mandatory inspection this year.

**Reconciliation.** The first meeting of the [OLA Reconciliation Working Group](#) took place by Zoom the evening of February 8th. About 12 OL residents met to brainstorm/discuss ideas for future learning and action, and explore the connection between the stewardship of our lake community and reconciliation with indigenous peoples, particularly with the Algonquin people who inhabited this area. If you could not attend and would like to know more, contact Victoria Gibb-Carsley using the address [editor@ottylakeassociation.ca](mailto:editor@ottylakeassociation.ca).



*Photo: Mary Brown*

## PREVENTING WILDFIRES



*Fire at Pike lake*

It is reported that Canada has about 7,500 wildfires annually that burn over 2.5 million hectares of forest. And the projections are troubling. By 2050, it is estimated that the amount of forest that will be burned by wildfires because of a changing climate will double.

Wildfires start due to either natural causes or humans. Luckily, the fires caused by human activity can be curbed if we all do our part. Check out these tips on how you can help to prevent these devastating wildfires from starting in the first place.

- **Do** learn how to start a camp fire properly. Whether you're camping or spending time in your backyard, there's no doubt that spending time around a campfire with family and friends can create wonderful memories. But making a campfire comes with responsibility. Use a proper fire pit that is clear of any surrounding vegetation, including overhanging branches and tall trees. It's always a good idea to have a bucket of water handy just in case it's needed and never leave the fire unattended.
- **Don't** start a campfire if it's windy. Wind can spread fire and that can be incredibly dangerous. So, if it's windy, this is not a good time to make a campfire and it should be postponed for another day.
- **Do** make sure the fire is completely out before you leave the site. To make sure your fire is completely out, pour a bucket of water over it, stir it, throw another bucket of water on it and stir it again. Keep adding water until it is cold to the touch.
- **Do** check with the Drummond/North Elmsley Tay Valley Fire Rescue at (613) 267-2596. If you must burn yard waste, make sure there aren't any municipal burn bans in effect for your area. And you have a permit. Make sure you always stay with the fire. Having a fire extinguisher nearby is always a good idea. Better yet, make use of municipal compost options. DNE residents can use the Smiths Falls Compost Site on Hwy 43 just west of Smiths Falls May to November. Some materials are accepted at Tay Valley's Glen Tay, Stanleyville and Maberly Waste Sites. Check your municipal website for details.
- **Don't** toss your butts. If you smoke, be careful where you toss your lit matches and cigarettes. While throwing these out your vehicle window or on the ground isn't a good idea for a number of reasons, here's one more – they can provide the spark that can create a wildfire. Make sure they are fully extinguished before putting them in the garbage.
- **Don't** park on dry grass. Keep hot vehicles including cars, all-terrain vehicles, and other machinery off dry grass. Dry grass in

particular is easily flammable and so it's better to be safe than sorry.

- **Do** keep an eye out. If you see a fire that is cause for concern, call 911 or your local fire department.

*Terri-Lee Reid, Canadian Wildlife Federation, August 13, 2021*

## WELCOME TO THE OTTY LAKE STORE

We are pleased to offer our Otty Lake community a variety of clothing options that represent the spirit of the lake. We work with Elite Engraving in Perth to offer comfortable and relaxed clothing items perfect for lounging at the lake. A choice of logos symbolic of our beloved loons are added to each item. Hoodies, zipped hoodies, crewneck sweatshirts, tee shirts, golf shirts and caps in a variety of colours are available. Please visit OLA store at [https://www.ottylakeassociation.ca/the\\_ola\\_store.html](https://www.ottylakeassociation.ca/the_ola_store.html) or contact Liz Lightford at [ola@ottylakeassociation.ca](mailto:ola@ottylakeassociation.ca) for more information or to place an order.

*Liz Lightford*

