

Otty Lake Property Owners' Survey Input for Five Year Review - Otty Lake Management Plan – comments received to December 29, 2013

General Comments

- Thank you for this! Well done to our Otty Lake Association!
- Thank you for your consistent dedicated work
- Waste of time – Lake will still be here long after we are gone
- Keep up the good work you are already doing!
- We continue to be impressed by the excellent work and variety of issues being dealt with by the OLA
- The Association is well run and seems to be doing everything possible. If people show concern and look after their areas, improvement should be noticed
- Thank you OLA for all your efforts!
- OLA – great job!!
- I think that you people are doing a great job in all areas of keeping our lake healthy
- Doing a great job with current plan – keep it up!
- Maintain the very proactive education services provided by the Otty Lake Association. The health of the lake is everyone's responsibility (**COMMENT ALSO LISTED UNDER LANDOWNER RESPONSIBILITY**)
- Thank you to your entire team for the extensive work on Otty Lake. Much appreciated.
- Captain Otty's Log provides a fabulous venue to share news of the lake. Congratulations on this great publication. Encourage registered recipients to share with non-residents either by encouraging registration (?membership) or printing off a copy and /or checking the website
- Thank you for all your work in the interests of Otty Lake residents
- You are doing wonderful work. Thank you.
- Thanks for doing this and for all your good work

Partnerships

- The association has been doing a great job of partnering with other associations, committees, organizations etc. and recognizing the benefits of these liaisons so it is important that they continue

Boating

- Good luck getting people to replace old outboard motors unless you could financially assist in the replacement cost
- Big boats with big wakes are eroding my shoreline
- Boating safety – slow around shoreline so waves are not eroding shoreline (**ALSO LIST THIS COMMENT UNDER SHORELINE PROTECTION**)
- Practice catch and release – add signs to boat launch – Educate
- What you are already doing – encouraging limited use of boats, engines, disruption
- Instruct boat operators to be aware of their wakes! Many are oblivious of the huge waves they produce. They simply never look back!

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- Post no wake signs and develop signage etc. to prevent misuse of islands as camping/partying spots
- Limit size of boats and oil/gas leaking into water
- Police motor boat use. Reduce size of boats and motors or prohibit access to lake
- Excessive motorboat and sea-doo speeds near shore are a danger for young children in the water and wakes cause shoreline erosion (ALSO UNDER SHORELINE PROTECTION)
- May be a broken record, but boaters still travel too fast and too close to shorelines. Reminder to members
- Boating speeds and closeness to shore endanger swimmers – support and initiate more activities such as Paddle Power

Climate Change

- Educate
- Why discuss Climate Change – this is a global issue not Otty Lake
- Climate change is important but not for us to deal with as it is being dealt with by other organizations e.g. global warming
- Promote canoes, kayaks, sculling, sailing on lake. Prohibit greenhouse gas- remove fossil fuel burning motors on boats
- Climate change is already/and will be even more in future impacting on all other issues. One action: discourage the old practice of burning accumulated brush on the lake ice in the winter . Suggest OLA promote the responsible management of forest debris (brush) with a slogan like “Keep Carbon in the Soil”. (Along the same lines as your present “Starve Otty of Phosphorus”. Another possible slogan: “Keep Our Air Cottage Fresh”.

Burning brush on your property or on the frozen lake, and at any time of the year, impacts all of the following issues:

Climate Change – adds CO₂ to the atmosphere

Water Quality) ash contains many nutrients
especially phosphorus

Aquatic Vegetation) “

Fish and Wildlife Habitat – brush piles and rotting logs are good habitat for critters, including Gray Ratsnake

Partnerships *

Other (air quality = smoke and soot impacting your neighbour’s enjoyment of the “fresh clean air of cottage country”

* The townships already implement periodic fire bans. They also take brush at the local landfill sites. The Fire Station Manager has said “there is no need to burn anything/anytime. Already the townships do not allow burning of household garbage, grass clippings, or fallen leaves. Why not complete the policy? OLA could do more to encourage composting on each property (away from the shoreline); also chipping of brush; or taking it to the dump; or leaving it lie in forest.

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Development Pressure

- Ensure any new developments abide by established rules and guidelines to prevent unwanted elements from entering the lake
- Enforce the by-laws
- Ensure enforcement to standards
- Enforce zoning laws for **everyone**
- Uncontrolled building of docks too close to the neighbours' properties and extending too far into the lake. Inspect and impose existing regulations
- Lake has enough development now. Monitor by-laws
- By-law enforcement of laws which control/restrict development The MNR and RVCA have indicated that Otty Lake is at capacity. Until we talk about this and look for solutions, we will be unable to make meaningful and measureable progress
- No housing developments
- No more subdivisions to be allowed!
- Until the Otty Lake Association concedes that the lake is at or over capacity, all other issues are secondary
- Limit lot size and subdivisions on the lake
- No more multi-unit development
- Approvals for new development and redevelopment must be based on reducing human impact on the lake
- There are too many homes going up within the lake's watershed. This will inevitably affect water quality
- Work with townships to limit development of surrounding lands and particularly multiboat access to the lake
- Shared waterfront and subdivisions put unnecessary pressure on the lake
- Concerned with big structures eliminating surrounding landscape Action:?
- When my grandfather built his cottage in 1940 there were 50 cottages on the lake. Thirty years ago I had heard that there was to be no more development on the lake. When is enough, enough? Stop the over-development
- There should be more information on variances applied for on the lake reported via Capt'n Otty's Log. Also info on OMB
- Developmental pressures affects fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, shoreline protection and residents enjoyment of lake
- I am concerned about cottages with old septic being changed to year round usage

Groundwater

- Better garbage handling is needed. I am concerned that the Tay Valley dump is polluting our wells

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- Ensure members/non-members are aware of how their activities impact groundwater
- Septic system reinspection is an important program and needs to be continued
- Mandatory regular septic inspections, education re soaps, dishwasher liquids, gels etc.
- Continue septic reinspections and municipal landowner education relating to potential groundwater contamination
- I believe we/the OLA and partners are on track
- See water quality comment re holding tanks
- The water measurement results continue to confirm that the lake is in the mid-portion of the trophic scale. A shift in waste disposal over the very long term would be beneficial in view of the increasing number of permanent residences. The Townships should be asked to put priority on Type 5 Waste Disposal (Holding Tanks) so that nutrients are taken away from the lake rather than joining the groundwater as in Type 4 Waste Disposal (Septic/Weeping Tile Beds) *
Water quality and Groundwater overlap in this recommendation (**ALSO IN WATER QUALITY**)
- Fracking for gas and oil will be an issue in the future similar to mining. The OLA should push FOCA to unite a common resistance. It has recently started with exploration in New Brunswick. This area and to the west of us has been identified as a gas field
- Continue education about ways to protect the lake from human controlled contaminants
- Have to be more concerned about Groundwater and Shoreline Protection
- Involve government agencies

Shoreline Protection

- Concerned with the protection of shoreline vegetation
- Education of property owners
- Bug landowners to improve shoreline protection. OLA could sponsor planting partnership with local nurseries in selling plants for shore buffers
- Mandatory shoreline replanting. See the “beach” along Three Bay Road
- Continued encouragement/education regarding maintaining the shoreline in its natural state
- Encourage/educate property owners to keep and protect riparian strip
- Plant plants that will maintain the shoreline even if it is not “pretty”
- Continue education –work with RVCA and supply affordable seedlings
- Doing well with Public Education. Keep up the good work. Some folks know but still refuse; but ignorance is no excuse.
- I would be interested in more educational opportunities to do with wildlife and plants on the lake

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- Continue to provide shoreline plants and advice on which plants to use. This is educational and greatly encourages the landowners to be proactive in shoreline protection
- Ask the offenders to let nature (or plant) a shoreline buffer zone
- The Association is doing a good job of encouraging shoreline planting.
- More effort to have residents restore natural vegetation
- Provide information on deer resistant plants
- Observation of shoreline cover and perhaps a letter to people who have removed all natural protection reminding them of the ramifications of their actions
- Encourage natural shorelines, keep trees, shrubs close to the water
- Encourage shoreline planting to reduce run-off into the lake
- These are things we can do something about
- Concern – increase natural shoreline vegetation
- What happened to the shoreline survey that was scheduled for 2013?
- Number 1 concern is “citification” of lots, over-grooming and uses of chemical – Continue to offer the excellent workshops (i.e. native plants) and services (plant sales and lot surveys)
- Equate the proliferation of algae etc, to use of fertilizers, phosphate cleaners, pool chlorine by landowners. Degradation of shoreline increases proliferation of algae (**Also list under Landowner Responsibility**)
- Continue the shoreline program, it is so important
- Leave the shore undeveloped – no gravel, sand, stone walls, chemical spraying to kill the weeds –we have see it all going on and it is killing the lake
- Rules permitting the protection of erosion from shorelines need to be more reasonable and less restrictive. Making a rocky shoreline is not environmentally damaging an is not visually offensive
- Excessive motorboat and sea-doo speeds near shore are a danger for young children in the water and wakes cause shoreline erosion (**ALSO INCLUDED UNDER BOATING**)
- From a practical point of view little can be done to control water levels, so shoreline protection is important. This from the priority of reducing erosion and tree loss due to high water
- More education to property owners and boaters
- **See related BOATING comments**
- Instruct boat operators to be aware of their wakes! Many are oblivious of the huge waves they produce. They simply never look back! (**ALSO INCLUDE WITH BOATING**)
- Fishing boats and power boats coming too close to the shoreline. Impose a minimum distance. How can we protect from erosion?
- Excessive motorboat and sea-doo speeds near shore are a danger for young children in the water and wakes cause shoreline erosion (**ALSO INCLUDED UNDER BOATING**)

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- Concern that we keep certain shoreline areas clear so one can enjoy the lake. This is very important for swimming especially with children- If they learn to love the lake early, they are more apt to keep up the fight for a healthy lake in the future
- Shoreline protection is not consistent around the lake North Elmsley v.s. North Burgess
- Addressing Water Quality, Shoreline Protection and Fish and Wildlife Habitat as all priority ONE items will encompass all the others. We must narrow our focus to become effective (ALSO UNDER FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT)
- Shoreline Protection is really an addition to Water Quality and Aquatic Vegetation/Algae as it must be kept as natural as possible

Water Levels

- Water levels need to remain high
- Water level is very high – could be lower
- Keep Jebbs Creek clear of debris and beaver dams to allow flow from Otty Lake to the Tay River and Rideau Lake
- Control water levels – remove beaver from Jebbs Creek – Keep water levels low !
- Rain = higher water levels. Nothing OLA can do about that
- I would like to be informed about the controls (or not) on the Jebbs creek beaver dams. Personally I believe the levels are dependent on rainfall and God!
- I feel we need to allow natural water level fluctuations to occur. Do not re-build beaver dams ourselves. If beavers return, so be it. This is natural process
- Levels are now chronically high. WHY? Need to do more than measure. Clean out Jebbs Creek periodically??
- Maintain levels at 2013 level if possible
- OLA to organize an annual work session to clear out Jebbs Creek
- Develop and maintain strategies to ensure water levels are kept in acceptable ranges
- I prefer higher water levels – can the OLA / TVT install a weir at Jebb's Creek to help maintain the level? – there used to be one – the footings are still visible at the entrance to Jebbs creek
- Jebbs Creek should be dammed to avoid low water levels
- Stable water levels will allow better long-term erosion protection, will stabilize fish habitats
- Last two years water level has varied quite a lot – we should be attempting to stabilize the levels
- Need to ensure water level remains high enough so we do not lose our enjoyment of the lake
- There should be monitoring of the beaver dams on the creek as these seem to control the levels more than anything else now

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- Water levels are much higher than in the past with a serious impact on shoreline. In my lifetime our beach has been lost and, in the past few years, shoreline trees have been undermined. Return Otty Lake to the 1950-1960 levels

Fish and Wildlife Habitat

- Delay the start of bass fishing season by 10 days to 2 weeks as fish are still on the nest
- No fishing before bass season opens of any species
- The number of bass caught on opening day! The pictures from the past year showed an absolute slaughter. Folks living on the lake invite a host of family and friends to opening day – and everyone catches as many fish as possible. What can be done? It was a sickening crime this past opening day.
- More monitoring of the frequent poachers and/or illegal fisher persons
- Concern the lake is being over-fished for bass particularly by some fishing before bass season opens and disturbing nests. Best solution is catch and release
- Should we be re-stocking?
- Stock the lake more often
- Fish Habitat – are there stocking programs available? There were pickerel in the lake and they have disappeared
- Articles in the newsletter
- Promote NO building in the water at the shoreline
- This is really part and parcel of development pressures, shoreline protection and water levels. Fish and wildlife need to be part of all landowner responsibilities **(Also ADDED TO RESPONSIBILITY OF LANDOWNERS)**
- Addressing Water Quality, Shoreline Protection and Fish and Wildlife Habitat as all priority ONE items will encompass all the others. We must narrow our focus to become effective
- Focusing on fish habitats connects to water quality and vegetation both on shore and in the lake
- Good water quality and shoreline protection should achieve the desired effect
- Applaud OLA's 2013/14 project "Fish Habitat Enhancement" and its extension to habitat enhancement for all critters
- Enhancement of Small Mouth and Large Mouth Bass Habitat/ensure lake is catch and release to maintain future fishing stocks
- Continue existing initiatives. Communicate good practices to residents
- Continue and increase work on protecting and enhancing habitat for wildlife and fish
- We support the second phase of the fish habitat initiatives and are personally planning to establish at least one "fish stick" per Wally's presentation at the AGM
- More accurate estimates of fish populations rather than anecdotal reports
- Limit wolf and coyote kills as they are an extremely effective way of controlling waterfowl. I think that there is extensive research showing large amounts of waterfowl droppings increase the algae problems

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- Encourage landowners to not kill animals they consider to be a nuisance. Otty Lake is all about nature and wildlife
- Our concern re habitat is less fish, frogs, snakes, newts, ospreys and mammals. We keep our land totally natural. We would like to see all properties thus.
- Ensure development on the lake does not destroy fish or wildlife habitat – especially wetlands
- Involve government agencies

Responsibility of Landowners

- Applaud and encourage continuation of all of OLA's communication programs such as website, newsletter, workshops, distributed literature (including Handbook), annual calendars etc. etc. It will be an ongoing challenge to convince humanity that we no longer need to "subdue the wilderness". Rather, we should relax, sit back and enjoy what still remains of the natural world. That's what cottage life is supposed to be!.
- Re septic systems and fertilizing
- Ensuring protection of property shoreline
- Continue septic inspections
- Provide education to protect water from run-off, septic unsafe products, herbicides etc.
- Maintain the very proactive education services provided by the Otty Lake Association. The health of the lake is everyone's responsibility
- Awareness, education and advice to residents
- Water quality and responsibility of landowners are very connected as property owners must "buy-in" to water quality awareness (**ALSO IN WATER QUALITY**)
- Continued education and communication with shoreline owners in particular to highlight landowner involvement to make them aware that the good health of Otty Lake works to their benefit for the future re higher property values for them and others on the lake. As property values rise, owners will be encouraged to maintain properties/homes to a higher level (and again resulting in higher property values). All this could be achieved by little cost outlay. I believe when people can see a benefit to them personally they are more likely to actively participate and be motivated.
- Keep increasing awareness that we all, as landowners, share responsibility for the health of the lake
- Equate the proliferation of algae etc. to use of fertilizers, phosphates cleaners, pool chlorine to landowners. Degradation of shoreline increases proliferation of algae.
- I think many landowners within the lake community are selfish. They don't care, Nutrient contributions include multiple motorized vehicles, lake bathing, lawn fertilizing, improper septic maintenance, throwing organic material directly into

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- the lake, transferring unwanted material e.g. zebra mussels from other places.
What can you do?
- The installation of good septic systems and elimination of unnatural lawns must continue to be emphasized
 - More education and encouragement to protect the lake from pollutants
 - Landowners are the most significant influence on my other priorities (water quality and fish and wildlife habitats. Action: education ++, peer group pressure, consistency of municipal application of by-laws/regulations etc. as well as conservation authorities, MOE, Public Health and others. Bumping up septic inspections and implementing penalties for non-conformance could lead to landowner improvements.
 - I equate the proliferation of algae etc, to use of fertilizers, phosphate cleaners, pool chlorine by landowners. Degradation of shoreline increases proliferation of algae
 - Continue to communicate about what landowners can do to have a positive impact and minimize negative impact of human activities on and around the lake
 - This is really part and parcel of development pressures, shoreline protection and water levels. Fish and wildlife need to be part of all landowner responsibilities
 - Good advice given by OLA re shoreline buffers and septic maintenance
 - Weekend noise abatement/restriction or reminders of just plain old courtesy
 - Control over sewage and fertilizer release into the catchment area
 - Education and other means are necessary to create an awareness and incentive for landowners to minimize their impact on the lake
 - These are things we can do something about
 - Keep stressing misuse of lawn chemicals and other hazards ending up in the lake
 - Raise awareness of the impact of fertilizers etc. and promote use of non-phosphate detergents, working with local suppliers
 - Keep OLA active and sharing info so individuals know they play a part in keeping the lake healthy
 - Continue to provide shoreline enhancement opportunities through planting of shrubs and flowers. Monitor and enforce township requirements for shoreline protection following new builds/renovations. (Appear not to be followed up by townships.) Hit septic tanks harder!!!! Explore tougher testing. Alternative to septic tanks where on rock (eg. My neighbour has a holding tank that is pumped each season.). Provide info/direction for those investigating new septic tanks but don't attend AGM. (eg. Hear it 7 times to internalize it!)

Water Quality

- Reduce the amount of effluent going into Lake. Convince people with older septic systems to do something especially when cottage is close to the Lake. Stop year round development. Can the lake sustain more people?
- Improve non-compliant septic systems

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- Maintaining minimal E Coli bacteria count and reduced water turbidity
- More frequent septic inspections, perhaps at a reduced fee to the property owners
- There should be mandatory inspection of all septic systems
- Get malfunctioning septic systems shut down/ replaced/upgraded
- Mandatory septic inspections every five years
- All septics to be maintained so that no leaking into the water
- Place pressure on lakefront property owners who have high run-off to fix the problem
- Make septic system inspection a high priority
- Some mandatory form of inspections and replacement of faulty septic systems. Certainly when ownership changes but even if system is outdated. Require eco-flo type system when replaced (**ALSO IN AQUATIC VEGETATION**)
- Stop “old’ leaking sewage/septic systems
- The septic inspection program is important. Educating cottagers will help
- Closer monitoring of septics and construction close to shoreline, not just lake water
- Check each cottage site to eliminate direct discharge of household waste into lake
- Septics, septic, septic
- Continuous inspection of old septic systems
- Our plumber laughed at how septic systems are set up around Otty Lake. They often find pipes still going straight into the lake!
- The septic inspection program is important. Educating cottagers will help
- Must have proper septics
- Closer monitoring of septics and construction close to shoreline, not just lake water
- Ensure septic systems are up to code and functioning. Enforce upgrades
- Encourage upgrades in septic systems and wells
- Recognize (in our newsletter) and at the AGM, the efforts of those who have successfully changed their waterfront grounds management practices
- Manage trophic level by controlling nutrient inputs. Suggest mandatory septic inspections and remediation (new to area so may have been done)
- Double the budget for water quality sampling and research
- Identification of elements entering the lake which feed the algae production to try and stop the feeding of these elements (**ALSO INCLUDE IN AQUATIC VEGETATION AND ALGAE**)
- Monitoring is a good action, checking septic systems etc, all good – is there a plan to act if the water quality is not acceptable?
- Is it due to over-development on the lake?
- Involve government agencies(**ALSO INCLUDE WITH GROUNDWATER AND FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT**)
- Work with government agencies for penalties – people are putting waste in the water
- Continued water quality monitoring
- Continue monitoring and reporting

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- Conduct water monitoring (I'll volunteer to help if needed). Assess problems, causes and prevention. Inform all of findings.
- Clean fresh water would be nice
- Continued testing of lake water sampling with appropriate follow-up action to resolve these problem areas
- We used to drink lake water and now bring it in – just for safety sake. Watch the amount of phosphorus
- Enhance monitoring
- Continuous monitoring of water quality
- Continue water monitoring
- Continue monitoring and reporting
- Increased vigilance and monitoring of spillage into the lake particularly agricultural, insecticides and septic.
- Increased vigilance and monitoring of spillage into the lake particularly agricultural, insecticides and septic.
- Ongoing testing, monitoring, vigilance about negative changes – E Coli
- An adequate program of water quality monitoring is essential to understand long-term changes in lake conditions
- Regular thorough testing; effect of boats/spilled gas etc (perhaps establishment of one certified, regulated marine gas dispenser
- We support current OLA monitoring and educational activities. Action – Adopt policy of directly informing local area residents whenever significant water quality change occurs
- Increase frequency and extent of water testing. Communicate results through website posting (and email contact if results vary significantly
- Monitor/Develop an action plan to address/ mediate impacts and educate
- Monitoring and data collection
- Find a way to improve water quality
- Outlet control
- Water quality is important to keep safe swimming and protect aquatic life
- Maintain shoreline plants that help to filter the water
- Stop clearing to shoreline. Stop people “citifying” property. Stop use of fertilizers. Check septic systems.
- I feel that my 3 priorities are inter-related. Addressing water quality involves the responsibility of landowners and the developmental pressures they exert on the lake with lifestyle choices. Monitor and post relevant water quality data with what would be appropriate levels for lake users to compare creating an awareness of positive or negative changes. Perhaps mailbox sites where they'd be visible...
- Water quality is vital to fish and habitat survival and recreational use and therefore property values. We must make every effort to safeguard it.
- The water measurement results continue to confirm that the lake is in the mid-portion of the trophic scale. A shift in waste disposal over the very long term would be beneficial in view of the increasing number of permanent residences. The Townships should be asked to put priority on Type 5 Waste Disposal

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(Holding Tanks) so that nutrients are taken away from the lake rather than joining the groundwater as in Type 4 Waste Disposal (Septic/Weeping Tile Beds) *
Water quality and Groundwater overlap in this recommendation. **(ADD TO GROUNDWATER)**

- I believe water quality and the explosion of aquatic vegetation and algae are linked. Septic systems from houses that have dish washers, washing machines have to dump the phosphorus somewhere. The fertilized lawns and gardens are contributing to the phosphorus load. Homeowners that now outnumber cottagers and who put high demand on the lake need to be encouraged to use more natural and less damaging means to beautify their property. Perhaps holding tanks instead of septic systems should be re-introduced!! **(COMMENT ALSO INCLUDED UNDER AQUATIC VEGETATION AND ALGAE)**
- Water quality and responsibility of landowners are very connected as property owners must “buy-in” to water quality awareness
- I believe we/the OLA and partners are on the right track
- Suggest NO use of lawn chemical spraying or shoreline encroachment for example- no stone walls and stripping of natural plants and bushes
- Discourage use of lawn fertilizers and/or growing of lawns in the first place.
- Poor water quality leads to algae and non-desired vegetation. It is the responsibility of residents to keep nutrients out of the lake!!!
- With the very high density of dwellings on Otty Lake, we all need to be aware of the extreme changes the lake has suffered from such intensification – cleared land, weeping beds, fertilizers and herbicides
- Education and testing. Just because some may feel ‘been there, done that’, it has to be continuous.
- Ensure that residents of Otty Lake and visitors take all necessary steps to maintain and protect the water quality of Otty Lake (need for education, awareness, best practices)
- Continue to provide information as to how Otty Lake residents can help improve the water quality through Captain Otty newsletter and Annual General Meeting sessions
- Awareness of related research
- How about a working display at the AGM on how phosphorus can help algae bloom.
- Anything to do with water and water quality is of primary importance to us as we get our drinking water directly or indirectly from the lake. Continued H2O testing
- Increase water chemistry testing
- Keep up the good work you are doing
- Continue with the good work
- Stay the course
- Specific concern- clean pollution free water – sources of pollution should be identified and addressed. Sources and individual cottage owners should be notified and told how to improve helpfully
- I think that water quality and the abundance of algae are linked. People need to be encouraged to protect the shoreline from run-off and eliminate the use of

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- fertilizers. I know the Association is working hard towards educating/encouraging people in this regard
- Addressing Water Quality, Shoreline Protection and Fish and Wildlife Habitat as all priority ONE items will encompass all the others. We must narrow our focus to become effective
 - Aquatic Vegetation, Groundwater and Water Quality are all of equal importance: The overall water quality is what drives everything – waterfront is only as good as the water!
 - Water testing from alternate wharves each year – entire lake covered in two years with follow-up for offenders
 - Water quality is basic. Everything else is related to that.
 - Discourage stores in Perth from selling soaps (and other products with phosphates) at all
 - Continued emphasis on non-phosphate detergents as well as continued inspection and monitoring of septic systems
 - Stop using phosphate products
 - Water Quality is the least offensive measure to help land owners correct their properties from an environmental perspective
 - We must continue the campaign started in 2013
 - The water quality is an over-riding concern and impacts a number of areas. I want to make sure the lake remains safe for swimming
 - Many waterfront cottage owners still maintain beautiful lush green lawns down to the water's edge. I believe a delegation should approach each of these owners to ensure that they understand that their green lawns (and in some cases, their asphalt driveways) imperil the health of our lake
 - Keep encouraging residents to not use fertilizers
 - Rigorous education and enforcement if possible to stop the runoff and entrance of nutrients into the lake.
 - What can be done to rid the lake of zebra mussels?
 - The zebra mussels are terrible so we must do all we can to prevent the introduction of other invasive species
 - Water quality is the final product of “groundwater responsibility” and “shoreline protection”. It is vital to habitat/ part of vegetation/algae and affected by developments and climate change. Concern for water quality should govern all actions in this area.
 - Limit amount of boats with motors people can have. .

Aquatic Vegetation and Algae

- Pursue research. The change is so marked in recent (5-10) years. What has created the change? Can we reverse it?
- Biological inventory of the aquatic plants and species in the lake
- Tough to control nutrient levels in the lake. Possibly more educational info hand delivered to owners

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- Continue to investigate ways to control vegetation
- Find a way to stop the growth in vegetation /algae
- Hire a marine biologist for ideas to get rid of algae blooms and reducing weed growth
- Information on possible management regarding algae blooms and aquatic plants
- Investigate vegetation removal options
- Identification of elements entering the lake which feed the algae production to try and stop the feeding of these elements (**ALSO WATER QUALITY**)
- Sources/causes identified and addressed. Specifically for algae, sources should be helped and encouraged to rectify
- Please continue to educate cottage owners on methods to reduce vegetation/algae
- RVCA/MOE must identify the algae/weeds, then determine the limiting concentrations of PO₄ etc. which limits their growth. Compare these values with the present values in the lake. Use the appropriate calculations to determine the feasibility of human intervention. In other words, will reducing the phosphate consumption make any difference? “Workshops” without scientific basis are useless.
- We need information from a reliable source as to what is causing the significant algae and is it happening in regional lakes as well as our own?
- Investigate root causes and remedies, Continue with education of the OLA community
- Develop strategies to maintain vegetation and algae within acceptable limits (education/awareness)
- Algae- causes and solutions
- Not sure what we can do about algae and weeds
- Keep looking for cause
- There has been a huge increase in algae and vegetation along shoreline
- The increase in aquatic vegetation/algae over the last few years
- Too much vegetation and algae. Less phosphorus/nitrates. Allow dredging
- Dredge aquatic vegetation
- Our bay is being choked off by vegetation
- Vegetation is very dense making it difficult to swim. Action?
- Investigate the possibility of mass vegetation cutting (renting equipment for many to use)
- Increase in algae has to be a direct result of zebra mussels in the lake over the last 15 years or so
- Advice from other lake associations
- Allow the use of herbicides
- Can the algae and or vegetation be treated with harmless chemicals
- Examine biological controls that have been used in the US and recently on Wolfe Lake (Westport) and consider employing these options on Otty (e.g weevil)
- Minimize the affect of large landowners like Burgesswood and McKay Farm e.g. their boats over- populate the lake
- Make sure that fertilizers for lawns are a thing of the past around the water

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- Assumptions prevail that phosphates are driving the increased spread of aquatic vegetation and algae. Have the phosphorus levels increased? If not, other drivers involved? – zebra mussels? What is the academic research saying? Other solutions being considered?
- Algae growth the last few years has been disappointing. How can we pinpoint phosphorus sources and reduce them? What else is happening to the lake chemistry?
- Too many weeds and algae coming up. Please inform us what specifically we can do to remove to remove existing weeds – not just for future prevention
- Number of weeds increase yearly. If we cut them, they just grow back like our hair does. What success have other lakes in other provinces/countries had?
- Encourage summer/year-round residents to deal effectively with effluents of all kinds that encourage undesirable algae/vegetation
- I believe that we/the OLA and partners are on the right path for improvement
- The shoreline protection program should help with the algae as well
- Our bay has drastically reduced our property value and limited our enjoyment options. Sharing costs of a barge removal program would be beneficial
- Specific concern- use of fertilizers, phosphorus lawn run-off and poor natural shorelines
- Some mandatory form of inspections and replacement of faulty septic systems. Certainly when ownership changes but even if system is outdated. Require eco-flo type system when replaced (**ALSO IN WATER QUALITY**)
- Aquatic vegetation and algae is a major issue –it impacts how visitors, renters and others view the lake. Stay the course and/or added emphasis. Aquatic vegetation affects water quality as well
- Weed/algae choking shallow bays –waterfront disappearing – solution unknown other than cooperative removal and concerted efforts of all to eliminate phosphates
- To rid the lake of unwanted vegetation within reason some sort of weed/algae removal should be considered
- The unfortunate introduction of zebra mussels and the large increase in dwellings around the lake are unfortunately responsible for most of this shift in ecology (algae and aquatic vegetation) and only time will tell if it gets worse, as it will not get better
- The effects of zebra mussels on vegetation should be monitored. The results from other lakes would be useful, if collected.
- Major concern is the algae blooms and what causes them; how to prevent them; Are there ‘experts’ that could be ‘hired’ to address this issue?
- Less sewage and fertilizer run-off might help. It’s the old cottages and development not the new state of the art septics and lawns with modern rules and by-laws
- Continue with the 3 initiatives underway with emphasis on work with university research programs
- Look to control invasive species of vegetation

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- Be re-active and proactive to the growing problem of invasive aquatic vegetation with safety as advised by current scientific information
- ?? suggestions for eradication. A weed harvester for Otty?
- Maintain current initiatives. Awareness of other lakes' best practices
- Excessive vegetation growth in Maple Glen Dock area. Not sure if long-term management plans are in place. Short term could be raking, dredging etc. I think a lot of conflicting information on what can be done are circulating
- Continue the 'Starve Otty of Phosphorus' campaign
- Aquatic vegetation and algae go hand in hand with water quality. Development Pressures are a cause along with the weather.
- Pressure agencies to explore in greater depth/detail the causes of excessive vegetation and algae growth
- Can anything be done about the 'green blobs'?
- Restrict fertilizer use; can something be done about zebra mussels?
- We are in Miller Bay and we are very concerned about the weeds. We are no longer able to swim from our dock. We need a clipper boat to come in and clean up the bay. I will contact the OLA about this. Algae continues to be a concern. OLA should look up ways to control algae
- Not very good swimming if you are in a bay – any way to remove vegetation?
- Reduce fertilizer usage, better septic systems and usage
- Encourage property owners to use less sulfites phosphorus material – test for seepage into the lake
- Continue to educate on non phosphorus for use in septic systems and as soap in water for washing. None should be used. Young people sometimes tend to wash their hair in the lake!
- Reduction of phosphates/stricter regulations re dishwasher use and disposal
- Weeds growing into shoreline more each year
- Reduction of Algae blooms
- Identifying cottagers using grass fertilizers – warnings and fines
- Septics, septic, septic
- Is there anything to counter balance the effects of phosphorus?
- Continued evaluation of changing vegetation to facilitate understanding of the most appropriate response
- Continued inspection and monitoring of septic systems or lack of
- I was shocked to find clouds of blooms of algae still below the surface of the water in mid-October.
- Concerned with the proliferation of weeds and algae in shallower waters of our bay
- Continued study of the algal blooms to determine how to reduce them
- Many variables and issues must be addressed for this to improve
- Not sure what can be done but it's getting real bad!!
- Remove milfoil in bays of lake through chemical treatment/suction
- Continue to monitor and enforce (where possible) appropriate behaviour

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- A real problem but what can be done about existing vegetation? It will only get worse.
- Better/more vegetation on phosphate use and its impact
- Keep encouraging good shoreline practice and be specific about what has phosphorus in it
- The excessive algae from mid-June through the end of July. It discourages most waterfront activities, especially swimming
- Algae blooms appear to drift in from north side of lake – if possible find where they initially form and possible cause
- Anything to reduce algal build up
- Monitoring. Research into why this is happening and if/how we can change it
- Weed cutting
- Increase funding and partnerships to study and respond accordingly
- I believe water quality and the explosion of aquatic vegetation and algae are linked. Septic systems from houses that have dish washers, washing machines have to dump the phosphorus somewhere. The fertilized lawns and gardens are contributing to the phosphorus load. Homeowners that now outnumber cottagers and who put high demand on the lake need to be encouraged to use more natural and less damaging means to beautify their property. Perhaps holding tanks instead of septic systems should be re-introduced!! **(COMMENT ALSO INCLUDED UNDER WATER QUALITY)**
- Algae growth needs to be reduced/removed. Consider filtering it out of the water
- I can no longer swim @ my property. If people don't have proper septic can you not stop them from using their cottage until they have a proper septic?
- Vegetation – it is increasing yearly!

Other Concerns

- Zebra Mussels have changed the quality of our shoreline use. What can be done to improve our water use?
- Zebra Mussels – they continue to increase in numbers – are they contributing to the growth of vegetation in the lake?
- Not much if anything can be done about the huge population of zebra mussels in the lake
- Crown Islands- people are abusing islands, cutting trees, leaving garbage and human waste
- Reduction/elimination of the abuse of public islands e.g Cloverleaf and Blueberry: littering , graffiti, improper fires, plant and tree destruction, improper privies. An education and promotional blitz supported by OLA is required
- Invest more heavily in concrete projects, (i.e. shoreline planting, water quality testing, habitat improvement) and less heavily on “soft” projects (pamphlets and BBQs)

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- Emphasis on aquatic life, continue to work with the Toronto Zoo Adopt-A-Pond Program to better understand the contribution of wetlands to the lake and its tributaries