

Otty Lake Association (OLA)

Annual General Meeting (AGM) Minutes

Thursday July 7th, 2022, 6 pm via Zoom

Welcome

At approximately 6 pm, Kirsten Brouse, President – OLA, welcomed everyone to the virtual AGM. Quorum requirements were explained, and quorum was confirmed by Susan Murray.

Ms. Brouse chaired the meeting. Before moving into the agenda, Ms. Brouse invited Victoria Gibb-Carsley, Chair of the OLA Reconciliation working group, to provide a land acknowledgment. Ms. Gibb-Carsley honoured and acknowledged that the meeting was taking place on the ancestral and traditional lands of the Algonquin Anishinaabe people, and spoke to the importance of truth and reconciliation with our indigenous communities, as well as addressing other critical issues affecting them.

Ms. Brouse thanked Ms. Gibb-Carsley and called the meeting to order. She demonstrated the Zoom polling feature, which was to be used to vote at the meeting, and indicated that OLA members in good standing are eligible to vote on motions.

Agenda

Reviewed by Ms. Brouse. **Motion** (Susan Murray/Bill Danes) – that the Agenda be approved as distributed. **CARRIED**

July 8, 2021 AGM Minutes

Presented by Ms. Brouse. **Motion** (Keith Desjardins/Victoria Gibb-Carsley) – that the July 8, 2021 AGM minutes be approved as distributed. **CARRIED**

Financial Report Presentation

Ms. Brouse introduced the OLA Treasurer, Ms. Jen O'Donoughue, who then gave the financial report.

- **2021 Income Statement** – Ms. O'Donoughue presented the 2021 Income Statement. She indicated that the new maps of the lake generated revenue, both directly and by encouraging membership in the OLA. Expenses were down over historical levels, likely due to Covid. Revenues were \$12,902.4393. Expenses were \$6,781.39. Net income was slightly over \$6K.
- **Update Re 2022 Budget** – Ms. O'Donoughue then provided a year-to-date financial update against the 2022 Budget. She provided a brief review of certain projects and related expenses as of June 2022, and indicated that the financials for 2022 will likely follow a more historical pattern as we emerge from the pandemic. David Murray briefly described the lake shoreline cleanup project. **Motion** (Barb Hicks/Susan Murray) – that the 2022 Financial Report be approved. **CARRIED**

Introduction of Directors and Officers – Ms. Brouse presented our current directors and officers:

President – Kirsten Brouse

Past President – Reid Kilburn

Vice President – Keith Desjardins

Treasurer – Jen O'Donoughue

Lake Steward – Kevin Terrion

Recording Secretary – Linda Cuthbertson

Director - Newsletter Coordinator & Webmaster – Barb Hicks

Director – Membership – Susan Murray

Director – Membership – David Murray

Director - Loon Surveys – Kyla Haley

Director – Shoreline Planting – Rachel Roth

Director – Cathy Kari

Director – Robert Cosh

Director – Anne Scotton

Ms. Brouse expressed her gratitude to the Board for their level of engagement, and their many efforts over the past year. She also acknowledged and thanked Rachel Roth and Kyla Haley, who have completed their Board terms, for their amazing efforts and contributions. Rachel and Kyla will continue their shoreline planting and loon survey initiatives.

Ms. Brouse also acknowledged the tremendous contribution of OLA's many volunteers and broader community, including in particular, Gail Reid, our Area Councilor.

Election of Directors

Ms. Brouse asked Reid Kilburn, as chair of the Nominating Committee, to speak to the election of the slate of new directors. Mr. Kilburn indicated that Ms. Cathy Kari has completed her term, but has agreed to stand as Director for another 2 year term. Mr. Kilburn indicated that he would seek a motion to elect Ms. Kari to the Board, following which he would ask if there were nominations from the floor with respect to 2 additional vacancies. **Motion** (Brian Campbell/Keith Desjardins) – that Ms. Cathy Kari be appointed as a Director of the OLA for a 2 year term. **CARRIED**

Mr. Kilburn asked for nominations from the floor with respect to the 2 vacancies. Hearing none, he declared the election process closed for this AGM and thanked everyone.

Ms. Brouse thanked Mr. Kilburn, and advised that this completed the core business of the AGM. Several reports, updates, and presentations would now follow. Ms. Brouse indicated that she was excited to report that a number of new projects were introduced this year, thanks to the efforts of a number of volunteers. She then asked Kevin Terrion, our Lake Steward, to provide his report.

Lake Steward's Report

Mr. Terrion provided a brief overview of the 2 water sampling programs that OLA conducts each summer, and highlighted the key aspects of the programs, and key findings, including water sampling and water levels. He also described the bacteria and nutrient sampling program. He thanked Murray Hunt, previous Lake Steward, for "coming out of retirement" to share his knowledge, expertise and mentorship.

Mr. Terrion then discussed a number of lake observations, including issues regarding the beaver dam at Jebb's Creek, and beaver activity generally. He thanked David Murray for his significant efforts in conducting research and taking other initiatives with respect to the beaver issue. Mr. Terrion then discussed ice-in, ice thickness, and ice-out observations.

The State of the Lake Report will be available on the OLA website in October. It includes information on physical limnology, water quality, fisheries, zebra mussel populations, algae, loons and other environmental activities. Previous reports are available on the website. Mr. Terrion then asked Keith Desjardins to speak to the Shoal Marker Project.

Shoal Marker Project

13 markers were deployed at 11 "priority" sites, as identified by the Board and lake residents. Not all shoals are marked. New sites have already been suggested for 2023. The Board welcomes further suggestions. Volunteers are targeting mid-May to put the shoals in, and first week of October to get all shoals out. Questions, concerns, or reports of missing or damaged markers are welcomed. Brian Campbell thanked the OLA for taking this on. He expressed the view that this was long overdue, but was very grateful for this important initiative. Keith then asked Barb Hicks to give her OLA Activities Report.

OLA Activities Report

Ms. Hicks provided brief updates on the following key OLA activities:

Shoreline planting program - very successful again. Three different types of shoreline shrubs were provided this year. Thanks to Rachel Roth for coordinating this year, and to David and Susan Murray as well.

Pitch In and Cleanup – another successful pitch in operation this year. Elizabeth Allcock coordinates this. Special thanks to the Otty Lake's North Shore Road residents. David Murray also coordinated lake cleanup activities.

iNaturalist – Kit Muma and Bruce Smith lead this initiative. An Otty Lake area has been set up within the tool. There have been 80 users, and 2800 observations to date.

Loon Report – Kyla Haley normally coordinates this. Three confirmed chicks. Observations always welcome.

Reconciliation Working Group – this is a new group, led by Victoria Gibb-Carsley and Michael Desautels. The group has met a number of times, and has been gathering and sharing information regarding the indigenous history of Otty Lake. Other activities are being planned.

Paddle Power – scheduled for Sunday, August 21.

Blanket Exercise – planned for Saturday, August 20. This is an interactive, educational exercise exploring indigenous history in the colonial context.

Lake Links – scheduled for October 22, by Zoom.

Nature Floatilla – scheduled for Saturday, July 16, 10 am-12 pm. Self-guided, followed by a bring-your-own lunch at Maple Glen beach. Jenepher Lennox-Terrion provided an overview of the program and the location of the 5 educational sites. Experts will provide learning experiences regarding invertebrates, fish habitat, ticks, birds of prey, turtles, iNaturalist, and related topics. Jenepher thanked the organizing team for their tremendous efforts, as well as the experts who have generously donated their expertise and time.

Drummond North Elmsley Update – Reeve Steve Fournier

Ms. Brouse thanked Ms. Lennox-Terrion for her presentation and for her work on the Nature Floatilla. Ms. Brouse then invited Steve Fournier to address the meeting. Mr. Fournier thanked the residents of Otty Lake for maintaining the lake and surrounding areas clean and safe for generations to come. He then gave a detailed update on various operational and other activities, both completed and underway, in the Township and County. These included an update of the Official Plan, road maintenance, invasive species, new salt shed, telecom improvements, bridge improvements, personnel updates, septic inspections, speeding measures, and a variety of other issues.

Tay Valley Update – Brian Campbell and Noelle Reeve

Ms. Brouse thanked Mr. Fournier for his presentation, and invited Brian Campbell and Noelle Reeve to address the meeting. Mr. Campbell thanked the OLA for the opportunity, and the OLA's good work in keeping the lake healthy, clean and safe. He then provided a thorough report on various operational and other activities completed and underway within the Township and County. Since Covid, planning applications are up considerably, and remain so. The Official Plan is under review. Rental properties, including Airbnbs, are on the rise. A Climate Action Plan is in place to decrease the Township's carbon footprint. A potential by-law is being considered with respect to unassumed roads. Mr. Campbell described various grants received from the Province. He then described various roadwork projects, as well as broadband/Internet/improvements, including the Ontario Connects program, and cell service upgrades.

Ms. Reeve then provided her usual Land Use, Planning, and Building Update. The Official Plan update is ongoing. She briefly reviewed the process and timing for such update, and invited input. She highlighted some of the changes to the language proposed by Council and mandated by the PPS. Ms. Reeve then provided an update on recent zoning amendments with respect to bunkies, home businesses, and "tiny homes". She provided various other updates, including interpretive signage, walking paths and park improvements, home retrofit grants, and other climate initiatives. She then reviewed building permit activity, as well as a number of significant projects underway. Ms. Reeve reviewed certain biodiversity protection and invasive

species projects. Ms. Reeve concluded by highlighting the co-housing report, and encouraged OLA members to get on the election voting lists for the upcoming elections.

RVCA Septic System Inspection Program Update

Ms. Brouse thanked Mr. Campbell and Ms. Reeve for their usual thorough and informative presentations. She then invited Mr. Eric Kohlsmith from the Mississippi Rideau Septic System Office to give his presentation. Mr. Kohlsmith began by providing an overview of the mandatory maintenance inspection programs, which have been in place since 2012 and include Otty Lake. He then explained what is involved in a re-inspection, and gave some statistics regarding inspections conducted to date. Finally, he reviewed certain myths and helpful facts about sewage systems.

iNaturalist – Mark Read, Murphy’s Point Provincial Park

Ms. Brouse thanked Mr. Kohlsmith for his very important presentation and work. She then invited Mark Read, Assistant Superintendent at Murphy’s Point, to share his experience with iNaturalist. Mr. Read gave a brief overview of “citizen science” and its utility in contributing broadly to scientific knowledge. He described eBird Canada and iNaturalist as the 2 big community science projects platforms. He then gave a detailed overview and demonstration of iNaturalist, and highlighted certain noteworthy observations in and around the Murphy’s Point area.

Adjournment

Ms. Brouse thanked Mr. Read for his excellent presentation. She then thanked all of the presenters and participants and invited all of the participants to feel free to reach out to the OLA or any of the Board members with any questions, comments, or suggestions for lake activities. She then asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, she declared the meeting adjourned.