

CAPTAIN OTTY'S LOG

Newsletter of the Otty Lake Association

June 2001

President; Brian Perkin 264-1205 Editor: Keith Fraser 267-6911

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *Brian Perkin*

We're just on the doorstep of another great summer on Otty Lake. And just before the fishing parties head out for the new season, please pay heed to a friendly reminder from the Ministry of Natural Resources. Even though the bass season runs June 30 to Oct 15 this year, MNR points out that a large percentage of male bass will be guarding nests until mid-July. Bass spawn in shallow, rocky areas that are less than 6 feet deep. If you happen to catch a bass in these spawning areas, the entire nest could be wiped out. In just minutes, even if you release the fish, predators such as sunfish and rock bass can attack the nest and eat unguarded eggs or fry. There is also a 50% chance that the male will abandon the nest due to stress.

If you accidentally hook a bass in what could be a nesting area, try to handle the fish as little as you can and return it to the water as quickly as possible. Even if you're not fishing, you can give the bass a break by steering clear of their nests when you swim or boat.

In off-season, the MNR offers a "Poacher Watcher" number if you happen to see someone taking fish illegally. You can call MNR toll-free at 1-800-661-1940. Your vigilance can help protect future generations of bass.

Finally, be sure to mark **July 14** on your calendars as the date of this year's **Annual General Meeting** at the Perth Public Library. Come hear about the work your Association is pursuing on your behalf. We're looking for your input and direction ... and most importantly, we're looking for more volunteers to help carry on this valuable work.

After close to three years, I will be stepping down as OLA President and we'd love to have another Otty Laker ready to take the lead and work with this enthusiastic and committed group. Also, Tom Foulkes of the Land Use Committee has indicated that would like a well-deserved rest ... after 25 years of work with OLA! He would be very happy to welcome a new recruit to the job.

Remember, the OLA is a volunteer organization that's only as strong as the group of people who pitch in to preserve this valuable resource of ours. Many hands make lake work ... easier!

INFO PACKS FOR 2001

Another brimming OLA Info Pack is coming your way again

this summer! It will be filled with practical information on lakeside living, septic system care, summer events and more.

Inside you will find a new brochure from OLA called "**Buying, Building and Living at Otty Lake**". It contains loads of lakeshore living tips and important numbers for permits, information and advice. **LOGO ALERT!** We'd also like your feedback and suggestions for improving or changing the **logo** on the brochure. If you have any original artwork you can put together for an Otty Lake logo, please call Brian Perkin at 264-1205. From loons to lagoons, we're open to your suggestions!

OLA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, July 14, 2001

Perth Library - Upstairs Hall - 9:30 am

Guest speaker, **Carol Brandum**, Coordinator of the Lanark & Leeds Green Community. Carol works extremely hard in the area of environmental awareness and she will offer practical suggestions on septic system maintenance and general 'green living' advice.

FIRE PERMIT NEEDED - Burning Regulations.

Dick Atkinson

Remember when you could burn brush without a permit? Those days are now gone, and a permit is required for all fires, from Jan 1st to Dec 31st. "All fires" includes those for warmth or cooking and fires in containers such as barrels and grates as well as open fires. You need a permit for any outdoor burning.

Here is how it's done. Go to the BBD&E fire station on Sherbrooke Street in Perth and get a permit. It is good for the calendar year and can be used any number of times but must be activated each time, before burning. Telephone the number provided on the day before you want to burn. A message will inform you if burning is allowed or is banned. If there is no ban, just voice record your permit information on the machine and you are all set for burning the next day, for up to 3 days.

Sound easy? Yes it is, but don't foul up! Chief Tysick explained that fire vehicles are dispatched to burning sites without activated permits, and culprits are billed \$300 per hour per vehicle dispatched, and usually more than one vehicle is dispatched if there are burning restrictions due to dry/dangerous conditions. Otty Lake residents/cottagers should call the BBD&E fire office at 267- 2596 for information.

ENVIRONMENTAL & HEALTH COMMITTEE *Lorne Gold*

The first set of samples for the OLA water quality monitoring program were taken on Monday, June 11. Both fecal and e-coli form counts will be determined to begin to establish the correlation between these two indicators of water quality. Two sets of readings will be taken in July and August and one in September, for a total of six readings for each of the 32 stations on the lake.

We have recently received the results of measurements of water clarity and phosphorous levels for last year. The measure of water clarity is given by the secchi disc reading, which is the depth in metres to which it is possible to distinguish the black and white sectors of the 8 inch diameter disc. The values below are for a site near the middle of the main body of the lake.

Date	June 12	July 4	July 24	Aug 8	Aug 22	Sept 5
Secchi reading (m.)	3.4	3.2	6.4	3.7	4.0	4.9
Phosphorous ($\mu\text{g/L}$)	10.0	8.0	1.60	12.0	14.0	16.0

The average secchi disc reading for the summer was 4.3 m. which compares well with the average values of 4.2, 4.2 and 4.1 for 1997, 1998 and 1999 respectively. The average phosphorus level was $12.7 \mu\text{g/L}$ and for the three previous years: 10.3 (1997), 15.7 (1998) and 10.3 (1999). These values place Otty Lake in the mid-range of aging, 10 to $19 \mu\text{g/L}$.

The Lake Partners Program, managed by the Ontario Ministry of Environment, received water quality measurements from 422 lakes in 1999. Of these, 281 were classed as *oligotrophic* with phosphorus readings ranging from 0 to $9 \mu\text{g/L}$. Classified as *mesotrophic* were 122 with readings ranging from 10 to $19 \mu\text{g/L}$ and 19 were classified as *eutrophic* with readings of $20 \mu\text{g/L}$.

We make a difference for the level of phosphorous in the lake. Studies have shown that a rustic cabin occupied by about 4 people for 89 days during the year produces about 550 grams of total phosphorous; an average cottage with a cleared lot about 2,984 grams; and a 'manicured' property about 3,356 grams. We can make a difference by minimizing our use of phosphorous producing products, ensuring we have a properly functioning waste disposal or septic system, and nurturing a band of natural vegetation at least 10 feet in depth along the shoreline. Information will be provided to you this summer by your area counsellor on the management and inspection of your septic system and on good practice for living by the water. Let us ensure that Otty Lake does not become eutrophic for future generations.

BEAUTIFY YOUR SEPTIC BED *Amy Pokorny*

It's a pity to mow grass on your septic bed about once a week. Why not plant and enjoy swaths of low-growing, fast-spreading,

flowering ground covers? Pick and choose ones that hug the ground and submit without damage to a couple of mowings a year. If properly timed, this should defend your precious pipes from being choked with young maples and other trees that some year promiscuously propagate billions of babies. Just watch for tiny seedlings a few weeks after the maples, ashes and basswoods have rained down their seeds. Also be wary of allowing tall perennial weeds to go to seed: dock, burdock, chicory, loosestrife, etc.

By careful choosing, you can develop a wonderful patchwork quilt of color and texture for a least three seasons. Preferably, you'll select plants which have basal leaves that grow close to the ground. Ajuga (bugleweed) is one of these. Allow its little spires of mostly blue flowers to go to seed before mowing. The attractive leaves will survive.

Many other prolific growers and spreaders belong to the almost indestructible sedum genus (group). There are some very low ones that creep along the ground. The yellow flowered ones I've seen blending with blue ajuga. The popular sedum spectabile (Autumn Joy) is too tall. Golden stone crop (sedum acre) is 3 inches tall and fast spreading.

For shade and part shade there's nothing more lovely than periwinkle (Vinca minor); plenty of violet coloured flowers in May and year-round shining leaves on fast-spreading vines that trail close to the ground. They can be invasive. Mine seeded themselves swiftly and successfully along a bank of Virginia creeper. Neither objected! Blue flowers before the creeper leaves out and crimson leaves of the big vine in the fall - a great combination. One or other of the many dwarf thymes is another candidate as a low ground cover that can be mowed. As with the others, you can consider underplanting with a spring bulb that naturalizes, such as daffodils. This means you need a reasonable layer of good soil above sand, useful for any plant.

You should check out some of our wild flowers, such as Waldsteinia (barren strawberry which has yellow flowers), herb robert (Geranium Robertianum) or bunchberry (Cornus canadensis). Lily of the Valley, very invasive, is great for the shady slope of your septic mound because it discourages erosion. A bed of several kinds of native violets, such as the Viola canadensis (white, tinged with blue) or one of the yellow ones, can make a great mat, but match the new habitat in your garden with the original habitat of the forest around you.

If you want taller plants, choose ones that grow so densely that they smother small weeds, which usually arrive as seed with a load of new earth - often from a pasture or barnyard. A few examples: Sneezewort (Achillea ptarmica, the pearl) - white flowers, invasive, needs sun and has fast spreading roots to help against erosion. Sedum Kamschaticum (Stone crop) comes in many varieties with several leaf colours - height 6-8 inches, spreading and indestructible. Sweet woodruff (Galium odoratum) - fragrant, 6 inches, great ground cover but needs rich, moist soil. Dead nettle (Lamium) tolerates some drought, about 6 inches,

variegated silver leaves, several varieties, mostly pink. Excellent for covering large areas; sun or partial shade.

Kiwi Gardens has an amazing assortment of these perennials. For questions, call a Master Gardener: Renai 267-7272; Helen 264-0499; Finella 267-6859; Amy 267-1626.

BOATERS - DON'T MISS THE BUS!

Brian Perkin

Bathurst Burgess Sherbrooke Councillor Brian Campbell has arranged for a mobile testing bus to visit Perth in August for area boaters wanting to get their Pleasure Craft Operator Card. The Mobile Boaters' Card Testing Centre is operated by PCS Marine Technologies of Manotick who are accredited boating course providers.

Mr Campbell has responded to requests from area boaters and invited the 'Test Bus' to visit on Sunday, August 19 from 9 AM to 3 PM at the Jaycee Building at the Perth Fairgrounds (directly behind the Lions Hall). The Test Bus can accommodate families or groups wanting to take their test that day.

New boating regulations mean that boaters must pass a proof of competency test. The requirement is being phased in over 10 years at specific intervals. If you were born after April 1 1983, you must be able to prove competency to operate a powered pleasure craft of any size or type. The age requirement changes each calendar year on April 1.

To operate a powered pleasure craft less than four metres (13 feet) in length, including personal watercraft, proof of competency, independent of age, must be achieved on or before September 15, 2002. No person under the age of 16 is permitted to operate a personal watercraft, whether licensed or not, under the power regulation regulations. Other age/power restrictions apply.

In order to operate a powered pleasure craft, you must prove competency by successfully completing a test taken from an accredited course provider and obtain a Canadian Coast Guard Pleasure Craft Operator Card. It is not mandatory to take a training course, but it is recommended.

The PCS Marine Test Bus has a complete schedule of stops lined up this summer throughout Ottawa and the valley. PCS also offers a self-learning training program on CD-ROM. For complete information on the services they provide, visit their website at www.pcsmarine.com. For more information on the August 19 visit, contact Brian Campbell at 267-4754.

YOUR PERSONAL ANNUAL SEPTIC SYSTEM ASSESSMENT REPORT

(see back page)

This form will be distributed at the AGM on August 14 and/or by Area Councillors. Complete it and keep it yourself for your own information and updating. This is our first attempt at upgrading our septic systems and your comments are welcome, in fact, encouraged. Call Jack Lynn at 267-4786 or jlynn@ripnet.com

MAILING AND DATABASE UPDATE

Dick Atkinson

Many thanks to the many of you who sent in fees and address information from the last Newsletter. Your support is appreciated. Your mailing label on the envelope of this Newsletter will show the year for which your fee has been received. Also, your map surname and lake address info has been updated.

If there is a 'fee request' slip enclosed with this newsletter, it indicates that your year 2001 Fee has not yet been received (as of June 8th), and you are requested to send a \$15 cheque payable to the OTTY LAKE ASSOCIATION. When your fee is received, your next Newsletter mailing label will be updated to show "2001". Please advise of any change of mailing address information in the ☐ section of the slip.

Email addresses are being added to the DataBase to enable the Association to electronically send reports and minutes to Residents in the future. Please include your email address in the ☐ section. If you wish, you can email the above changes and information to me at atkinson@sympatico.ca

YOUR *PERSONAL* ANNUAL SEPTIC SYSTEMS ASSESSMENT REPORT

Name : _____ Date : _____

ADDRESS : _____

Type of Septic System : Holding Tank: _____ Septic: _____ Other: _____

Estimated Year System Installed : _____

Estimated Setback from Lake _____ feet : (or) Meters _____ (Should be 100 + ft.)

Estimated Capacity of Tank _____ Gallons: _____ Liters :

Type of Construction : Steel _____ Fibreglass _____ Concrete _____ Other _____

Condition : Good : _____ Fair : _____ Poor : _____

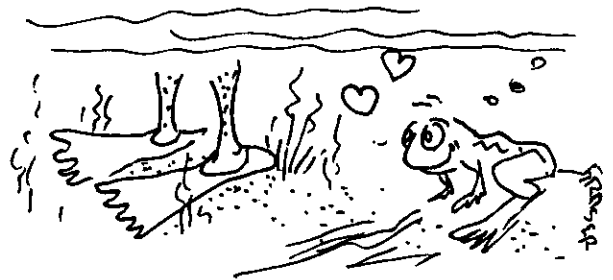
Last year System Pumped Out : _____ (Pump out every 3 to 5 years)

Evidence of Odours : Yes _____ No _____

Evidence of Surface Leaching : Yes _____ No _____

OVERALL ASSESSMENT : Good : _____ Fair : _____ Poor : _____

PLEASE TAKE THE RESPONSIBILITY



☐ My Email Address is@..... Year 2001 \$15 Fee Request

☐ Mailing Label OK, or

☐ Map Name & Civic Address OK, or

☐ Please change to:

☐ Please change to:

Name.....

Surname.....

Address.....

Signpost number.....

City.....Prov/State.....Code.....

Street/Road name.....