

JUNE 2002

Captain Otty's Log

Newsletter of the Otty Lake Association

President Dick Atkinson

Editor Colin Code

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Dick Atkinson

The Board is looking forward to seeing you at the July 13th Otty Lake Association (OLA) Annual General Meeting (AGM). There will be presentations on Mining Claims, Municipal Land Use and the Environment, as well as the OLA budget and committee reports.

The Association is investigating the process of Incorporation. A motion will be introduced at the AGM, as a change in status will require an amendment to the OLA Constitution.

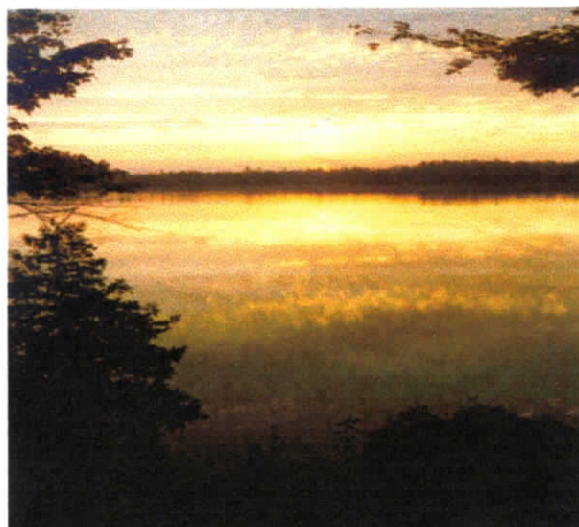
The October 2001 Newsletter gave three effective 'indoor' actions to take toward halting the long term deterioration of the water quality of our lake. The April 2002 Newsletter listed three items that should not be in the environment. The following is a list of three highly effective 'outdoor' actions recommended by the many publications by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) and the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA). Following these recommendations will take us a long way towards protecting our lake environment.

ACTION 1. Maintain a natural shoreline for at least 3 meters from the water's edge. The ultimate is a property that still has natural vegetation, supplemented by shoreline planting. (MAPLE - shoreline plants, Dianne Nuttall 264-0687). However, most of us have done some clearing and many have grassed areas. When heavy rain occurs, run-off should be absorbed by the natural vegetation along the shoreline. When there is little or no vegetation, nutrients are washed into the lake. If you have grass-to-the-shore, please consider shoreline planting as your top priority, and immediately stop cutting the grass for 3 meters back from the shore.

ACTION 2. If you have noticed an increase in aquatic weed growth or a large increase in snail population, you can conclude that nutrient levels are elevated in your area of the lake. Natural vegetation on land grows and returns to the soil in a balanced manner, with only some nutrients reaching the lake through groundwater and run-off. When fertilizer is added, large quantities of nutrients are present and large amounts of nutrients reach the lake, especially during and after a heavy rain.

If you really love the lake, do not use fertilizer on shoreline property.

ACTION 3. Handle pesticides, herbicides and other chemicals with extreme care. Avoid using sprays, especially near the water. Poison Ivy is difficult to eradicate although an herbicide applied directly to each plant with a watering can will do the job effectively with no spray to drift. Every other weed, including aquatic weeds, should be hand-pulled and composted well back from the shoreline.



Recent publications warn the public that pressure-treated lumber, which contains Chromated Copper Arsenate (CCA) should not be used in the water, or at the water's edge. Because arsenic is a known carcinogen, it is recommended that prolonged skin contact, such as occurs when one suns on a dock, should be avoided.

Any amount of chemical pollution is detrimental to our environment. The only viable option is to KEEP CHEMICALS AWAY FROM OTTY LAKE!



Conclusion. Taking the above actions, along with those in previous Newsletters, are the minimum that everyone should be doing. Our lake quality will reflect our efforts. If you would like help to get started, please ask your Counselor or a Board member.

Need a new Motor?

Dick Atkinson

If you mix oil with gasoline for use in your boat (or lawn mower), you have an old-style two-stroke engine that is a heavy 'polluter'.

These conventional two-stroke engines spew up to 40% of their gasoline into the environment as pollutants. Equivalently powered personal watercraft (PWCs) pollute even more. When it comes to an environmental concern, anyone with an old-style 2-stroke needs a new motor.

What can you do? Selling your old two-stroke motor to a fellow lake resident and buying a new one has limited gain. If you carry on with your old motor for now, you can reduce pollution by: not idling, running at part throttle (say 3/4), and maintaining as constant a speed as practical. Even a small percentage reduction is worthwhile. Use only certified 2-cycle oil, and carefully adhere to the mixing ratio.

When you do make the decision to buy, what do you need to know to make a good choice? After combing through dozens of web sites, FOCA information and talking to lake residents, here are a couple of pointers. Select a motor that clearly exceeds the (US) EPA 2006 spec. Both the new style 4-stroke and direct injection 2-stroke meet EPA 2006. Local residents however favour the quieter and more fuel efficient 4-strokes. Select the most fuel-efficient motor, as there is a correlation to low fuel/oil consumption and low pollution.



A SAFETY REMINDER

Dick Atkinson

Records show that Personal Watercraft (PWC) have a horrific safety record. According to US safety data, PWCs are responsible for roughly 30% of all boating related accidents. More than 70% of all PWC accidents are collisions with other vessels.

Swimming from a boat while it's motor is running is exceptionally hazardous. In addition to the potential physical hazards, odourless Carbon Monoxide (CO) can collect within, alongside or behind a boat in minutes in sufficient concentration to cause poisoning or even death. Concern should not be limited to swimmers, as many people trolling at slow speeds can suffer CO inhalation.

(Source, FOCA, Issues Alert Autumn 2001 and Report to Membership Spring 2002).

Please remember that no activity is so urgent that it cannot be done safely.

FIRE PERMITS REQUIRED YEAR ROUND

Dick Atkinson

A fire permit is required before setting **any** outdoor fire at any time. Fire permits may be obtained from the Bathurst, Burgess, Drummond and North Elmsley (BBD&NE) Fire Hall on Sherbrooke Street, Perth.

Each time you burn, your permit must be activated. This can be done by calling the BBD&NE Fire Hall at 267-2596. Once activated, your permit will be valid for three days.

Your permit number from 2001 will remain the same. It is not necessary to obtain a new permit for 2002. You need only to change the year on your permit and **call before you burn!**

Guest Speaker at 2002 AGM

Maureen Towaij, Chair of the Citizen Mining Advisory Group will be the Guest Speaker at the OLA AGM on July 13, 2002.

Ms. Towaij will speak on mining issues in our area and will have a question period at the end of her talk. Please come prepared to ask any questions that you may have related to the mining.

CORRECTION

Phosphate-Free Dishwasher Detergents

In the April 2002 OLA Newsletter, Item #14 under the "Living at Otty Lake", re foregoing the use of automatic dishwashers because dishwasher detergents contain phosphates, was in error as there are now products available which are indeed phosphate-free.

As published in the October 2001 edition of the OLA Newsletter, the article "Phosphate-Free Cleaning Products" correctly stated that there are many phosphate-free cleaning products available, including automatic dishwasher detergents. Local sources of these products described in the article include:

Chiropractic Care Centre at 55 North Street, Perth;
Foodsmiths on Wilson Street, Perth; and Drydock in
Portland.

Contributions

If you would like to suggest or
contribute an article to an upcoming
issue of Captain Otty's Log, please
send to: Colin Code,
colin.code@ottawa.com If you prefer
surface mail:
c/o 456 Hillcrest Avenue
Ottawa, Ontario
K2A 2M7



Boating Speeds

Wendy Hassard

As we gear up for another boating season, let's all
remember the marine speed laws that have been
implemented to save lives. In Ontario, we have a law that
states that within 100 feet/30 meters of a shoreline, any
water craft must only be traveling at a MAXIMUM speed
of 6 miles/10 kms per hour. This speed is too low to even
register on most water craft speedometers, it is really an
IDLING speed, therefore any water craft within 100
feet/30 meters of shore must be moving along just above
an idling speed. Swimmers, divers, and all others
enjoying the water are thereby protected within 100
feet/30 meters of land.

If you live beside a channel that you feel may qualify for
the 100 feet/30 meter speed limit, you can contact our
President, Dick Atkinson. He will have the OPP measure
the distance of the channel. If the area qualifies for the
limit, the OLA will post a speed limit sign. Please do not
post your own signs in areas that do NOT meet the
criteria, as this reduces the validity of all signs.

Boating: Who May Operate What & When

Bob Hassard

The federal government wishes to improve boating safety
in Canada by limiting access to small, over-powered
boats i.e. "sea-fleas" and personal water craft, to those 16
and over. As well, a licensing program is being phased in
to ensure that all operators of small, motorized craft and
larger, more powerful craft, have a semblance of safe
boating knowledge.

- A. Operators under the age of 12 may operate a boat
unsupervised IF it is longer than 3 m. and powered by
an engine not larger than 10 H.P.

12 yrs. Old - - - - -

- B. Operators between 12 and 16 years of age may
operate a boat unsupervised IF it is longer than 3 m.

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and powered by an engine not larger than 40 H.P.

(N.B. Operators under 16 years of age may NOT operate
a personal water craft.)

16 yrs. old - - - - -

- C. All operators born after April 1, 1983, must have
"proof of competency" in order to operate all other
motorized craft.
- D. All operators of craft under 4 m. in length, including
personal watercraft, must have "proof of competency"
by Sept. 15, 2002.
- E. All operators of motorized craft, excluding A and B
above, must have "proof of competency" by Sept. 15,
2009.

For most people, "proof of competency" is gained by
taking a test at a Canadian Coast Guard accredited
course provider. The cost of the tests range from \$0 to
\$35 depending on who is giving them. A "Canadian Coast
Guard Pleasure Craft Operator Card" is awarded when
you pass the test.

To find a local course provider in order to get an
operator's license, see the Perth Courier; the Internet site:
www.ccg-gcc.gc.ca gives a list of course providers; or call
the Boating Safety Infoline at 1-800-267-6687. Operator
Card via the Internet: www.BoaterExam.com (\$35).

For more information on this topic, read the Safe Boating
Guide included in the 2002 Otty Lake Association
information package.

Mineral Exploration Update

Karen Hunt

As described in the last issue of Captain Otty's Log, there
have been approximately 60 mining claims recorded in
Bathurst Burgess and Sherbrooke Township in the past
year. Many of these claims border or are in the vicinity of
local lakes such as Black, Pike, Long and Otty Lakes.

Claim # 1249726 abuts the north shore of Otty Lake and
encompasses Lot 1 and A of Concession 8 Burgess.
Before the 12 month filing deadline at the end of March
2002, seven Otty Lake property owners filed a dispute to
this claim. Their disputes have not yet been heard by the
Ministry of Northern Development and Mines.

Many other Otty Lake property owners own only the
surface rights to their property and these properties
remain vulnerable to future mining claim stakings. It is
important to realize that should a mining company obtain
the right to develop a mining claim in any area near Otty
Lake, there will be considerable impact both on the
property where the mineral exploration and development

take place as well as the surrounding areas that would be affected by noise and dust from earth moving equipment, increased truck traffic on local roads, impact on the environment and quality of life. Most likely, our property values would be negatively impacted as well!

The possible impacts are major. For example, under Section 175 of the Mining Act, a mining company can (with the approval of the Mining Commissioner): collect, dam back and/or divert water; have rights of way passage (construct roads); transmit electricity; deposit tailings, slimes and other waste products upon any land, or discharge into water; open, construct ditches, tunnels, adits, pipes, conduits over or upon any land; drain off, lower/or divert the water of any; lake, pond, river, stream, or watercourse on any land (not just staked lands).

Under current legislation, it would seem that there is little environmental protection from the negative impacts of the Mining Act. Even lands owned by the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority have been staked. Although such lands are protected under the Conservation Authority Act, this has not deterred the staking of claims!

What can you do?

Letters can be written to the media to heighten public awareness, as well as to the new Minister of Northern Development and Mines, Jim Wilson and our local MPP, Norm Sterling:



Hon. Jim Wilson
Minister Northern Development & Mines
Whitney Block
5th Floor Room 5630
99 Wellesley St. W.
Toronto, Ont. M7A 1W3

Hon. Norm Sterling
Ferguson Block
3rd Floor
77 Wellesley St. West
Toronto, Ont. M7A 1Z8

A committee of concerned citizens, the **Citizens' Mining Advisory Group (CMAG)** has been formed to push for more recognition for the rights of surface land owners and protection of the local environment. At the January Board Meeting, the Otty Lake Association Executive agreed to support CMAG..

The CMAG stated strategy is to Give Cause to the Revision of the Ontario Mining Act with a Primary Aim of

Eliminating or Replacing Clauses which are in Conflict with Environmental Legislation and Clauses which Negate the Rights of Surface Property Owners. Some of the immediate objectives also include a moratorium on all graphite mining activity in BBS and South Frontenac

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Townships and to keep this concern in the public eye and in the minds of elected officials.

To obtain more information about CMAG or to offer your support you can contact:

- Maureen Towaij (Chair, CMAG) at maureen.towaij@sympatico.ca or
- Karen Hunt (CMAG Membership Committee) at mkhunt@perth.igs.net or
- Wendy Hassard (CMAG Membership Committee) at whassard@sympatico.ca

CMAG will hold a general meeting, open to the public on Saturday, August 17, 2002 at 9:30 A.M. at the Maberly Community Hall in Maberly (just off Hwy.7).

Environmental and Health Committee

Lorne Gold

For several years, the Otty Lake Association (OLA) has participated in the Lake Partners Program run by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment. Under this program, OLA has monitored phosphorus levels and water clarity using the secchi disc. An important part of this program is the Great Ontario Dip-In, for which each lake association participating is asked to take a secchi disc reading each year during the week of July 1st. These measurements are providing a good sample of the regional variation in water clarity for Ontario lakes and illustrates the changes in clarity over time. The secchi disc readings are correlated with the phosphorus levels and are a general measure of water quality, as well as of aesthetic values.

For some time after the ice cover melts in the spring, the water temperature remains constant from the top to the bottom of the lake. As the surface warms, it becomes heavier because the density of water is greatest at about 4°C. This causes the heavier surface water to descend, resulting in a mixing of the lake to a considerable depth. Taking a water sample at this time of year gives a more reliable sample of the average phosphorus level for the lake. The OLA took the first measurements of phosphorus and clarity in mid May this year. We will be taking five more water samples over the course of the summer to determine how the phosphorus level changes.

Otty Lake has been selected to be included in the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) Watershed Watch Program, this summer. The objective of this program is to collect and analyse physical data to determine existing water quality conditions and general level of environmental health for the 35 lakes in the Rideau Watershed. Eight lakes are selected each year, which will be sampled about every five years.

At each lake in the program, students have been hired this summer to measure the following:

1. Total phosphorus, the leading nutrient for lakes;
2. Total nitrogen, also a nutrient;
3. Water clarity, to assess algae density;
4. Dissolved oxygen and temperature profiles, to determine lake health;
5. E-coli, a bacteria;

In addition, the following will be monitored:

1. Macro-invertebrates, spineless bugs found under rocks;
2. Frogs, by listening for and recording their calls;
3. Aquatic weed growth, by taking regular pictures at selected sites.



Students will take samples at Otty Lake, four to eight times between May and October. Volunteers are welcomed to assist with this monitoring program, which is an excellent opportunity for young people to get hands-on experience. Macro-invertebrate sampling will be done in mid-July. Volunteers will be trained to identify frog calls. If you are interested, call Lorne Gold (733-2449 in Ottawa, or 267-7657 at Otty Lake).

Water Levels

2002 began with a fairly normal water level. On May 10, it was + 10" and on May 19, it was a normal +9". By comparison, the past two years were higher (2000) and lower (2001) than normal.

In 2000, it began high (+12" in early May) and was still high (+8") on July 1, when 0" would indicate normal water levels. Levels remained a high +8" on August 15.

In 2001, water levels began fairly normally at +9" in early May, then a normal +0.5" at July 1. Levels fell steadily through the hot, dry summer to a low-normal -8" in late August.

Sailor Talk - by the Commodore

B is for:

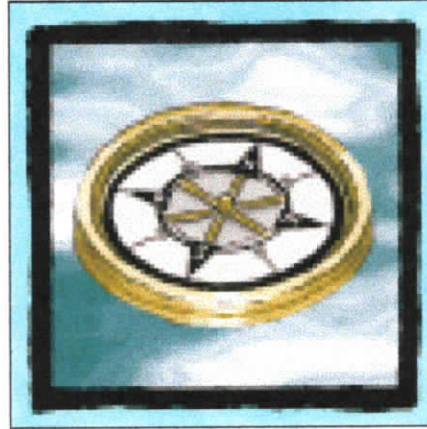
Boat – A general term for any small craft; also used by submariners for their craft. The word comes from Old Norse, *beit* or *bato* and appears today in Nordic languages and French. When do we say boat, and when ship? An old captain said to "think of it in terms of fleas and their dog."

Banyan – Tropical style picnic held ashore by Navy personnel while deployed at sea. Often held on a deserted island, with the entire ship's company wearing colourful clothing — a break from the usual routine for both officers and sailors mingling informally.

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Battens – (1) Flat bars secured along hatch combings to hold tarpaulins in place (17th Century)

- (2) Shaped boards or strips of plastic used to improve the set of fore-and-aft sails. The word come from Old French *baston*, strip or stick of wood.



Residents of Bathurst, Burgess, Sherbrooke Township (BBS)

BBS Township, which contains 22 lakes, has recently developed a new Official Plan for the amalgamated municipality. Residents of Otty Lake and other lakes participated in the development of that Plan during 1998 through to 2000. Now the BBS Council and the By-Law Committee, again with participation of lake representatives, is engaged in the development of the new Zoning By-Law which gives substance to the principles contained in the Official Plan.

The By-Law will contain a number of now familiar provisions, such as the important setback requirement for sewage systems (30 meters or 100 feet) and water setbacks for buildings. The Committee representative from one of the other lakes has asked for input on a number of other subjects in order to give guidance to the Council and the By-Law Committee (see Cottage Questionnaire).

Residents of Burgess Ward of BBS are asked to complete the attached questionnaire and submit to the OLA at the AGM, or forward it to:

Tom Foulkes
45 Church Street East
Smiths Falls, Ontario
K7A 1H4

Cottage Questionnaire BBS Residents of Otty Lake

Please complete this voluntary questionnaire and return to the Otty Lake Association by mail, or at the Annual General Meeting on July 13, 2002.

1. New land-sited boathouses in the 30 meter water-set-back zone should be:
 - a. ☐ Permitted with no conditions
 - b. ☐ Permitted, but restricted in size
 - c. ☐ Permitted with conditions (i.e. screening from water, erosion controls, eavestroughs etc.)
 - d. ☐ Permitted with conditions AND limited in size
 - e. ☐ Not permitted

2. Home-based businesses on shared private roads should be:
 - a. ☐ Permitted
 - b. ☐ Not permitted
 - c. ☐ Permitted under specific conditions (list them)

3. Bed and breakfasts on shared private roads should be:
 - a. ☐ Permitted
 - b. ☐ Not permitted
 - c. ☐ Permitted under specific conditions (list them)

4. Vertical additions to Non-complying building uses should be:
 - a. ☐ Allowed
 - b. ☐ Not Allowed
 - c. ☐ Comments

5. The By-Law has a minimum Dwelling Unit Area for Seasonal Residences and Limited Services Residences. Should it also have a MAXIMUM Unit area for these residences?
 - a. ☐ No
 - b. ☐ Yes (what should that maximum be?)

Comments

Name:

(Optional)

Signature:

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Now Available**SWEATSHIRTS AND T-SHIRTS EMBROIDERED WITH THE OLA LOGO**

Additional orders will be taken at AGM; colours and sizes will be on display.

SWEATSHIRTS - 15.5 oz. ultra cotton crew-neck sweatshirt (80% cotton, 20% poly); double stitched hems; lycra in collar and cuffs; stitched Otty Lake Association logo as shown above - *Sweatshirts available in **adult** sizes only*

Item 1 Adult sweatshirt; Sizes M, L, XL; Colours - ash (light gray), maroon, leaf green (med. silvery green), indigo blue (med. denim blue); Cost per shirt - \$39.00

Item 2 Adult sweatshirt; Size XXL only; Colours as in Item 1; Cost per shirt - \$44.00

T-SHIRTS - 10.1 oz. heavyweight 100% cotton; double stitched hems; stitched Otty Lake Association logo as shown above - *T-shirts available in **adult and youth** sizes*

Item 3 Adult T-shirt; Sizes S, M, L, XL; Colours: white, tan, stone blue (light blue), forest green; Sizes S, M, L, XL; Cost per shirt - \$20.00

Item 4 Adult T-shirt, Size XXL (only), Colour- white (only); Cost per shirt - \$20.00

Item 5 Adult T-shirt, Size XXL (only), Colours- tan, stone blue (light blue), forest green; Cost per shirt - \$22.00

Item 6 Youth T-shirt, Sizes S(size 6/8), (no medium available), L (size 14/16); Colour- white (only); Cost per shirt - \$15.00

**ORDER FORM**

ITEM NUMBER	SIZE	COLOUR	QUANTITY	COST PER SHIRT*	SUBTOTAL
				\$	\$
				\$	\$
				\$	\$
				\$	\$

TOTAL AMOUNT = \$

***Taxes are included in prices listed** Please make cheque out to the **Otty Lake Association** and send with completed order form to 20 Mancil Drive, Nepean Ontario K2J 2J5.

Name	
Address	
Telephone #	
Email	