

Captain Otty's Log

Newsletter of the Otty Lake Association

President Dick Atkinson

Editor Colin Code

Message from the Board

The main function of the Otty Lake Association is to represent lake residents by promoting a pollution-free lake and encouraging environmentally responsible use of surrounding lands. An important part of this function is to review "minor variances".

Minor Variances

Tay Valley Township (TVT - see p. 5: New Name) and Drummond-North Elmsley (DNE) Official Plans and Bylaws are aimed at sustainable development of both existing and future use of properties within respective townships. OLA is concerned primarily with the shoreline properties of Otty; Little Otty; Mud and McLaren Lakes; Jebb Creek; and the watershed streams and wetlands. Because shoreline properties on these waterways do not have access to sanitary sewer or water services, significant local environmental impact exists as a concern for the OLA and its membership.

Residents who wish to build, renovate or undertake changes to their property must apply for a permit from their respective Township. Most residents formulate and adjust their plans to comply with regulations. In some cases, plans do not meet all of the terms of the regulations and a "minor variance" is applied for. When an application is made for a "minor variance", the Township is responsible to notify the public (neighbours and interested groups) for review of the application and comment. On your behalf, the OLA's Land Use Committee reviews these applications and offers comments and recommendations.

Granting Variances

The Township has the responsibility and authority to process, approve and grant minor variances. Comments are considered as part of this process (it is important to note that those who comment have no authority in this process). In many of the minor variance applications, a requirement such as a setback cannot be met, but other requirements could be exceeded. The first priority of the OLA is to achieve a net environmental gain – meaning that the overall impact of any proposed changes will result in the least impact on the environment. This is in-line with the principles of sustainable development and ought to ensure that we leave a more healthy lake for our children than the one we inherited.

The OLA seeks to inform and assist both residents and Township officials to do what is most environmentally

friendly for the lake and immediate shoreline, particularly for the long-term quality of the lake. The OLA Land Use Committee encourages residents to consult with expert groups who can offer advice to residents who are considering a permit application. While not part of the Bylaw requirements, a variety of action items may be undertaken by property owners to preserve the lake quality and environment including:

- Maintaining ground cover;
- Shoreline planting;
- "Ribbon-of-life protection"; and
- Providing erosion mitigation during construction.

The Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (www.rideauvalley.on.ca) has a high level of expertise in these areas. The OLA's Land Use Committee has also accrued a wealth of expertise through experience and work with other lake associations and many "best-for-the-lake" recommendations can be offered to both local property owners, and municipalities.



Reflections, Hassard and Curtis Islands, Otty Lake

Why are the Official Plan and zoning bylaw requirements needed?

Otty Lake is environmentally sensitive because of several reasons:

- The major water source to Otty Lake is surface/groundwater, rather than river-fed;
- Due in part to shoreline development, these sources have become nutrient-rich; and

- Nutrient rich water accelerates aquatic plant (algae and other weeds) growth.

In order to protect the water quality of Otty Lake, as well as habitat for natural species within and about the lake,

the surrounding environment must be cared for in such a way as to conserve the lake quality at an acceptable level.

Re-zoning

Two applications have recently been made that substantially exceed the Official Plan & Bylaw regulations. The intensity of use that would result by the proposed buildings will have a negative impact on the water quality of our lake. An application has been made to re-zone the properties which would "exempt" them from the Official Plan & Bylaw requirements. If such re-zoning is implemented, it could threaten to accelerate the degradation of the lake and could be a precedent that could allow any property to be exempted, thus rendering the Official Plan & Bylaws ineffective. OLA has undertaken an appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board to prevent the establishment of such a precedent.

Comments

If you have comments on the above efforts that the OLA has taken on your behalf, or if you would like consultation or further information, please contact one of the following OLA representatives:

Dick Atkinson: (613)-825-5619
Karen Hunt: 264-9273
Bill Hale: 267-4426.



Corporate Status for Otty Lake Association

Don Hill

At the Otty Lake Association (OLA) Annual General Meeting in July, 2002 the OLA Board was given instructions to secure under Ontario law, incorporation of the OLA as a Not-For-Profit Corporation without share capital. On July 19, an application for such was mailed to the Ministry of Consumer and Business Services in Toronto. It is normal for several weeks to elapse prior to receiving an action for this type of application. As yet, there has been no response from the Ministry, although something should be forthcoming in the next few weeks. In our case, normal processing delays could be augmented by a backlog caused by the Ontario Public Service strike earlier this year, in addition to summer holiday schedules.

When the required letters patent are received, the applicants/first directors will organize the Corporation in order to take over operations of the Association, in

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a manner as comparable as possible to the present mandate and constitution.

Water Softeners and Your Septic System

Donald Beattie

Does your water softener affect your septic system? Should you limit the use of your softener? Should you

allow the backwash from your softener to enter your septic system?

Researchers agree that there are three possible dangers:

- The backwash liquid may overload the tank, reducing settling time for sewage;
- The sodium ions in the backwash may affect the biological process in the tank; and
- The sodium ions may clog clay soils in the leaching bed.

At present, five U.S. states prohibit softener discharge into septic tanks, and Nova Scotia discourages it (no data were obtained for other Canadian jurisdictions). However, the septic system manufacturers generally quote research at the University of Wisconsin sponsored by the Water Quality Association, which concluded:

- Most backwash cycles produce about 190 litres, which is added slowly during quiet hours, and is not significant;
- Water softener output stimulates biological activity in the tank; and
- The effect of sodium was counteracted by calcium and magnesium in the backwash.

However, some research disputes the findings concerning biological activity and effect on soil. In the absence of complete agreement among researchers, the cautious homeowner can ensure that the softener is run no more than necessary to keep the water acceptably soft and if installing a new septic system, specify a tank larger than the minimum required size.

Water and Weeds

David Code

Every resident of Otty Lake is aware of water levels and 2002 was a season to remember. The levels began fairly normally in the Spring — at 10 inches above the July 1st Datum level, on the 5th of May and declining to a normal 5" by the 9th of June (A "normal" July 1st level would be Zero.). But then, after some heavy rains in June, the lake level surged up to 13 and a half inches above Datum and it stayed high all season. The level never did get down as far as the Datum line at any time during July or August and levels were generally about a foot above normal during those months. Here are a few facts about this unusual year at Otty Lake:

- FACT:** The water levels – from mid-June to early September – were the highest on record since 1972 when records were first begun.
- FACT:** Jebb's Creek, which is the only outlet, is badly clogged with water weeds — from bank to bank in many places — and most of the time there is no current flowing.
- FACT:** Weed growth in the lake has been very noticeable everywhere in Otty Lake.

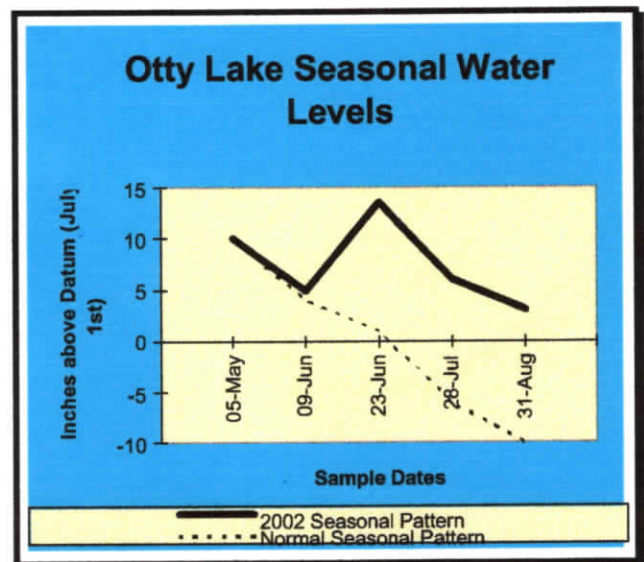
Some long term residents claim to detect a correlation between these occurrences, e.g.: persistent high water results in the leaching of mineral nutrients from the rocks and soil on shore (which are not normally reached by wave action). These nutrients then combine with other, dormant nutrients that have previously been deposited on the bottom of shallow bays. The result: an explosion of growth. It is the only explanation we have yet heard, but the Association is pursuing the matter with local agencies. The important thing is to find out how to control our problem.

We know, for example, that one of the precautions we can take is to **never, ever burn brush on the winter ice**. The charred wood will sink to the bottom and leach nutrients into the weed bed.



Oddly, the recent even-numbered years have given us high water, while the odd-numbered years have been lower. But neither the 1999 or 2001 lows have been record-setting (2001 could be described as low-normal) whereas the highs of 2000 and 2002 were very high and accompanied by heavy weed growth.

The chart below illustrates the pattern that occurred in 2002, compared with an average of "normal" patterns of lake levels during a year.



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
c/o 456 Hillcrest Avenue
Ottawa, Ontario
K2A 2M7
Email: colin.code@ottawa.com

Information Packages

Willie Newsome

Hopefully, you have all received and perused the 2002 Otty Lake Association information package. These packages are assembled for all Otty Lake residents, based on currently available information of local interest. In order to best provide appropriate information, we would like to know:

- Which brochures you find helpful?
- Which ones you think are of little or no use to you?
- Your suggestions of topics you would like to see covered in future packages.

Your input will assist in determining the contents for the 2003 information package. Please forward your response to:

Willie Newsome
RR # 3 Perth, Ontario
K7H 3C5
Tel: (613) 267-7518
Email: wnewsome@netcom.ca



Christmas Gift Ideas

How about an Otty Lake shirt for that special someone on your list? Our top quality T-shirts and sweatshirts, with the new Otty Lake logo, have sold quickly this summer. We are now putting together the final order for this year. Just fill in the form and send it to us, with your cheque, by November 11. We expect orders to be ready for pick up on or about November 30. Please note that we CANNOT mail any shirts. There will be two locations for pick up - one at the lake and one in Perth. If you have any questions, please contact:



Wendy Hassard
267-5002

Otty Lake Algae Bloom

Dick Atkinson

On September 9th a resident in the third bay of Three Bays awoke to find a bright, cloudy turquoise colour in the bay. This turquoise colour persisted until late afternoon on the 10th, when a storm front with wind and rain dissipated the colour and pushed it into the reeds at the end of the bay.



A water sample and picture were taken. The Ministry of the Environment was contacted. The sample was sent to the lab for analysis. Both the lab and the MOE concluded this was a case of a naturally occurring blue-green algae bloom. Such an algae bloom is an uncommon occurrence. This type of algae blooms occur when a combination of conditions are present including:

- a long period of exceptionally hot weather;
- little or no wind;
- still water; shallow water; and
- presence of decaying vegetation.

When the combination of these conditions is just right, the algae begins to multiply rapidly. An anaerobic (living in the absence of free oxygen) growth begins on submerged vegetation and rocks, forming strings of the algae. It reaches the aerobic stage and absorbs gasses from the decaying vegetation and floats through the water forming blue-green patches on the surface. Wave action usually disperses the algae.

There are many species of the blue-green algae that bloom in this way. It is wise to avoid direct contact as some forms can irritate the skin and may cause a rash. There is no practical way of preventing such an occurrence but the effects would be lessened by reduced weed growth.

In an earlier newsletter, there was an article on removal of aquatic vegetation from the lake and stressing the need for complete removal of the plants from the water and composting well away from the shore. This still not being

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done as a resident who was sailing on Sept. 14th reported a 20 foot (6 m) diameter mass of weeds in Otty Lake. When these weeds are left in the water the seeds and roots are dispersed over a broad area. The nutrients are returned directly to the lake water thereby compounding the problem.

During the discussions with the MOE the question of the use of aquatic herbicides arose. The MOE indicated that **AQUATIC HERBICIDES ARE NOT A VIABLE SOLUTION**. Very strict guidelines are in place for the use of aquatic herbicides. A permit is required.



The application is circulated to all relevant departments and agencies including Dept. of Fisheries. The herbicides must be applied by an expert, only once a year and prior to June 15th. We should all be concerned about such chemicals reaching groundwater, nearby wells and water intakes. If you have concerns about this please call MOE at 800-860-2195.

Please keep the OLA Board advised of your concerns:

Dick Atkinson: 613-825-5619 or
Karen Hunt: 264-9273.

Mining Claim Dispute Hearing

Karen Hunt

A Ministry of Northern Development and Mines Claim Dispute Hearing is expected to be scheduled for early November, 2002. At that time, the Provincial Mining

Recorder, Roy Spooner, will hear the case for the "the group" of seven Otty Lake north shore residents who filed disputes in March, 2002. This hearing is the first to involve one of the local Tay Valley Township (TVT) claims and the outcome may have consequence for the ones to follow. The Otty Lake residents involved are working very hard to prepare their case and are being supported by the OLA and CMAG (Citizens Mining Advisory Group).

A number of Otty Lake residents attended the CMAG Annual Meeting in Maberly on August 17 where they heard presentations from TVT Mayor Mike Mosher; John Miller, Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority; Maureen Towaij and Lorne Roden Bush for CMAG; and Mark Murphy from the Office of Ontario's Environmental Commissioner.

Maureen Towaij and Lorne Roden Bush as Chair and Vice Chair of CMAG will meet with the Policy Advisor to MNDM Minister Jim Wilson on September 10.

Of note, there has been significant media coverage regarding the local mining situation, including a discussion on CBC Radio, Ottawa and articles in both the July/August

Cottage Life Magazine and the July/August Canadian Geographic. Both of these articles are well worth the reading.

CMAG memberships now available.

If you are concerned about the impact of mining exploration and development at Otty Lake or other sites in the local area, would like to see changes made in the Mining Act and wish to be kept informed about the work of CMAG, consider purchasing a CMAG membership. The cost for an annual membership is \$5.00. Please send your money and address information (including your Email address if available) to:

CMAG
c/o Karen Hunt
194 Kerr Road
RR # 5
Perth, Ontario
K7H 3C7

CMAG continues to push for changes in the Mining Act to increase the rights for Surface Property Owners and to protect the environment. CMAG has prepared a petition which individuals can sign to indicate their support for these changes. If you have any questions, or would like to sign the petition, please contact:

Karen Hunt
Telephone: (613) 264-9273.
Email: mkhunt@perth.igs.net

Regatta News

David Code

Regatta Day — the annual Otty Lake Sailing Race — was this year staged on Saturday August 31st in light winds. The winner of the handicap trophy was Lorne Roseborough, sailing a Kestrel, with Peter Code, crew. Second place was David Code in a Laser; third was Dale Friesen with crew Erica Friesen, in a Laser II. Other sailors included Judith Robertson and Brian Robertson, Albacore; Herb Robertson, Laser; and Colin Code with crew Callum Phillips in a Laser.



Bear Warning

Gerry Leduc

Residents around Little Otty in Area 1 have commented that they heard a large animal crashing through the woods or have seen a large form in the distance. Animal scat was

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found in this area near the water. Based on conversations with an MNR bear expert, it is confirmed that there is a bear in our area.

After the recent drought, many of the natural foods that bears normally consume are in short supply. Residents in the area should take appropriate precautions.

New Name: Tay Valley Township

Prior to 1998, Otty Lake was book-ended by North Burgess and North Elmsley Townships. The amalgamations of 1998 created the Townships of Bathurst Burgess Sherbrooke (BBS) and Drummond North Elmsley (DNE).

On July 30 2002, a public meeting was held by the Township to discuss a proposed by-law to change the name of the municipality. Following this meeting, a Township Council Meeting was convened whereupon the bylaw to change the name was presented and passed.



Since 1998, there had been some discussion of a name change for the amalgamated townships of BBS. The name "Tay Valley Township" was chosen to reflect the foremost geographical feature to each of the three wards in the township. Thus the new name of the township is Tay Valley Township.



Environmental & Health Report

Lorne Gold

Each summer, the OLA studies and reports on water quality sampling. Water samples were obtained from the 32 sampling sites on 7 separate occasions.

Fecal Coliform Results

This year, the results of the fecal coliform count were quite unusual. The average count for all the lake on June 17 was 20.77 per 100 ml, which is among the highest observed. You may recall a period of very heavy rainfall at the beginning of June, which may have contributed to the flushing of impurities near the shoreline into the lake. Readings of coliform decreased gradually over the summer, likely due to the drier weather experienced. On August 26 and September 9, after a relatively long dry spell, the count was zero at all of the 32 stations. The average count for all the lake for the summer was 2.8 counts per 100 ml.

Water Clarity

Measurements taken in August indicate a relatively high water clarity, with a secchi disk reading of 15 feet on August 26, which is very good for our lake. The above

results demonstrate the importance of maintaining a well

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<http://www.ottylake.org>

vegetated shoreline to minimize the flow of impurities into the lake.

This year, Watershed Watch students accompanied Dawson Girdwood to take water samples and measurements. When all of the results of their study are compiled, the OLA will present a comparison with similar measurements taken on Otty lake in 1972 - 73. Special thanks to Bob Black for taking the students out in his boat while Dawson was on vacation. Thank you, also, to everyone who participated in the weed observation program and observations on frogs and invertebrates.

Fall Outboard Motor Maintenance

Jack Lynn

2 Stroke Motors

1. Fill gas tank & add 15 mm/gal of gas stabilizer. Run the motor for 5 minutes with boat in the water;
2. Remove carburetor air intake cover & start motor. With engine in neutral, rev to 2000 RPM & spray fogging oil or storage spray into carburetor until engine stalls;

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3. Remove spark plugs & spray "storage lubricant" into cylinders while cranking (turn propeller or pull cord);
4. Replace spark plugs, finger-tight;
5. Spray lubricating oil on all moveable linkages & fittings;
6. Change lower unit gear oil if necessary; and
7. Remove & inspect propeller for debris, grease well & replace cotter pin if necessary.

4 Stroke Motors

1. Fill gas tank & add 15 mm/gal of gas stabilizer. Run the motor for 5 minutes with boat in the water;
2. Remove spark plugs & spray "storage lubricant" into cylinders while cranking (turn propeller or pull cord);
3. Replace spark plugs, finger-tight;
4. Spray lubricating oil on all moveable linkages & fittings;
5. Drain crankcase oil, replace oil and filter;
6. Remove gas line filter, clean & reinstall;
7. Remove battery & store in a cool dry place; and
8. Change lower unit gear oil if necessary.
9. Remove & inspect propeller for debris, grease well & replace cotter pin if necessary.

Still 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 **by November 11, 2002** to:

58 Garden Avenue
Pert h, Ontario
K7H 3L8



Please include your:

Name	
Address	
Telephone #	
Email	