

CAPTAIN OTTY'S LOG

Newsletter of the Otty Lake Association

Spring 2001

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Brian Perkin

Greetings for Spring 2001! After a very long and snowy winter we're finally getting closer to warmer weather and another boating season. And as you enjoy your summertime cruises this year, don't be surprised to see the OPP marine unit keeping a watchful eye on Otty. They do routine patrols on the lake, checking boaters and issuing fines. For the unprepared, it could cost you - and not for just the most obvious infractions like drinking while operating a boat.

In recent newsletters, we've outlined some of the new Small Vessel Regulations that have come into effect. The Federation of Ontario Cottagers Association (FOCA) recently compiled a list of fines that boaters are subject to under these new rules. You can now be ticketed on the water in the same way offences are issued under the Criminal Code and the fines can be quite hefty.

For instance, you can be charged \$250 for operating a vessel in a careless manner. A fine of \$125 is issued for speeding in excess of 10 km/h within 30 metres (100 feet) from shore, unless you are towing a water skier or moving away from shore on a perpendicular path. (The maximum fine is \$500 or six months imprisonment.)

Don't have enough Canadian Coast Guard approved life jackets for everyone on board? The fine is \$245. An insufficient number of oars or paddles, could cost you \$150. If you don't have any paddle or an anchor, it's \$125. No buoyant heaving line? That's another \$125. You could also be ticketed in excess of \$500 for the amount of minimum safety equipment not on board, including things like lights, horns, fire extinguishers, etc.

Civilians themselves can also report offenders. Ensure you provide police with the date, time, location of any incident and the description of boat involved, as well as any witnesses.

For a complete list of fines and regulations, contact the Canadian Coast Guard at 1-800-267-6687 or www.ccg-qcc.gc.ca. Know the rules, keep yourself safe and save the cash this summer!

OLA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday July 14, 2001

Perth Library - Upstairs Hall - 9:30am
Guest Speaker - Carol Brandum - Coordinator of the Lanark & Leeds Green Community.

LAND USE PLANNING

Tom Foulkes

Since the municipal elections last November, there has been minimal contact with both councils. With one exception (Bishop's Way), we are not aware of any applications for severances, site plans or variances which have any impact on Otty Lake. This suggests that no conversions, encroachments or potential environmental damaging activities are taking place.

The task of a municipal councillor is a lot more complex than it was a few years ago. The days of monthly meetings dealing with local matters at minimal pay are long past. Downloading and amalgamation have seen to that. We wish the two Otty Lake residents who are members of BBS Council every success in their new endeavours. BBS appears to be dominated by personnel from Bathurst which does not have our preponderance of lakes. Therefore issues of interest to lake people may not have the same priority in this new regime.

The Official Plan has been proclaimed. One hears that there will be activity on the ByLaw front. The executive has been asked to initiate dialogue on a regular basis with Nancy Kenyon and Brian Campbell, our elected ward councillors.

Don Hill in particular continues to seek information from Drummond/North Elmsley. Their Official Plan has been in progress for more than two years. The second draft has yet to be presented for review. One hopes that progress will be made shortly. Again, this Council faces a number of burning issues such as funding, the equitable share of costs for services rendered on a regional basis, and the delivery of services at an affordable cost.

Official Plans lead to Bylaws which are the means to regulate, protect, preserve and develop in ways that enhance our current and future life styles and those of future generations.

WANTED: Counsellor for area 6A. Great opportunities to meet and chat with neighbours. Call **Karen Hunt** at 264-9273 or mkhunt@perth.igs.net

15 LOONS A YEAR

As a member of the Otty Lake Association, what do you get for your \$15 a year?

You get a group of lake volunteers who:

- maintain one of the best long-term (30 years!) water testing programs in the country.
- present your interests to both local township councils and attend watershed, conservation and FOCA meetings on your behalf
- take on Hydro One to win rate breaks for some 500 Otty Lake area residents averaging \$14 a month
- gather gads of useful conservation info on everything from septic to soaps and recruit friendly Counselors to walk your road and deliver it to you in person.
- keep an eye on the health of the loons, the fish and the wildlife in Otty.
- mediate concerns between residents on waterfront issues to protect the lake and keep the peace between neighbours.
- attend meetings, take minutes, write letters, collect fees, keep membership records, prepare statements, pay bills, draw maps, put up signs, write newsletters and print, fold & stuff close to 1000 membership mailings a year.

We've got our tree-huggers, dock-lovers, boaters and more - and they're all volunteering their time for the good of the lake! For \$15 a year, you can't beat it!

TAY RIVER WATERSHED PLAN

The draft of the Tay Watershed Plan is expected in June. The public visioning exercise held last October identified five main goals: water quality, surface & ground water quantity, habitat protection, communication and watershed management. The group is now attaching actions to the goals and objectives.

LIVING BY THE WATER *Lorne Gold*

Now that summer is almost here, we are looking forward to relaxation and recreation by the lake. We are fortunate to have the quality of water and surroundings that we enjoy at Otty Lake. This is something we should not take for granted as it requires the interest and support of all to maintain and enhance the quality of the lake and its surroundings.

During the past few months, two programs have been developed that will offer property owners information and help on minimizing the possible negative effects of their activities on the health of the lake and on the environmental, economic and social value of our lake shore community. One is the "Living by Water" program that was initiated in British Columbia and is now spreading as a national initiative. The Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) manages this program in Ontario on behalf of Conservation Ontario and other partners. Rebecca Maertons has been appointed as coordinator. She expects to have information available this summer on how to carry out an environmental assessment of lakeshore property and simple actions that can be taken to make it more environmentally friendly. A user friendly handbook is to be ready by next summer. More information on this program may be obtained from the *Landowner Resource Centre* in Manotick.

The second program is the **Watershed Watch**, initiated by the Farren Lake Association with the support of RVCA, BBS Township and the Alliance of Rideau Lakes Associations. This is an intensive monitoring program for the 35 lakes in the Township. The water quality indicators to be measured are bacteria (e-coli), total phosphorous, nitrogen, suspended solids and dissolved oxygen and temperature profiles. There will be some biological observations as well. Seven lakes are to be studied each year. The objective of the program is to establish baseline data for the study of trends in water quality for the Township lakes.

The Otty Lake Association has an impressive record of lake water quality extending back over 30 years. It is the most comprehensive records for lakes in the Township. Dissolved oxygen levels, temperature profiles and total phosphorous were measured in the early 1970s, along with other quality indicators. Fecal counts have been measured at 32 sites around the lake for 28 years. Total phosphorous measurements were made for the past 3 years at the same time as the water samples obtained for the fecal count determinations and measurements made of the water clarity using the secchi disc.

Our plan for the summer is to continue the measurements of fecal count and water clarity. We hope to participate in the Farren Lake initiative soon so as to determine possible changes or trends in dissolved oxygen levels and other water quality indicators for Otty Lake.

Implementing the simple actions recommended by the Living by Water program is a positive investment all of us can make in the maintenance and enhancement of the quality of our lake and its surroundings.

SHRUB GARDENS FOR WILDLIFE

Amy Pokorny

How about planting bush gardens or borders instead of the usual perennials that die back every fall? Instead of a work intensive hedge of pruned white cedar, privet, currant or any other thick-growing shrub, have unshorn, flowering or cone-bearing ones that also provide food and shelter for wildlife. Such material could be planned much like a flower bed, with reference to heights, shapes, shade and times of bloom. As far as possible, try to make much of this around a deck or within view from within the house.

Interplant the first year with ground cover or bulky annuals, such as cleome (spider plant). This is to allow for expanding growth of shrubs that have a naturally rotund shape. It's usually more attractive to have clumps of one specimen so as to have noticeable masses of bloom at intervals of both space and time. If cramped for space, a cluster of white cedar in a rear corner is most attractive. Instead of a hedge along the side of the yard, put up a wire fence with vines which feed the birds (Virginia creeper, grapevine or Bittersweet (with Bittersweet, get a male and a female plant).

Some attractive shrubs that produce flowers in the spring and berries later are Serviceberry (Shadbush or Amelanchier), Viburnum, Cherries, Crabapples, Sumac, Currants, Elderberry (red and black).

Material grown in your own area will thrive better than that imported. Look for a recent publications Shrubs and Trees of Ontario. The G Howard Ferguson Forest Station in Kemptville has, among others, three species of very popular shrubs: High Bush Cranberry, Nannyberry and Rosier Dogwood.

CONFUSED ABOUT E-COLI

Bill Schriever

I was certainly confused when I heard about the deaths in Walkerton because I knew that e-coli bacteria live harmlessly in the intestines of people, cattle and other animals. I also knew that for water quality evaluation of cottage lakes, we had the choice of having the water samples tested either for fecal coliform OR e-coli. So why these sudden deaths in Walkerton?

The *World Book Encyclopedia* states that e-coli are the most extensively studied bacteria in the history of science. There are hundreds of different strains of these bacteria, the full name of which is *Escherichia coli*. One strain called e-coli 0157:H7 causes serious illness, sometimes fatal. The symptoms in humans are abdominal cramps, water diarrhea and bleeding in the intestines.

This strain lives in a small percentage of cattle but do not make them sick. Infections in humans from this strain may come from eating undercooked contaminated ground beef. And now we know that these bacteria can also come from polluted wells, as was the case in Walkerton where the water was contaminated by manure and not disinfected by a properly functioning chlorination unit.

SEPTIC SYSTEMS.

A Guide to Operating and Maintaining Your Septic Systems, Ontario Govt website www.obc.mah.gov.on.ca
Their booklet is no longer available.

THE FARMER COTTAGES

From a letter to Bob Wylie from Margaret (Farmer) McGregor, adding her name to those in the picture (*In Captain Ott's Log, October 2000*) still resident at Otty Lake:

"That picture brings back many memories of a time when we would walk barefooted along the shoreline path, uninterrupted by fences from our place to the farm. 1942 was wartime and not every one owned a car, let alone had extra gas to go to town for a church service, so on special occasions when your dad was available, we enjoyed church in the wild woods or on Sunday evenings in the log cabin..."

...I could add a few more names -

Front row: #5 Brian Farmer; #6 Katie Miller.

Back row: #3 Christine Farmer; #9 Don Farmer; #10 Margaret Farmer."

THE RIDEAU CANOE CLASSIC July 7

Starting at 12 noon at Buritt's Rapids, a 9.75 km event created to remind you of the joy of messing around in boats. Eleven categories provide ample opportunity for anyone to participate. Must have approved safety equipment. Registration fee: \$12 per paddler. Canadian Recreational Canoeing Association, PO Box 398, Merrickville K0G1N0. Info at 613-269-2910 info@crca.ca www.crc.ca

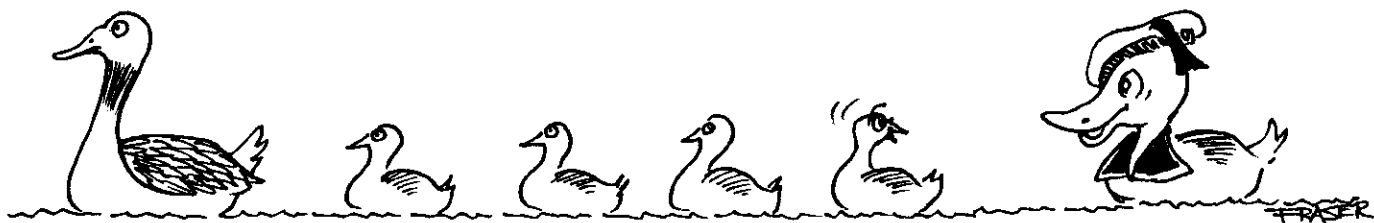
Celebrate Your Heritage!

The Rideau

in the Canadian Heritage Rivers System

Centennial Park, Smiths Falls

Saturday, May 19 at 11 AM



MEMBERSHIP

Dick Atkinson

On the reverse of the Newsletter envelope is a label that shows year, name & lake address information for the upcoming **Otty Lake Map**. It is important that this information exactly matches your signpost number and Street/Road name. Show any changes in the tear-off on the last page of the Newsletter.

If an addressed envelope is enclosed with the Newsletter, it indicates that your year 2001 OLA fee has not been received. **Please use this envelope to send a cheque for \$15 payable to the Otty Lake Association.** On receipt of your fee, your next Newsletter mailing label will be updated to show "2001". Please advise of any change of address information in the tear-off.

Email addresses will enable the Association to electronically send reports and minutes to residents. Please include your email address on the tear-off, or email the changes and other information to me at atkinson@sympatico.ca

Information in the DataBase is confidential and used only by the Otty Lake Association. I would be pleased to answer questions or provide information at the above email or at 613 825 5619.

BETTER BUT LESS LAWN

Amy Pokorny

If you have too much lawn to mow, lessen the job by rounding corners of flower beds or hedges and using ground covers on steep slopes and shallow roadside ditches. Ground covers that are low and can take a little traffic are Ajuga (bugleweed), some clovers, dwarf thyme and some sedums. For a ditch, daylily is attractive and capable of slowly conquering the grass. Avoid mowing close to young trees and injuring them by having a patch of lily-of-the-valley around their base. If you allow the lawn to grow two-three inches high, you'll have a few less mowings. The taller the grass, the more you discourage and smother weed seeds from growing. Plan your benches, fountains, swings and patios to one side. Early in the season, apply one slow-release application of a produced-in-Canada liquid fertilizer mixture (bone meal with kelp or blood meal)

LANDOWNERS RESOURCE CENTRE

5524 Dickinson St, Manotick

1-888-571-4636

The centre is involved in a **Living By Water** project.

Check out www.livingbywater.ca

Extension Booklets:

Protecting Fish Habitat from Sediment (LRC 75)
Successful Transplanting of Woodland Vegetation for Plant
Salvage or Habitat Restoration Projects (LRC 76)
Buffers Protect the Environment (LRC 77)

Samples of these will be available to peruse at the AGM. A complete LRC Product Line Catalogue will be included in the packages delivered by the OLA Area Counselors.

The LRC is working on a waterfront living handbook. Will keep OLA members posted. (Karen Hunt).

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☐ My Email Address is@.....

Year 2001 \$15 Fee Request

☐ Mailing Label OK, or

☐ Map Name & Civic Address OK, or

☐ Please change to:

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