

# Otty Lake Newsletter

April 1992

## View from the Bay

There were two brave robins who took their spring messenger job seriously by coming to the bird feeder on March 21st. But the snow storms since then were a frosty reminder that the winter of '91-'92 wasn't over yet. But it's been fun. Skating (without the drag of shovelling) over great expanses of Otty Lake was possible all through January and well into February. So, who needs the Rideau Canal?

## President's Report

by Lorne Gold

This is my first report to you as President of the Otty Lake Assoc. Since taking on the position last fall, I have spent considerable time getting up to speed with a very active Executive Committee.

As part of my education process, I decided to review the Assoc's records. This was easier said than done, as there is no central repository. Therefore, I am making this plea - if you have been involved with the Assoc in the past, and have records, please let me know. I would be pleased to take them off your hands.

One of the major activities of our Assoc is to monitor the lake's health. Water quality measurements have been taken since about 1972. We do not have a complete record of these measurements. Plus, you may have records of lake levels, or know of someone who does. We wish to summarize this information so that we can all have a better understanding of Otty Lk and the changes that it experiences from year to year. You can forward this information either directly to me

or through your councillor.

With summer fast approaching, I am also looking to the future of our lake. Several things are happening so that we can continue to enjoy it. These include a study of the Rideau Lakes System Carrying Capacities and Shoreline Development by the RVCA; an updating of the Official Plan by N. Burgess; and work of the Commission on Planning Development Reform in Ontario, which includes a working group concerned with "Cottage Country". Your Executive is following these activities closely and will keep you informed of developments.

Are you interested in wildlife, fish, birds, the natural environment of our lake? Your Assoc would like to hear about your interests, about your concerns. Let us know. Have a good summer.

## Fire Routes

by Amy Pokorny

Amy Pokorny (267-1626), Eddy Edmundson (264-0395) and volunteers (we need you!) will be completing the fire route map before Victoria Day. Volunteers would drive around their area with Eddy (the mapmaker) to explain which houses or cottages belong to whom. The Fire Dept will not begin posting routes until we give them a complete map of side roads and listing of residents with town addresses, where necessary. Areas 2, 5, 6 and 8 are still incomplete.

Assuming we meet our deadline, we need sturdy volunteers to work with the firemen to plant the posts during the May Weekend (May 16-18).

### Purple Loosestrife - the Beautiful Killer

Purple loosestrife (*lythrum salicaria*) is a hardy flowering plant that was accidentally introduced to North American from Europe in the 1800's. Since then, the plant has made a slow, relentless invasion and can now be found all across Canada.

Nothing hurts it. Purple loosestrife takes over ponds, beaches, marshes, stream banks, farm dugouts and ditches. It can even take over effluent purification ponds! Any shallow water body that can support life is susceptible to infestation and domination by the weed. Any water body that receives even one seed may eventually become totally choked out by it.

Once a wetland is overrun with loosestrife, the natural habitat is lost and the productivity of native plant and animal communities severely reduced. The loss of wildlife habitat caused by this plant scourge is enormous.

Each plant can produce up to 2.7 million seeds in one season. Seeds are carried far and wide by birds, animals, water or the wind and can remain viable for many years. Once the seed touches the mud, it germinates quickly and grows faster than just about any other Canadian wetland species.

There is no Canadian bird, animal or fish that depends on any part of this plant. Control measures such as burning, mowing and flooding have met with little success. Research for environmentally acceptable control measures is currently underway in Canada and the U.S., but the prospects are not good for an immediate solution. No biological controls have been

approved, nor are there any chemicals registered in Canada for purple loosestrife eradication.

For now, we can all help stop the spread by pulling and burning any plant, root and seed material found in local plantings and gardens. Do it. This plant is a killer.

For more information, contact Ducks Unlimited, the Canadian Wildlife Service or the Canadian Wildlife Federation.

### Camping

by John Oatway

A number of years ago, several Crown Islands (property of the Province of Ontario) on Otty Lk were posted "no camping" by MNR with the co-operation of your Assoc. The purpose of the posting was to protect certain islands from further degradation.

The signs have long since disappeared and, with the permission and assistance of MNR, your Assoc will replace them this spring on what are considered sensitive areas. These include the Three Sisters, Loon and Hazard Islands.

Most camping on these islands has been by Otty Lk cottagers, or their guests, and your co-operation is needed to protect them.

We also remind you that most of the islands on the lake are privately owned. Please do not use them without the owner's permission.

### Go Fish!

by Wally Robins

Otty Lake is known as an excellent bass fishery with an abundant population of both large mouth and

small mouth bass. Trophy size fish of six pounds or more have been recorded by MNR netting surveys.

But Otty's sport fishery is a fragile resource. Anglers in particular have a key responsibility to preserve the lake's game fish population. The following suggestions apply to anyone who fishes in Otty Lake, whether they are a seasoned pro or an occasional angler.

- . Practise catch & release
- . Handle the fish you intend to release with TLC
- . Remove extra hooks from lures
- . Report poachers
- . Teach others to respect our game fish resources

**What is an Otty Lk Councillor?**  
by Amy Pokorny

They are lovers of Otty whose purpose is to visit you and explain what is happening around Otty and ask about any problems. They distribute maps and informational material, as well as collect Assoc memberships. For our newsletter, the fire and police, they keep current lists of residents' lake location, address(es) and phone number(s) in their area. If you would like to be a councillor in your area, please call me at 267-1626, or Nancy Kenyon at 235-4286 (Ottawa).

*(Note: If your councillor did not get this information from you last year, please, please! send it in to us before we get the fire routes posted later this spring.)*

**Comings & Goings**

On December 29th, 1991, Bruce McAusland, co-chairman of the Otty Lake Assoc (1990-91), passed away

after a courageous battle with cancer.

Bruce brought his considerable talents and energies to the Assoc and we recognized this with a donation to the Bruce McAusland Education Fund.

We extend our sympathies to his wife, Joyce, and family. We all miss him.

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Welcome to new councillors Barbara Griffith (Area 6C), John Atkinson (Area 1B) and Ruth Porter (mid Area 9).

Chris Edmundson (264-0395) has taken over the Loon Watch from Art Eastham and Bob Waldeck has taken over shoreline planting and MAPLE from Chris and Bob Thompson. Thanks to all for caring about Otty Lake.

**Membership Report**  
by Judy Burns, Membership Secty

There has been an increase of 33 members this year. This is due to the conscientious work of all the councillors. Thank you. To have a 86% membership shows that you support your lake and Assoc.

Our last mailing saw 17 letters returned for incorrect addresses. Please let us know when you move.

As a matter of note, there are now 114 permanent homes on Otty Lk.

**No. of Cottagers:**  
1991 - 408      1990 - 401

**Paid Members:**  
1991 - 352      1990 - 319

**% Paid:**  
1991 - 86%      1990 - 81%



**Treasurer's Report Jan1 - Dec31 '91**  
by John Burns, Treasurer

Assets (Dec 31 '90)	\$5,134.22
Revenue	\$9,164.61
Expenses	
Stationery & Printing	\$ 909.04
Postage	498.01
Water Testing (D.Girdwood)	600.00
Shoreline Planting	65.88
Shoal Marking (N.Hull)	98.87
Honorarium (J.Eastham)	150.00
(computer mailing lists)	
Memberships FOCA (\$155)	
MAPLE (\$ 50)	205.00
Advertising	69.19
Jebb Creek Maintenance	861.25
(D.Girdwood, beavers, etc)	
Misc. (mostly GST)	141.76
TOTAL	\$3,599.00
BALANCE	\$5,565.61+
Assets (Dec 31 '91)	\$5,565.61
Net Gain	\$ 431.29

**New OPP Phone#**

Emergencies: 1-800-267-8919  
Information only: 267-2626  
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BBDE Fire 267-2030

**Fair Market Assessment**

Many of you have already received tax notices for this year and may have yet to recover from the shock. Lanark County Council adopted the 1988 market value as the basis for the new tax calculations, retroactive to Jan'92. N. Burgess and N. Elmsley both voted against this move, albeit unsuccessfully. What this will mean in taxes will not be known until the mill rate is set and we receive our second tax bill. Many of us can expect our taxes to increase by 30%. Lakefront properties have had a larger increase in value in the last 15 years than non-lakefront residential and rural properties.

You can challenge your assessed value by proving it is too high. The best proof is the amount paid for properties in your area recently. Residents of N.Burgess have until May 19th to submit an appeal.

Taxes will be discussed at the ne . Executive meeting. If you have concerns, let your councillor know.

**Otty Lake Association AGM**

Circle Saturday, July 11th at 10am for the Otty Lake Assoc AGM. Location: upstairs at the Perth Public Library.

**1992 Otty Lake Association Membership Application**

Name.....  
Address.....  
Town/City ..... Province ..... Code .....  
Telephone (Cottage)..... Home .....  
Area (see lake map).....

Fees for 1992 are \$10 and are due January 1st. Please make cheque payable to the Otty Lake Association, R.R. #3, Perth, Ontario, K7H 3C5.

YOUR COUNSELLORS FOR 1992

<u>AREA</u>	<u>COUNSELLORS</u>	<u>COTTAGERS SERVICED</u>	<u>TEL. NO.</u>
1.A.	JOHN AITKEN	from CARLSON to LAU	Ottawa 521-8543 Otty L.267-5745
B.	JOHN ATKINSON	from SHORTT to CALOIA	Ottawa 825-5619 Otty L.267-4587
	MCLAREN LAKE	from WILLIAMS to MCLEISH	
2.A.	STAN MITCHELL	from KENNY to LORD	Otty L.267-6333
3.A.	PAUL FLEMING	from FLEMING to STEWART	Toronto 439-2692 Otty L.267-2244
B.	TOM FOULKES	from FOULKES to TULLY plus 4 ISLANDS	Ottawa 820-4796 Otty L.267-6251
4.A.	HILDA BAILEY	from MAST to CAMPBELL	Perth 267-6940 Otty L.267-7720
B.	BERNICE WANLESS	from CARMICHAEL to HARRIS	Otty L.267-4690
5.A.	MARY GAFFNEY	from MCBEATH to HART	Otty L.267-6297
B.	DAVE ONION	from PENNETT to CALDWELL	Otty L.267-3005
C.	BOB FERGUSON	from NORWOOD to BUTTERWORTH	Ottawa 828-9610 Otty L.267-6395
6.A.	DAVE OLIVER	from HENDERSON to FERGUSON	Otty L.267-1247
B.	LISE PESKETT	from ABBOTT to ANDERSON	Otty L.267-3655
C.	BARBARA GRIFFITH	from LAMARCHE to RUCH	Ottawa 235-5300 Otty L.267-4886
7.A.	CHRIS THOMPSON	from KERR to CONLON	Otty L.267-3050
B.	BRUCE BRIGNELL	from PARKS to NUTTALL	Ottawa 592-5827
8.A.	SUSAN HENDERSON	from DAROU to BROWN	Ottawa 592-4006
B.	ROBERT NICHOLS	from WRIGHT to HUNT	Otty L.267-2808
C.	MAYME MAHONEY	from O'CONNOR to WILSON	Hastings 696-2920
D.	MAPLE GLEN		
9.A.	BRIAN CAMPBELL	from CAMP SHOMRIA to ALLISON	Otty L.267-4745
B.	RUTH PORTER	from MOTT, C.R. to WILLIAMS	Otty L.267-1626
C.	T. NEWSOME	from TROMBLEY to LAMPMAN	Ottawa 824-5159 Otty L.267-7518
D.	BURGESS WOODS		

Would you please make sure your Counsellor has your correct telephone numbers for both your Home and Cottage and your correct mailing address.

If you are uncertain as to which Area your cottage is situated in, you will find on your mailing label in the upper left corner your Area Number.

Your Counsellors are there to help you with answers regarding the Lake, its use and its maintenance and also to collect your fees if you have not paid them.

Have a wonderful summer!

Judy Burns, Memberships