

Otty Lake Newsletter

November 1992

View From The Bay

Well, summer had barely been put out of its misery before we saw the first snow. Yr. ed. finally gave up on Otty Lk and went to Iceland to find water warm enough to swim in. While their air temperature isn't much better than ours was this summer, at least their springs are hot. For those who are keen to get skating, you shouldn't have to wait much longer: Doctor's Lake had a skim of ice by November 7th.

President's Report

by Lorne Gold

All the leaves have gone, as have the months that masqueraded as summer this year. Looking back, two things stand out - a swim in the lake was always refreshing and you never had to worry about high levels of ultra-violet radiation.

Our water quality monitoring program was conducted successfully, even though the MOH dropped its free sample testing program and we had to use a private lab. This program indicates the average health of the lake. Special thanks go out to Dr John Hay, and his Health & Science Committee, for managing this work and for compiling and analysing all past water quality test results. It is a continuing challenge for us to adopt life styles that will minimize the negative impact we have on Otty Lake.

To help improve our environment, we are participating in the Environmental Youth Corp program next summer. Details are elsewhere and I urge you to participate. It is for all our benefit.

The last area maps needed for the Fire Route Project were completed this fall. We fully expect the signs to be made this winter and we will need help next spring to erect them. The signs will also serve police and ambulance.

If you are interested in helping out in any of these projects, call a member of the executive.

Environmental Youth Corps Project

by John Hay

At the AGM, the Assn voted to submit an application to N.Burgess for an Environmental Youth Corps on Otty Lk for summer '93. The project's primary objectives are to: a) "conduct an inventory of the private sewage disposal systems of dwellings bordering that part of Otty lake that lies within the Township of North Burgess"; b) provide an advisory service to improve awareness of proper sewage system maintenance; c) encourage owners with seriously inadequate systems to consider updating their systems and; d) identify areas where there are clear indications of environmental contamination or violation of public health law.

Secondary objectives are to: a) provide shoreline planting advice as requested; b) determine the percentage of residents who compost household biodegradable waste and to encourage those who do not to begin and; d) alert property owners with boat launches of the zebra mussel threat.

The consent of cottagers to have their septic systems inspected will, of course, be required and forms will be developed for this

purpose. OLA president, Lorne Gold, will be the contact person with N.Burgess. It is hoped that a similar arrangement will also be made with N.Elmsley.

Water Quality & Aquatic Plants

by John Hay

A total of 96 samples were taken this summer from 32 stations on the lake. Bacterial samples were tested for faecal coliform bacilli by the firm of Bondar & Clegg. Bill Schriever has reviewed the test results and feels, in summary, that the results look a little better than in the past five years. The number of faecal coliform counts of 10 or more was 20 this year, or 20.8 per 100 samples. The four year average of these counts has dropped from 29.2 to 28.5. Bill cautions against reading too much into these results in view of variable long-term fluctuations. The readings this year were higher in July and at the north end of the lake.

Water clarity, as measured by the secchi disc, was improved in '92, except during the early summer with the high season pollen counts.

Chlorophyll tests are done by the MOE. This summer's results have not yet been finalized.

In July, Otty Lk was visited by Don Galloway of MOE. On a boat tour with several members of the OLA, Mr Galloway collected a number of aquatic plant samples with a view to reporting on the state of plant growth in the lake. The results of his study will be most interesting.

Cottages & Taxes

Royal Trust, with the assistance and co-operation of FOCA, has produced an information booklet

entitled, "The Cottage - Keeping it in the Family and Away from the Taxman". This booklet is available free by writing to: Royal Trust, 115 Thorncliffe Park Dr, Toronto, M4H 1M1, Attn: Cottage Succession Booklet.

N.Burgess Official Plan Re-Negotiated

by David E. Code

An Official Plan is a broad statement of principles, as well as a few specific guidelines, that govern development within a municipality. It must be reviewed every five years. The N.Burgess OP of 1985 includes an Otty Lk Secondary Plan, and the entire document was reviewed in 1990 but given a severe re-draft in 1992.

During the summer, your Land Use Committee held a number of meetings with the Twosp Council and also with similar committees from Rideau, Black, Pike, Adam and Long Lakes which culminated in two meetings with Council in Sept and Oct. The result of this effort is promising for preservation of the environment and the quality of life on our lakes. There was very close agreement among all parties and the new OP will include the following, some of which (*) are already in the present Otty Lk Secondary Plan but, have not so far applied to the other lakes:

- * 30m min setback for new or renewed sewage systems
- . 30m setback for all new structures
- . 175' min shoreline for all new lots
- * 0.4 hectare min new lot size
- * backlots to be discouraged, but where approved, must contain min 13m of user-in-common shoreline per lot
- * non-conforming lots should, in

the long run, cease to exist
 * consents (land severance applications) on the same lot only permitted after a 3yr cooling period (v. 5yr or 0yr)

The next step is to translate these provisions into more detailed Zoning By-laws, a process in which the OLA President and Land Use Committee have offered to assist. The process will also be repeated soon with N.Elmsley with, we hope, equally amicable results.

Membership Report

by Judy Burns

I would like to thank all those who sent in their fees for 1992, or who paid their Councillor during their summer visits. We are down about 40 memberships over last year and I am sure this is just an oversight. So, if you are wondering if you are one of the defaulters, just look at the top of your newsletter and if there is a red dot, you have forgotten to pay your fees for 1992.

Fees are \$10. a year and the membership runs from Jan 1st to Dec 31st. Please make your cheque payable to the Otty Lk Association and send it to R.R. #3, Perth, K7H 3C5. If you have further questions about this matter, please do not hesitate to call me at 267-1834. We have decided not to send out receipts immediately, unless requested, but instead include them in the next newsletter.

MAPLE

by Bob Waldeck

Anyone requiring information on shore-line planting, please contact Bob Waldeck at 267-2143, after 6pm.

This fall's cutting day took place on Oct 24th at the Christie Lk

Boys' & Girls' Camp. Mr Jack Cook, of the Upper Rideau Lk Assn, has submitted a letter to the OLA asking us to send letters to various ministries and agencies requesting funding for MAPLE.

MAPLE is one of ten participants chosen as part of the E.Ont Model Forest Project.

Comings & Goings

As in every organization, there are many people who work quietly behind the scenes to make sure that all programs run smoothly. The Assn would like to thank the following who have served us well for the past few years and welcome those who are stepping in to fill their shoes:

. Jennifer Eastham who set up our computerized mailing list for the past few years. This task has been taken over by newsletter editor, Susan Code.

. Chris Thompson, who efficiently organized the shoreline planting bees with MAPLE, has been ably relieved by Bob Waldeck.

. Art Eastham, who was our Loon Reporter, has passed over responsibility for the Loon Survey to Chris Edmundson.

Otty Lake AGM - 11 July 1992

The AGM of the OLA was held at the Perth Public Library. More than 100 residents were there to receive reports from the executive and welcome special guests Cst. Al Gainsforth, of the Perth OPP; Cliff Craig, of the RVCA and; Reeves John P. McParland, from N.Burgess, and Laurie Duncan, from N.Elmsley.

Dr Al Hoffman, of OLA, and Cliff Craig, of RVCA, conducted a discussion of the newly released Michalski Report. In May 1990, the RVCA contracted a study of 59 lakes in the Rideau R. basin above Poonamalie to estimate the amount of future development these lakes could withstand in respect to lake trophic state, boating, shoreline development and sport fishing.

Reports were received from executive members and the following lists the highlights of the previous year's accomplishments:

- . Kim Barrock, a student at Queen's and resident of BurgessWood, answered questions afterwards on her study of the interactions between lake associations and the surrounding communities
- . *No zebra mussels have yet been identified on Otty Lk*
- . Lake levels are regulated at Jebb's Creek by Dawson Girdwood and Carson Thompson
- . *Gerry Greenslade, of N. Burgess Council, and Laurie Duncan, of N. Elmsley Council, spoke on the new tax levy in Lanark County based on 1988 market value assessment which resulted in much discussion.*
- . Norm Hull presented a prototype for speed markers and shoal markers.

Enhancing Habitat for Wild Birds from OFAH

Wildlife habitat consists of four primary elements - food, cover, water and space.

Food for wild birds can be enhanced by planting berry and nut producing trees and shrubs. Birds are selective in their food preferences, so some species of birds benefit from specific trees or shrub plantings, while others do not. Birds that consume commercial

grains do not benefit from well planned tree and shrub planting. In fact, many of the birds you can attract to your property eat primarily insects and weeds.

Cover for wild birds can be provided in habitat enhancement projects by planting specific conifers, bushy shrubs and by maintaining grassed buffers for ground-nesting birds.

Nesting shelters or platforms for songbirds, upland game, raptors and waterfowl can be provided by nesting boxes and platforms. Plans for such structures are available from MNR, the Canadian Wildlife Service and the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters.

When ploughing grassed waterways and buffers, do so after Aug 1st. By this time, ground nesting birds and their young are mobile, and not susceptible to tramping.

Water is provided for wildlife by farm ponds, streams and through the stewardship of our valuable wetlands.

Space for wildlife habitat enhancement can be provided by the "idle spots" on farms. Hedgerows, buffer strips, erodible slopes and unproductive fields are excellent places for tree and shrub planting. By doing so, we create space for our wildlife, reduce soil erosion and help make our environment a healthier place.

For more information on wildlife habitat enhancement on agricultural lands, contact the Wildlife Habitat Facilitator, OFAH, Box 28, Peterborough, Ontario, K9J 6Y5. Or call (705) 748-6324.

Land Use ~~Land Use~~ extend?

1992-93 Otty Lake Assoc Executive

Pres - Lorne Gold
P-Pres Judy Burns
VP Eddie Edmundson
Sec Rhoda Atkinson
Treas John Burns
Health - John Hay
Unit/Sc
Co-ord Amy Pokorny
Couns. - Nancy Kenyon
Newslttr Susan Code
Land Use/ David Code
Legal
MemberSHIP, Judy Burns
MAPLE Bob Waldeck
Conservation Hugh Henderson
Map - Rex Boyd
FOCA Jane Robertson
Directors at Large:
Tom Foulkes
Bernice Wanless
Walter Robbins
Bob Waldeck
John Oatway
Norm Hull
Armand Thompson
Kevin Nichols

OttyLk	267-7657	- 91	Land
Ottawa	733-2449		
Perth	267-1834	90	✓
OttyLk	267-3063	91	
OttyLk	264-0395	91	
OttyLk	267-4587	91	
Nepean	825-5619		
Perth	267-1834	90	✓
OttyLk	267-3063	90	✓
OttyLk	267-2826	90	✓
Stittsville	831-0940	90	✓
OttyLk	267-1626	90	✓
Ottawa(819)	994-1211	90	no Dict A?
OttyLk	267-5801		
Perth	267-2595	- 90	✓ Land
OttyLk	267-1399	90	✓ Land
Ottawa	722-0339	90	✓
OttyLk	267-5053	90	✓
Perth	267-1834		
OttyLk	267-3063	91	
Perth	267-3050	91	
OttyLk	267-2143	91	
OttyLk	267-4935	91	
Ottawa	744-5279	91	
OttyLk	267-2701	90	- ?
Toronto	367-2065		
Ottawa	820-4796	- 90	✓? Land
OttyLk	267-6251	90	✓
OttyLk	267-4690	91	
Ottawa	523-0471	91	✓
OttyLk	267-2143	91	
OttyLk	267-4764	91	
Smiths Falls	283-0917		
Ottawa	741-9822	- 90	- ? Land
OttyLk	267-1341	92	
OttyLk	267-4518	92	
OttyLk	267-2640		
Kanata	596-2240		

Steward

Otty Lake Association Membership Application

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

Fees are \$10. Please make cheque payable to the Otty Lake Association and mail to the Association at R.R. #3, Perth, Ontario, K7H 3C5.