

Otty Lake Newsletter

July 1994

View from the Bay

It's hammock time. As I lie here, pretending to read improving literature, I'm watching mama robin brood over her second family of the summer. The hummingbirds zoom from feeder to impatiens, impatient too if we forget to refill the former and water the latter. As I nod off, I think that Otty Lk. is the absolutely best place to be in July ... August ... September ...

The New Official Plan & Zoning By-Laws - by Dave Code

The new OP and Zoning By-laws for N.Burgess Twp are still not decided. These are important documents for all residents of Otty as they govern what and how we may do with our properties. For example, the declared purpose of the OP is to represent the Council's views "on the quality of life and the kind of physical development that is desired for the Twp of N.Burgess now and in the future, having regard to the relevant social, economic and environmental matters."

The Otty Lk Land Use Cmttee has spent many hours in research and negotiation with Council and other lakes' land use reps. Despite the length of discussions, some progress is being made to achieve new rules that will benefit the lake communities as well as individual wishes.

Some highlights published in N.Burgess tax notice:
New lot creation to contain: min. lot area 1 acre; 175' shoreline; building setback 100'; new rules on re-building of non-conforming structures.

Plus, the rules that have governed back-lot, cluster development near Otty since '75 will be extended to other Twp. lakes.

N.Elmsley Twp has yet to revise its OP and Zoning By-law, but the two Twps tend to adopt similar provisions. Otty residents wishing guidance on building and development can do so at the AGM on July 9th.

Land Severances

by Dave Code

Only two severance notices have come to the Assoc. so far this year, and both were supported by the OLA. Average support for severance applications by the OLA since 1975: two-thirds.

North Burgess Survey

Residents in N.Burgess will shortly be receiving a survey on re-building shoreline buildings from their Area Councillor. The Twp. is seeking public opinion so as to draft a by-law for non-conforming and non-complying structures. Please take the time to complete this survey and return it to the Twp before the end of July.

Our Shorelands

by Lorne Gold, President

Our shorelands are enjoyed from our cottage and the lake, and separate the lake from our daily activities. It is no wonder that they are important for both environmental and esthetic reasons.

A shoreline classification study was carried out for Otty Lk in 1987

under the general direction of MAPLE. The shorelands were classified into the following four major categories:

- *Natural* - little disturbance of the natural vegetation
- *Regenerated* - previously disturbed, but regeneration of natural vegetation is well advanced
- *Ornamental* - modified by retaining walls, etc., and managed by the property owner. Vegetation along the water's edge is often absent and replaced by grass.
- *Degraded* - vegetation has been removed and soil or banks have been eroded by run-off or because of alterations and construction.

The 1993 EYC Project classified shorelands of surveyed properties and this information should have been in the report sent to you by the students last summer. The following is a comparison of results with the earlier survey. Combined classifications relate to properties having more than one of the categories.

Many properties classified as Ornamental in '87 were found in '93 to be a combination of Natural and Ornamental. For example, many

properties with natural shores had stairs to a dock. This was considered to have little impact on the shore and did not deserve to be classified as Ornamental. They found also an encouraging decrease in Degraded shores and an increase in those that were Regenerating. We hope that this is a sign of increased awareness of the importance of natural shorelands. The decrease in the Natural classification is probably due to development since '87. The high percentage of Ornamentals in both surveys clearly show the extent by which we have modified our shore.

MoE, MNR and the RVCA emphasize strongly the importance of natural shorelands for a healthy lake. Natural shorelands are more effective in absorbing phosphorous and other pollutants that feed water weeds and algae. They reduce shore erosion that can spoil our swimming areas and have a disastrous effect on fish habitat. Protection and restoration of shorelands are now MoE, MNR and RVCA policies and are influencing municipal by-laws.

Most of us know Otty as a relaxing place. We have, however, little understanding of the lake as part of a natural ecosystem, and how our

<u>Classification</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1993</u>
Ornamental	81.4%	73.9%
Natural	5.2	3.4
Regenerating	4.5	4.7
Degraded	3.8	2.0
Ornamental/Natural	2.0	5.2
Ornamental/Regenerating	0.7	5.2
Ornamental/Degraded	0.0	4.5
Natural/Regenerating	0.2	0.7
Regenerating/Degraded	0.0	0.9
Natural/Degraded/Regenerating	0.2	0.2
Unlisted	2.0	0.0

behaviour affects it. But the lake is our front yard, and we should know how it responds to what we do. Your Exec. will be presenting in future newsletters information on how Otty's quality depends on us and its surroundings. As a part of this, we will invite MoE, MNR and the RVCA to explain their policies with particular reference to Otty Lk and to comment on the changes that are occurring now.

Cottage Capital Gains

There will be a free seminar on how the capital gains tax affects cottage owners on Sunday, August 14 (location to be announced. Watch the *Perth Courier* for ad.)

Bulletin Board

A small boat and motor has been found on the south shore. For more information, call 267-4518.

Protecting Your Property

The Perth OPP are reminding all cottage owners to secure their belongings as they would in the city. Small, portable items - like motors, boat equipment - should never be left along the shore overnight. Mark your belongings with your driver's licence number so that if it is stolen, it can be easily identified. Maintain an inventory and keep that list in a safe place. If you need to report an incident, you must call the central dispatch number: 1-800-267-8919.

Shoreline Plantings

by Amy Pokorny, Master Gardener

For those of you who found that some of the shrubs offered by MAPLE were unsuitable for the high, dry, stony shores of Otty, here are some suggestions. For semi-shade, there is a variety of ferns. Ninja or Periwinkle is a hard and lovely little trailing plant that makes a fast-growing carpet of shiny leaves with loads of violet-coloured flowers in the spring. Once established, it helps crowd weeds.

For sunnier slopes, gather wild Virginia Creeper from the roadside which will grow over unsightly stumps. For mixed rock and eroding, disturbed soil, plant yellow Sedum, blue Bugle Flower (Ajuga) or even a mixture of the two. For shady, contained areas, Lily-of-the-Valley is lovely but, like the last two, somewhat too invasive if at the edge of a lawn. Remember, don't let your property flow into Otty!

For further details, and for a couple of varieties of free plants, phone one of the local Master Gardeners at 267-1626.

MAPLE

by Bob Waldeck

Cutting day at the MAPLE Nursery was a success: 22,230 plants were cut for future stock. At the 26 June 93 MAPLE meeting, it was decided to move part of the Nursery to another location in order to obtain more capacity. This move has been completed. Production on a video has begun, funded with money from the Model Forest Fund; this will be a self-help guide to shoreline planting.

Membership Report

by Judy Burns, Membership Sec'y

I want to thank all those people who have sent in their 1994 fees. To date, we have 235 paid-up members for 1994. If there is not a membership form with this newsletter, that means you have already paid for this year. If you have sent in your fees since the last newsletter, please find your receipt enclosed. Please feel free to call me at 267-1834 if you have any questions regarding the standing of your membership.

The Environmental Youth Corps Prog

N. Burgess Twp has again received support for three students for work this summer under the EYC. Their main activity will be to survey sewage systems on Adam Lk and analyse results obtained from last year's survey of Otty Lk. You will recall that the work done last year was managed by N. Burgess, but had the full support of N. Elmsley. By the end of this summer, N. Burgess will have completed surveys for Black, Pike, Long, Otty and Adam Lks, with participation by more than 90% of property owners. Participation in the surveys has been voluntary and the results are kept confidential by the Twp.

Lianne Buchner from Wolfe Lk, Jonathan Leitch and Corinne Peden from Perth were selected for the '94 Project. They began work in the middle of June and have received training from the Leeds, Grenville & Lanark Health Unit, the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of Natural Resources and the RVCA.

It is important that the surveys be as complete as possible. The students have been asked to contact those property owners who have not been surveyed, 29 of whom are on

Otty Lk. If you have not been interviewed, we hope that it will be possible to include you this year. Please welcome the students when they get in touch with you.

Loon Watch

by Christine Edmundson

A large envelope from the Long Point Bird Observatory arrived in the mail the other day, reminding me that it is time to do some "loon spotting" and recording for the Canadian Lakes Loon Survey.

Last year, with the help of some regular spotters around Otty, I recorded seven pairs, five nests with seven chicks with five reaching the large young stage.

Otty is a large lake and the report's accuracy depends on the number of spotters who feel they can help. The Survey asks if loons are present; if nested, did the egg(s) hatch; and, if so, did the chicks survive to at least six weeks of age. Observations should coincide with the three critical periods: nesting (usually early June to mid-July); hatching (typically early July to mid-Aug); and when the large young are present (mid-Aug to late Sept).

If anyone feels they could help me out with this year's survey by watching the loons in their area, please call me at 264-0395.

Did You Know?

That every time you use lead sinkers and jigs when fishing, you could risk a loon's life? That fish that got away could be a loon's breakfast - and infect the loon with lead poisoning.

Counselors corner

This is the introductory article in a new section of our newsletter that will feature information for our lakefront counselors.

As the executive member to coordinator counselors, I am in awe of the dedication and commitment that you all demonstrate in your counselor duties for our lake association. I am contacting each of you this summer to introduce myself and provide assistance as needed. Please grin and bear with me. Having enrolled in a university summer course for July, I am mixing lake-front with desk-front of late.

The counselors in North Burgess have been asked to distribute surveys for the township along with collecting membership fees. We appreciate your help in procuring information for the township.

Following is the list of Area Counselors, which I will confirm during August.

Area 1			Area 6		
N	John Aitken	267-5745	A	Patricia St Denis	- -
S	John Atkinson	267-4587	B	Lise Peskett	267-3655
Area 2			C	Robert Newton	267-4744
	Stan Mitchell	267-6333	Area 7		
Area 3			A	The Hay Family	267-2826
A	Paul Fleming	267-2244	B	Bruce Brignell	264 8584
B	Tom Foulkes	267-6251	Area 8		
Area 4			A	John Boyd	264-8565
A	Hilda Bailey	267-7720	B	Robert Nichols	267-2808
B	Bernice Wanless	267-4690	C	Mayme Mahoney	264-8066
Area 5			Area 9		
A	Mary Gaffney	267-6297	A	B. Campbell	267-4745
B	Joyce McAusland	267-3129	B	Ruth Porter	264-0977
C	Bob Ferguson	267-6395	C	T. Newsome	267-7518

Please let us know of any change of ownership/home address. Our executive needs up-to-date mailing lists. Also, we would like to call and/or visit new cottagers on Otty Lake to welcome them to our community

You can contact me at 267-3903 (weekends). I'm on Otty Lake Rd. 3 (CS Farmer Rd). By water, our family boasts one of the oldest docks on Otty - a potential candidate for an historic site!

I look forward to regular contact with you in this newsletter as your member in membership.

Susan Henry

Loon Survey

Wally Robbins has taken over the loon survey from Christine Edmundson. As Wally does not have a phone at his cottage, Christine has kindly agreed to take your reports and pass them on. Her telephone number is 264-0395.

OTTY LAKE ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE for 1994 - 1995

Because we were not able to mail this newsletter before the annual meeting, as planned, we can now bring you up to date on the members of the Executive for the coming year.

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Secretary

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Eddie Edmundson 264-0395

Treasurer:

John Burns 267-1834

Membership & Past President

Judy Burns 267-1834

Committees

Health/Science Vacant
Water Quality

Bill Schriever 267-7594

Conservation
Fish Program}
Loon survey }

Hugh Henderson 267-4935
Wally Robbins 523-0471 (Ottawa)

Land Use/Legal

Dave Code 722-0339 (Ottawa)
267-5053

Co-Coordinate of Area Counselors

Susan Henry 225-0986 (Ottawa)
267-3903

Newsletter

Susan Code 267-2595

MAPLE

Bob Waldeck 267-2143

FOCA

Robert Arsenault 690-8036 (Toronto)
Louise Arsenault

Directors at Large

Tom Foulkes	267-6251	Wally Robbins	523-0471 (Ottawa)
Bob Waldeck	267-2143	Bernice Wanless	267-4690

Members at Large

Rex Boyd	267-2701	Bob Ferguson	267-6395
Kevin Nichols	267-2640	Amy Pokorny	267-1626
Armand Thompson	267-4518		