

OLA Board Meeting

**Sunday July 13, 2025, noon to 2:00 p.m.
at Jen and Keith's, 155 Miller Bay Road**

MINUTES

Present: Jen, Linda, Nancy, Charles, Susan, David, Kim, Barb. Regrets: Anne, Cathy.

1. We enjoyed a delicious potluck lunch and tour before our meeting.
2. **Agenda.** Meeting started at 12:55. Agenda was circulated on paper. Meeting attendance was added to the agenda. Moved that the agenda be accepted with this modification: Susan, Second: David. Carried.
3. **Approval of Minutes of May 15, 2025.** Some people did not receive them. Barb will recirculate, could board members please indicate their approval. Barb pointed out that the minutes are also posted on the website if you ever need to find them. Note that April 17 was a regular board meeting and the meeting May 15 focused on finalizing AGM plans, although some other items were touched on.
4. **AGM Debrief and Plans for 2026.** We felt the meeting was a success. Attendance was about 100, 20 more than the year before. Comments: nice to see the wildlife box samples, OK with not having a full range of other group's displays, first timers said it was well done, could provide better explanation of the social time, good to see some OLA clothing being purchased (as well as shortly after the meeting), good length to the municipal presentations, our OLA summary was the right length. Wondered if volunteers could somehow be mentioned – put their names/photos on a slide, have them wear a button so others would know and might start conversations. Would probably be better to have one person in charge of the whole event, and one person in charge of the power point. Will need to have a different tech person on standby next time as Paul will probably not be available

David has determined that the Legion is available on Sunday, June 7 next year, 12 – 4 and will now formally book it and give a \$100 deposit.

5. Role and Responsibilities

Executive positions: Kim Bolton as Treasurer, Barb as Vice President. Jen asked again if anyone interested in president's role, but no one wanted the role, so she will do that. Moved that the board accept Kim as Treasurer, Barb as Vice President and Jen as President: Nancy, Second: Susan, Carried. We should have a plan for who is president next, as Barb does not want the role. Charles said he might consider once he is no longer on the board of his townhouse association. We do not have a Secretary, but Jen did suggest this to Anne and Cathy. We will take turns taking minutes for now.

Shoreline Planting – Susan

Membership – David and Susan

Lake Ambassador Coordination – Nancy

Communications esp newsletter – Nancy and Barb

Website and MailChimp – Barb

Lake Steward. Some discussion. It is too big a job for one person. David will work on sampling. Charles is learning what goes on. Stephanie too busy to do much but would like to be kept in the loop. There are three parts: RVCA sampling, Lake Partner Program, and our own sampling. There is also a possibility that as a result of the Water Quality Data Consolidation and Review being done, sampling may be done differently in 2026. (Kirsten is still overseeing the research project.) For now, Barb will make sure any emails regarding these lake activities go to David, Charles and Stephanie, cc Jen. There is still a communications piece, however. Jen is happy to be included in any issue that comes up with unhappy lake people that must be addressed.

Shoal Marking – Keith and Kevin

Land Use – Discussed whether this was necessary and who should be notified of bylaw changes brought to Tay Valley or DNE Council. Anyone can get on the list to get Tay notifications. Reid has been monitoring this, and we will ask if he would like to continue in that role. It is also helpful for someone to attend at least some of the council meetings. The OLA has not often needed to comment, but have on occasion, and sometimes that is after the fact, e.g. tree removal, causeway. Where does Reid's responsibility end? Jen will be the board contact. We should be prepared to decide what to do about any proposed changes, either through email, and ad hoc meeting, or board meeting.

Attendance. In future we will make it clear that the expectation is that a board member attend at least two of the board meetings and the AGM, and that they advise the President (and/or Secretary) if they are not able to attend. This is difficult to enforce due to extenuating circumstances, and really the question is are they contributing. When the bylaw gets rewritten to ONCA standards, we could include this.

6. **Banking.** An appointment needs to be made with CIBC to change the signing authority for the OLA bank account. Motion: *That as Treasurer, Kim Bolton be added to the list of Otty Lake Association Board members with signing authority at the Perth Branch of the CIBC. Jen O'Donoughue and David Murray will continue to have signing authority and Kirsten Brouse will be removed as she is no longer a member of the Board. Moved by David Murray, seconded by Susan Murray. Carried.* Note that Kirsten Brouse does not need to be at the bank meeting to be removed.

7. **Followup on Existing Projects**

- a) **Water Quality Data Consolidation.** Discussed briefly above. July invoice received

recently.

b) **Snail Mail Names.** There is a list of 12 names of members who do not use email. While we do not worry about MailChimp notices, we do print the Log and Christine mails it to those people. We wondered if it was time to stop this practice, but some felt strongly that those people were entitled to receive it with their membership fee. So will leave this for now, but do not anticipate anyone being added to this list. The log ends up multiple pages long and does not get mailed at a standard letter rate.

c) **BaSS Project Contribution.** We would like a decision on the Bass Spawning Sanctuary contribution, as there is a story about the project in the upcoming newsletter. Jen and Kim determined there is money in the budget for a \$500 contribution, but we would not want to commit to annual contribution. We have some questions that we will relay to the BaSS coalition through Kit. Moved that the OLA make a one time contribution of \$500 to the BaSS project: Charles, 2nd: Kim, Carried. (BH not clear on all of the questions!)

d) **Membership.** Susan pointed out that memberships collected are down from this time last year. She suspects it is because the Lake Ambassadors have not made it to every household yet. There is already a membership mention in the July newsletter that should go out shortly. It will be amended to suggest people renew by the end of August in order to be entered in the draw for a free 2026 membership.

e) **Drop Day September 5.** The work day for placing brush bundles has recently been set by Amanda Lange and Melissa Dakers from Watersheds Canada. We need to establish who will coordinate on behalf of OLA: ensure Maple Glen available, find people with boats, call for volunteers etc. They also wondered if a lunch could be provided as in 2016 effort. Group not enthusiastic about providing lunch, the work is a half day, and people will want to go home after that. Barb will forward correspondence there has been on this to date.

f) **Love Your Lake.** We are finished with this, it will be up to the people to determine if they want to act on their reports. Barb would like to confirm that the handful of people who said they did not get their reports have them now. Melissa has not responded to her question.

g) **Wildlife Homes.** There was a good number of people signed up, it is all happening on Sat. July 26 (i.e. no Sunday session). Bat boxes were the most popular. Volunteers put together the kits. However, Dave could still use a couple of skilled people to help at the workshop.

8. Potential Projects

a) **Buttons.** In the distant past there were some OLA buttons, with an outline of the lake in black on a white button. Could we have these for board members and Lake Ambassadors? Susan has determined the Perth library has a button machine to lend, we would just have to pay for materials, approximately \$1 per button. An I (heart) Otty Lake design was

suggested. Nancy volunteered to do the artwork, perhaps with modern coloured logo?

b) T shirts. Wondered if lake people would be interested in lake T-shirts with a new design. Nancy's daughter does this and will look into it.

c) Cookbook. "Our Table to Yours" was created in 2016 as a collection of recipes, stories, photos and historical notes from the Otty Lake community. It was done to celebrate the 200th anniversary of settlement in the Perth area, but also coincided with the 200th anniversary of the naming of the lake. The first and second printings quickly sold out, but it is available on our website <https://www.ottylakeassociation.ca/about/history/>, Nancy wondered if it might be time to reprint or even revise it with contributions of people newer to the lake. The original committee was Barb Hicks, Karen Hunt, Cathy Kari, Reid Kilburn and Anne Scotton. It was printed at Images Interalia in Perth. Some wondered if people really used printed cookbooks anymore. Nancy to look into this some more.

d) Volunteer Event. This didn't happen last fall or spring. It was going to be a gathering of people at McMartin House with refreshments, and some sort of entertainment – a guest speaker, a photo show? Decided this was too much work for us to do properly. We liked the suggestion of ordering in some small plant at the time of the shoreline planting order, to give to each volunteer. That way there would be no need to find a day that everyone could come to an event. Would like to find a plant that is somehow related to volunteers or Otty Lake. Forget Me Nots won't work!

e) Zebra Mussels. We are not interested in pursuing this. Wondered if the Cassidy's nephew could provide something for the newsletter, but is perhaps too commercial.

9. Financial Update. This was not available, but Jen reports there have been very few changes from the report given at the AGM. This will be her last report.

10. Other

a) Membership Gifts. We have been trying to come up with a small gift or usable item for residents that the Lake Ambassadors could provide when doing their visits. In the past we have done maps, magnets, whistles, bookmark, wildflower seeds. It needs to be less than \$5 per household. Possibilities could be buttons (but not if being used as Lake Ambassador identification), sunglasses, lens cleaning cloths, paper pads, cheap tick remover. Need to make sure money is in budget and we keep our eyes open for possibilities for 2026.

b) Newsletter. July Log well underway, should be ready within the week. Will not have a causeway summary, Jen to give us a paragraph on shoals. Nancy wondered if anyone had been to the River Resonance concert as she was unable to attend and report herself, but would like to have it included as it was already suggested to Nicola Oddy.

b) **Lake Ambassadors.** Nancy was unable to get an update from Heidi for this meeting. Susan suggested that Heidi encourage Lake Ambassadors to get whatever they have in to the membership team, so they could print a new list to circulate, and the Ambassadors could verify the necessary changes were made.

11. Next Meeting is Tues. Oct. 7 from 7:00 – 8:30 by Zoom. Everyone seems OK with the Tuesday meeting schedule.

12. Meeting adjourned at 2:31 p.m.