

## MINUTES

### OTTER LAKE LANDOWNERS' ASSOCIATION (OLLA)

#### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING JULY 26, 2008

#### 1. WELCOME:

President Marcia Maxwell welcomed all to the 17<sup>th</sup> AGM of the Otter Lake Landowners Association.

#### 2. CURRENT EXECUTIVE:

Marcia introduced the current directors.

Marcia Maxwell	President
Carol Schaefer	Secretary
Cam McKay	Treasurer
Frank Soral	Past-President
Karl Fiander	Lake Steward
Mike Carson	Editor of the OLLA newsletter
Douglas Franks	Web Master
Phil Mayhew	Director
Lisa Baker	Director
Dorothy Goubault	Director

#### 3. PRESIDENT'S OPENING REMARKS:

I want to thank you all for taking the time to attend this meeting. As in the past, I will aim to adjourn the meeting at noon; as from past experience that seems to be the magic hour .... This year however, we have provided coffee, tea and some goodies that hopefully will make this whole process more enjoyable. Feel free to help yourselves.

This, once again, has been a busy year, and in my welcome message today it will be more "business like" than usual to help cover all the areas of information that we need to pass on to you today.

We have displayed a few items that may be of interest to you. On the information table you may have picked up brochures on the environmentally friendly products carried in the Food Smiths Store in Perth. We also have on the same table some brochures and water sample bottles from the Health Unit located in Smiths Falls for the Leeds and Grenville Counties. The bottles are for sampling your drinking water from wells or "treated" water drawn from the lake. There are also brochures from the Health Unit in regards to Ticks and Lyme Disease. The ticks have been very plentiful this year and we

need to be aware of their presence and take precautions like we do with mosquitoes, but more so. If you, or your animal is bitten you need to seek medical or veterinarians advice. Finally, in the news today there was some discussion about Blue Green Algae on the Rideau, it was determined that it was not the toxic variety of algae, but the health unit will have a brochure shortly explaining what blue green algae is and what to do if you suspect it is in your area.

Our main focus again this year, of course, is the lake plan and how it is progressing. As we move forward with it, we will be looking for more volunteers to keep the project cost effective and moving forward in a reasonable time frame. Please don't be afraid of the word "volunteer" it can be as simple as making the arrangements and picking up the "coffee" for this mornings meeting as an example. Booking halls for meetings - this is basically "many hands – make light work. The Steering Committees are formed, but we need volunteers to report back to the Committee Heads on a wide range of "areas of interest". Animal lovers can report on Loon, Frog animal or fowl observations or raptor sightings (hawks, eagles). There have been reports of Whip-Poor-Wills back in the area again. The fishermen out there – we would like to know how the fishing is – not necessarily where your favourite "spot" is but what you are catching and do they appear to be healthy. Forests and wetlands: If this is your area of interest you can report on the various types of trees in the area or if you have an interest in a wetland area of the lake; report on the type of aquatic plants you find to the wildlife frequenting the location. This could be from Red-wing Blackbirds to tad poles.

Now, I would like to recognize our Committee Heads: Please stand if you are here.

Doug Franks (wetlands), John McKenney (Ground water patterns & surface flow) and Sharon Hurst (history)

Committee Members: Again, please stand

Mary Douglas, Jeff Brown, Herb Whittick, Frank Croft, Jill Hurst, Barbara Hogg, Andy Fraser, John Burke, Ted Flood, Dorothy Goubault, Karl Fiander and John O'Neill.

We would also like to recognize our "road rep" network that has been in place over the years. This is a very valuable avenue of contacting members quickly. However, this network has fallen between the cracks. People have moved and many roads are not represented. The best candidate for this position is the President – Secretary or a road member that they may elect. This person would simply be part of a "phone/e-mail tree" to disseminate information on to the other members of their road.

We have sign up sheets on a clip board which I will pass around during the meeting. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at the end of the meeting.

#### **4. APPROVAL OF AGM MINUTES FOR 2007:**

Copies of the minutes for 2007 were distributed for perusal before the meeting. There were no errors or omissions noted.

**MOVED** by Frank Croft, **SECONDED** by Bernard Elliott that the AGM minutes for 2007 be approved as printed. **CARRIED**

**5. TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Treasurer Cam McKay reviewed the financial statement of operations for 2007- 08. A copy of this document is attached to the file minutes.

**MOVED** by Don Hilliss, **SECONDED** by Frank Croft that the report be accepted as printed. **CARRIED**

**6 & 7. SUCCESSION PLANNING – CALL and APPROVAL FOR DIRECTORS:**

Marcia noted a director's term is 3 years and directors are eligible to run for another term. This year, there are 2 directors whose first term is up. They are Cam McKay and Phil Mayhew.

Marcia asked if anyone present was interested in becoming a director. No one came forward.

A show of hands was taken for each director whose term has completed, and both were approved.

**8. OPP MARINE UNIT – CONSTABLE RICK RIOPELLE:**

Although Constable Riopelle intended to speak to our group, he got involved in an arrest on his way to our meeting, and he never made it.

Booklets on boat safety were available on the side tables.

While waiting for the constable, a brief discussion regarding availability of high-speed services for computer users took place. It appears high speed is available to some residents, but not to all. It was recommended individuals contact one or more service providers to investigate their own status:

Bell Sympatico (Phil suggesting asking Bell to extend their area)

Rogers

Explorenet (Frank Croft offered to talk about this server with anyone interested)

Apparently, some people who have contacted Bell or Rogers have been told there is no service, but there is.

## **9. LAKE STEWARD'S REPORT:**

Karl reminded audience members that OLLA's activities are updated regularly and available on OLLA's web site.

He noted the Rideau Valley Conservation Association (RVCA) has not made their report on the hydrology study available yet, but is expected later this year and results will be posted on OLLA's web site.

The results of septic reinspections are available on both OLLA's web site and Rideau Township's site.

Karl advised he is now the president of the Federation of Ontario Cottagers Association (FOCA). Their web site is [www.foca.on.ca](http://www.foca.on.ca)

Karl went on to present his annual report under the following headings: (a copy of his presentation is attached to the file copy of these minutes)

Some of Karl's comments are noted.

### **A: OLLA Actions/Interests:**

No specific comments.

### **B: Water Clarity:**

Water clarity has improved due to zebra mussels, but because of them, there is less food for our small fish. As well, the extra sunlight has caused more algae and more plant growth.

### **C: Precipitation and Water Temperatures:**

This year's precipitation is the highest on record.

### **D: Water Level and Water Flow:**

Phil Mayhew has been measuring the water level weekly for the past several years. OLLA is still investigating ways of water control. A group involved in the lake plan will be considering all aspects. When the water level is high, the culvert can be effective, but not when the level is low. All this rain is recharging the groundwater level.

#### E: Phosphorous Levels:

Our highest recorded levels were in 2005, due, we thought, to the low water levels that year. However, there has been another spike in 2008, and there is certainly no lack of rainfall. This creates a risk of increased algae and possibly blue green algae, which could be toxic. There is reason for some concern. Conditions for blue green algae are calm waters, high temperatures and high phosphorous levels.

#### F: Dissolved Oxygen:

The higher the oxygen levels, the better for the lake. Because of a lowering of oxygen levels over the past several years, Otter Lake no longer supports lake trout. There is some improvement in levels this year, due to the heavy rainfall.

A property owner (not an OLLA member) advised the Clean Water Act's (CWA) purpose is to test all water sources, but currently does not include well water or water drawn from the lake. He believes the toxins in the lake are caused by shore erosion caused by high water levels. He indicated all septic systems across the province will be reinspected.

Karl noted that at this time, reinspection is not mandatory except in areas surrounding municipal water intakes.

Director Doug Franks noted he applied to be on the committee administering the CWA but was not chosen. There are very few positions for lay people on this committee. Doug was advised there are plans to form working groups under the committee, and he might be asked to participate in one of these groups.

FOCA challenges the CWA's terms of reference regularly. They believe lake water should be included in the CWA's mandate.

### **10. FOCA LAKE PLANNING CO-ORDINATOR'S PRESENTATION:**

Samantha Brown provided an overview of her experiences with various lake plans. Her goal is to create a template that can be used as a guide for all groups involved in creating a plan for their lake.

The Trillium Foundation that began providing funds for some lake plans approached FOCA for help. They were finding this task getting out of control

Various lakes have their plans on their web sites for perusal by interested parties. Links to these sites will be available on our OLLA web site.

Karl brought the audience's attention to various pamphlets on areas of interest

displayed on the side tables. Those interested are invited to help themselves.

Following is a list of some of the information made available:

- Information from the Health Unit regarding septic systems and water testing
- Water sample bottles for testing by the Health Unit
- Various FOCA brochures
- Wild native flower and grass seeds
- Boating regulations
- List of environmentally friendly products available from Food Smith in Perth

It was noted that neighbouring Otty Lake has completed their plan, and it is available for review.

Samantha was thanked for her presentation.

## **11. TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE LAKE PLAN & PROPOSED BUDGET:**

Marcia reviewed the terms of reference for our lake plan. They can be viewed on the [Sustainable Lake Plan](#) page of the OLLA website. She also presented a proposed budget for the preparation of our lake plan and asked for members' approval. **MOVED** by Desi Fiander, **SECONDED** by Lisa Baker, that the proposed budget be accepted as printed. **CARRIED.**

Please remember to advise OLLA if you change your email address.

Please note, where possible, all reports will be sent via email. Please ensure we have your email address. A sheet was circulated during the meeting for people to provide their email address. If you did not attend this meeting and you would like your email included on our list, please contact Doug Franks at [djfranks@uottawa.ca](mailto:djfranks@uottawa.ca)

**The business portion of the annual general meeting concluded at 11:30 a.m.**

## **12. QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD:**

Dolly Smith (Road 01) expressed great concern over the duplication of road numbers and the confusion it can cause in the case of an emergency. She would like OLLA to approach the township and to strongly suggest using Otter Lake as a pilot project to correct this problem. It is likely the same problem exists elsewhere.

**MOVED** by Dolly Smith, **SECONDED** by Frank Croft, that OLLA write a letter to the Township of Rideau Lakes strongly urging them to correct the road numbers on Otter Lake as a pilot project as soon as possible. **CARRIED**

It was agreed Dolly will draft an appropriate letter to be mailed to the township over Marcia's signature.

How does one know if their road number is duplicated? A Heritage Map is available for purchase at the Portland grocery store or at the Watershed office. It is also on OLLA's web site.

A property owner (not an OLLA member) raised the issue of extremely high water levels and how to alleviate this ongoing problem caused in great part by beavers. A lively discussion followed.

It was alleged by this individual that some members of the OLLA executive are in favour of high water levels. However, director Mike Carson made it very clear to all present that this is not the case.

The sub-committee regarding lake levels, led by John McKenney, is looking at this situation and possible solutions.

The same property owner requested those unhappy with the current situation contact the RVCA and/or Bob Runciman's office (local member of parliament).

### **13. NEW BUSINESS:**

There was no new business and the meeting adjourned at 12 noon.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Carol Schaefer