

## MINUTES OTTER LAKE LANDOWNERS' ASSOCIATION (OLLA)

### 26th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING JULY 23, 2016

1. **WELCOME AND PRESIDENT'S OPENING REMARKS:** President Randy Hodgins welcomed all to the annual general meeting, Attendees were thanked for participating today. Randy noted a representative of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA), Kaitlin Brady and a Rideau Township councillor, Arie Hoogenboom were in attendance. He thanked them for coming. Reference was made to the successful second annual family picnic held at Camp Otterdale in June.

Randy introduced the current executive.

Randy Hodgins - President  
Carol Schaefer - Secretary  
Marcia Maxwell - Director  
Doug Franks - Lake Steward  
Ed Wilton - Membership Coordinator and Treasurer  
Bob Langstaff - Director  
Laurence Beaulieu - Director  
Shelley Dunlop - Director  
June Finess - Director

Randy noted that Carol Schaefer and Bob Langstaff will be stepping down from the board. He thanked them for all their work on the board.

Randy reviewed the agenda for the meeting.

3. **APPROVAL OF AGM MINUTES FOR 2015:** The minutes for 2015 are posted on our current web site [www.otterlake.org](http://www.otterlake.org). As well, copies were sent with the notice for this meeting. The minutes were displayed on an overhead before the onset of the meeting. No errors or omissions were noted.

MOVED by Henry Morash (O9), SECONDED by Ken Maxwell (O10) that the AGM minutes for 2015 be approved as presented. CARRIED

4. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Our bank balance at the beginning of the year was \$ 2,273.35. We had to move some of our investment to cover expenses this year. The majority of expenses were the newsletter and Lake Plan. We had \$6,121.42 in the account at the end of the year. Our investment balance is \$ 5,943.85. Our expenses this past year were \$8,465.78. Total OLLA Assets as of Dec 31, 2015 were \$6,121.42. A copy of the year end Treasurer's Report is attached to the official copy of these minutes.

MOVED by Karl Fiander (O12), SECONDED by Joan Barclay (O12) that the Treasurer's Report be approved as presented. CARRIED

**5. CALL FOR ELECTION OF DIRECTORS:** Randy led this portion of the agenda. He noted that the Directors meet 4 or 5 times a year and follow Roberts Rules for Director Meetings. First meeting is held in August to select executives and other secondary duties. All directors have a voice. Every director has one vote. He noted any current member of OLLA is eligible to run for office. We would like to have new people on the board with new ideas and different backgrounds. We currently have no representation from the north and south ends of the lake, It would be good to have representation on the board from these areas.

There were 9 directors last year. Directors have a 3 year term. Today we are going to vote for 5 people – Ed and Marcia are willing to return for another 3 year term. Jeff Brown from Camp Otterdale is interested in putting his name forward as a new director. And, Susan Thum from Road 10 put her name forward as a new director as well.

Randy called for any additional nominations, three times, and with no additional nominations, closed the nominations for those standing.

All of the above was voted for and approved as directors for a three year term.

A thank you was expressed to all for offering their time and service. As well, it was noted that if there were others interested in being a Director, they should contact Randy.

**6. VOTE ON BY-LAW AMENDMENTS:**

The OLLA Board of Directors reviewed the OLLA Constitution and Bylaws this year and proposed some amendment recommendation to provide additional information, clarification and updates to improve the operation of OLLA.

Bylaw Amendment Recommendations included:

1. To decrease the minimum number of Directors from seven to five, so the Board is consisted of not less than five and not more than ten Directors.

MOVED by Ken Maxwell (O10), SECONDED by Judy Hodgins (O12) that the Bylaw Amendment be approved. CARRIED

2. To clarify the language in the Bylaws so that OLLA Board of Directors are referred to as Directors

MOVED by Susan Thum (O10), SECONDED by Ken Maxwell (O10) that the Bylaw Amendment be approved. CARRIED

3. To add descriptions for the OLLA Officer Roles of President, Secretary, Treasurer, Lake Stewart, Past President and Vice President.

MOVED by Henry Morash (O9), SECONDED by Ted Duffin (O6) that the Bylaw Amendment be approved. CARRIED

4. To change the quorum requirements for the OLLA Board to transact OLLA business from sixty (60) percent to fifty (50) percent of the elected Directors.

MOVED by Nancy McCart (O8A), SECONDED by Doug Powell (O8A) that the Bylaw Amendment be approved. CARRIED

5. To ensure that all motions passed by the Board are determined by a simple majority of the votes cast.

MOVED by Gina Lewis (O12), SECONDED by Dolly Smith (O1B) that the Bylaw Amendment be approved. CARRIED

6. To clarify yearly meeting requirement to show that the OLLA Board of Directors will meet a minimum of three times per year.

MOVED by Ken Maxwell (O10), SECONDED by Joan Barclay (O12) that the Bylaw Amendment be approved. CARRIED

7. To allow Directors to be involved in decision-making when needed between scheduled meetings by allowing a vote to be orchestrated by email.

MOVED by Susan Thum (O10), SECONDED by Henry Morash (O9) that the Bylaw Amendment be approved. CARRIED

A copy of the detailed bylaw amendments is attached to the official copy of these minutes.

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

As Lake Steward, Doug's role is monitoring water quality, etc. on the lake in collaboration with RVCA.

Doug Franks showed water quality reports from 2015 and highlighted that Otter Lake had a few values for Phosphorus that were a little high – we had some values of 20 or 30 instead of the usual 10. The average of all readings had a level of 12. However, if we ignore the outliers, the average is back to 10. Our overall water quality metric levels are quite good. Whatever we are doing or not doing, it is working well for the quality of water on Otter Lake.

It is expected that the drought status reported for the Rideau River watershed will be go from minor to moderate severity within the week, with an expectation of a deepening drought if the lack of rain continues.

Doug reported that he feels that the low water levels in Otter Lake is severe for Otter Lake. Water levels has decreased by more than half a meter in the lake since the high levels of spring. This is probably the lowest water level we have seen since 2005.

Doug provided an update on the Otter Lake Loon Survey that we have been participating in since 2012. Our lake usually has 4 pair each year, sometimes 5. We have at least four pairs this year.

Doug reported that he expected the number of chicks would be lower this year due to water levels lowering drastically during the hatching period. However, we have observed loon pair #3 has 1 chick and loon pair #2 has 2 chicks. So, at least 2 loon pairs out of 4 have chicks this year.

Karl Fiander and Doug Franks reported on their progress on establishing the status of the wetlands surrounding our lake. It was discovered that MNRF had classified most of the wetlands around Otter Lake as provincially significant 5-6 years ago. Mike Dyer at Rideau Lakes Township has committed to updating the township maps to reflect these classifications. This classification with the township will help protect the wetlands from significant development.

#### **8. LAKE PLAN UPDATE:**

Laurence introduced that the purpose of today's Lake Plan update was to provide the status on the eight theme areas that have been divided into five sub-committees and their 2016 priority action items. Each sub-committee then reported on their priority action items and the outcomes achieved this year.

Highlights included:

Water Quality, Water Levels and Shoreline Health & Protection Sub-Committee:

- Expansion of water testing sites to include Barker's Creek and Road 06/07 creek.
- RVCA brochures on Septic Systems were delivered to cottages as part of the Septic System Surveys.
- A standard water level measuring location on the lake was established to function and the "benchmark" water level
- In May 2016, cottage owners received a mailing on how to access their private personalized shoreline assessment report from Watersheds Canada as part of their Love Your Lake program.

Aquatic Plants Sub-Committee:

- With RVCA, a survey of aquatic plants in Otter Lake was conducted in July.
- "Invasive Species Update – Prevention is the Intention" article was written for February 2016 OLLA Newsletter
- Education presentation on Indigenous and Invasive Aquatic Plan, Algae Blooms and Aquatic Plant Removal was presented at OLLA picnic in June and Aquatic Plant information was posted on OLLA website

Social and Recreational sub-Committee

- Second annual OLLA Family Day picnic held on June 5, 2016 at Camp Otterdale
- Raffle prizes donated by sponsors helped raise \$140 for the Camp Otterdale Send-A-Kid-To-Camp fund

#### Fish and Wildlife Sub-Committee

- Survey of fish spawning areas in Otter Lake conducted with RVCA in June 2016.
- OLLA newsletter articles written on invasive species and fish spawning
- Link to MNRF Fish ONLINE Fish Identification database posted on OLLA website

#### On-Site Sewage Systems and Development Control Sub-Committee

- Conducted septic system surveys and system site evaluations for Otter Lake
- Bylaw was introduced by Councillor Hoogenboom to introduce mandatory septic inspections
- Researched wetland classification for Otter Lake and submitted MNRF Otter Lake wetland classifications to Rideau Lakes Township for inclusion on township maps.
- Conducted preliminary investigations on groundwater

#### **9. RVCA Presentation:**

Kaitlin talked about the recent Otter Creek and Middle Rideau Subwatershed report. RVCA has an overview pamphlet and in depth report on Otter Creek available.

She reported that most of our watershed has a fair rating – and that rating indicates how sensitive Otter creek and watershed is to nutrients entering the water. Otter Lake has some elevated ph levels and there are some elevated nutrients and high ecoli and metals in areas of Otter creek.

Kaitlin also shared that the RVCA has a shoreline planting program that landowners on Otter Lake can access to add native plants to their property to help reduce nutrient induction into the lake. Owners can contact RVCA to take advantage of this planting program. More information is available on the RVCA website.

RVCA also wanted to let us know that the invasive species “Spiny Waterflea” has been found in Rideau Lakes system, and asked us to remind boaters to ensure they pressure wash their boat and equipment or leave boat and equipment in hot sun for 5-7 days prior to launching their boat in Otter Lake to ensure any invasive species are dead and are not introduced into our lake.

Kaitlin mentioned the Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement projects that RVCA has done with Otty Lake, specifically the Brush Bundles project and the Bird Nesting Box project that RVCA would be happy to help us implement at Otter Lake. More information about these projects is available on the RVCA website.

**10. OTHER BUSINESS:**

- Arie Hogenbloom from the Township of Rideau Lakes thanked the Otter Lake Landowners' Association for the great work we do. He expressed his appreciation for the updates we provide on Otter Lake activities and the ongoing communication we have with the township. He brought greetings from Ron Holman and other council members. In terms of issues we may be interested in, Arie noted that the 100 mandatory septic inspections per year being implemented by the township are targeting areas where there is low water quality first, so it may be a while before they get to Otter Lake. However, for those interested, voluntary inspections are always an option. More information is available on the township website.

The township is also in discussions with MNRF regarding potential upgrading of the washrooms at the boat launch. Ideally, the township would like to have something like the washrooms that have been installed at the rest area on Hwy 15 near Golf Club road. Discussion are ongoing.

Arie also mentioned that the township has recently hired a consultant to help manage the public consultation process, as the Township of Rideau Lake reviews their governance structure, perhaps with a reduction of councillors, etc. There will be a series of public meetings coming up on this and he encouraged us to attend to express our opinion. Any governance changes need to be in place before the next election in 2018.

**10. ADJOURNMENT:** Moved by Ken Maxwell and seconded by Susan Thum that the meeting adjourn.