

Otterlake News

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OTTER LAKE LANDOWNERS' ASSOCIATION

OLLA - AGM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday July 24, 2010

9:30 a.m.

South Elmsley Hall

(On Hwy 15 at OPP station)

REGISTRATION, COFFEE, TEA & REFRESHMENTS - 9:00 a.m.

AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

FOCA REPORT

LAKE REPORT

CALL for DIRECTORS & VOLUNTEERS

ALL OTTER LAKE RESIDENTS ARE WELCOME

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From the President's Desk

It is that time of year again! Our Annual General Meeting is fast approaching, and we are looking forward to seeing many of you there.

You will find included with this newsletter the Water Testing report for 2009. Along with other articles that may be of interest.

This has been a busy year for many of us on the board and as a result the Association has not been as active as in the past. For myself, I mentioned at the AGM last year that this coming year was going to be very busy for me and that we were going to need more volunteer help on the board. I had no idea at the time just how busy I was going to be. Ken and I have now moved to Otter Lake as permanent residents, and set up our business at Crosby. We are still working on the issue of the duplication of road numbers around Otter Lake with the Township as well as trying to get things back on track with the Lake Plan which is progressing slowly mainly due to time constraints of the available volunteer hours. This is still a very important document to have completed to protect the environs and quality of life around Otter Lake.

We will be holding elections to the Board of Directors again this year as usual. One of our directors has resigned from the board and as in the past prior to the election part of the agenda we ask for volunteers to put their names forward for consideration.

Please think about volunteering your time either as a Director on the Board, a Committee Head with the Lake Plan, or as a volunteer member at large to assist with either aspect of the Otter Lake Community.

See you at the AGM on the 24th and have a great summer on Otter Lake!

Marcia Maxwell, President

Voice: 905-829-5645 E-mail: marcia@maxwellenterprises.ca

Blue-Green Algae: Information for Cottage Owners.

What are they?

Blue-Green Algae are primitive organisms that belong to a group called Cyanobacteria. Some bloom-forming species include: Microcystis, Anabaena, and Planktothrix. They are often found in Canadian lakes, rivers, and ponds in levels that are harmless. Some species contain toxins which may be harmful or lethal to humans and animals when ingested in sufficient quantities. The most common toxin found in Blue-Green Algae is microcystin. This and other toxic substances are contained within the cell walls until they are released through natural decomposition or through attempts to “purify” the water by boiling or chemical treatment.

Where are they found?

Microcystins have been found in hundreds of lakes across Canada. The shallow lakes of Alberta and the warm lakes of southern Ontario and Quebec have experienced periodic blooms and the resulting release of toxins in harmful quantities.

What conditions favour the growth of algae?

Blue-Green Algae favour calm, warm water with plentiful Phosphorus and Nitrogen. Often a spike in Phosphorus levels will trigger a bloom since it is usually the limiting factor in algae growth. There may be other growth triggers that are not well understood, such as a rapid change in pH due to snow melt or acid rain. Ontario lakes that have natural or man-made external sources of Phosphorus, and experience several days of warm, calm weather, are at higher risk of developing a bloom.

How do you recognize Blue-Green Algae?

In normal levels, they usually exist as single cell or small chains of cells in the water column. When a bloom occurs, algae usually begins a period of rapid cell division on the surface of the water developing what some have described as an “oily” appearance initially and building up to a “pea-soup” scum. As the bloom matures over a few days, the scum may begin to cling together into small clumps. In the period of early development there may be an odour of fresh grass which progresses into a putrid smell later on.

Can cottage treatment systems purify water for domestic use?

Generally, most individual cottage treatment systems are not adequate to remove the toxins produced by Blue-Green Algae. Extreme caution is advised if a bloom is suspected. Boiling or treating with chlorine will not render the water safe for consumption. Livestock and pets

are at risk as well and should be restricted from accessing the lake and outlet streams during a bloom.

What immediate action should be taken?

The first response when a bloom is suspected is to restrict water consumption from the suspected water body. Call the Ministry of Environment Spills Action Centre at 1-800-268-6060 or your local Health Unit. This will result in a series of actions by various provincial and municipal officials to assess the danger and communicate to others as needed.

BUILDING CODE INFORMATION - Phil Mayhew

The building code is dramatically changing. The requirements of the code are somewhat meshed with the Planning Act. What is required in the Act may not be in compliance with the Ontario Building Code, or the local by-law and vice-versa. If one is contemplating any construction whether it be decks, porches, separate out buildings, etc, one should contact the local municipality for the proper permit application if applicable.



Announcing
The 2010 OLLA

19th Annual General Meeting
To be held on Saturday the 24th of July 2010

09:30 a.m. sharp

at the old South Elmsley Town Hall
441 Highway 15, Smiths Falls.

Bring a neighbour

Proxy

Name _____

Of Civic # or address _____

Nominate: _____

To cast a vote on my behalf at the OLLA
AGM on the 24 July 2010

Signature _____

Otter Lake Landowners' Association.

Incorporated

Membership Form

For Otter Lake property owners.

This is an invitation to all landowners on Otter Lake to become members, or to renew their membership in the association. Your membership is important and helps to meet the cost of monitoring the water quality with the associated laboratory fees, as well as other quality – related lake issues. It also contributes to maintaining OLLA's membership in the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA) that looks after cottagers and landowner's interests at Queens Park and the scientific Community. Besides, University Studies in the US have shown that a strong Lake Association enhances and maintains property values.

Our annual membership has remained unchanged for several years
and is still only \$30.-

A small price to help keep Otter Lake a viable resource for generations to come

This is a New Membership.....or Renewal.....

Name(s) of Owner(s):.....

Mailing address:.....

.....

Road and Cottage number, or civic number.....

Telephone Numbers:
at the lake:.....Residence.....

Your e-mail address:.....

Amount enclosed: \$ 30. –

Please return to:

Otter Lake Landowners' Association (OLLA)
#30 - O10, R.R. # 1, Lombardy, ON
K0G 1L0

Or in person at the OLLA AGM on 24 July 2010

Thank you for your support

