

**MINUTES**

**OTTER LAKE LANDOWNERS' ASSOCIATION**  
**(OLLA)**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**JULY 29, 2006**

**1. WELCOME:**

President Marcia Maxwell welcomed all to the 15<sup>th</sup> annual general meeting.

**2. CURRENT EXECUTIVE:**

Marcia introduced the current directors:

Mike Carson	Editor of the OLLA newsletter
Karl Fiander	Lake Steward
Phil Mayhew	Director
Marcia Maxwell	President
Cam McKay	Treasurer
Carol Schaefer	Secretary
Frank Soral	Past-President

Marcia noted that former director Doug Aldridge has resigned from the board due to a heavy personal workload. Doug was not able to attend today's meeting. She thanked him for his past contributions.

The constitution allows for 10 board members (including the past-president) which means there are 3 vacancies. This will be addressed later in the agenda.

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

Marcia's opening remarks are attached to these minutes.

**4. APPROVAL OF AGM MINUTES FOR 2005:**

Copies of last year's minutes were distributed for reading before the meeting began. There was no discussion regarding the minutes.

**MOVED** by Bernard Elliott, **SECONDED** by Desi Fiander that the minutes be approved as printed. **CARRIED**

## **5. TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Copies of the 2006 Financial Statement of Operation for OLLA from Jan. 1/06 to July 24/06 were distributed for review. As well, Cam provided a letter of audit from A & J Hennessy.

Both documents are attached to these minutes.

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

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

As noted earlier in these minutes, as documented in our constitution, 10 directors are allowed on the board. We have 3 vacancies. Marcia called for nominations. The following 3 people agreed to be on the board and were accepted by the members present:

- Lisa Baker
- Dorothy Goubault
- Doug Franks

## **8. SPEAKER:**

Marcia introduced Lynn Preston from the Rideau Valley Conversation Authority (RVCA) who is here to talk to us about a lake plan.

Since 1993, Lynn has been working on watershed plans. A watershed plan covers a specific body of water and the surrounding area which either affects that body of water or is affected by that body of water. So far, 5 plans have been completed. Next year, Lynn will be addressing the middle Rideau watershed area which will include Otter Lake.

An outcome of the watershed plan for the Tay River area was the decision to prepare a lake plan for Otty Lake. This group successfully applied for a grant from the Trillium Foundation to work on their plan. They received \$96,000. None of this money would be available to Otter Lake though. It would be necessary to prepare our own application. Staff from the RVCA would assist with such an undertaking.

A lake plan is a strategic action plan developed by the lake community to reflect and preserve the special characteristics of their lake. The group determines the issues to be addressed and goals to be obtained, and the group develops the method by which the goals will be reached.

Lynn went on to describe what a lake plan is and what it is not. A copy of the overheads used in her presentation is attached to these minutes.

After her presentation, Lyn fielded questions from the audience. She stressed that the success of such an operation depends on involvement of enthusiastic volunteers – the more volunteers, the better! Her office is willing to offer advice and expertise on specific issues where they are able to do so.

She noted the Trillium grant covered a 3 year period only. This was a pilot project. In order to continue receiving financial assistance, a new application will have to be submitted.

The individual to contact for assistance is:

**SHEANNA TINLIN**  
**1-800-267-3504 (EXT. 1173)**

[sheanna.tinlin.@rideauvalley.on.ca](mailto:sheanna.tinlin.@rideauvalley.on.ca)

Some of the issues raised in the question and answer period are listed below:

- The credibility of RVCA is a concern. The issue of lake level was raised. Specific individuals took action with the beaver dams without consulting other land owners.

Lynn noted no one from RVCA is currently working on an acceptable level for Otter Lake. Unless a structure is involved, they would not get involved. However, interference with beavers, without a trapper's license (unless the beaver situation is on the landowner's property) is illegal.

- If our group wishes funding, we will need support from the municipality and the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR).
- No lake plan in our watershed has been completed yet. Charleston Lake will complete their plan this year. The only completed plans are in the Muskoka region.
- There are currently no laws in this area which enforce septic system inspection. However, lake associations can pressure municipalities to take action. It is necessary to prepare and present your evidence supporting your request for action by the municipality.

Marcia thanked Lynn for a most informative presentation. Some further discussion took place:

- The heavy workload involved in creating a lake plan was emphasized.
- One member expressed concern about decisions reached by OLLA. It was noted decisions are not acted upon without a vote of the membership.

- One gentleman noted we can only influence human behaviour, not Mother Nature's behaviour.
- Again, concern was expressed about individuals acting on their own.
- Frank reminded everyone of Reeve Holman's visit a few years ago. Mr. Holman stressed it is up to the landowners to reach a consensus on water level. Once decided, actions to maintain such a level can be discussed.

**MOVED** by Barbara Hogg, **SECONDED** by Frank Croft that OLLA proceed with a lake plan.

The vote was 56 for and 1 opposed. **CARRIED**

Those individuals willing to assist with the lake plan are asked to give their names to Mike Carson, or any director, at the end of the meeting.

Cam noted we now have 142 paid members – 10 more than last year.

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

Karl noted Andy Smith, Otter Lake's current contact from the Ministry of Fisheries and Oceans, but soon to be replaced, (or another suitable representative) had been asked to attend this meeting to make a presentation. Unfortunately, no one from his office was able to make it today. In their absence, Karl provided a short overview of the lake's current condition.

A full report on water quality was mailed to all property owners in our spring newsletter.

Karl noted advice on shore lines can be obtained from the Fisheries and Oceans staff. They can be reached at: 613 - 925 - 2865

A copy of Karl's overheads used in his presentation is attached to these minutes.

A member of the audience thanked Karl for the work done in preparation of his reports for OLLA.

Another individual thanked the entire board for their efforts on behalf of OLLA.

### **10. ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned shortly after 12:00 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Carol Schaefer

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- President's opening remarks
- 2006 Financial Statement of Operation
- Letter of audit from A & J Hennessy
- Copy of Lynn Preston's overhead screens accompanying her presentation \*
- Copy of Karl's overheads accompanying his lake report

\* This information will be attached to the file copy of the AGM minutes for 2006, and available to be copied for anyone wanting their own copy. It is quite lengthy.