

MINUTES OTTER LANDOWNERS' ASSOCIATION (OLLA)

27th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING JULY 29, 2017

1. WELCOME AND PRESIDENT'S OPENING REMARKS

President Randy Hodgins welcomed all to the annual general meeting. Attendees were thanked for participating today. Quorum was confirmed (70% directors in attendance, and 20% of members)

Randy introduced the current directors.

Randy Hodgins – Director, President

June Finless – Director, Secretary

Marcia Maxwell - Director

Doug Franks – Director, Lake Steward

Ed Wilton – Director, Membership Coordinator and Treasurer

Karl Fiander – Director, Communications

Laurence Beaulieu – Director, Lake Plan

Shelley Dunlop – Director, Newsletter

Jeff Brown - Director

Susan Thum -- Director

Randy noted that he will be stepping down from the board as of today and that Karl Fiander was appointed to the board after the last AGM, so will need to be voted in as Director today to continue as a Director.

Randy reviewed the agenda for the meeting.

2. APPROVAL OF AGM MINUTES FOR 2016.

The minutes for 2016 AGM are posted on our current web site www.otterlake.org. The minutes were also displayed on an overhead before the onset of the meeting. No errors or omissions were noted.

Approval of AGM Minutes for 2016: MOVED by Henry Morash (09), SECONDED by Carol Schaefer (09) that the AGM minutes for 2016 be approved as presented. CARRIED

3. TREASURER'S REPORT.

Our bank balance at the end of 2016 was \$ 1,452.30, investments \$5,000, total assets \$6,452.30. It was noted that the budget for 2017 is about the same as the budget show in the 2016 Budget and Actuals report presented at the AGM.

MOVED by Susan Thum (019), SECONDED by Diane Taylor (06), that the Treasurer's Report be approved as presented. CARRIED

Note: Recommendation was made by OLLA member that at the next year AGM, presentation includes the budget for the current year and year-to-date spend.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT.

Two years ago we had 114 members, last year we had 90 members, and this year we have 62 members as of today. Later in the AGM, we will be looking for input from membership on how to increase membership.

4. CALL FOR ELECTION OF DIRECTORS.

Randy led this portion of the agenda. He noted that the Directors meet 4 to 6 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 like to have new people on the board with new ideas and different backgrounds.

Directors have a 3 year term. Today we have two open positions on the board – Karl Fiander(O12) is willing to put his name forward as a director.

Randy called for any additional nominations, and Tom Gifford (O10) indicated that he would like to put his name forward as a Director. Randy called for any additional nominations three times, and with no additional nominations, closed the nominations for those standing.

The above (Karl and Tom) were voted for and approved as directors for a three year term.

5. LAKE STEWARD'S REPORT.

Karl presented the Lake Steward's Report on behalf of Doug. He noted that a more detailed report was provided in the last newsletter.

Karl showed the various sites where water quality testing is done by RVCA and OLLA on Otter Lake, the table of water quality data for 2016, and the graph of water level data from January 2016 to June 2017.

He noted that the on the Otter Lake water quality testing site map, that the protected wetlands are shown on the map as darker areas.

Our overall water quality metric levels are quite good – our water quality is one of the best in the region.

Note: An OLLA member recommended that for AGM next year, an additional row

is added to the table to show the recommended standards for each category, so that we can compare our results to the standard.

6. LAKE PLAN UPDATE.

Laurence provided an overview of the Lake Plan status and action items. He reported that we are continuing to make good process on action items: 32% of action items are completed, 21% of action items are in progress and 34% of action items are ongoing and/or recurring.

Each sub-committee then reported on their achievements and priority action items and the outcomes achieved this year.

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

- 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.
- At the same time, OLLA received a general summary of recommendations for Otter Lake shoreline including:
 - o Regular inspections and maintenance of septic systems can help prevent excess nutrients from entering the lake
 - o Naturalizing shorelines would help reduce runoff from entering into Otter Lake, and could help reduce potential problems such as algae blooms (Report identified that 172 properties on the lake would benefit from shoreline naturalization)
 - o Have eave troughs with downspouts directed at natural or stone catch basins or rain barrels, and ensure properties have a properly functioning septic to process wastewater before it enters the lake
 - o Keeping lake side structures clean and organized to prevent possible soil and water contamination
 - o Limiting shoreline access on properties to one area of the shoreline would help maintain a healthy buffer
 - o When replacing old or failing docks, choose a non-permanent post or floating dock
 - o All properties, especially the steeper properties, would benefit from well-vegetated slopes to reduce the impacts of erosion from runoff
- RVCA sites “D” & “G” (Barker’s Creek and Creek between 06 and 07) have

fluctuations in water quality readings – water quality readings are poorest in early spring. Decision was made to add 2 ‘up-the-creek’ water test sites, starting in 2017 in creeks at ‘D’ and ‘G’ sites

- There is some discussion about potential impacts on Otter Lake from the nine farms in the Barker’s Creek catchment.
- **Note:** OLLA member recommended that we check with the Province, the Soil and Water Conservation Authority, etc. re: information about farm compliance with provincial requirements regarding nutrient management on farms. Farms in the catchment may be doing all that they can to be environmentally conscious and compliant.

Aquatic Plants Sub-Committee.

November 2016: Community grant application presented to Township of Rideau Lakes Council for \$750 to help cover costs of an aquatic plants survey by Carleton University honours student in Summer of 2017. Grant application was unsuccessful. Will look to invest in this area in future.

- July 26, 2017: European Frog Bit search & remove project with the help of RVCA. This is an ongoing effort to eradicate European Frog Bit; concentrated on boat launch bay and mouth of Otter Creek up to culvert at Otter Lake Road. Help from volunteers is needed next week to continue this year’s eradication as there was a lot of Frog Bit found in the boat launch bay and Barker’s Creek.
- It is recommended that this be done annually until European Frog Bit no longer found.

Social and Recreational sub-Committee.

- Third annual OLLA Family Day picnic held on June 4, 2017 at Camp Otterdale. Again, weather was not kind to this event. We had 43 attendees.
- Two “Did you Know ...” information sheets have been composed: Boating on Otter Lake, and Night Skies on Otter Lake. These information sheets are a compilation of helpful facts and suggestions obtained from various websites and publications.

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

- Almost completed delivery of Septic System Information packages to Otter Lake Residents (2 roads still outstanding) and prepared summary of types of septic systems on the lake
- On-site sewage system concerns include: lack of shoreline vegetation,

some flood damage and inadequate sewage system maintenance.

- Engaged municipality on wetland classification
- Researched models for development and recreational loading considering Otter Lake has a high shoreline density
- Spoke to Municipal Services Committee on key points of the Sustainable Lake Plan as they relate to Otter Creek and Spring Flood Risk

Fish and Wildlife Sub-Committee.

- Goals:
 - o Build and install brush bundles in Otter Lake – Join us on Friday, September 8, 2017 to build and install brush bundles
 - 9:30 AM Start
 - Bring your work gloves (and hat, sunscreen, water)
 - We need a minimum of 3 boats – and 10 volunteers
 - o Build nesting boxes for wood ducks and tree swallows as well as bat boxes around the lake to provide additional nesting locations (initially, installation of Tree Swallow Boxes) – in progress
 - o Nesting boxes to be installed, maintained and monitored for nesting activity by landowner

7. OTHER BUSINESS and QUESTIONS

- o **Recommendations from OLLA members on how to increase membership in OLLA:**
 - o Engage road associations around the lake to drive membership, hear their issues and possibly identify a spokesperson for each road to liaise with OLLA
 - o Contact prospective buyers through real estate agents to provide info on Otter Lake, encourage them to join the association to receive copy of the Lake Plan, etc.
 - o Educate Otter Lake residents around the lake on role of OLLA to clarify that OLLA is not trying to manage water levels on Otter Lake
 - o Build value proposition for joining OLLA that can be shared with landowners around the lake to promote membership
 - o Encourage road associations to promote OLLA to all landowners on road

- o **Children on Big Rock alleged to be attacking/clubbing seagulls.**

Randy reminded landowners that OPP is the only enforcement entity that can deal with attacks on wildlife or other dangerous activities observed on lake. At some point, we may need to get OPP involved. Recommendation made by OPP was to get pictures of incident happening on lake and provide to OPP when reporting situation. This will give them the substantiation they need to act.

- o **Culvert replacement on Otter Lake Road between lake and creek:**

OLLA members would like Township to replace culvert with box culvert. OLLA informed members that RVCA, Township and Ministry would be involved/need to approve with any changes to culvert under Otter Lake Road at the creek. OLLA has requested that we are part of the working group so that we stay informed during the process.

8. **DATE OF NEXT AGM:** July 28, 2018.

9. **ADJOURNMENT:** Moved by Judy Hodgins (O12) and seconded by Karl Fiander (I12) that the meeting adjourns.