

Otter Lake Landowners' Association (OLLA)



Otter Lake News



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Winter 2020

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IN THIS ISSUE:

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT	1
OLLA'S NEW YEAR'S COTTAGE RESOLUTIONS FOR 2020	2
TOWNSHIP OFFICIAL PLAN REVIEW	3
PROPOSED CHANGES TO CURBSIDE WASTE/RECYCLING PICKUP	3
OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS	4
DID YOU KNOW?	4

access to information relevant to lake property ownership, be made aware of emerging issues that could have a direct effect on the lake environment, and the opportunity to participate and vote at the association's Annual General Meeting. We will be reaching out to all road associations to request an opportunity to speak at road meetings to have open dialogue and on roles, responsibilities, and advantages of membership.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy New Year!

As I write this, the sun is shining brightly, the ice is forming around the edges of the lake and a few very hardy Mergansers are just off the shore diving for fish.

I've learned a lot since moving to the lake in 2017. One of the most recent lessons concerns our new floating dock. After talking to a few folks and doing some research on the topic, I decided I would anchor it in Tooley's Bay for the winter. No problem! Good steel chain and a 150 pound anchor. What could go wrong? Well, I'll find out more in the spring but something obviously did. There was a knock at my door and there stood my neighbour, Ted, telling me my dock was visiting his shoreline. With Ted's help and the use of neighbour John's rowboat I managed to corral the dock and tie it to not one, but two trees! My sincere thanks to both of these gentlemen! We'll see what the spring brings!

Where do we, as an association and a community, go from here?

Membership

A concerted effort will be made to grow the membership of OLLA to ensure that all residents have

Communication

Communication is a key component of membership thereby ensuring that information is disseminated in a timely manner and continues to be a key responsibility for OLLA. Communications would include emerging issues, how to get your voice heard, and reporting outcomes. Articles relevant to lakefront property ownership as well as wide-ranging interesting articles will also be shared. To help with communications, we would like to ensure we have a contact from every road association around the lake.

Website

The OLLA website will be revamped to freshen up the look and functionality. To tie in with our communication goal, we plan to have email access to all directors via a redesigned website to enable two-way communication.

Constitution

A complete review of the association's constitution will be conducted and recommended changes will be brought to the July 2020 Annual General Meeting for members to vote on. The last review was done in 2016 and several shortcomings have been identified in the wording and scope of the Constitution. The proposed changes to the constitution will be provided

30 days prior to the Annual General Meeting to allow for review prior to a vote by members to accept or reject the changes.

State of the Lake Report

The State-of-the-Lake Report first published in 2015 will be updated. The purpose of this report is a factual accounting of all elements impacting the state – or health – of the lake. This report forms the basis for the Otter Lake Sustainable Lake Plan.

Otter Lake Sustainable Lake Plan

The Lake Plan is a living document and as such needs to be updated. Part of the process to update the Lake Plan will be to seek input from stakeholders in 2020 with the goal to have the new version of the Lake Plan presented at the 2021 Annual General Meeting. Engaging stakeholders in this process will be part of our membership and communications initiatives.

And that, in a nutshell, is our 20/20 Vision.

I believe we are really fortunate to live on one of the best and healthiest lakes in the region. Keeping it that way takes effort. I am impressed with the energy of the folks working to maintain that aspect of the lake. Dealing with invasive plants and fish, providing awareness on the importance of properly maintained shorelines and septic systems will continue to be priorities. We are also planning a Fish Habitat Study, and we welcome donations and volunteers to make it happen. The directors are energized and ready to work hard to bring about this vision. But we could truly use a hand in whatever form that may take. Renewing your membership is important, but equally important is talking to your friends and neighbours and encouraging them to join up and participate.

I am certain all of you are looking at that brand new 2020 calendar and planning your next year at the lake. Please make OLLA a part of it. The 2020 OLLA Membership form can be found on page 5 of this Newsletter.

Jeff

INFO@otterlake.org

OLLA's NEW YEAR'S COTTAGE RESOLUTIONS FOR 2020

Submitted by Dianne Taylor

With boats and docks stored, doors tightly secured and once busy shorelines stilled as the chill of winter settles over Otter Lake ... we are warmed by memories of summers past, time with friends and family, projects and activities. For many, the winter months offer up a chance to reflect and plan for the coming season.

The folks at OLLA thought it would be fun to start building that list of "things to do at the cottage". Perhaps you will add or change in tailoring for your specific audience... in a pinch, it can serve as a good defence to the dreaded, "there's nothing to do".

Happy planningand see you out there in 2020!

1. Take more time to lounge on the dock, especially in the early morning or evening when the lake is at its best.
2. Learn a new board or card game; park the electronics and plug in for some fun face-to-face time with friends and family.
3. Get creative... paint a cottage sign or make a work of art out of available odds and ends.
4. Expand your friendship list - meet a new neighbour or someone not living on your road.
5. Lay on the dock at night and watch for shooting stars.
6. Report turtle sightings to the Ontario Turtle Tally at <https://ontarioturtle.ca/>
7. Haul away old junk and plant some indigenous plants and shrubs along the shoreline.
8. Pamper your septic system...it plays an important role. Make 2020 the year you schedule that pump out and inspection.
9. Broaden your community awareness - become an OLLA member! If you are already a member, enlist your road committee to get more involved.

10. Let us hear from you this year. Send your questions and concerns to:

otterlakeassociation@gmail.com ,

Happy wintering everyone!



TOWNSHIP OFFICIAL PLAN REVIEW

Submitted by Karl Fiander

An Official Plan is an important municipal document, which provides direction and policy for various departments within local government. It is steered by the Provincial Policy Statement which is updated periodically by the provincial government, and it must dovetail with the upper tier Official Plan, which in this case is the County of Leeds and Grenville.

The Township of Rideau Lakes is conducting an in-house review of the OP and to date, there have been several open houses and the first draft is in place.

Some members of the Rideau Lakes Lake Association Committee have been active in providing feedback to the Planning Department on certain sections of the draft OP. Representatives from the Big Rideau Lake Association, Upper Rideau Lake Association, and Otter Lake Landowners Association met with Chief Planner Malcolm Norwood and CAO Mike Dwyer in December to advance certain ideas for the second draft of the OP that would preserve and protect the incredible lake resources our community enjoys.

One of the themes the group is promoting is that each lake in the Township is unique and development

should be subject to individual lake capacity studies to determine how much development can safely occur before a tipping point is reached with environmental consequences. The ideas put forward by the group are already in place in other lake-rich municipalities and are intended to make development approvals more fact-driven and environmentally conscious.

The second draft of the OP is scheduled to be released on January 22. For any interested residents, the draft OP is available at:

<http://www.rideaulakes.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/OFFICIAL-PLAN-UPDATE-2019-FIRST-PUBLIC-DRAFT.pdf>

If you have any comments or suggestions please contact: OLLA Director Karl Fiander at INFO@otterlake.org or OLLA President Jeff Neal at INFO@otterlake.org.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO CURBSIDE WASTE/RECYCLING PICKUP

Find out if your private road will be affected and have your say. The deadline for providing feedback to the Township of Rideau Lakes on the proposed changes to curbside waste and recycling services for private roads has been extended to February 15, 2020. If you have not already done so, please take a moment to review the proposal and submit your feedback at <http://www.rideaulakes.ca/services/waste-recycling/>



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Did you know?



Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations

OLLA members receive FOCA membership – Membership benefits can be found at the following link <https://foca.on.ca/member-services/benefits/>

Otter Lake Landowners' Association

2020 Membership Form

Your membership is important. It helps pay for water quality monitoring, associated laboratory fees, and other key initiatives. Members have access to all the resources of the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA).

Our annual membership fee remains at \$30.

This is a new membership or a renewal

Number of years being paid for: Amount of payment @ \$30/year: \$

Date of this membership payment:

Additional donation to OLLA to support an Otter Lake Fish Habitat Study: \$

Name(s) of Owner(s):

Mailing address:

.....

Cottage/House and Road number:

Telephone: Lake: Cell: Residence:

E-mail address:.....

I would like the OLLA and FOCA Newsletters sent to me by: email letter mail

Membership fees and this completed form can be given to any OLLA Board Director, or you can letter mail them to this address:

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

Membership fees can also be paid by **e-transfer** to **otterlakeassociation@gmail.com**. If paying by e-transfer, please send this completed form to the same email address, or letter mail it to the above address.

This membership was paid by: cash cheque e-transfer

Thank you for your support!