



## MINUTES OTTER LANDOWNERS' ASSOCIATION (OLLA)

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING July 23, 2022

President Jeff Neal welcomed all to the annual general meeting, our first in-person AGM in a while. Attendees were thanked for participating today and invited all to a free lunch after the meeting. He highlighted that all members of OLLA are also members of FOCA members. FOCA has a host of resources we can access on their website. If you do not have access, contact Jeff to obtain the FOCA member login information - email to: continuously [OLLAPresident@otterlake.org](mailto:OLLAPresident@otterlake.org) ..... We are also working to develop liaisons with the road associations around the lake – if we had a representative from every road around the lake we could send out information to Otter Lake residents more readily. We want to make sure people are kept aware. Also, we are updating our OLLA website – if there something that needs to be added or removed, let us know by contacting [info@otterlake.org](mailto:info@otterlake.org) We also have a facebook page that Judy maintains where members can add items for sale, etc. , as members can add things for sale, get updates on OLLA projects, etc.

Jeff introduced the current OLLA board of directors: John McKenney, Judy Hodgins, Susan Thum, Eric Hempell, Diana Ghent, June Finless, Deb McVean and himself, Jeff Neal.

#### **2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

The agenda was displayed on the screen for review – no changes to the agenda were proposed by membership.

MOTION to approve the AGM Agenda as presented: MOVED by Susan Thum, SECONDED Henry Morash. All in Favour. CARRIED

#### **3. APPROVAL OF 2021 AGM MINUTES:**

The 2021 AGM minutes were displayed on the screen and distributed to everyone as part of the AGM package. Jeff asked if there were any changes proposed for the 2021 minutes.

None were identified.



MOTION to approve of 2021 AGM Minutes as presented: MOVED by Frank Croft SECONDED by Doug Franks. All in Favour. CARRIED.

#### **4. MEMBERSHIP UPDATE:**

John reported that we have quorum for this meeting (23 attendees plus 8 directors) and currently have 67 members. We have 30 members from last year that have not yet renewed for this year. So, our member numbers should increase as the year progresses.

John also reminded the membership that we are continuing our Bring a Friend to OLLA initiative, with each new member referral, being entered in a draw for a free 1-year membership extension. Refer people to website, can get membership forms there, and make sure they put your name on their membership form so that you are entered in the draw.

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

Deb McVean reported on the OLLA 2021 Year end Financial Report provided in the OLLA AGM package that was distributed to members and posted on the OLLA website. Bank balance as of Dec 31, 2021 was \$5,512.50 and investments as of Dec 31, 2021 were \$4,066.30 with total financial assets of \$9,578.80. Expenses for 2021 totaled \$9,886.12, and revenues for 2021 totaled \$7,228.30 which included, membership \$2,460.00, advertising \$500.00, donations \$190.00, FOCA grant of \$400.00 and Township of Rideau Lake association grant of \$1,612.00.

Deb asked the membership if they had any questions. None were put forward.

MOTION to approve the Treasurer's Report for Year-end 2021 as presented: MOVED by Nancy McCart, SECONDED by Frank Morash. All in Favour. CARRIED.

Deb also showed the new format for our balance sheet and Statement of Income & Expenditures, for the period of January 1, 2022 to June 30, 2022. Deb asked if there were any questions about our new format. There were no questions.

#### **6. LAKE STEWARD'S UPDATE:**

Judy gave an overview of what we do, such as the Sustainable Lake Plan that was updated and the second edition was presented at the last virtual AGM. All our ongoing and new initiatives flow from this document, such as Water Testing, liaising with the Township and relevant committees, such as RLLAC (Rideau Lakes Lake Association Committee that is chaired by the mayor) and attending FOCA, Lake Links meetings and workshops.



OLLA volunteers built two loon nesting platforms this year which a group of OLLA volunteers installed in early May. They were not inhabited this year, which is not usual for new nests and we may move one of the nests to near the boat launch for next year, as the current location is right below an eagle's nest. We have 5 loon pairs and 4 chicks in total this year.

We are participating in the "Let's Get the Lead Out" Wolfe Lake Association initiative. Lead poisoning is a major contributor to the deaths of loons and other water fowl. We are encouraging fishers to turn in their lead fishing tackle at participating retailers and receive \$10 voucher to purchase lead-free tackle. There is contest until October 31<sup>st</sup> -- place tackle in bag with name and phone number and/or email and contact [dogday@bell.net](mailto:dogday@bell.net) for pick up or drop off. There is also a collection box for lead tackle at boat launch (that is not part of the contest).. As of July 13<sup>th</sup>, 78 pounds of tackle has been collected through this initiative.

Lake Trout restocking for Otter Lake is an ongoing dialogue with NDMNRF. We have provided Dissolved Oxygen (DO) levels taken by RVCA and our DO has been improving over the last 15 years. There is a Fish Diaries program under way now until March 2023 that will hopefully confirm remnants of a Lake Trout population in Otter Lake. Any restocking of Lake Trout will not likely happen before 2025 and only if we can get NDMNRF on board.

Watersheds Canada grant application for restoration of spawning area; we had a site visit July 12<sup>th</sup>. The project would be done in 2023/24. There is no cost to OLLA, only volunteer time.

Other ongoing OLLA projects include:

- European Frogbit which we are continuing to monitor
- Promoting shoreline protection through RVCA Shoreline Naturalization Program
- Watersheds Canada "Lake Protection Workbook" – there are copies available here
- Lake water quality testing by RVCA (2 deep water sites readings plus an additional 3 other shoreline sites. OLLA has restated its water quality testing additional sites this. year (3-4 shoreline sites as well as off the bridge over Barker's Creek for e-coli only. There are no concerning trends; results remain consistent. Major concern is Blue-Green Algae Blooms

New projects include:

- Source Water Protection – Rideau Source Water Protection Committee has secured provincial funding for a 6 month project to explore surface water use, risk factors and planning recommendation. Four lakes in the Township to be surveyed and analysed this summer are: Bass, Wolfe, Upper Rideau and Otter. Link to the survey is available on our website and Facebook and there are hard copies available here at the AGM if you prefer.



- FloatOLLA – new this year, refer to FloatOLLA under New Business for additional information

## **7. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS:**

Jeff announced and thanked the retiring director Diana Ghent for her contributions as an OLLA board member. He explained that our OLLA constitution states that our board of directors shall consider not less than 5 and not more than 10 directors. Currently we have 8 directors. We have a total of 7 openings for directors:

- 4 current directors whose term has ended, have agreed to stand for re-election, including:
  - Jeff Neal
  - John McKenney
  - Judy Hodgins
  - Susan Thum
- 3 additional openings

June reviewed the general election process and requirements with the membership. She noted that if we get more nominations that the maximum available (7) positions, an election will be held by secret ballot and counted by two scrutineers. If nominations are less than total available positions, nominees are considered acclaimed and no election is required.

She asked if there were any questions and then went on explain that as per our nomination requirements, she would now call for nominations from the floor, three times.

We still have three other vacant board positions to fill. June asked the membership if there were any additional nominations, or members willing to stand for the available board positions. On the first call for nominations, Frank Croft volunteered to join the board and help with the website. On the second and third call, no additional nominations were received.

As the nominations received did not go above the maximum, no election if required and, Jeff Neal, John McKenney, Judy Hodgins and Susan Thum were re-elected by acclamation and Frank Croft was elected by acclamation. Frank Croft introduced himself to the group.

Board members for the 2022-23 year are: Susan Thum, Judy Hodgins, John McKenney, Deb McVean, June Finless, Jeff Neal, Eric Hempell and Frank Croft.

Jeff also thanked Karl for his ongoing support of the board in his non-director role and Government Liaison, etc. and Diana for her contribution on the board this past year.



## **8. NEW BUSINESS:**

### **a. New Ontario Not-For-Profit (ONCA) Requirements**

June explained that the new ONCA rules need to be implemented on or before October 2024 and noted that we have already pro-actively addressed most of the requirements with the Amendments to our Bylaws completed a few years ago. There may be a few bylaw additions needed to fully address the new requirements than we will present to the membership at the next AGM for approval.

New ONCA rules will now require not-for-profit organizations (with less than \$100,000 in annual revenues) to conduct an annual financial audit, unless we pass an 'extraordinary' resolution to waive an audit or review engagement at each AGM for the next fiscal year. It requires approval by at 80% of members present at the AGM. This means as of next AGM (2023) we will need to pass an extraordinary resolution to waive an audit or review for the following year and every year thereafter – OR – pay for an annual audit or review of our year-end financials every year.

June highlighted that our main concern as a board is that if we have to do an annual audit we will very quickly have no money left to operation the association and we certainly will be unable to continue offering memberships in the association at \$30 per year. Although the extraordinary resolution is not required this year, we wanted to present this information to the membership now to make you aware that we will need to start doing this resolution next year to be in compliance with ONCA requirements or start incurring large costs to have a financial audit each year. June asked if anyone had any questions. There were none. June asked if anyone was opposed or concerned with us doing an extraordinary resolution next year to waive the audit requirement. No concerns were noted.

### **b. FloatOLLA 2022**

Deb introduced our FloatOLLA social event being held this summer. It will be a boat parade and food bank drive. It is being held on August 6<sup>th</sup>. We have a prize for the best decorated boat, but there is no requirement to decorate, just come on out with your boat and join the parade. If you want to contribute to the food bank drive but not participate in the parade, contact us and we will arrange to drop by your cottage/home to pick up your food bank donations. We also will have two food bank donation boats out on the lake to collect donations. This parade is open to everyone on the lake, so invite your friends and neighbours.

### **c. Swag**

Susan shared that we were contacted by a supplier who lives on Bass Lake that produced swag for Bass Lake last year and he wondered if we were interested in some Otter Lake products for



our lake and landowners. If anyone is interested, contact Susan at [info@otterlake.org](mailto:info@otterlake.org) and she will put them in touch with the person who is making up the various shirts, etc.

**d. Other**

Jeff asked the membership if anyone had any other concerns they wanted to discuss. Two concerns were raised by the membership.

- Fireworks going off on many occasions and all hours for long periods of time. Jeff noted that we had received concerns from others and other lakes and FOCA are also concerned. Suggestions to limit days, hours, types of fireworks, etc. Judy identified that her road association submitted a complaint to the Township and said that the more letters/complaints the Township receives the more attention they will pay to those concerns.
- Wave runners who run their watercraft at loon families, race watercrafts next to shorelines, etc. Jeff identified that you can call the OPP to raise the complaint if you know who it is and they can be charged with unsafe boating. He also recommended that a picture of the boat is provided to OPP with the complaint so that it is easier to follow up. You can also talk to your neighbours.

**8. DATE of NEXT AGM:** July 22, 2023

**9. MOTION TO ADJOURN AGM:**

MOTION to adjourn the Annual General Meeting. MOVED by Henry Morash and SECONDED by Frank Croft. CARRIED.