

Otter Lake Landowners Association

Otter Lake News

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Fall 2024

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Message from the President

Hello everyone! It's hard to believe another summer at the lake is ending. Time continues to fly by. With the passing of the summer, sunrises at the lake are happening when more people are awake to enjoy them. The picture below was taken from our deck on October 8, 2024.



Although there was a lot of Loon activity on the lake this year, I believe only a single baby loon will be flying south this year! We have made some changes to our Loon nesting platforms in the hope that they

will interest the loons and result in a more successful nesting period next year.

This fall there is a definite lack of colour in the forest. I've been told it is due to the weather we have experienced. Poor weather also resulted in the cancelation of some planned OLLA social activities! We'll try again next year!

This year's AGM was well attended and quite successful, and planning is underway for next year. Stay tuned for glimpses of planned agenda items!

Former Director, and long-time lake resident Judy Hodgins forwarded a link to a recent article in Cottage Life Magazine promoting "Lead-free Fishing"! Here's the link:

[https://cottagelife.com/outdoors/cottage-qa-how-can-i-recognize-lead-fishing-bait/?utm_source=Cottage Life Newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Dockside Sep26 2024&mc_cid=a25886cde2&mc_eid=a3bb633519&fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR1sHZGmdfQoYCONTWKAqGqT6T16BHJQNNB_I2jWN4sTxJaLoqUQfCemuRI_aem_7cedCVWNSGioKPznOUmJtQ](https://cottagelife.com/outdoors/cottage-qa-how-can-i-recognize-lead-fishing-bait/?utm_source=Cottage+Life+Newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Dockside+Sep26+2024&mc_cid=a25886cde2&mc_eid=a3bb633519&fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR1sHZGmdfQoYCONTWKAqGqT6T16BHJQNNB_I2jWN4sTxJaLoqUQfCemuRI_aem_7cedCVWNSGioKPznOUmJtQ)

As you prepare for winter, take a moment to look around your place and think about all you have done! We spend a lot of our time maintaining and, often, improving. Look at your fall checklist and see if anything needs to be added. If you have done improvements, check your insurance and make sure they are included. And as you think about what next spring will bring, think about your lake association and the benefits of belonging!

Jeff

ollapresident@otterlake.org

FloatOLLA Food Bank Drive

Submitted by Deb McVean

Although we had to cancel the 2024 FloatOLLA and Paddlefest due to inclement weather, we were able to raise 70 pounds of food and \$615.00. These have been split between the Smiths Falls and Portland Food Banks and will be greatly appreciated.


Thank you all for your generosity.



We at the **Smiths Falls Community Food Bank** wish to thank you for your kindness and support.

Contributions of all types and sizes are always greatly appreciated and have a significant impact on helping individuals and families in Smiths Falls and surrounding areas.

Thank you so much for the incredible donations! We truly appreciate your generosity!
-natalia



Rideau Lakes Fire Station #2

Submitted by Deb McVean

Rideau Lakes Fire Station #2 at the corner of Highway 15 and Otter Lake Road is almost ready to open! The Township of Rideau Lakes Fire Chief is confident that it will be operational by the end of October 2024. And they will be having an Open House so that residents can tour the facility. Keep your eyes open for Township or Newsbytes updates.

Most Insurance Companies give discounts to Homeowners whose properties are within a certain distance of a Fire station. And Fire Station #2 will have a superior tanker shuttle. Once Fire Station #2 is operational, call your Insurance Broker and find out if your insurance rates can be reduced due to

proximity to the new Fire Station and the fact that it has a tanker shuttle.

Summer 2024 Socials

Submitted by Betty Large

Muffins in the Middle – On August 10th it was wonderful to meet on the lake with landowners for a snack break. We had a strong contingent of paddlers and a pontoon boat to anchor to for muffins and juice. Watch for more events next summer to be social on the lake.



OLLA Eats Out – On August 25th we had our 3rd successful meal out with OLLA members at The Iron Forge in Smiths Falls. We look forward to seeing more people at our next meal out. Stay tuned for details.

Successful Fishing

Submitted by Dana & Alexander

You may have seen this post on our Facebook page, but we thought that it was worth repeating here, just in case you missed it.

Fishing is alive and well on Otter Lake!

13 year old Alexander from O2 caught this beautiful smallmouth, measuring 6.9 pounds at his "secret spot" by the "white buoy" across from Elephant Island. He's out every day he can be - either in his little motorboat or kayak.



His grandpa, Dana, taught him a few tricks though - still holding onto the largest fish trophy. Last fall, he caught this 44" pike just off the shoal in the bay.



He'd have weighed it, but had no easy way to do so! Since then our daughter doesn't swim too far off the dock knowing this monster is there!

Lake Maps

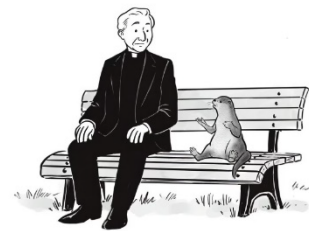
We received a question on our Facebook page regarding the availability of maps of Otter Lake. The question was for those new to the lake or to boating on our lake and the identification of shoals or other relevant details. One source that was recommended as a resource for this information is Angler's Atlas. Details can be found at:

[Otter Lake, Ontario | Angler's Atlas \(anglersatlas.com\)](http://anglersatlas.com)

Lake Protection Workbooks

Watersheds Canada, a local non-profit organization and registered Canadian charity, provides information and resources to people and local groups to engage and help shoreline owners enhance and protect the health of lakes and rivers. If you are interested in learning more about them, their programs or resources, check out their website, www.watersheds.ca.

One of the resources that has helped many property owners is the "*Lake Protection Workbook: A Self-Assessment Tool for Shoreline Property Owners*", created by the Lake Links Planning Committee. This publication helps to diagnose any shoreline property problems, and see how you can help your shoreline. Free copies can be downloaded from their website or hard copies are also available. OLLA has a few of the printed copies available to our members. If you are interested in obtaining one please contact Jeff at ollapresident@otterlake.org



"No, I'm pretty sure it's do unto others as you would have others to do unto you."

Announcing OLLA Photo Contest Winners - 2024

Submitted by Betty Large

Congratulations to Jane Coombe from Rd O7 who won the photo contest with the One Loonlet photo and Laura Cashen from Rd O7 who was the runner up with the Heron Having a Snack! The following were the pictures entered into the OLLA Photo Contest 2024.



The photo contest will be running again! Check out the OLLA website for the details. Young and old can enter a photo taken before July 1, 2025. The photo needs to be taken between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025.

Lost & Found

The OLLA Facebook page received a few messages over the cottage season from lake residents who were reaching out with a variety of both lost & found items. We were happy to help connect both!

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Reminder: OLLA members receive FOCA membership. FOCA supports members with a wide range of services, programs, events and special offers.

Membership benefits can be found at the following link
<https://foca.on.ca/member-services/benefits/>