



MINUTES OTTER LANDOWNERS' ASSOCIATION (OLLA)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING July 22, 2023

1. OPEN MEETING – PRESIDENT'S REMARKS:

Quorum was met: 32 members, including 9 board members.

President Jeff Neal welcomed all to the annual general meeting. Attendees were thanked for participating today and invited all to a free light lunch after the meeting.

We have had a busy year that included activities such as:

Loons – One of our lake volunteers, Lauren Cashen paddles around the lake and identifies loon pair locations and chicks born each year. She created a map that shows the approximately where the five pairs are located. If you want a copy of the map, contact info@otterlake.org. This year we have five loon pairs on Otter Lake; two loon pairs produced twins this year and we think there will be more chicks born from at least one more loon pair. Last year had a total of five chicks. The loons don't seem to like the loon nests we built so we are planning on making some changes. One loon nest is located in Tooley's Bay and the other one is the bay that has Barker's creek and the boat launch. We are looking at making some changes to them before we install them again next year.

Fish Diary Campaign – The Ontario Ministry of Northern Development, Natural Resources and Forestry (NDMNRF) and Otter Lake Landowners' Association (OLLA) conducted a survey of fish caught in Otter Lake with the help of anglers who completed fishing diaries to record the fish they caught.

Get the Lead Out campaign – OLLA supported the Wolf Lake Association's Let's Get the Lead Out campaign which includes a lead fishing tackle buy back program. Lead poisoning from lost lead tackle is a leading cause of death in adult loons as well as fish and other wildlife.

Working with the Township – The Township is currently reviewing development bylaws to address Ontario's Bill 23, that potentially allows three buildings on a lot. OLLA and other lake associations are working with the Township to ensure that our water quality is not put at risk from overdevelopment on lakes and rivers.

Contact Point for each Road – OLLA would like to establish a contact point for each road around Otter Lake. We feel it is important to be able to get information out quickly to Otter Lake residents if there is an emergency situation or potential health risk, e.g. if there is a blue/green algae discovery on Otter Lake, etc. There is a sheet on the registration table where you can sign up as a contact person for your road.



FloatOLLA – We had our first FloatOLLA last year, and we are planning our second annual FloatOLLA on August 12, 2023. We drive a flotilla of boats around the lake and collect food and donations for the two local food banks. It is open to anyone on Otter Lake. There will be prizes for best dressed boat, but decorating your boat is optional. As some members indicated that they were waiting on the south shore to watch the flotilla last year but didn't get to see the boats, Jeff said we will extend the FloatOLLA route so that it goes by the south shore this year. We are also considering changing the date for FloatOLLA in 2024 to July 1, 2024.

Then, Jeff introduced the current OLLA board of directors: John McKenney, Judy Hodgins, John Burke, 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 Frank Croft. All in Favour. CARRIED

3. APPROVAL OF 2022 AGM MINUTES:

The 2022 AGM minutes were displayed on the screen and posted on the website as part of the AGM Agenda Package. Jeff asked if there were any changes proposed for the 2022 minutes – no changes to the minutes were identified by the membership.

MOTION to approve of 2022 AGM Minutes as presented: MOVED by Deb McVean SECONDED by Ted Duffin. All in Favour. CARRIED.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT:

Deb McVean reported on the OLLA 2022 Year end Financial Report provided in the OLLA AGM package that was distributed to members and posted on the OLLA website. Total financial assets, as of December 31, 2022 were \$9,951.97 that included a bank account balance of \$5,882.08 and investments of \$4,069.89. Expenses for 2022 totaled \$4,980.80, and revenues for 2022 totaled \$5,214.81 which gave us a surplus for the year of \$234.01.

Highlights include:

FloatOLLA Last Year – We collected over 200 lbs of food and \$100 in donations, which were donated to the two food banks in our area. We received two lovely thank you notes from the food banks. The Hillis Family won the best dressed boat last year and received t-shirts. We are thinking of reviving an annual picnic next year. If you have ideas or suggestions, send to info@olla.org

Donations –We received donations in the amount of \$601.22 in 2022. We also received a donation of the materials for the Loon Nest project from Rideau Home Hardware.



Grants – We received a grant from the Township of Rideau Lakes in the amount of \$1,732.00

Projects – We spent a total of \$798.51 on current projects including Loon Nests, Fish Habitat, and Get the Lead Out.

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

MOTION to approve the Treasurer’s Report for Year-end 2022 as presented: MOVED by John McKenney, SECONDED by Judy Hodgins. All in Favour. CARRIED.

5. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS:

Jeff thanked the retiring directors, Judy Hodgins and June Finless.

Jeff explained that our OLLA constitution states that our board of directors shall consist of not less than 5 and not more than 10 directors. The roles of the directors are assigned at the first board meeting following the AGM. We currently have 9 directors.

We have two directors stepping down from the board, Judy and June. There are two directors, Eric Hempell and Deb McVean whose current term has ended and have agreed to stand for re-election, one director, John Burke who was appointed to the board after the last AGM, who needs to be accepted by the membership and a new nominee, Betty Large who has volunteered to join the board. We have 2 additional openings on the board.

Jeff asked the membership if there were any additional nominations to stand for the available board positions. No additional nominations were received.

Jeff noted that as the nominations received did not go above the maximum number of directors, no election is required and the membership can re-elect/elect the board members by acclamation.

MOTION to acclaim the directors previously named (Eric Hempell, Deb McVean, John Burke, Betty Large): MOVED by Frank Croft and SECONDED by John McKenney. All in favour. CARRIED.

Board members for the 2023-2024 year are: Susan Thum, John Burke, John McKenney, Deb McVean, Betty Large, Jeff Neal, Eric Hempell and Frank Croft.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Motion to change Bylaws – Membership year end

Jeff introduced the motion and the rationale for changing the membership year back to the old model where membership is for the calendar year. If approved this change will take effect on January 1, 2024.



MOTION to approve proposed bylaw change to s.1.7 – Membership, of OLLA #1 to read: The membership year shall be the calendar year beginning on January 1 and ending on Dec 31. Membership renewal fees are due on January 1 of each year: MOVED by Randy Hodgins and SECONDED by June Finless. All in favour. CARRIED.

b. Motion to change Bylaws – Waive the financial audit

Jeff introduced the motion and rationale for having the membership waive the requirement to conduct a financial audit for the 2022 fiscal year which is required to be in compliance with the new Ontario Not-for-profit Corporations Act (ONCA). This motion will be required for every fiscal year moving forward or we will be required to conduct a financial audit for that year.

MOTION to waive the requirement to conduct an annual audit for the 2022 financial year, in keeping with the new Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act: MOVED by Shelley Dunlop and SECONDED by Holly Seguire. All in favour. CARRIED.

The vote results were counted as there is a requirement that 80% of the members attending the AGM vote to accept the motion. Count: 32 OLLA members present and 30 members voted to accept the motion. None voted against.

One of the members suggested that since we don't have a written financial policy document in place that we create one for OLLA governance. He offered to send a sample financial policy used for another not-for-profit organisation that we can use as a sample to work from. Consensus was that would be a good idea. Jeff suggested he send the Financial Policy sample to him directly or to info@otterlake.org

7. MEMBERSHIP UPDATE:

John reported that we currently have 75 members. We have 12 members from last year that have not yet renewed for this year. So, our member numbers should increase as the year progresses.

John mentioned that he keeps membership information on file. If any member wants to update their information on file, send information to John McKenney.

8. LAKE STEWARD'S REPORT:

Jeff told membership that he has been doing the Lake Steward duties this past year, and will continue this year unless someone else from the new board decides to take on that role.

Jeff highlighted that a copy of the Lake Steward's 2022 Report was included in the AGM package that was posted on the website and link was provided in the AGM email notification. He asked if there were any questions about the report.



MOTION to accept the Lake Steward's Report as presented: MOVED by Susan Thum and SECONDED by John Graham. All in favour. CARRIED.

Jeff highlighted a few areas for the members, including:

- **Health of the Lake** – Oxygen levels not quite there yet for lake trout restocking but we have clear water with good chemistry. This is important because the water is used by many residents for household use, for swimmer's health and for wildlife.
- **Loon nesting platforms** – we built and installed loon nesting platforms last year but they did not get used by loons this year, 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 plan to make modifications to the platforms before reinstalling next spring.
- **Get the Lead Out** – We are continuing to support the Get the Lead Out project started by the Wolf Lake Association last year. We continue to have signage posted and a collection box for lead tackle at boat launch. Our own Eric Hempell was the Grand Prize Winner for the Get the Lead Out contest last year. Province and National Parks have banned the use of lead tackle. Members suggested that we post the lead tackle ban on the website. Member volunteered to send the "Lead Tackle is Banned" quote from the province to info@otterlake.org for us to post on our website.
- **Website Impact** – A group of school children in the states researching invasive species, found and have used our website (and the links provided) for information, particularly in the area of invasive species. They emailed us to let us know that they are using and appreciated the information we are providing. They also sent us a Clean Your Boat: Learn about Invasive Species for our information and use.
- **Invasive Species** – we continue to work on getting the message out to boaters to "clean your boat". Our amazing volunteers over the past few years have worked very hard to remove European Frogbit, and they have done a great job stopping the advancement of Frogbit, but it will be an ongoing need, as the Frogbit is massively entrenched in the streams coming into Otter Lake, particularly Barker's Creek (near the boat launch) and ongoing monitoring and removal at the entry points will be required. We don't currently have phragmites around the lake, but they are nearby. Some other potential invasive water species of concern are water Soldier and European Water Chestnut. We always will need volunteers to come help remove Frogbit, if you want to volunteer and/or you see other invasive species around the lake, let us know at info@olla.org.
- 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.



9. DR. SMOL PRESENTATION – Impact of Climate Change and Other Stressors on our lake:

10. DATE of NEXT AGM: July 27, 2024

11. MOTION TO ADJOURN AGM:

MOTION to adjourn the Annual General Meeting. MOVED by Shannon Parker and SECONDED by Randy Hodgins . All in Favour. CARRIED.