

OTTER LAKE RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION ("OLRA")

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MAY 22, 2022

QUORUM

Upon confirming that a quorum of members and Board Directors was present, the meeting was called to order by the Meeting Chairperson, Kerry Mueller, OLRA Board President, at 9:00 AM.

There were 38 locations logged into the meeting, with some having more than one participant.

WELCOME

Kerry Mueller, OLRA Board President, made introductory remarks and introduced speakers and guests:

- Ann MacDiarmid, Mayor of Seguin Township
- Daryle Moffatt, Ward 1 Councilor
- Art Coles, Ward 2 Councilor
- Jason Inwood, CAO, Seguin Township
- Wolfgang Mersch, representing the Rankin Lake Property Owners' Association

The Board Directors were introduced to the membership.

2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

Motion: To approve the Agenda for the AGM.

Moved by: Mario Buszynski

Seconded by: Douglas Whitman

Motion Carried: 100% of electronic voters in favour

2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

The draft minutes from the May 23, 2021 Annual General Meeting are posted on the OLRA website and will be approved at the 2023 Annual General Meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT

2021 Financial Year End Report: AJ Mueller, OLRA Board Treasurer, presented the 2021 Financial Statements. 2021 Retained Earnings was \$75,384, with Financial

Assets of \$76,504 and Liabilities of \$1,120. Net Income was \$3,728. Highlights included:

- **Assets:** Operating Funds were \$20,500, the Reserve Fund was \$40,481 and the Environmental Fund was \$15,523 for Total Financial Assets of \$76,504 as at December 31, 2021. Total Financial assets have increased year over year since 2018.
- **Revenue:** Membership Revenue was \$6,900, Reserve Fund Donations were \$1,068, Environmental Fund Donations were \$1,478, BBQ Ticket Sales was \$0, Newsletter Advertising was \$2,180 and Interest Income was \$900 for Total Revenues of \$12,426 as at December 31, 2021. While Membership Revenue, Reserve Fund Donations and Environmental Fund Donations were higher in 2021 than in previous years, lower BBQ Ticket Sales resulted in lower revenue.
- **Expenses:** BBQ expenses was \$0. Other Expenses were \$8,698 for Total Expenses of \$8,698.

Membership Highlights: AJ Mueller, OLRA Board Treasurer presented Membership Highlights:

- As at December 31, 2021, there were 183 Primary Members and 282 Additional Family Members for a Total Membership of 465.
- As at May 21, 2022, there were 146 Primary Members and 247 Additional Family Members for a Total Membership of 393. This represents a 85% increase in numbers for the same time last year and more are expected.

Approval of 2020 Financial Statements:

Motion: To approve 2022 Financials

Moved by: Rob Cribbie

Seconded by: Brian Hindley

Motion Carried: 100% of electronic voters in favour

2022 Key Metrics, as at April 30th: The Treasurer presented highlights of Key 2022 Metrics. The anticipated Year End Surplus is expected to be \$2,400, considering budgeted and year to date revenue and expenses.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Brian Hindley, OLRA Board Lake Steward, presented the stewardship program. Highlights included:

- **2021 Lake Partnership Program Water Quality Results:** While the overall results were generally good, there is a need to remain vigilant. The average Total Phosphorus (TP) ($\mu\text{g/L}$) increased slightly in Otter and Little Otter Lakes, but results were remained below ($<10 \mu\text{g/L}$ for TP), which is typical of an oligotrophic lake. Calcium levels (mg/L) are stable and low, which is typical of lakes on the Cambrian

Shield. Water clarity Secchi disk measurements, showed no significant changes year over year. Dissolved Oxygen (DO) and Water Clarity are generally good, but there are some concerns over low DO in embayments. It's more important to continue sampling the same sampling sites for continuity and trending, than it is to add sampling sites.

- **2021 Benthic Report Highlights:** Benthic results are typical of lakes in the Muskoka area and there are no significant trends over the 3-year sampling period. Sampling will continue to identify trends over time. “Bugs in the mud” or benthic macroinvertebrates are diverse small and microscopic animals with no backbones which live on the bottom of the lake. The type of species and numbers are key indicators of a lake’s health, “canaries in the mine”, and are an indispensable part of the food chain for fish, reptiles, amphibians, birds, etc.
- **2023 Water Quality Testing/Benthic Sampling Program:** The Lake Partnership Program with the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks will continue, with monthly sampling for Total Phosphorus and Calcium and Water Clarity Secchi disc measurements at three sampling stations from May through October. Dissolved O₂ testing will take place in late August or early September prior to lake-turnover (temperature de-stratification). Benthos observation sampling conducted by Georgian Bay Biosphere is tentatively set for July 3-5th. There is an open invitation to anyone interested in observing the sample collections and benthos identification. Please e-mail Brian Hindley at info.olra.ca.
- **Final Thoughts: Need to Remain Vigilant:**
 - Keep nutrients, sediments and contaminants from entering the lakes.
 - Maintain/restore natural shorelines and nearshore properties. See GBBR for native plant list. Remove non-native invasive plants.
 - Minimize your ecological footprint. See GBBR Life on the Bay Stewardship Guide and Seguin Township Stewardship Guide.
 - Get involved in FrogWatch, IceWatch, Canadian Loon Survey, invasive species reporting.

LOON REPORT

Kerry Mueller, OLRA Board President, advised that 2021 was the best year in a decade for Loon chicks: 6 eggs were laid by 3 Loon families. In 2022, possible 4 pairs of Loons have been spotted. *Boat watchfully with low wakes because small loon chicks cannot dive!* Thank you for sharing photos and watching out for our loons!

GUESTS

Ann MacDiarmid – Mayor of Seguin Township: Highlights:

- Thank you for being COVID safe.

- Township Community Centres have returned to normal schedules. The vaccine mandate applies to all buildings.
- Staff changes were made to align with a customer service culture.
- Use ‘Let’s Connect Seguin’ to ask questions or comment on the Official Plan and Shoreline Alteration, Blasting, Tree Removal Bylaws.
- Taxes are going up 2.3% or an average annual increase of \$52.00.
- Projects: Wellness Centre (Pool), Airport Airway Expansion and Business Park, MZO for housing is on hold because of the upcoming election, Belvedere Campus Care Proposal.

Daryle Moffatt - Ward 1 Councilor: Highlights:

- There is an i-cloud system for Building Permits to speed up the process.
- Increase in total number of residents living here, and residents living here year-round.
- \$150,000 is being provided for trails.
- Food recycling pilot project is underway with 100 units. Larger units are coming.
- There is also a composter rebate program.
- There is a new Fire Chief and an increase in the number of bylaw officers.
- Get involved in IceCap to reduce green-house gases.

Art Coles – Ward 2 Councilor: Highlights:

- Belvedere Long Term Care is now being managed by West Parry Sound Health Centre. Amalgamated the procurement process resulting in savings.
- Seasonal year-round support for local businesses is hurting.
- Rose Point Trail and Seguin Train will be part of the overall trail system plan.
- Seasonal roads are being converted to year-round roads. Cottagers would move here if more year-round roads.
- MZO for new mixed housing in the area south of Parry Sound in the Oastler Park corridor to Canadian Tire and Rose Point Road. Application is on Seguin’s website. It won’t cost taxpayers more money because the project is being funded via development charges and private developer funding. The MZO is expected to be approved after the Ontario election. As much local labour will be used as possible, but there is a shortage of local trades. Councilor Art Coles committed that taxpayers will not have to pay for roads, sewers, water treatment, etc. and Mayor Ann MacDiarmid said that “development pays for development”. There are discussions going on with other groups relating to servicing, other than the Town of Parry Sound. Mayor Ann MacDiarmid committed that the Township will exceed environmental requirements.

CANADA DAY BOAT PARADE

Denise Exler, OLRA Board Director, provided highlights on the upcoming Canada Day Boat Parade. It will take place on July 2 (rain date July 3), from 2 to 4 pm. Prizes worth over \$50 will be awarded for the Most Patriotic, Most Creative, and Most Otter Lake

Spirit. The best overall winner will be awarded with a Trophy and a \$100 Marina Gift Certificate. Prizes are awarded to OLRA members only. This event is free to all Otter Lake and Little Otter Lake cottagers and property owners. More details will be sent by email to all OLRA members. Register by email to Denise at otterlakepix@gmail.com.

Boat Captains are responsible for adherence to safe boat operation regulations and Ontario and Health Unit mandated COVID prevention protocols.

ANNUAL OLRA BBQ

Denise Exler, OLRA Board Director, advised that the BBQ will take place on August 6 from 5 to 8 pm, rain or shine, at Grand Tappatto Resort. Early bird tickets (before July 24th) are \$20. Kids under 12 pay \$12 and non-members and latecomers pay \$25. There are only 120 tickets available. For tickets, contact AJ Mueller mueller.ajm@gmail.com. There will be tables available for Local Vendors. Contact Denise Exler otterlakepix@gmail.com to reserve.

ANNUAL OLRA PHOTO CONTEST

Denise Exler, OLRA Board Director, advised that the 2022 contest opens on May 22nd and closes on October 11th. Prizes will be awarded in the adult and youth (16 and under) categories of people, scenery, and wildlife: 1st prize \$25, 2nd prize \$20 and 3rd prize \$15. Overall winner prize is \$25. Send email photos (6 MB or smaller) taken on or around Otter or Little Otter Lakes to Catherine Rokosy OtterLakePhotoContest@gmail.com and indicate category, phone number, mailing address, email address and OLRA membership name. One photo per adult category and up to 3 photos per youth category. Voting will be by email after October 12th. Details will be sent by email to all OLRA members.

NEW BUSINESS

OLRA 60TH ANNIVERSARY eBOOK V1 RELEASE

Nicole Mailloux, OLRA Board Secretary, introduced “A Collection of Otter Lake Memories”, an eBook which celebrates OLRA’s 60th anniversary which was reached on September 1, 2021. This 58-page tribute provides a brief history of OLRA over the past 60 years, photos and stories from several families who participated in the project, and more. This eBook is now on OLRA’s website. Thank you to all the contributors!

SEGUIN OFFICIAL PLAN REVIEW UPDATE:

Kerry Mueller, OLRA Board President, reminded members to comment on the Draft OP at seguinopr.ca until June 30. On June 4th, the Mayor and CAO will speak to Seguin Lake Association representatives on changes to this draft. OLRA also plans to submit comments.

COMMUNITY MINDED BOATING INITIATIVES FROM SAFE QUIET LAKES (SQL)

Kerry Mueller, OLRA Board President, provided a summary on Boating Initiatives. Check out FOCA.on.ca for the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA) and SQL 2022 #WakeAware campaign. SQL sells "NO WAKE" signs for \$20. Wakes in narrow areas damage docks, swamp canoes, erode shores, etc. Please be respectful when boating! OLRA joined the Decibel Coalition (DC), an initiative to lobby Transport Canada (TC) for decibel limits on excessively loud small vessels to be in line with those limits in 30 US States and the EU. Major US boat manufacturers already comply so most boats should be fine. On April 13th, 2022, OLRA made recommendations to TC in support of Option 5, which the majority seemed to support.

PROPOSAL TO UNDERTAKE A BIODIVERSITY STUDY OF OTTER LAKE USING eDNA ANALYSES

Brian Hindley, OLRA Board Lake Steward, presented OLRA's proposal. Key points were:

- Reorganized Ontario Ministries put development over the environment and are less effective at protecting endangered species at risk and decreasing invasive species.
- eDNA is an emerging technology which can monitor lake biodiversity to complement OLRA's water testing and benthic monitoring programs and help OLRA's advocacy role to protect the lake's Lake Trout Status. Maintaining the Lake Trout Status is important because in Ontario lakes with native Lake Trout have a special status under the Planning Act. Lake Trout require cold water lakes to survive and therefore development is frozen on lakes with Lake Trout Status.
- Nature Metrics is now in Guelph and can bring their eDNA analyses to Canada.
- Samples/results are maintained in a database which can be re-assessed as new species are "fingerprinted".
- Can only detect eDNA in water that is <72 hours old
- Absence of eDNA in a sample does not mean a species is NOT present.
- Project to be completed by Seguin resident Cameron von Bratt, MSc. Environmental Consultant with Volunteer Assistance. A workshop would train OLRA volunteers to conduct sampling. There would be 6 samples, including analyses. Total Budget \$6,000 plus HST, which would be paid from OLRA's Environmental Reserve Fund and existing 2022 budget
- OLRA is inviting members to augment the number of sampling sites by funding additional samples/analyses at approximately \$700 per sample.

Discussion followed the presentation. Comments included:

- We already know what fish are in the lake. What do we do with this data? Can't see spending money on this. There are so many different environments. What does this do for Lake Trout?
- There has not been any Lake Trout sampling by Ontario Ministries since 2012-2013 and it has been confirmed that there will be no more Lake Trout sampling in Otter Lake. There is a need to monitor biodiversity and this cost is less than traditional sampling.

- It might be possible to detect the Blandings turtle with eDNA sampling and other species at risk, as well as invasive species.
- Can we share the workshop costs with other Associations, such as Rankin Lake?
- GBBR does not have funding for this.
- There is a need for an overall strategy and plan to manage the lake.
- eDNA is a rapidly expanding area and it's important to move forward to build benchmarks.
- We should compare eDNA sampling with fish sampling using netting.
- We could buy nets or hire someone to do fish sampling.
- MNRF could loan out nets?
- Should do a broadscale netting program every 5 years but this will not happen as MNRF has no funding.
- Otter Lake is not in MNRF's plans. eDNA sampling can catch more species, and the absence of one can't be interpreted to mean a species does not exist in the Lake.
- Laboratory in Guelph will not provide free training, but can provide videos. The local Consultant can train us in a workshop.
- It's important to understand fish stocks and other species in the lake, such as if the Blandings turtle does live in wetlands such as those at 202 Blue Lake Road. Blandings turtles have been seen by people on the lake nearby.
- We do have the money to pay for this from the Environmental Reserve Fund, and dues will not be increased to pay for this sampling.
- What are the risks of this study? There are no risks.
- We know there are Lake Trout as some were caught last summer. The question is if they are reproducing.
- Should all come from Environmental Fund and not be 50% Budget/50% Fund.

Motion: That the OLRA approve the proposal to undertake an eDNA project in 2022 in the amount of \$6,000 + HST

Moved by: Brad Chittick

Seconded by: Alan Goddard

Motion Carried: 92% of electronic voters in favour; 8% of electronic voters opposed

OLRA SPENDING LIMIT

Kerry Mueller, OLRA Board President proposed that that OLRA spending limit of \$2,500.00 be re-set to \$3,700.00.

Discussion followed and comments included:

- How many times has the Board had to approve over \$2,500.00? There were a couple of examples.
- It would be complicated and take some time to get approval from members by email, risking not getting timely approvals.

Motion: The OLRA Board's spending limit in the OLRA Constitution was set to \$2500 in either 2002 or 1990. As per <https://inflationcalculator.ca/ontario/> at the rate of inflation, \$2500 in 2002 equates to \$3685 in 2022. Therefore, the board proposes that the limit be re-set to \$3700 and the OLRA Constitution be amended as follows:

"Article XIV Execution of Documents:

3. Any contract or expenditure, which exceeds \$3700.00, shall only be entered into if passed by vote by two-thirds of the members of the Board of Directors and if ratified at a general meeting of the Corporation;"

Moved by: Mario Buszynski

Seconded by: Rob Cribbie

Motion Carried: 100% electronic voters in favour

COMPLIANCE WITH ONCA (Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act)

Kerry Mueller, OLRA Board President, provided an update. OLRA's Articles will need to comply with ONCA, which came into force on October 19, 2021. Existing not-for-profit corporations have 3 years to transition their articles and documents to comply with ONCA. This fall, OLRA will convene a committee to do that work. Proposed changes will be voted on at the 2023 AGM.

ELECTING OLRA BOARD MEMBERS

Thank you to John Roberts and Denise Exler, OLRA Board Directors, who have decided to step down. Kerry Mueller and the Board thank both for serving 3 years on the OLRA Board. Thank you for their time, contributions on the Board, creativity, organizational skills and sage insights.

Brad Chittick's term has expired, and he is standing for re-election.

There are three other people interested in joining the Board, and each was asked to say a few words:

- Rick Rakosy, Otter Lake. Unfortunately, there were some technical difficulties in hearing his comments. He has been a cottager for his entire life on Otter Lake. He was a secondary school teacher for 30 years and retired in Parry Sound.
- Gerry Doyle, Little Otter Lake. He built a cottage about 14 years ago. He is a Senior Portfolio Manager with RBC and has volunteered for OLRA initiatives in the past.
- Rob Cribbie, Little Otter Lake. He has been coming to Otter Lake since he was a child and purchased a cottage in 2001. He is a Professor at York University specializing in Quantitative Methods/Statistics.

Kerry Mueller asked members if there were any further nominations. There were no further nominations.

Kerry Mueller thanked all 4 candidates for their interest in becoming a Director. It's unfortunate that there were only 3 vacancies and that all 4 can't now join the Board. Members will need to vote for their top 3 choices. Results were as follows:

- Brad Chittick, Otter Lake: 91% of electronic voters.
- Rick Rakosy, Otter Lake: 48% of electronic voters
- Gerry Doyle, Little Otter Lake: 87% of electronic voters.
- Rob Cribbie, Little Otter Lake: 74% of electronic voters.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Kerry Mueller, OLRA Board President, called to close the meeting at 11:56 am.

Motion: That the meeting be closed.

Moved by: Alan Goddard

Seconded by: Jane Whitman

Motion Carried

Acronyms

- AGM: Annual General Meeting
- ATV: All-Terrain Vehicle
- dB: decibel
- DC: Decibel Coalition
- DFO: Department of Fisheries and Oceans
- DO: Dissolved Oxygen
- EP: Environmental Protection
- FOCA: Federation of Ontario Cottagers Association
- FOI: Freedom of Information
- GBB: Georgian Bay Biosphere
- LPP: Lake Protection Program
- MNRF: Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
- MECP: Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
- OLRA: Otter Lake Ratepayers' Association
- ONCA: Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act
- OP: Seguin Township Official Plan
- OPP: Ontario Provincial Police
- PCOC: Pleasure Craft Operator Card
- PFD: Personal Floatation Device
- PWC: Power Water Craft
- SAR: Species at Risk
- SQL: Safe Quiet Lakes

- SRA: Shoreline Allowance
- STCR: Short Term Cottage Rentals
- TC: Transport Canada
- WDALB: Where Does a Lake Begin

APPROVED