

Otter Lake Ratepayers' Association (OLRA) - Fall Board Meeting January 26, 2026

QUORUM The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. Quorum was reached at 7:00 PM.

Present: David Deeks, Rob Cribbie, Naama Levy-Cooperman, AJ Mueller, Kerry Mueller, David Amy

Regrets: Brad Chittick and Richard Hood

No pecuniary interests declared.

Approval of Previous Minutes & Agenda

- **October 30, 2025 Minutes**
Moved: David Amy | *Seconded:* David D. | *Result:* **Approved unanimously**
- **Agenda**
Moved: Rob Cribbie | *Seconded:* Naama Cooperman | *Result:* **Approved unanimously**

Treasurer's Report (AJ Mueller)

- **Financial Position (as of Dec 31, 2025):**
 - Total assets: \$83,000+
 - Reserve fund: ~\$45,000
 - Environmental fund: ~\$23,000
 - Net 2025 gain: \$4,776 (approx. \$2,900 from interest income)
- **Discussion Highlights:**
 - Concern noted that interest income appears high for a not-for-profit.
 - Consensus that OLRA should move toward a break-even budget and invest more directly in projects aligned with its mandate (lake protection, education).
 - Accounting concern raised regarding the golf tournament representing ~25% of revenue and not being core to OLRA's mandate. Committee to add a lake related educational component, possibly in a game, to the tournament this year.
- **Investments:**
 - TD Branch (GICs & cash): ~\$23,000
 - Scotiabank GICs: ~\$30,429
 - TD Direct Investing GICs & cash: ~\$29,000
- **Motion – Divest from TD Direct Investing**
Moved: AJ Mueller | *Seconded:* Rob Cribbie | *Result:* Approved unanimously
- **Approval of Year-End Financial Statements**
Moved: David Amy | *Seconded:* David Deeks | *Result:* Approved unanimously

- **Reimbursement Motion** of \$477 to Kerry Mueller and AJ Mueller for prepaid expenses (software, website hosting, materials).

Moved: David Amy | *Seconded:* David Deeks | *Result:* Approved unanimously (with thanks)

Stewardship & Environmental Monitoring

- **Lake Partner Program & Benthic (Benthos) Monitoring**
 - Program to continue into 2026; data indicates **lower sensitive benthic species** in Little Otter Lake compared to Otter Lake, potential link to higher chloride levels identified. More investigation needed.
- **Chloride Monitoring Program**
 - Summer readings: Little Otter Lake chloride ~10 mg/L vs Otter Lake ~2 mg/L; Lab testing recommended via Near North Labs (North Bay) at ~\$25/sample.
 - **Motion** – Chloride Sampling Budget - approve up to \$300 in 2026 for chloride sampling in Otter Lake and Little Otter Lake.

Moved: David Amy | *Seconded:* AJ Mueller | *Result:* Approved unanimously

- **Chloride Sampling Plan (General Agreement):**
 - Focus on winter and spring runoff. Priority sites: Little Otter dam, Narrows, Short Arm, and road-adjacent inflows on Otter Lake. Approx. 9 samples per year anticipated.
 - **Action:** Rob Cribbie to contact Near North Labs and coordinate sampling.
- **Data Analysis (Benthos & Chloride)**
 - Existing raw data available in Excel format from Otter and Little Otter Lakes, Township of the Archipelago and data for a number of other Seguin lakes shared by Seguin Township; Kerry Mueller to upload data to Google Drive for board access.
 - **Action:** Naama, Rob, and others to review data and prepare simple comparative summaries; follow-up discussion to be scheduled if required.

New Initiatives

- **“Get the Lead Out” (Lead Fishing Tackle Reduction)**
 - Proposal for a lead tackle exchange / incentive program; model referenced: Wolf Lake Association; educational component encouraged.

- Subcommittee Formed: Kerry Mueller & David Deeks (lead), David Amy to assist as available

Community Events

- **Barbecue:** Format largely unchanged; Key focus: earlier volunteer recruitment, including outreach to local high schools. Strong support for adding **live or amplified music**. Budget range discussed: **\$500–\$2,500**. Members to explore local performers and options. Rob Cribbie and David Deeks to gather quotes/options and report back
- **Golf Tournament:** Same weekend available as last year. Option to expand from 40 to ~48 players. Discussion on reducing financial risk by simplifying payment flow. Prize budget supported (incl. marina hoodie promotion). Rob Cribbie to confirm logistics with golf course and payment options.
- **Photo Contest:** Julie Hoffman to organize again. Dates: May 15 – October 15
- **Book Club:** Coordinated by Naama Levy-Cooperman. Survey for book suggestions to be sent in March. Meetings planned for May and June, with possible in-person summer session.

Outreach, Partnerships & Administration

- Donations increased to \$300/year each for: Georgian Bay Biosphere, Safe Quiet Lakes.
- FOCA AGM (March 7, Toronto or online): Kerry Mueller to attend if possible.
- Spring newsletter planned for April.

Board Recruitment

- Board seeking an additional member.
- Potential candidates discussed (e.g., marina representation).

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:57 PM.

Action Items

Responsible Party	Action Item
Kerry Mueller	Upload environmental datasets; reach out to potential board members; share lab contacts.
Rob Cribbie	Coordinate chloride lab testing; confirm golf tournament logistics.
Golf Committee	Confirm 2026 tournament date and capacity
Naama Cooperman	Book club survey and newsletter content; assist with volunteer outreach.