

Otterlake News

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From the President's Desk

There are signs that winter is approaching, most residents around the lake have secured away all the equipment used for summer fun and there is a noticeable stillness around the lake. This has been an extremely wet summer and even wetter fall. In fact, the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority has recently issued a flood warning for the Rideau Valley Watershed. It has been noted that the water levels have risen considerably and some of the private roads have water over them. The concern here is that some items, when stored, such as docks and boats were sufficiently out of the water at the time, but are now partially in water or very close to the edge. This is meant to be a "heads-up" to owners so that they hopefully avoid lost or damaged boats, docks, rafts etc. in the spring.

Now for those of you who were able to attend this year's AGM you will be aware that it was decided to go forward with a "Lake Management Plan" for Otter Lake. We have progressed to the point where we will now be looking for input from owners around the lake.

We would appreciate it if you could all take a few minutes right now and complete the attached questionnaire. We have asked for it to be returned to us by December 15, 2006 so that it does not get buried in the "holiday rush". This plan is a community effort so it is important that we all participate in this project. We have asked you to indicate your name, mailing and civic (lake) addresses etc., however it is optional. Rest assured the forms themselves will not be shared outside the board. This is to easily contact owners in the event of water quality problems such as E-coli in a particular area of the lake. The data will be compiled and used to create a plan based on the desires and wishes of the community as a whole.

We will be looking for volunteers to assist in this adventure and I know a number of you have already stepped forward at the AGM. We have sent out acknowledgements of your offer and requested that you let us know what your area of interest or expertise is, if you have not already replied you can indicate your wishes at the end of this form. For those of you volunteering to help with this request, please let us know what part of the "plan" you would like to be involved in.

This will be the final newsletter for 2006. I would like to take the opportunity now to wish everyone a Happy Holiday season and best wishes for the New Year.

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