

Otterlake News

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From the President's Desk

It is a winter wonderland at Otter Lake now, but Spring will be here before we know it.

We are going to do something a little differently this spring with the newsletters. This Newsletter will be shorter than in the past and we will be including Karl's full Lake Report for 2008 in the spring letter, which we hope to have prepared for delivery mid to late May. The Spring Newsletter will be delivered by the "road reps" directly to you at the cottage. The reason for this unique method of delivery is that we have an excellent Shoreline Owner's Guide booklet called "Healthy Waterfronts" to be part of the Spring Newsletter package. This booklet has a wealth of information for the cottage owner to use as an easy reference. It covers topics like the type of lake we live by, shoreline information, aquatic plant life and why we have those algae blooms periodically. On the back of the booklet there is Contact Information for the various Government Departments and Agencies that govern waterways in Ontario.

We have been notified by the Township that they will be doing a review and update of the Official Plan for the Township of Rideau Lakes. There will be a series of Open Houses during the months of June, July and August. They will be held throughout the Township with specific focus on key issues. Locations and dates will be advertised in newspapers and the Township's website. There will also be at least one public meeting held during this review process and they have tentatively scheduled it for August 2009 to ensure both permanent and seasonal residents have an opportunity to attend.

There are two items that we have brought to the attention of Otter Lake Residents this past fall and I will give just a quick update on what is happening in these areas. The first one is the "Mining Issues" around the area, in particular the most recent location Sharbot Lake, as well as in the Sydenham area near Kingston over the past number of years. There were public meetings last fall and the Ministry of Northern Development & Mines found that there was far more public interest in the modernization of the Mining Act than expected. They had planned to introduce new legislation in December, but that has been postponed and they hope to introduce new legislation now in mid-February.

The second one was WRAFT and their work on fair taxes. WRAFT had been planning on winding down their efforts this past fall, but with the latest MPAC property assessments that came out they are still operating as there have been many property owners in the province very concerned about the assessments that they received. If you have concerns regarding your assessment check out WRAFT on the FOCA website at www.foca.on.ca or contact Terry Rees at the FOCA office if you need additional information.

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Otter Lake Landowners' Association

Membership Form 2009

For Otter Lake property owners.

This is an invitation to all landowners on Otter Lake to become members, or to renew their membership in the association. Your membership is important and helps to meet the cost of monitoring the water quality with the associated laboratory fees, as well as other quality – related lake issues. It also contributes to maintaining OLLA's membership in the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA) that looks after cottagers and landowner's interests at Queens Park and the scientific Community. In addition, University Studies in the US have shown that a strong Lake Association enhances and maintains property values.

Our annual membership has remained unchanged for several years, and still is only \$30.-

A small price to help keep Otter Lake a viable resource for generations to come.

This is a New Membership.....or Renewal.....

Name(s) of Owner(s):.....

Mailing address:.....

.....

Road and Cottage number, or civic number.....

Telephone Numbers:

at the lake:.....Residence.....

Your e-mail address:.....

Amount enclosed: \$ 30. –

Please return to:

Otter Lake Landowners' Association (OLLA)

#30 - O10, R.R. # 1, Lombardy, ON

K0G 1L0

Thank you for your support

