



Otter Lake Association Newsletter

SPRING 2008

To Otter Lake property owners:

Hello from Otter Lake. The warmer weather has arrived with the sounds of spring - birds chirping, spring peepers at night and new lush green vegetation surfacing from the forest floor. This past winter was very long with lots of snow, almost a record amount. Lots of winter storms and a major melt of snow in January. This thaw caused a lot of flooding in the low areas and once the thaw ended, down came the snow again!

There are a few changes in the town. The Shoppers Drug Mart has moved to the old Tastee-Creme location on King William St.; Staples has moved into the old Independent store beside the LCBO; Price Choppers has expanded at their location buying out the stores next to them; Crabby Joes has now taken over the Little Caesars location; and the River Mill Park project is under way at the old Planning Mill site.

The Algonquin Theater is still going strong and the theater has announced their line-up for this summer. If interested in great entertainment see www.algonquintheatre.ca for a complete list.

The OLA Directors have been monitoring activities at Huntsville Town Hall. The Town is in the process of updating the building bylaws to coordinate with the new Official Plan. These bylaws are scheduled to be in effect by late spring. The District of Muskoka is looking at issuing a water/sewer levy to all property owners. There has been much "discussion" on this in the Forester and you might have received a notice to this effect. Both the above matters and others are under review by the Huntsville Lakes Council. The OLA is a member of this Council, which is made up of many lake associations in the area. For more information on these issues contact the Town www.huntsville.ca. There is also a movement afloat regarding unfair taxation on water front properties. Two groups are involved, first CAPTR (Coalition After Property Tax Reform – www.captr.org) and second WRAFT (Waterfront Ratepayers After Fair Taxation – www.wraft.com). These two groups are spearheading the effort to look into this matter. You can find out more information through their websites. Also, Hydro One has been busy clearing the hydro lines of interfering brush and branches in our area and dropping dangerous trees. You may want to look at your own personal hydro lines to make sure that they are clear of branches and bad trees to prevent unnecessary power loss.

Chad Schoppel has done a great job in updating the OLA website. There is a lot of information on the site, including links to other important sites. To access the OLA website go to <http://www.otterlake.info>. You will also find the 2008 OLA membership form, which can be filled out and sent to any one of the directors. There is also a link to the updated water quality data for Otter Lake. Water quality was the topic at our annual

meeting last year and the guest speaker from the Watershed Council did an excellent presentation relating to protection of shoreline buffer zones. An explanation of the data sheet re Otter Lake water quality was also provided. The annual meeting was a great success - lots of information and a great pot luck lunch.

To summarize: the Otter Lake Association is into its second year and is a member of the Huntsville Lakes Council. Thanks goes out to Ted Mercer for attending the HLC meetings for the OLA and keeping us informed. The OLA is an association for all Otter Lake property owners, to help protect and maintain the water quality, the natural beauty and other concerns that involve the lake. It also establishes a body that will monitor developments that may affect this community and that can speak out on the residents' behalf. The primary purpose of our association is to help educate and inform residents in regards to safe practices around the water's edge (ribbon of life area) plus other concerns that affect lake quality and our lake ecosystems.

In regards to lake quality and testing, the OLA is organizing a "Benthic Macroinvertebrate Monitoring" day on Saturday, July 12/08. A representative from the district will take water samples from the lake and participants from Otter Lake (adults & children) will help to identify the macroinvertebrates (bugs). The rep will explain and record what is found. It is a great way to learn and track how healthy your lake is and have fun doing it. This will take place at 136 Otter Lake Cottage Rd., starting at 9:00 a.m. If you or your kids want to participate in this fun venture, let one of the directors know.

In closing --- **BE INFORMED, SUPPORT YOUR OLA AND SIGN UP AS A MEMBER TODAY**

Please join us at our Annual General Meeting On Saturday, August 16/08

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

**Guest speaker from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m.
Rebecca Willison, Muskoka Watershed Council
Topic: Best Practices**

Place to be announced

Pot luck lunch: 12:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Please RSVP by July 26/08 to any one of the directors. We need to know numbers in order to book an appropriate facility to accommodate all who wish to attend. Thanks and see you there!

Directors:

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