



# Otter Lake Association Newsletter

**SPRING 2009**

## Otter Lake Association Newsletter Spring 2009

Otter Lake Property Owners:

Hello from Otter Lake. The rain is coming down outside, as this letter is being written in early May, giving the flowers a welcomed drink. Yes, the flowers are already out, the black flies are out, many of the birds are back and the spring peepers are singing their hearts out! Spring started early this year, with the warm day temperatures and cool nights resulting in one of the best years for maple syrup production. This past winter started very early, making it a long one for us in Huntsville, with lots of snow and a few bad storms causing power outages. You will notice when arriving at the Lake, the number of branches and the debris on the ground due to the heavy snow load and high winds.

There are not too many changes in the Town. The recession has hurt some of the local industries, as it has the rest of the country, with lay offs and slowdowns. The Bank of Montreal has relocated beside the LCBO, the Capital movie theater has updated its facility with new seats, screen and sound system and the Algonquin Theatre is still going strong with lots of live entertainment. The Festival of the Arts crowd has now released their summer programming, most of which will be held at the Algonquin Theatre. For great entertainment see [www.algonquintheatre.ca](http://www.algonquintheatre.ca) to view a complete list.

A recent announcement has been made, that the University of Waterloo will be locating a new campus in Huntsville, with a focus on Environmental Studies – graduate and post graduate. Also, the River Mill park project, behind the town's main street by the docks, has been completed, with a nice play area for the kids. Take a stroll and have a look while you enjoy an ice cream cone!

The OLA directors have been monitoring town activities. Bylaws for building and land use have been updated to coincide with the Official Town Plan. These are now in effect. Therefore, if you are thinking of any construction this year, you will want to check with the town **before** starting. Many changes have been made to the building bylaws. Also, check on the town website for the **revised burning bylaw**. It will concern you if you plan to burn any debris.

The big event coming to town is the G8 Summit, to be held at Deerhurst Resort in June of 2010. Federal monies are being spent in the area to improve infrastructure, etc. A media center is to be constructed beside the Centennial Center to accommodate the 3,000 or more media personnel that will be arriving. This media center will then become a second ice surface after the G8 is over. Other changes will also take place when the town finalizes the work list that will be required to host the G8. There will be a large influx of people into the area for this event, from tourists and interested parties, to protestors and lots of security personnel. For further information check the Huntsville Town website.

Chad Schoppel has been keeping the OLA website (<http://www.otterlake.info>) updated with information relating to the lake. One such item that can be viewed is the water quality chart for Otter Lake. Secchi dish readings of the lake are taken and the data

is sent to the district. It is then compared with readings the district and we have taken in other years. This effort is part of the Lake Partners' Program, which the OLA supports, to help with the monitoring of our lake water quality. The district does hold workshops during the year. Times and dates can be viewed through the Muskoka Watershed Council website.

Last year the OLA hosted its first annual Benthos Testing Day. This is a day when adults, and especially the kids, can take part in counting the bugs in the water/lake bottom samples collected from Otter Lake. It is a great learning experience, with a district technician on hand to help us and to answer any of our questions. The information collected from the benthos test gives us a better understanding of the health of our lake. The kids enjoy counting the bugs in their individual sample trays and are a great help with this important testing! See the links section on the OLA website for a link to the various organization sites.

We would like to thank Ted Mercer for attending the Huntsville Lakes Council (HLC) meetings throughout the year on our behalf. The HLC is made up of representatives from all the lakes in the Huntsville and Lake of Bays area. The HLC has just gone through a strategic planning phase and has formed four new committees. Each has its own area of responsibility and reports back to the main HLC body. High Speed Internet Service has been discussed at the HLC and will be on our AGM agenda.

If you are interested in serving as an OLA director or want more information on the OLA please contact one of the directors below.

Attached you will find a copy of the OLA 2009 membership form, which can be filled out and sent to any one of the directors. **BE INFORMED; SUPPORT YOUR OLA AND SIGN UP AS A MEMBER TODAY!**

Mail membership forms to: 68 Otter Lake Cottage Rd., P1H 2J3, c/o Chad Schoppel

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## **2009 Annual General Meeting**

**Date: Saturday, August 8, 2009**

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

**Guest speaker: 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

**Topic: to be confirmed (a guest speaker will be present)**

**Place: to be determined**

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

Please RSVP by July 30/09 to any one of the directors. We need to know numbers in order to accommodate all who wish to attend. Thanks and hope to see you there!

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## **Benthos Testing Program**

**Cancelled For This Year Due To Lack of Manpower.**

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### Directors:

Pat & Craig Boon – 705-789-7584

Chad Schoppel – 705-789-4019

Ted Mercer – 705-789-7531

Charlene Neill – 705-789-1008