

Oxbow Lake Cottagers' Association

Annual General Meeting Reports for 2020 – 2021

Saturday, July 3, 2021 – 10 am via Zoom

Lake Stewards' Report

Angie and Peter Heydon, Marc Lichtenberg

Due to COVID-19, lake water quality monitoring through the Ontario Ministry of the Environment's Lake Partner Program (LPP) was suspended. The LPP is back in operation this year, and so OLCA's Lake Stewards (Marc Lichtenberg, Angie + Peter Heydon) have resumed the tasks of submitting annual samples for phosphorous and calcium testing as well as regular Secchi-disk tests to monitor water clarity (i.e., to assess algae fluctuation). The Lake Stewards remain connected to FOCA (Federation of Ontario Cottagers Associations) and Muskoka-based sources of information to monitor and advise the OLCA Board on issues that could affect the Oxbow Lake environment (e.g., subdivision of properties on peninsula, information for Oxbow cottagers).

Also due to COVID, the annual Oxbow Lake Regatta was cancelled for both 2020 and 2021. OLCA hopes it will be able to resume in 2022.

FOCA – Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Association

All members of our Member Associations are entitled to access a series of discounts, special offers and other member benefits. Get the details (and login for information about the access codes), here:

<https://foca.on.ca/member-services/benefits/>

Communications Report

Lynda Arnold

- Regular communications to the lake membership continued by email throughout the year and included reports from our Township Councillor, Rick Brooks. These were often included in the 'News' section of the website.
- A survey was conducted by email regarding the proposed new development on the peninsula with results tabulated and discussed at a Board meeting. Updated information has been emailed to all members on this proposal as it has become available.
- A 2021 Spring/Summer package was prepared (letter from the East and West Arm reps, with a note on Oxbow Lake Etiquette, a page on Preserving our Lake and a postcard from SafeQuiet Lakes on boating safety and speed limits). This package also included a Loon Book – 100 copies put together by cottage Mary Ann Raidel over the winter and mailed to West Oxbow. A very special THANK YOU to Mary Ann for her contribution and work on this! Delivery of these packages to the Oxbow cottages was provided by Nina Lowe, Phil Guselle and Lynda Arnold.

District Councillor Report

Mike Peppard

Community and Planning Services

The preliminary report and background studies for the application to develop 7 new lots on East Oxbow has been provided to the CPS committee. There will be a community comment session coming up before the application is processed at Lake of Bays.

Muskoka Watershed Council

The District of Muskoka has received funding from the Province of Ontario to engage in a number of projects, studies and initiatives in order to begin the long-term process of better managing the Muskoka River watershed including water quality and flooding issues.

Lake of Bays Public Libraries

The Dwight and Baysville Libraries have been open for curbside business for most of the pandemic. The use of our libraries remains high and both branches look forward to opening with limited capacity soon.

Climate Change

The District of Muskoka declared a climate change emergency late last year and all area municipalities are bringing a similar motion to their respective councils including Lake of Bays on July 6th. Together we will be seeking out ways in which our municipalities and our communities can reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.

Voyent Alert

Everyone is being asked to download the Voyent alert app in order to receive emergency messaging so that we can all stay safe.

From District Councillor Bob Lacroix

Engineering and Public Works Committee

- On average, Muskoka residents create 340kg of waste per year.
- Ontario's top municipality currently averages at 140kg of waste per year.
- The current rate of consumption will see the landfill at capacity by 2036.
- Muskoka's goal is to decrease landfill consumption by 500 tonnes per year. This goal will add an additional 1 year of the landfill life per year.

Various initiatives to establish Muskoka's goal:

- Reduce bag limits to 2 bags per week at curbside and transfer stations (scheduled for early 2022).
- Reduce organic collection bag limit at the curb to 1 bag (scheduled for early 2022).
- Establish new diversion programs:
 - Drywall and bulky plastics (fall 2022);
 - Organic collection at all sites (early 2022);
 - Organics at all curbside stops (between 2024-2026).

OLCA No Wake Committee Report

Carol Speers

Committee Members: Angie Heydon, Nickie McRobbie, June Smyth, Carol Speers

This committee was formed to address concerns about boats driving fast enough to cause a wake and thus causing potential shore damage and disruption, as well as posing a safety risk to swimmers and paddlers. The markers at each end of the narrows already exist as does signage at the Boat Launch.

The No Wake Committee proposed the posting of two signs on the land at each end of the Narrows with a No Wake message. This idea was supported by the OLCA Board and the signs have been installed.

Additionally, the OLCA Board supported the idea of further communication and education about the Canadian law that states the Boat speed limit is 10 km/hr within 30 metres from shore or docks. The OLCA Board listened to a presentation from the SafeQuiet organization to understand their work in keeping Muskoka Lakes safe. Communication has occurred through the newsletter, and the information package that has been distributed to all cottages which included a postcard of information from the SafeQuiet group, as well as any discussion that may occur at the AGM.

I would like to thank my committee members and the OLCA Board for their wise counsel as we worked through this issue.

Carol Speers

No Wake Committee Chair

Oxbow Lakeside Community Club (OLCC)

Carol Speers

Oxbow Lakeside Community Club will be open for rentals this summer and will be renting to past guests again, like last summer. We will be using the Ontario Health Screening Tool for all renters, along with increased cleaning and sanitizing put in place. We have had high demand for rentals as our former renters are anxious to have a vacation on Oxbow Lake again this summer.

We appreciate the new No Wake signs installed by OLCA and hope that it helps to reinforce the message of slowing down thorough the Narrows and when boaters are within 30 m of shore. This not only ensures the safety of the swimmers and children in the water but helps to preserve the shoreline. We would appreciate everyone slowing down through the short section of the lake in front of the resort. Oxbow cottage owners, please ensure your guests and renters with boats know about the no wake and reduced speed limit in the narrows.

We look forward to a summer where the majority of Canadians have their two vaccinations and where we can begin to return to a less restricted life. We look forward to seeing you all on the lake!

Carol Speers

Representative for Oxbow Lakeside Community Club

West Oxbow Entrance Rehabilitation Program

Neil Cambray

Prior to November 2018, we had to walk on some old wooden skids to keep our feet dry, while we fought to unlock a padlock to access an old green rusted steel box where our mail was kept. It became apparent that the entrance to our community had slowly fallen into disrepair and needed some attention. After months of lobbying, Canada Post finally agreed to update our old prehistoric mailboxes.

Next up, the West Oxbow Lake Road and Scott Lane sign board. We needed to come up with a plan to strengthen, update and improve, while paying respect to the many great years of service the previous sign board and its keepers had provided. Through much collaboration, new graphics were designed, the structure was reinforced, a new steel roof was added with LED solar lighting, a fresh coat of paint, and then a rock border garden with beautiful plants. Wow, what an amazing outcome.

The most fulfilling part of this project for me, was how Oxbow Lake residents happily stepped up with financial support, design input, material donations, and good old fashioned hard hands-on work. Kind of felt like our community regained a heartbeat, bonding together for a common goal.



Special Thanks to:

FastSigns Markham, Dwight Garden Centre (Lake of Bays Garden Centre), Fred Boothby Contracting, Canada Post, Jennifer Cambray, Lynda and Murray Arnold, Markus Herten, Andrew and June Smyth, Steve, Joanne, Garrett, and Taylor Gordon, Calvin Goldenberg, and Nina Lowe, as well as all of you who provided the much-appreciated financial support. There is no way that this project could have been completed with out all of you.

And from Andrew Smyth:

A very special thank you to Linda and her team at the Dwight Garden Centre/Lake of Bays Garden Centre for a very generous donation of plants to finish off the space. These will bloom all summer long. Also, you will notice the blue water barrel beside the sign - please don't be shy to top up the water barrel as I'm sure it will be appreciated by the plants. If you notice the plants are dry, please give them a drink!

West Oxbow Lake Road Report

Neil Cambray

West Oxbow Lake Road is in rather good shape right now. I hope everyone realizes it is a seasonal access road and expecting it to be smooth like a city street is simply not realistic. The Township does what it can with the budget it has, and sometimes it takes a little more patience and understanding by all of us while we work with them to get those budgets in place.

Lake of Bays Public Works first graded West Oxbow Lake Road late May this year. With the dry weather, and higher than normal traffic volumes, they were requested to return and perform some localized grading on some of our steep hills before applying the dust control which they completed the week of June 21st. One more grading is scheduled for late summer. I hope the hills hold together until then. They also replaced our fallen-down speed limit sign near 1283.

A few weeks back, a letter was prepared, signed by many of us, and sent to the Mayor requesting complete replacement of our asphalted sections. The Town has agreed to patch the bad spots this year but have not agreed to consider full replacement yet. We will keep banging on their door while they develop a budget for this work.

They are scheduled to clear and regrade some of our failed ditch sections this summer, and maybe change a culvert or two if we get lucky.

I hope everyone enjoys a beautiful summer at Oxbow Lake, after the last year and a half, I think we all deserve that.

All the best and stay safe.

Neil Cambray

West Oxbow Lake Road Representative

East Oxbow Lake Road Report

Jim Vigmond

Nothing really to report. Thankfully the Township did a great job in the spring.

Township Councillor Report – Rick Brooks – see separate document

Lake of Bays Township - Mayor Terry Glover – see separate document

Oxbow Lake Cottagers Association Financial Report 2020/2021

	General			Comments
	Revenues	Signboard	Total	
Opening Balance 4/30/2020	7,459.41	1,000.00	8,459.41	
Revenues				
Annual Fees	2,970.00			65 members paid \$45 each
Bank Interest	1.05			
Donations to Signboard		2,785.00		
Subtotal	2,971.05	2,785.00	5,756.05	
Expenses				
Bank Fees	(22.91)			
Insurance	(1,048.68)			
Other Expenses	(258.50)			buoys and ropes for lake markers
FOCA Membership	(352.50)			
Signboard		(3,391.63)		
Hospital donation	(500.00)			Personal donation (\$200) less OLCA Donation (\$700)
No Wake Signs	(264.87)			
Website Upgrade	(204.52)			
Subtotal	(2,651.98)	(3,391.63)	(6,043.61)	
Over/Under	319.07	(606.63)	(287.56)	
Closing Balance 4/30/2021	7,778.48	393.37	8,171.85	
Reserves				
Reserves/Firehall donation	2,710.00			
Reserves/Other	2,290.00			
Total Restricted Funds	5,000.00			
Unrestricted Funds	3,171.85			
Total Reserves	8,171.85			

Oxbow Lake Cottagers Association Budget 2021/2022

	General			Comments
	Revenues	Planner	Total	
Opening Balance 4/30/2021	5,671.85	2,500.00	8,171.85	-
Revenues				
Dues	2,925.00			65 at \$45 each
Donations to Planner		4,500.00		(to date received \$1,450)
Subtotal	2,925.00	4,500.00	7,425.00	
Expenses				
FOCA Membership	385.00			\$125 plus \$4 per member
Huntsville Hospital Donation	500.00			
Insurance	1,100.00			
Website Privacy	200.00			
Signboard finishing touches	400.00			
Lake Markers (if needed)	225.00			
Miscellaneous	150.00			
Planner		7,000.00		
Subtotal	2,960.00	7,000.00	9,960.00	
Over/Under	(35.00)	(2,500.00)	(2,535.00)	
Closing Balance 4/30/2022	5,636.85	-	5,636.85	
Reserves				
Reserves/Firehall donation	210.00			Used \$2,500 for planner
Reserves/Other	2,290.00			
Total Restricted Funds	2,500.00			
Unrestricted Funds	3,136.85			
Total Reserves	5,636.85			



QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE for Property Owners/Renters IN THE TOWNSHIP OF LAKE OF BAYS



Ontario Building Code

OCCUPANCY

- Number of persons should match approved septic use permit
• Rental listing/agreement should match this number



By-law 2021-029

NOISE & FIREWORKS

- No excessive noise Mon-Sat 11pm-7am, Sunday not before noon
• Noise exemptions available
• Fireworks allowed only on Jul 1 & stat holiday weekends (from dusk-11pm), prohibited during a fire ban



By-law 2013-003

BURNING

- No outdoor burning 8am-6pm, Apr 1- Oct 31
• Outdoor cooking on approved BBQ/device only
• Fire ban = no burning at all



By-law 1999-82

GARBAGE

- Keep onsite and take to nearest District transfer station: muskokarecycles.ca
• Township receptacles are for park use, no household garbage permitted



By-law 1995-72

PARKING

- Park within driveway
• Keep fire hydrants and driveway access clear
• Keep roadways clear for snow removal



By-law 2014-134

DOGS

- Leashed in public
• No trespass allowed
• Not allowed on public beaches May 1-Oct 1
• Stoop & Scoop always
• Dog licences are free to residents



By-law 2016-041

OFF ROAD VEHICLES (ATVs/UTVs)

- MTO approved vehicles only
• 20-50 km/hour as per posted speed
• List of prohibited roads in by-law



By-law 2014-096

TRAILERS & CAMPING

- Occupancy of trailers is prohibited
• Occupancy of trailers and tents prohibited on vacant land, municipal land and crown land

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT

Township of Lake of Bays By-law Officer
Email: ccollings@lakeofbays.on.ca
Phone: 1-877-566-0005 ext. 246

Request for Service: lakeofbays.on.ca/report
OPP Dispatch: 1-888-310-1122
Fire Danger Rating: 1-877-847-1577