

## **North and South Otter Lake Association President's Report for 2025-6**

**Simon Smith, 19<sup>th</sup> July 2026**

Welcome NSOLA members to the 69th Annual General Meeting.

I hope that the year has been good to everyone and you are all enjoying the summer. There are several activities over the year to report on, and some new ideas we are floating.

### Shoreline Survey

After successfully obtaining a Lake Ecosystem Grant from South Frontenac Township, a survey of our lakes' shoreline was conducted by Watersheds Canada as part of the *Love Your Lake* programme. This took place in the fall last year, and results were shared individually with residents in April, along with an overall summary report. We are fortunate to have a representative from the survey operators here to speak today, and they will be able to answer further questions.

The survey comprised both a questionnaire for residents about their values with respect to property usage, as well as an analysis of shoreline features including extent of development, vegetation, natural habitat, erosion, invasive species among other things. Overall, it appears that the lakes are in good shape with predominantly natural shorelines that provide fish and wildlife habitat and support a healthy lake ecosystem. There are some suggestions for ways to sustain and improve habitat – these include factors of which we are probably already aware – limiting boat wakes, conformance with development regulations and education in ecosystem preservation.

Residents should have received a code and link to their individual property shoreline reports, (though we are aware that at least one has been miss-directed – please let us know if yours was incorrect).

### Signage

Educational signage was discussed at previous AGMs and design worked on, and installation is planned. Local signmakers have been approached for quotations.

### Buoy

The warning buoy previously purchased is in place at the narrows between the Dunn/Smith properties, ie. between Otter Point and Birch Point, and is noted as being effective in causing boats to slow down in that area.

### Constitution and Guidelines Review

After the last AGM, we set up a working committee to review the NSOLA constitution and develop guidelines to assist the operations of future Executives. Eventually only three people (Simon, Marie and Piper) participated in this. We met three times over the winter and reviewed the constitution and proposals for its modification.

Although all points were examined, the outcome is two proposals to update the constitution, and these will be presented later in the AGM. Review of a 'Working Guidelines' document to assist future Executive committees, will follow in coming months – as these depend on acceptance or not of the constitution revisions. Thanks again to the participants in this project, and if there are members interested in assisting going forward, please contact the Executive.

### Logo Competition and Merchandise

Following our successful logo competition, the winning entry is now used on our website, and on the recognition board on this outdoor classroom.

The Executive is introducing the opportunity to have North and South Otter Lake Association branded merchandise – and we will be showing examples later in the meeting.

### Social Activities

We are aware that generally we only come together as a group once a year, but the Executive would like to seek views of the membership on organising one or more social events in addition. Other lake associations in the area do this, but it has not been common for NSOLA – so we'll take the opportunity to discuss this in this meeting.

### Local Concerns

The Executive has been observing developments in the route planning of the Alto rail corridor, one option for which would pass between our lakes and Sydenham. Members attended an information event in Sydenham earlier in the year, and we have a representative from *Save South Frontenac* to provide information later at this meeting.

We also met members of *Fish Lead Free* – a group promoting the use of lead-free fishing tackle in consideration of its environmental impact, particularly poisoning loons and other aquatic birds. We have the opportunity to add our name in support of this organisation.

### Executive Positions

I would like to thank this year's Executive members – Marie, Piper, Oriana, Tracey and Peter for their hard work and support to NSOLA over last year. Oriana is stepping down after serving as Treasurer for three terms, and we express our deepest gratitude; and sincere thanks go to Tracey who has been a very energetic member at large.

We are working on descriptions of executive positions as part of the guidance package to facilitate operations. Once again, members are heartily encouraged to join the Executive.

### Volunteers and Thank-yous

Very many thanks to the volunteers who have supported the Association over this and previous years – Claire Beach for the water survey, and Keith Dunn for developing and maintaining our website.

Thanks again to Ben Chabot, Park Superintendent, for once again hosting our meeting here.

Many thanks to you all for participating today.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Simon Smith". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Simon" and last name "Smith" clearly distinguishable.

President, North and South Otter Lake Association.