

Otsego Lake Association Informational Meeting

August 25, 2007

Thayer Farm Interpretive Center

The meeting was called to order by President Paul Lord. Paul welcomed those attending and reminded them to be sure to pick up a copy of the Smart Steps for Otsego Lake booklet. Paul noted that OLA plans to distribute "Smart Steps" to everyone in the watershed. He then introduced Dr. Tom Horvath, OLA Board Member and Director of the Environmental Sciences Program at SUCO.



Dr Horvath spoke about "What to Expect Now that Zebra Mussels have Invaded Otsego Lake". He began by educating us about exactly what invasive species were (non native species that can cause harm to the lake's ecological system) and delineating those species that have already been observed in the lake. These include the curly leaf pondweed, Eurasian water milfoil, rusty crayfish, alewife, and, most recently, the zebra mussel.

Dr. Horvath discussed ramifications of all these species for the lake and went into great detail about the life cycle of the zebra mussel and its dramatic ecological impact. Aside from the recreational nuisance the zebra mussel poses, there will be an economic impact for the Village as well as individual homeowners in keeping water intakes clean. There was a discussion of options for homeowners in this regard (fine mesh filters or chemical treatment). Tom also said that many products were being developed to deal with this problem. He showed information from www.georgianbay.com and said that he would make others available on the OLA website. It was also mentioned that members had ordered filters from the hardware store in Richfield Springs.

Dr Horvath stressed that we need to continue to be vigilant to prevent the introduction of any further invasive species. He indicated that there was a threat even greater than the zebra mussel in form of the quagga mussel. We also should be wary of invasive zooplankton (eg. Spiny water fleas), water chestnuts, round goby, and VHS (viral hemorrhagic septicemia). There was a discussion about the link of live bait with the spread of invasive species and the importance for the continuation and expansion of the boat wash program. After a great question and answer session, Paul Lord thanked Tom for an informative and pertinent presentation.

Paul went on to update the membership on the progress of the buffer strip at Lake Front Park. It was suggested that we include the plants utilized there on the website. It was also mentioned that part of the completion of the project included educational signage which would be helpful in this matter.



Paul then moved on to introduce four individuals who had been designated as outstanding Lake Citizens by OLA. They were Bryant Kolner for his work identifying the mud plume effect in the lake, Vera Talevi for her

persistent advocacy for a lake sewer district, Suzy Kingsley for designing and securing approval for the buffer strip, and Lynn Marsh for providing technical advice and plantings for the buffer strip. Certificates of appreciation were presented and the recipients were acknowledged.

Paul then proceeded to show a brochure which had been developed by the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy entitled "Save Our Lake - Use Phosphate-Free Products". Paul suggested that we could develop a similar campaign for Otsego Lake. He will solicit volunteers to work on this project. It was noted that at present Phosphate Free detergents were only available locally at the Cooperstown Natural Foods Store. There was discussion about how to increase the availability of these products.

Before adjourning, Paul asked for recommendations for projects for the upcoming year. He summarized that they were: completing the boardwalk, renewing efforts to convince Springfield to increase boat inspections, and improving awareness of the benefits of phosphorous free products and their availability. Other items brought to the floor were beaver dam problems, questions about prospecting for natural gas under the lake, and a self-contained eco-friendly toilet system.

Respectfully submitted,

Mickie Richtsmeier