

IMPORTANT NEWS from Otter Tail County Coalition of Lake Associations

E-Newsletter February 2019



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From The President - Sylvia Soeth



Are you loving this winter wonderland? Other than 33 below, wind chills of 60 below, snow to plow and poor travel conditions, we can't complain. It doesn't help anyway. It's a winter for snowmobiling like it was back in the day or ice fishing if you have the right gear. DNR Parks and Trails says the lack of January thaw stabilized the ice so accesses are not shifting. This snow on the ice is good for something.

COLA started the lake season meeting in May with "Call 911 - then what?" A panel of Otter Tail County Emergency Responders answered questions about how responses to 911 calls in the county are handled. They were Fire Chiefs from Fergus and Pelican, the Mayor who is a firefighter from Perham, AIS Deputy Sheriff and the Deputy Sheriff who was elected Sheriff of OTC in November. All of us in Otter Tail County are identified by the 911 signs for each property.

At the February COLA Board meeting it came full circle to the responsibility of each of us to be sure that the blue and white 911 sign that identifies you is visible to the First Responders. They do use GPS for locations, but you need to keep the 911 sign visible for them when seconds count. The snow this year is a problem, but how about trees or shrubs when leafed out. What else could be obstructing the view? Check it out! It could mean saving life and property.

[Sylvia Soeth, President](#)



Your Guide To Following The 2019 Legislative Session

Updated: Feb. 1 | Posted: Jan. 8
Politics Briana Bierschbach, MPR News Staff

The state has a different governor and a new makeup in the state Legislature, meaning both branches of government are looking at issues with a fresh set of eyes.

But lawmakers will also confront some of the same old problems — the achievement gap, rising health care costs, sexual harassment in the workplace and gun violence. And they must pass a balanced budget by this summer, or state government will shut down.

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Back row: John Lindquist, Commissioner - Wayne Johnson, Commissioner - Kathy Domholt, Commission Secretary
- Betty Murphy, Commissioner - John Dinsmore, County Administrator
Front row: Lee Rogness, Commissioner - Mischelle Eldien, OTC Attorney - Douglas Huebsch, Commission Chairman

COLA Board Has Lunch With OTC Commissioners

In December COLA Administrative Assistant John Kruse was invited to the Otter Tail County Commission meeting to introduce the new online program for Otter Tail lakes to understand results of water testing and offer information about COLA. At that meeting Commissioner Doug Huebsch, who is now Commission Chair, suggested a luncheon meeting with Commissioners and the COLA Board in order to be better informed.

On February 5 all of the Commissioners and several other county officials met with the OTC COLA Board in Fergus Falls. Board member Pat Prunty facilitated a power point program he and John Kruse developed that highlighted COLA progress. Lake Associations who are members of COLA represent 70% of the water surface in the county. Non member lakes that have a public access have had water tested for two previous years so there is a base of information there. Two new Lake Associations have come to COLA and a third is in progress.

The Commission has supported COLA with funding that goes through the Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force. COLA is an important link from the Commission to property owners. As COLA moves forward to educate and engage Lake Associations, cooperation between OTC and COLA will be a win-win for all.

[Sylvia Soeth, President](#)



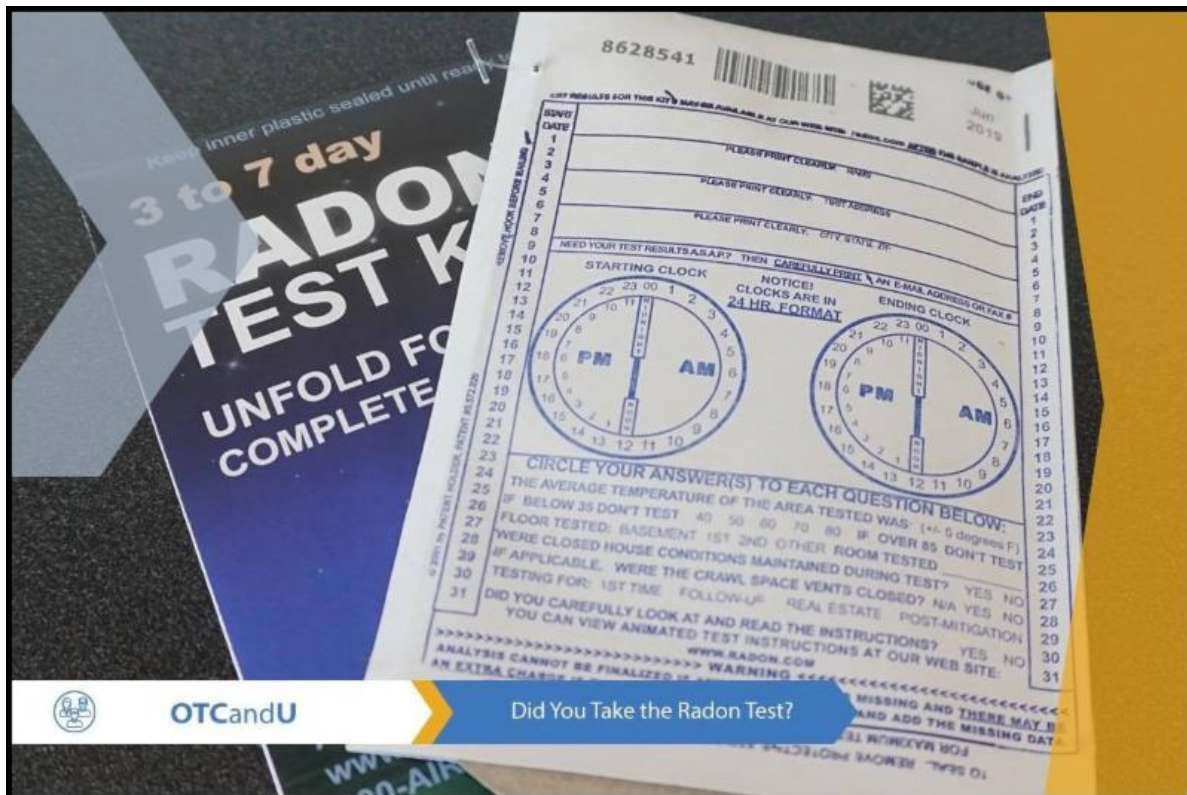
Let's Take Care Of Our Lakes In Winter

"If you're lucky enough to live on a lake, you're lucky enough." We all value water. We All value our lakes. We're less appreciative of debris left on out lakes after fish houses have been removed. Perhaps, in a nice way, it would be good to give a reminder to those on our lakes with fish houses, in an association memo/email, to be sure to clean up after fish house removal. On West Battle Lake, the association pays a local baseball team \$500 (after the fish houses are removed) to clean the lake of debris. Plastic material, fecal material, beer cans, food, propane cylinders...you name it are collected. It's simply sad to see our lakes treated in this fashion. The baseball team takes about two to three hours to clean up the lake. I'm sure there are better ideas out there on how to remove debris after the fish houses leave our lakes and if you have them, let's share them. "If you're lucky enough to live on a lake, you're lucky enough."

Jerry Horgen

Volunteer

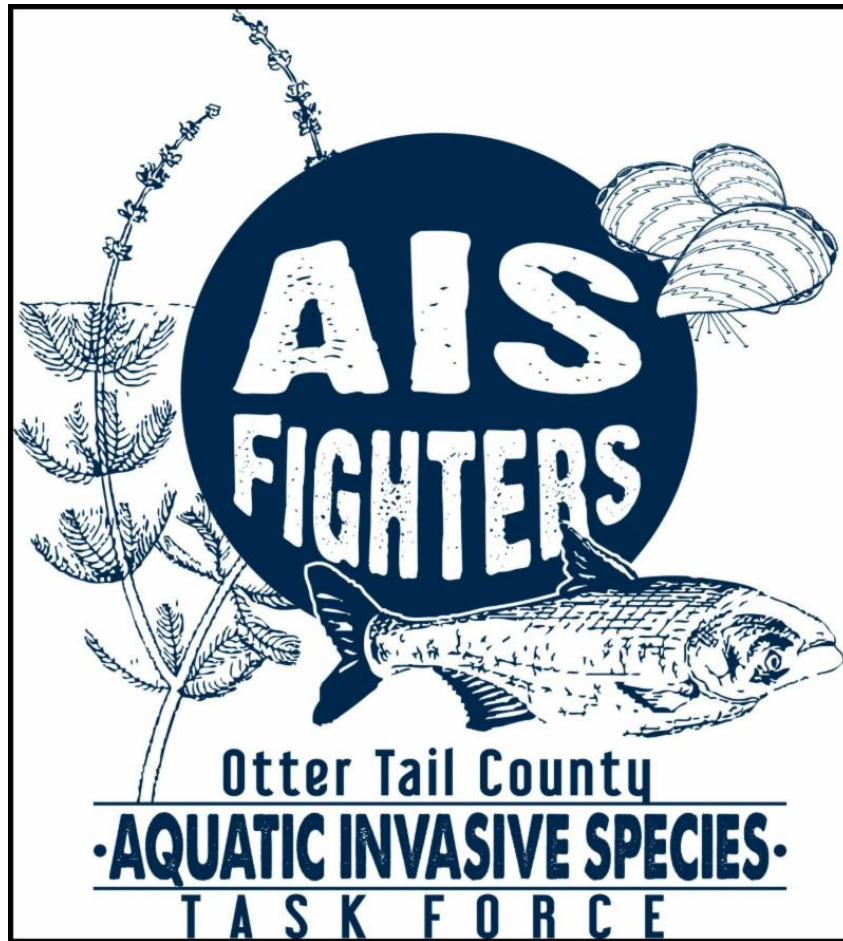
President, West Battle Lake Lakeshore Association



Otter Tail County Advises Homeowners To Test For Radon

Radon is a colorless, odorless radioactive gas that seeps up from the earth. When inhaled, it gives off radioactive particles that can damage the cells that line the lung. Long term exposure to radon can lead to lung cancer. In fact, over 21,000 lung cancer deaths in the US each year are from radon, making it a serious health concern for all Minnesotans.

A radon test is the only way to find out how much radon is in your home and if you and your family are at risk. Performing a radon test on your own is easy, inexpensive and takes only a few minutes of your time. The results of a properly performed radon test will help determine your need to take further action to protect yourself from the health risks of radon.



James Wooton

Meet James Wooton

James Wooton was recently appointed to the Otter Tail County Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force by the Commissioners. He started his term on January 1, 2019. He is a SCUBA

AIS Harvesting Concerns Raised

A passionate Lake Minnetonka advocate and marina owner along with the Lake Minnetonka Association (LMA) announced today findings that aim to change the way invasive species are controlled on Lake Minnetonka.

After months of fact-finding, Tonka Bay Marina owner Gabriel Jabbour and the Lake Minnetonka Association, have concluded that current methods of harvesting invasive species such as Eurasian Watermilfoil do more harm than good to the lake.

[MORE](#)





Nick Phelps - Aquatic Invasive Species Center

House Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee Presentation on Aquatic Invasive Species, January 16, 2019

Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates believes that science must drive natural resource decisions. In 2012, as zebra mussels were starting to spread across the state, we worked on a multi-pronged effort of education in the media, legislative solutions, and science.

"There are reasons to be optimistic... science can make a difference."
Dr. Nick Phelps to the House Environment and Natural Resources
Policy Committee.

[**MORE**](#)

[Minnesota Lakes and Rivers](#)
[Jeff Forester](#)

Join The OTC COLA Board Of Directors

OTC COLA is a private volunteer group working with lake associations and lake property owners for the common good of all OTC lakes. We are currently looking for individuals to join the Board of Directors and participate in the management of the

organization. Interested candidates are welcome to contact

[Sylvia Soeth, President](#)

OTC AIS Task Force Board Minutes

[January 14, 2019](#) Draft

OTC Board of Commissioner Minutes

[January 22, 2019](#)

[January 8, 2019](#)

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[John Kruse](#), OTC COLA Administrative Assistant

