

FALL NEWSLETTER 2010

www.foxlakeassociation.org

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This year we were blessed with a good summer after two very cold and wet ones. I hope that you all enjoyed it while it lasted – winter is coming on now.

We started the summer with a great Ribfest following the Annual General Meeting. Thanks very much to Karen Beamer for all her hard work and to Sandy McLennan for hosting. The Regatta once again had a beautiful day with good attendance and a tug-of-war victory for the West and North contingent. The Regatta results can be found on page four of this newsletter. Unfortunately, the Corn Roast was rained out but will be on again next year.

Most of you will have received a copy of the Lake Plan by now and I hope you have read it or will make some time for it soon. It is a plan, not a report and there are lots of actions listed that need to be addressed. The board has struck a Lake Plan Implementation Committee, headed by Tom Gillette, to coordinate and spearhead activities and work has been started. **BUT** the board cannot do it all, in fact only a very small part. The Plan is your plan and I ask you to consider which of the actions is important to you or something you might like to take on or help with and to give Tom or myself a call or an email. If we all do a little, we can make a lot of progress.

As most of you are aware, the FLA made a presentation to the Town of Huntsville in August concerning the clearing of the property near the mouth of the Buck River. The main thrust of the presentation was to urge the town to find ways to be more effective in preventing similar activities in the future as we are of the opinion that there is no realistic way that the damage can be repaired. There is also a court case concerning the property that is still not settled so far as I know. I have been in touch with the new Town of Huntsville Director of Planning, Chris Marshall, who told me that a revegetation plan for the area was being worked on. We will continue to monitor the situation.

The Board of Directors welcomed Tom Gillette as a new member this year and promptly talked him into being Vice-President. Thanks very much to Tom for taking this on, and also the Lake Plan Implementation work mentioned above. Sharon Lillico took up the position of Recording Secretary and we thank her for that. We are still looking for another director, preferably from the west side, which is currently under-represented on the board. If you would like to get involved a little more, please let me know.

Another area that could use some expertise is our website. Ellen Fox is looking at developing some skills. If anyone out there has some experience and could give Ellen a hand to get started, please contact her (or any board member). We would appreciate the help.

I am hiding out in Romania until the end of April but will be back with the other birds in the spring. I wish you all a good winter, a Happy New Year and a Merry Christmas.

Robin Yule, President, Fox Lake Association

FOX LAKE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

This fall, Elaine passed the torch over to Tom Gillette as our new Lake Plan Implementation Committee Chair.

Tom and his committee have already started distributing copies of *A Lake Plan for Fox Lake* to various government agencies and begun to actively pursue several of the Plan's recommendations. In the spring, we will be looking for help with implementing some of the other action items in the plan. As our President, Robin, has indicated in his message above, please contact either Tom or Robin if there are items in the plan that are of interest to you where you can provide some help. We look forward to hearing from you! Contact information is listed at the end of this newsletter. It will take many willing hands and hearts to make it happen. If each of you takes on just one small portion of a project, together we will accomplish much.

Lake Plan documents and other related materials were distributed over the summer months on a door-to-door basis with the assistance of the many volunteers who stepped forward to help in this process. Thank you to all of our hard-working assistants for their help and to you for welcoming them when they called at your door ☺. Many of you also voluntarily contributed \$15.00/copy that greatly assisted your Association with the costs of printing *A Lake Plan for Fox Lake*. Several of you also rejoined your lake association at that time or since then and we appreciate your continued support of the Association's work in the community.

However, we were unable to reach about 20 families during the door-to-door project this past summer. If you have not yet received your lake plan package, don't despair! Please contact Elaine Jackson at maplejaysympatico.ca and let me know. I will be away for the winter, but my email will be active. Let me know the best time to make contact with you at the lake and I will arrange to get your package to you next summer. Meanwhile, you can view *A Lake Plan for Fox Lake* on our website at www.foxlakeassociation.org.

Tom Gillette, Chair, Lake Plan Implementation Committee

Elaine Jackson, Former Chair, Fox Lake Plan Committee

LAKE STEWARD'S REPORT

As reported at our AGM last summer by Ellen Fox, "Ice-In" was December 12, 2009 and "Ice-Out" was April 1, 2010. The average secchi depth for 2009 was 1.8m; which is right within what seems to be the range for Fox Lake. The total Phosphorus for 2009 averaged 13.2 micrograms/L; which once again is right within our typical range.

There is good news to report in that bullfrogs seem to be back in the north end of the lake. With luck they will repopulate the uncleared littoral areas left in the rest of the lake.

The Muskoka Watershed Report Card, published in the summer, gave the Huntsville sub watershed a grade of "C" on land parameters and "B" on water parameters. Water parameter indicators include Lake Surface Area that is over Threshold for Total Phosphorus, Natural Shoreline, and Mercury level in fish. Land parameter indicators include the total area of Natural Cover, Large Natural Areas, Interior Forest, Riparian Area and Managed and Protected areas. For the full report go to: www.muskokaheritage.org/watershed

One subject I'd hoped to discuss at the AGM was calcium depletion. Calcium depletion* has only recently been revealed as a concern for lake health. This depletion is a legacy of acid rain that, thanks to government regulation, has been greatly reduced in the last decades. It was believed that

lakes would recover to their pre-acid rain state. However recent studies indicate that calcium levels in some lakes are still declining. Scientists have dubbed the phenomena "osteoporosis of the water". Acid rain washed much of the calcium from watershed soils during its toxic heyday. The problem now is that there is little calcium left available. The replacement of calcium in soils is a very slow process, accomplished by weathering and by the deposition of dust from the atmosphere. Calcium is a crucial nutrient for life, especially for keystone species at the bottom of the food chain and creatures with shells such as clams and crayfish. Daphnia (water fleas) are especially hard hit. The effect is most severe when calcium levels fall below 1.5 mg/L. The recently published *2010 Lake System Health Monitoring Program* results show Fox Lake has a calcium level of 2.1 mg/L. That doesn't look too bad, except that it is down from testing in 1988 that showed a level of 2.6 mg/L.

*based on articles in the Toronto Star 2008/11 and the Huntsville Forrester 2010/04

David White, Lake Steward for Fox Lake

SUMMER EVENTS

- Our **Annual General Meeting** was held July 17th at the home of Bernie and Gabrielle Andersen. Thanks for hosting! Next year's meeting will probably be July 16th at Leslie and Jack van der Meers. Arrangements have yet to be confirmed. Information package and minutes of the 2010 meeting will be distributed in June of 2011. Watch for road signs also.
- Our **3rd Annual Rib Fest** was held on July 17th at Sandy McLennan's - a huge success, thanks to Karen Beamer and Sandy! Your spring newsletter will have next year's details.
- Our **Annual Regatta** was held on July 31st on the Yule/Finbow beaches. Next year it will be at Mary Smirniw's beach. Watch for a summer flyer and road signs for more information.
- Our **Annual Corn Roast** was rained out on Labour Day weekend this year for the first time. Let's hope for better weather next summer!

See the next page for this year's Regatta results ☺

All 2011 events will also be posted on our website prior to the upcoming dates.

UPDATE ON LOCAL EVENTS*

Kim Williams, who lives on Fox Lake with her husband, Geno Dipasquale, a semi-retired contractor, is the new principal at Huntsville High School. After growing up in the Toronto area, Kim completed her undergraduate degree at McMaster University in Hamilton in physical education, followed by a masters in science from Lakehead in Thunder Bay and a teaching degree from Western in London. After various positions in Aylmer and London, she served as Vice-Principal in Lindsay, then as V-P in Bracebridge. Six years ago, Kim and Geno bought their lot on the north shore of Fox Lake and began building their year-round home here. Congratulations,

Kim, and we welcome both of you to the lake as full-time residents!

In early September, the Town of Huntsville gained a new Director of Planning, Chris Marshall. Chris grew up mainly in Ottawa, but with a father in the diplomatic corps, also lived in Europe and the Far East. He has an undergraduate degree from Trent University in International Studies and a master's degree from McGill University in Urban Planning. Prior to coming to Huntsville, Chris spent 18 years in various planning positions in BC and prefers working in small communities. We hope his arrival in Huntsville will end the past turmoil in the Planning Dept.

The recent municipal elections in Huntsville suffered from many electronic problems as citizens tried to exercise their right to vote online and via telephone. Hopefully, these glitches will be resolved prior to the next municipal election! The results returned Mayor Claude Doughty to office for another term. His announcement that he would run again at our AGM in July made the front page of the Huntsville Forester on July 21st. There were several changes in Town and District Councillors, including the defeat of our Ward Councillor for Port Sydney/Stephenson/ Stisted, Bill Beatty. Councillors for our ward are now: Chris Zanetti (re-elected) and Det Schumacher (elected again after an absence from Council for the past 4 years). We will miss Bill, who was a staunch supporter of our lake association and the lakes issues of the area.

* from files of the Huntsville Forester of July, Oct. and Nov. 2010

Elaine Jackson, Newsletter Editor

FOCA FALL MEETING SUMMARY*

FOCA, the Federation of Ontario Cottagers Association, held its annual fall meeting in Toronto on November 6th. If you would like to hear the online archive recording of the event, contact FOCA at info@foca.on.ca or call 705-749-3622, or check out their website at www.foca.on.ca and follow the links for details.

Topics included a short survey to collect information on how various communities manage their private roads. Survey participants will be provided with a summary of the results to learn what other groups are doing.

Bill 72, the Water Opportunities and Water Conservation Act has been passed. In addition to the significant ecological implications of wise water use, there are enormous economic benefits from a strong commitment to water conservation and green infrastructure. Ontario can take advantage of this by spurring market demand for new water recycling technologies, green landscaping, and land use planning. To learn more, visit www.conserveourwater.ca.

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Randy French of French Planning Services, who recently won the 2010 Excellence in Planning Award from the Ontario Professional Planners Institute, acted as moderator of the afternoon panel discussion: "**Making Sustainable Waterfronts a Reality**." Randy introduced each panel member who spoke in turn before fielding general questions from the audience. First to speak was **Karen Hunt**, President of the Otty Lake Association, who explained the "Lake Networking Group" of the Mississippi/

Rideau/Tay area, and the opportunities created when lake associations work together. **Heather Elliott** from Stoney Lake outlined her family's personal efforts to protect their property in her presentation, "Creative options for sustainability on private land." Heather and her late husband Don initiated a variety of approaches including conservation tax incentives, easements and donations through a local land trust.

Finally, **Judi Brouse** of the Muskoka Watershed Council gave a practical and engaging talk, "Connecting land use to water quality." Judi was instrumental in the 2010 Freshwater Summit and the Muskoka Watershed Report Card, updated in 2010. If you look to the lake for the quality of your water, Judi admonished, you are already too late; the problem starts up-land and up-stream with land use decisions that affect surface water. The crowd had many questions and comments to share with the panel.

*from FOCA November Alert, distributed online by FOCA to its members

Elaine Jackson, Newsletter Editor

**2010 REGATTA WINNERS – 38TH FOX LAKE REGATTA JULY 31, 2010 –
YULE / FINBOW BEACHES**

Event	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
Horsehoes	Chris Stainton Robin Yule	Jamie Finbow David Finbow	Robert Finbow Rick Skinner
Swimming	Xx	Xx	xx
Bugs Bunny Race	Nathan Stainton	Eric Puska	
5-7 yrs girls	Ashleen Finbow	Hannah Puska	
5-7 yrs boys	Gavin Stainton	Andrew Halem	
8-10 yrs.girls	Olivia Halem	Tara Roughley	Calieshi Haris
8-10 yrs.boys	Nick Ireland	Jake Austin-St. John	
11-13 yrs.girls	Sarah Petrus	Kristen Shepley	Sherina Harris
11-13 yrs.boys			
14-16 yrs. girls	Cynthia Sangster	Monica Lillico	
14-16 yrs. boys	Sam Paupst		
Noodle Relay (teams of 4)	Sarah Muller	John Millard	Tara Rounley

Event	1st	2nd	3rd
	David Muller Ben Watson Jeremy Schwartzentruber	Brandi martens Bruce Watson Alyssa Watson	Kristen Shepley Sarah Aetrus Katherine Shepley
Island Swim - Women	Shelly Alger	Katherine Shepley	Jackie Stainton
Island Swim - Men	Ben Watson	Dave Muller	Chris Bulla
Paddle Boat	Xx	Xx	xx
Parent and Child	Caliesha Harris Brian Harris	Cailin Bentley Waylon Saarp	
Kids	Sherina Harris Caliesha Harris	Nick Ireland Jake Austen-St. John	Gavin Stainton Nathan Stainton
Kayak	Xx	Xx	xx
Under 11	Nick Ireland	Jake Austen-St. John	
11-20	Jacob Share	Jacob Edgar	Chris Bulla
Open	Carol Bulla	Danny Beamer	Ben Alger-Hubbard
Kids Bucket Race	Eric Puska Gavin Stainton Nathan Stainton Ben Alger	Ashleen Finbow Hannah Puska Caitlin Bentley Cameron Bentley	Rachel Share Andrew Haley Ewan Finbow Aydin Leclerc
Sand Castles	Best Dam Castle	Aydin Leclerc	
Best Engineered	Jacob Share	Best Princess Castle	Rachel Share
Most Multi Dimensiional	Sarah Ruthven Amand Ruthven Niki Ireland Jake Austin-St.John	Most Mountainous	Ashleen Finbow Hannah Puska
Best Defended	Ewan Finbow	Best Hogwart's	Sherina Harris Caliesha Harris
Canoe	Xx	Xx	xx
Mother and Son	Alix Yule Chris Stainton	Joshua Lichty Paola Randall	Chris Bulla Carol Bulla
Father and Daughter	Emily Yule Robin Yule	Margo Randall Rob Randall	Jamie Finbow Shelly Hubbard
Men's Doubles	Chris Stainton	Peter Hubbard	Mike LeClerc

Event	1st	2nd	3rd
	Allan Finbow	Alexander Hubbard	Jack van der Meer
Women's Doubles	Carol Bulla Sarah Finbow	Alyssa Schwartzentruber Melanie Bean	Karen Shepley Kathryn Shepley
Gunnel Bobbing	Johnny Millard	Dave Muller	Grant Shepley
In and Out	Andrew Bentley Waylon Share	Eric Coombs Mike Shepley	Ben Watson Zack Reimer
War Canoe	Michael Shepley Scott Shepley Grant Shepley Eric Coombs	Ben Watson Zack Reimer Dani Martens Gabsy Evans	Bruce Watson Alyssa Schwartzentruber Jeremy Schwartzentruber Melanie Bean
Tug of Warn -Kids	East Side		
Tug of Warn -Adults	North and West Sides * (*plus Watsons)		

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This newsletter is published and funded by the Fox Lake Association Inc. It is distributed to all Fox Lake residents for their information and pleasure. If you have enjoyed reading it, please consider supporting the Association by becoming a member if you have not already done so.

The Association works diligently to promote the common interests of its lake community, protect our environment and provide sponsorship of regular annual social events.

If you did not pay your annual dues of \$40/yr per family at our Annual General Meeting, you can mail a cheque payable to Fox Lake Association Inc. to:

Jim McMahon, Treasurer, 277 Belsize Dr., Toronto, ON M4S 1M5.

In order to keep our membership records current, please include your name, home and Fox Lake address, phone number(s) and your email address (so the Association can communicate information to you cost-effectively).

