

**FALL NEWSLETTER 2011****PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Hello to everyone. As winter approaches, it is pleasant to look back over the wonderfully hot and sunny summer that we had this year. I trust that you all enjoyed the warm air and warm water.

I begin with some words about the Fox Lake Association website (shown under logo above) that was redesigned and rebuilt this year by Ellen Fox who did a great job. It is very user friendly and has a wide variety of information. It includes notices for upcoming events so you can plan your social calendar, records of board meetings and general meetings so you can see what issues are current, important things such as regatta results, links to helpful and informative sights related to the lake and governments and agencies. This sight should be in your favourites list.

I hope you all noticed the new Fox Notes notice boards that were up this year for the first time. Thanks to Jim McMahon for building these. Don and Liz Shepley have taken on the job of posting event notices on these boards.

The Annual General Meeting was held at Pat Currie's house at the north end. It was well attended but we would like to see a larger turn out. The more input we can have from our members, the better the association can serve the Fox Lake community. It gives you the opportunity to voice opinions, ask questions and get involved. This year we elected a new director, Christa Sharp, from the west side. Following her election, Jim Watson stepped down as a director but remains on the board as Past-President.

Ribfest was once again blessed with good weather and a good time was had by those in attendance. Thanks once again to Sandy McLennan for hosting the event and to Karen Beamer, our ever active Social and Fund Raising person, for all her hard work to make the event happen. It is our only significant fund raising event and needs support from all our members.

Regatta also had great weather (what a great summer!) and possibly the biggest turnout ever. Thanks to Mary Smirniw for organizing and hosting the event. There were some new events that went well. Thanks also to Alix Yule for helping organize and looking after volleyball and to Sandy McLennan for hosting and Sharon Lillico for organizing horseshoes and to Emily Yule for announcing and running the events.

The Corn Roast was held Labour Day Saturday and after a few showers in the morning, the afternoon gathering had good weather and good attendance and large quantities of corn on the cob were consumed. Thanks to Jim McMahon for organizing the event again this year.

Elaine Jackson stepped down as an officer of the FLA this year after many, many years of dedicated work in many capacities. She was also a very hard worker on the Huntsville, Lake of Bays Lakes Council. We all owe her huge thanks for her tireless work on our behalf.

One of Elaine's jobs was Membership. We are fortunate to have Mary Smirniw volunteer to take over as Membership Chair in October and she is working her way into the job. Thanks to her for joining the FLA Board and taking on this responsibility.

Another of Elaine Jackson's jobs was editing and writing the newsletter. I am writing this edition in the interim until we find a new newsletter person. If one of you would volunteer for this small job, it would be appreciated. It takes a little time twice a year. Distribution is done by Membership. If you have a word processor and a little time let me know.

You should have noticed by now that the same names appear multiple times in the above and previous newsletters. Many persons have served on the board for long periods. There are lots of things that need to be done to make our social events and other activities work. Many jobs do not require a lot of time and often can be fun, and you get to know people that you may not meet otherwise. Getting more of you involved would help the Board and make for a stronger community. Please let any Board member know that you might be willing to help out if approached.

Late in the summer, we had a new "toilet" installed on the Island. It is an Algonquin Park style box with seat. Thanks to Jim Watson and Jim McMahon for digging, building and installation. Please make sure that this is used for its intended purpose and not for garbage.

As we become less remote and more populated, various forms of crime become more likely. There were 2 breakins at Camp Romuva over the summer and some vandalism. Report any suspicious activity immediately to the OPP.

As I write this, I am in Florida, having decided to retire. Pat and I will be back to Fox Lake for Christmas and New Year's then back here again until May. It will be different playing golf instead of shoveling snow but I am confident that I will be able to adapt. Until next summer, I wish you all a good winter and Happy Holidays.

Robin Yule, President Fox Lake Association

### **FOX LAKE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE UPDATE**

The Lake Plan Implementation Committee met in August and set some short term objectives and assigned some actions. Tom Gillette (Committee Chair and FLA vice-President) continues working with the Town of Huntsville to get parts of the plan incorporated into the Huntsville Plan which is being revised in 2012.

**More than anything else, we need interested association members to take on some of the many activities recommended in the plan.** *A Lake Plan for Fox Lake* is available on the FLA website. Some specific items where we would like help include:

- Determining how to get legislation in place to prevent boathouses being built on Fox Lake and working towards that goal
- Benthic Monitoring – this involves sampling small things growing in the shallow water. Training is available and it would be fun and very educational for children (would make a great science project).
- Fox Lake History – collect and organize documents and photos; possibly create a book

### **LAKE STEWARD'S REPORT**

The October 10th water clarity reading was an impressive 2.5 metres. The conditions were perfect, with bright sun and calm waters. The six readings over the season averaged 2.0 metres.

Next summer, Fox Lake will participate in the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters Invasive Specie Watch program. We'll acquiring the sample which will be submitted to OFAH for

expert analysis. This will determine if Fox Lake has been infected with spiny water fleas or zebra mussels. We have also acquired some "Stop Invasive Species" signs which we hope to post at the various places where power boats are launched.

### ISLAND REFORESTATION

The island in the middle of the south end of the lake has been heavily used over the years and in 2010 there was a fire probably caused by an incorrectly doused campfire, that destroyed vegetation primarily on the north side. The result is that most of the small vegetation that covered almost all of the island has been lost and there are few small trees coming along to replace the mature trees that remain. The island is in danger of being eroded down to just a pile of rocks.

The Association plans to do some planting of vegetation (mostly trees) on the island. Christa Sharp is coordinating this activity. She has created a schematic plan and list of local species to be planted. The intent is to transplant trees and other plants from the land surrounding the lake to the island. If you would like to plant a few trees (great memorial activity) please contact Christa for details of where and what would be useful. Once again, a little work by lots of people will make a huge difference.

### 2012 SUMMER EVENTS

- **Annual General Meeting** – 9:30 a.m., Saturday July 14<sup>th</sup> at Leslie and Jack van der Meer's.
- **Annual Rib Fest** - Saturday July 14<sup>th</sup> at Sandy McLennan's  
Ribfest includes fundraising – we have had auctions and silent auctions as most of you know. Please start thinking now about items that you can donate – practical items, art work and services all can be used. Let Karen Beamer ([bsporty@bell.net](mailto:bsporty@bell.net)) know what you would like to contribute.
- **Annual Regatta** Saturday August 6<sup>th</sup> at Mary Smirniw's beach. (Rain day, Sunday)
- **Annual Corn Roast** Saturday September 1<sup>st</sup>

See below for this year's Regatta results (also on the website) and an article from the Huntsville Forester.

### BOATING

Over the years, we continue to see more boats and larger and faster boats on the lake. It is a very small lake so please remember to be safe and courteous at all times. Some issues of particular concern:

1. As much as possible, minimize wakes and keep wakes as far from shore as possible. The lake's shore line vegetation (water lilies etc.) and beaches are fragile and boats at docks and on beaches can be damaged by large wakes.
2. When pulling tubes, water skiers, knee boards etc. be sure there is a spotter and that the driver remains very aware of other boats on the lake, particularly small craft.
3. Keep well clear of boats pulling tubes, skiers etc. There are reports of other boats jumping wakes of tow boats. This is extremely hazardous should a person fall off a tube or board.
4. Swimmers should not be far off shore without an accompanying boat; particularly on wavy days or with low sun angles, swimmers are not very visible and vulnerable to high speed boats (see 2. above).

Also remember that there are no public boat launches on Fox Lake. Camp Winnebago does not allow any boat launching or removal when camp is in session (late June to mid-August) and

all use of their beach must be arranged in advance by calling the Camp. Other launch sites must also be pre-arranged with the owners. Be aware also that boat launching is a significant pathway for introduction of invasive species. Be sure that any boat being put into the lake is properly cleaned (including the trailer) if it has been in other waters (including other Muskoka Lakes – the spiny water flea is in Lake Vernon but not Fox Lake yet).

### PASSINGS

**Evelyn Porter** passed away October 27, 2011, in her 94th year. She and her husband Jim cottaged on the east side Fox Lake, starting around 1950, for over 40 years along with their children Lyn, Bob and Lorna. She is fondly remembered by long time east-siders for many things, including starting, with Jim, the annual East Side Thanksgiving Wine and Cheese Party.

**Gordon Finbow** died May 6, 2011 in Huntsville. Gord was a long time Fox Lake cottager and resident. In 1955, Gordon married Gwen Yule and began coming to Fox Lake for vacations. He began teaching at Huntsville High in 1965. He designed and built a home on the east side of Fox Lake where he and Gwen raised four children – Susan, Jamie, Carol and David. Gord was active in the Fox Lake Association and served as President. He was one of the co-founders of the Fox Lake Regatta. He is missed by all who knew him.

## 2011 REGATTA Results – 39<sup>TH</sup> FOX LAKE REGATTA July 30, 2010 – SMIRNIW BEACH

### 2011 Regatta Winners

Swimming	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Moms & Tots (walking on water)	Sarah Lambie (McMahon)	Annabelle Wright (Hubbard)	Andrew Robinson Leeder Sadee Walden
Bugs Bunny Race	Rowan Campbell (Hubbard)		
5-7 yrs girls	Cailin Bentley	Andrew Hayley	Rachel Share
8-10 yrs.girls	Ashlene Finbow		
8-10 yrs.boys	Nicholas Ireland	Ben Alger	
11-13 yrs.girls	Olivia Hayley	Caliesha Harris	Leanray Harris
11-13 yrs.boys	Shane Macdonald	Jake Austin-St.John	Ethan Lambe
14-16 yrs. girls	Tiana Vuckovic	Marissa Duess	Samantha French
14-16 yrs. boys	Jacob Frensh	Sam Paubst (Hubbard0	Michael Shepley
Island Swim - Women	Marissa Duess	Tiana Vuckovic	Kate Randall
Island Swim - Men	Ben Watson	Luke Watson	Jacob French
Paddle Boat	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Parent and Child	Nick Ireland Dan Beamer	Brian Harris Calisha Harris	
Kids	Nick Ireland Jake Austin St.John	Lucas Smirniw Zack Smirniw	Calisha Harris Sherina Harris
Kayak	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>
11-20	Gaby Paubst	Jake Austin St. John	Shane MacDonald
10 & under	Nick Ireland	Ben Alger	Ewan Finbow
<b>Kids Bucket Race</b>	Ewan Finbow	Rachael Bentley	Rachel Share

		Cailin Bentley Cameron Bently	Ashlene Finbow Andrew Haley Zack Smirniw
<b>Sand Castles</b>	<b>Names</b>	<b>Title</b>	
Most creative	Andrew Haley & Rachel Share	Rachel & Andrew's Amazing Castle	
Best Solo	Jacob Share	The Ruined Castle	
Best use of flowers	Ethan & Matthew Root	The flower castle	
Most imaginative	Cailin, Cameron & Rachel Bently	The Bentley Castle	
Best use of materials	Rayen Foster, Eric Pushksa, Ben Alger, Hanna Pushka, Gabby, Lindsay Alger	The Mermaid Castle	
Best palace	Ewan & Ashlene Finbow	The Buckingham Palace	
<b>Canoe</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>
<b>Grandparent &amp; Grandchild</b>	Barb Yule Jennifer Walden	Nick Ireland Rick Facchini	Peter Hubbard Sam Paubst
<b>Mother &amp; Son</b>	Paula Randall Joshua Lichty	Janet French Jacob French	Linda Watson Ben Watson
<b>Father &amp; Daughter</b>	Rob Randall Margo Randall	Cassandra & Mark Edgar Sean & Cynthia Saugster	Scott & Kirsten Shepley
<b>Open Doubles</b>	Jim & Luke Watson	James & Luke Mackay	Matt Watson & Matt Barlow
<b>Gunnel Bobbing - Boys</b>	Ben Watson	Pat Hubbard	Bruce Watson
<b>Gunnel Bobbing - Girls</b>	Cynthia Sangster		
<b>In and Out</b>	Jacob Edgar & Hadden Sumner	Noah Campbell & Katrin Nolan Coin Randall & Dean McCudon	Jim Watson & Bill French
<b>War Canoe</b>	Alyssa Watson Dan Martin Bruce & Ben Watson	Jacob French Luke Watson Matt Barlow Jeremy S	1)Tiana & Marissa Andrew & John French 2)Megan Kairnee Gaby Evans Jim Watson Bill French 3)Scott, Michael, Grant & Krista Shepley
<b>Tug of War</b>	The West Side		
<b>Horseshoes</b>	Rick Skinner & Robert Finbow	Andrew Bentley & Waylon Sharp	Rick Facchini & Danny Beamer
<b>Volleyball</b>	Holden Sumner Rory Sumner & Jake Edgar	Alix Yule Emily Yule Kalyna Foster Hope Eaglesson Mike Quemby Jen Walden	Sam Paubst Noah Campbell Glenn Campbell Quyen Trinh & Glen Hubbard & Rowan

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### Great-grandmother takes first place in regatta canoe race at 91



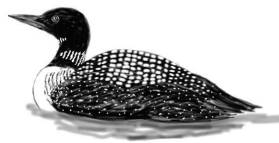
Yule and Walden paddle their classic Canadian canoe to a first-place finish.

HUNTSVILLE - Barbara Yule and her granddaughter Jennifer Walden paddled to first place in the grandparent-grandchild canoe race at the Fox Lake Regatta last month. Over 100 regatta spectators had the pleasure of watching Yule and Walden paddle Yule's beautifully maintained classic canoe in perfect unison and cross the finish line ahead of about a dozen other canoes.

Yule said she and her late husband, Glen, bought the canoe about 65 years ago from Glen's uncle, Harold Robinson, who had had it for many years.

"I think the canoe is about the same age as I am," said Yule. "And I'm 91."

The canoe is an original canvas covered cedar strip made by the Canadian Canoe Company. The grandparent-grandchild canoe race was introduced to the Fox Lake Regatta this year in recognition of the multi-generational families around the lake, many of which have a long history in the area.



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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).**