

**Fox Lake Association Incorporated
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
July 17, 2010**

Location: Residence of Bernie & Gabrielle Andersen, 698 East Fox Lake Rd.

President, Jim Watson, welcomed everyone, and asked if there were any issues that anyone wanted added to the agenda. Elaine Jackson asked that the issues of loons and river traffic be added to the agenda.

Motion: to accept these additions was made by Rob Randall

Seconded: by Danny Popovik

Carried

Jim Watson asked for a motion to adopt the agenda.

Motion: to adopt the agenda was made by Sharon Lillico

Seconded: by Robin Yule

Carried

Treasurer's Report: Jim McMahon

Every event we ran last year made money. If it had not been for the lake plan expenses we would have had a surplus. We paid out an unusually high amount of honorariums because of extra work that individuals did on the lake plan, and also some long term association members passed away.

Motion: to approve the treasurer's report was made by Karen Beamer

Seconded: by David White

Carried

President's Report: Jim Watson

Jim thanked the Andersen's for hosting the AGM and also thanked the Board members – Karen Beamer, Pat Currie, Robin Yule, Tom Perkin and Gwen St. John for their time and input throughout the year. Jim announced that Gwen had resigned in April and he welcomed Don Shepley who had agreed to be a new director. He also thanked Jim McMahon as Treasurer, David White as Lake Stewart, and Elaine Jackson for doing a great job with the newsletter and who chaired the Lake Plan committee and acted as liason with Huntsville Town Council.

Issues addressed by the FLA over the past year:

- Lake Plan – Jim stated that the completion and distribution of the Lake Plan had been a long eight year process. Jack van der Meer had done a thorough and professional job in compiling the Lake Plan, one that we should all be proud of and willing to use and share. It would help us address a variety of issues on the Lake and help ensure that Fox Lake would continue to be a place of beauty and enjoyable for all. Jack's time and effort on this project went far beyond what was originally stated in the

contract and the board recognized this with an honorarium to account for some of the additional time and expense that Jack had incurred. He said that the Board would like to further show their appreciation of Jack's efforts by making Jack and his wife Leslie honorary lifetime members of the Fox Lake Association.

Jack van der Meer thanked everyone and stated that he only pulled the Plan together at the end, and that many people had worked to gather the information and that it was an incredible group effort.

Jim thanked the Lake Plan Committee – Elaine Jackson, Rob Randall, Ellen Fox, Gabrielle Andersen and David White.

- Fox Lake Logo - We now have an official logo that will appear on all correspondence and on Fox Lake apparel. He thanked Ellen Fox for seeing this task to completion. Jim informed the group that if they were interested in Fox Lake apparel to contact Ellen Fox.

Ellen said Fox Lake T-shirts and hats were available for ordering and said if there were any other articles of clothing that were of interest (for example hoodies, etc.) to let her know. She said that orders placed today would be ready by Regatta weekend.

- Web site - Emily Durtnall has been doing a great job of getting our web site (foxlakeassociation.org) up and running, and now Ellen Fox has volunteered to take over as web master in the fall.

Don Shepley suggested that the duties of the Board and the Constitution of the Association be added to the web site.

- Environmental Issues - The Association has made contact with Huntsville Town Council, the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans about land clearance issues and bylaw infractions on the lake.
- The Camps - The Board has been trying to centralize the communication of property owner concerns about the camps through the FLA Directors. Jim stated that issues with the camps could be more effectively addressed if the property owners called the president or a director when they had an issue with the camps rather than calling the camp directly.
- Lake custodians. He reminded the cottagers to be good lake custodians. He asked that if property owners rent to outsiders that they advise the renters of guidelines for the use of the lake and proper lake etiquette. For example: 1) advise renters of the proper time and place to launch boats

(because of past abuse, Camp Winnebago is no longer accessible for launching boats between June 25 and Aug. 27).

- 2) Make garbage bear and bird proof and do not put it out except on the day of garbage collection.
- 3) Remind boaters of the low wake zone within 30 meters of the shoreline, and about being cognizant of other boaters, kayakers, canoeists and swimmers.
- 4) Advise guests of the proper use of Rock Island – bring a water bucket and firewood if planning to have a fire (do not cut down trees on the island). He mentioned the fire that occurred on the island on Easter weekend that required the Fire Department to come out and which destroyed much of the undergrowth.
- 5) Advise guests that everyone does not appreciate hearing booming fireworks particularly at midnight.

Jim stated that this was an election year in Huntsville and that we had three guests at our meeting – Det Schumacher a former Town Councillor, Hugh Mackenzie who was running for Mayor, and Claude Doughty Huntsville's present Mayor.

Hugh Mackenzie said he was running for mayor and his main concerns were financial security and not passing the town debt on to our children, openness in doing business and environmental integrity in Muskoka and that our bylaws should have teeth and be enforceable.

Claude Doughty spoke and said he will make a decision the first week of August whether he will run for mayor again. He said the Fox Lake Plan looks like a great document and augments what the town is doing on the environmental issues. He said the Official Town Plan is up for review this year and documents like our Lake Plan will be taken into consideration. He said that the town would be taking legal action against violations of site plan agreements. When asked what could be done about violations he said the town had the ability to replant illegally removed vegetation themselves and the cost would be added to the tax bill of the property even if it was \$75,000.00.

He was told that one property owner had been violating the site plan agreement and a town representative had looked at the property in September 2008 and said that no building permits would be issued for that lot. However, the next year a building permit was issued and then nothing further could be done. He agreed that there was a disconnect between the planning and building departments. He said a new Director of Planning had been hired who had had a great deal of experience in dealing with enforcement of bylaws.

He was asked if it was possible for the Town to be proactive in trying to protect the environment instead of reactive. Since it was too late to save the trees on the property in question, would it be possible to send a letter of warning that since the shoreline was deemed to be a fish habitat area that the weeds were not

to be removed, before it was too late and they had all been removed. He agreed that was a good idea and said he would do something.

Jim Watson said that MNR would be coming out to look at the water/shoreline area in question.

Election of Directors for the FLA Board:

Slate of Directors: Robin Yule, Tom Perkin, Don Shepley, Karen Beamer, Pat Currie, Tom Gillette, Jim Watson.

Jim Watson asked if anyone else wanted to be a director. There was no response. The board needs seven directors. Robin Yule made an appeal for new people to come forward so that some of the old directors could step down. Representatives from the west side of the lake are particularly required.

Status Reports:

Jim Watson said that the noise of fireworks after midnight should not be assumed to be Camp Winnebago. The camp got several calls complaining about fireworks being let off one night when it was not them. Ted and Ari, representatives of Camp Winnebago said they have a doctor on site from the end of June until August 27 and if there was an emergency on the lake to feel free to contact him. The camp appreciates our understanding that some of their programs run until 10:00 pm. They asked for our help in looking out for vandalism on their property in the off season. Last spring they had all the windows smashed in the building close to the lake and the windshields in two of their boats smashed. Access appeared to have been from the lake.

They were asked what they were doing about a privy for their overnight stays on Rock Island. A suggestion was made about having a portable toilet brought by barge. Jim Watson asked the camp to investigate the cost of a "port-a-potty". It was suggested that they use the larger island for overnight stays where they could dig a latrine, rather than the smaller island.

Ari said jet skis were a safety problem at their end with jet skis crossing their ski boat wakes and going between their sailboats, a situation which is very unsafe for their children.

The suggestion was again made that people renting should inform their renters of the safe use of jet skis. Another suggestion was that people should get a description, make, or picture of offending watercraft so they could be reported to the police. Another issue mentioned was the problem of jet skis going up the Buck River and the negative effect of that on shoreline vegetation and wild life.

Membership Update and Newsletter: Elaine Jackson

Only 35 people had paid their membership dues to date. Generally there are approximately 65 paid members.

She said the fall newsletter would go out in November or December. News and pictures from lake owners are always welcome. These could be forwarded to her at maplejay@sympatico.ca

Fourteen people had volunteered to distribute the Lake Plan and environmental information. Everyone on the lake will receive a Lake Plan, not just FLA members. Volunteers have been welcoming donations to help with the cost of the printing of the Lake Plan.

FLA Partnerships:

Jim Watson stated that our membership in the Federation of Ontario Cottagers was worthwhile.

Elaine Jackson mentioned that Muskoka Watershed Council had a new brochure on boat and jet ski etiquette that may be of interest to cottagers and renters.

Ellen Fox has resigned as our representative on the Huntsville/Lake of Bays Lakes Council. Jim Watson mentioned that if anyone wished to be our representative to HLoBLC that it was available.

Lake Stewardship: David White

David reported that the ice came in on December 12th and went out on April 1st. The average Secchi depth reading was 1.8 m. which is within the Fox Lake average range. Phosphorus levels for 2009 averaged 13.2 micrograms/L which again is within our typical range. In 2010 it is Fox Lake's turn to be tested for Recreational Water Quality which is done in Muskoka on a rotational basis. It will be interesting to see how this compares to our last testing in 2007. Overall, Huntsville's subwatershed is graded "C" on land parameters and "B" on water parameters. For a full report go to www.muskokaheritage.org/watershed. David was happy to report that he had seen a bullfrog and that you can hear them again at night in the north end river area. He hopes that they will re-populate in any uncleared shore areas that are still left in the rest of the lake.

Social Events: Karen Beamer, Robin Yule

Karen informed the meeting that the Ribfest cooks want people to talk to them if they have an issue with how their food is cooked. She mentioned that there will be many fabulous raffle and auction items at the Ribfest - a catered dinner for six, a Jacuzzi room at a nearby hotel for two nights, two \$50.00 Avon packages, a family photo/portrait, etc. and handouts for the kids. She is hoping to raise \$1,000.00 for the FLA. There are a few tickets left and children are half price.

Robin stated that the annual Fox Lake Regatta will be on the Yule beach. In the morning there will be beach volleyball, and horseshoes will be at Sandy McLennan's, 100 Rachel's Lane. He said he would appreciate it if someone else would volunteer to run the Regatta since he's done it for two years. Whoever ran it could still use the east side beaches.

Mary Smirniw volunteered to run the Regatta next year and hold it on her beach.

Robin reminded everyone that the Corn Roast is on Saturday September 4th at Camp Romuva.

Lake Plan Priorities:

Jack van der Meer said it was critical that we don't put the Lake Plan on a shelf to gather dust. He said it was very important that we let our partners such as the Town of Huntsville, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and the Ministry of Natural Resources know what is in the plan. He stated that our #1 priority should be to get the Lake Plan to the town of Huntsville so we could get our plan incorporated into the town's Official Plan as part of their 5 yr. review process. He also said we need to write a letter to the Ministry of Natural Resources urging them to be proactive in mapping the Fox Lake shoreline and identifying significant or endangered areas. He stated that a priority in the Lake Plan is ongoing education, and also that there are 58 recommendations requiring different types of action. Jack mentioned that Elaine Jackson has been the driving force since 2002 in getting the Lake Plan done and that she should not have to do all the implementation also. Jack asked that the Association set up a team to implement the Action Plan section of the plan.

Elaine Jackson reiterated that there was much work recommended in the plan that needed to be done. She urged people to read the Lake Plan thoroughly and see if there was any way that they could help out in the implementation of it.

Other Issues:

Elaine Jackson stated that since 2002 Fox Lake has not had a resident loon pair. That year the loons had two babies, one got eaten by a fish, and the other got sliced up by a reckless boater and washed up on shore. She informed the group that this year we have two resident loons and she urged everyone to watch for them and give them a wide birth so they would feel safe to nest and hopefully successfully raise babies.

Paul Blanchard suggested that perhaps we could put up a "No Wake" sign in sensitive areas to educate boaters. Mayor Doughty volunteered that the town has signs, both "No Wake" and "Maximum 9 Km." signs. Jim Watson said that would be great for putting in the river. Karen Beamer asked if we could post a "No Motor Boats" sign in the river. Mayor Doughty stated that to do that everyone on the lake would have to agree to it. He suggested that the "Max. 9 km." sign might be easier to enforce.

Robin Yule stated that he was working on getting information signs for Rock Island.

Robin asked if anyone was willing to volunteer to fill the position of FLA secretary. Sharon Lillico volunteered for the position of secretary but said she did not want to be a director.

Jim Watson asked for a volunteer to host next years AGM. Jack van der Meer said he would tentatively volunteer his cottage subject to his wife's agreement.

Robin Yule moved that the meeting be adjourned.

Don Shepley seconded the motion.

Carried