

**Spring NEWSLETTER 2012****PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Please note that all contact information for Board Directors and Officers is summarized at the end of this newsletter.

Winter (what there was of it) is behind us and summer is almost here. Pat and I are happy to be back in Muskoka after a winter away. I am looking forward to seeing friends and neighbours again at Fox Lake.

In particular, I hope that many of you will attend the annual general meeting. It is a good opportunity to hear what is happening, voice your opinion and meet new people.

Ribfest is held the same day and is a good beginning to the Association's social season. It is our only major fundraiser (other than membership dues) and I hope you will support it. Please buy tickets early as we need to specify a guaranteed number to the caterer at least a week in advance. We try to accommodate last minute arrivals but it can be difficult.

We are in need of a newsletter editor / coordinator. The job includes organizing input from various FLA board members and other FLA members and editing it into a document that can be delivered to the members. (Delivery is handled by Membership). If someone would volunteer to take this on, I would be grateful.

For those of you are not members, please consider joining. The strength of our presentations and communications with the local government is enhanced as our membership grows. The membership fee is very low and is perhaps your best investment in protecting your property value against possible detrimental changes to the lake due to inappropriate or unwanted development or environmental damage. It is also useful to know that all interested parties are being heard when setting direction for Association activities and priorities. We would be more than happy to have you attend the Annual General Meeting.

Robin Yule, President

**FINANCIAL STATE OF THE ASSOCIATION**

As we approach the end of another Association year I am pleased to report that we are achieving a level of financial stability. Our bank balance is reaching a comfortable level and our annual revenues from memberships and fund raising have consistently exceeded our expenses.

As you will remember we elected to incorporate as a not-for-profit organization several years ago. We did this primarily to allow individuals who were acting on behalf of the organization to take comfort that a formal organization stood behind them. It also allowed us to organize more community events, knowing we have insurance coverage to protect property owners and the Association should anything untoward happen. Insurance is our largest single expense.

Thanks to the generosity of a number of members and the hard work of several others in organizing events that include fundraisers we have paid all the expenses related to the

development and distribution of our Lake Plan. Our current financial state will provide the Board with ability to take limited steps to move on the recommendations in the plan.

We also cover all expenses related to the annual regatta and the annual corn roast with no cost to those attending.

These same individuals and events have, I believe, led to a consistently higher participation rate amongst the property owners of Fox Lake resulting in higher fee revenue.

It is my belief we should continue to build the Association's resources in coming years.. I don't have a number in mind as a target but I will raise the issue with the Board so that in future we can report to you the members as to where we are relative to our targets.

Jim McMahon, Treasurer

### 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

This 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 can be posted or made available at the various places where power boats are launched. If you would like one of these signs please contact me.

Please remember to check boats, and, of course, trailers for water, weeds etc. and clean, if necessary, if they have been in water other than Fox Lake.

David White, Lake Steward

### ISLAND REFORESTATION

As mentioned in previous newsletters, the island is in need of tree planting due to fire and heavy use. Christa Sharp is coordinating this activity. Come join us to plant some trees and shrubs to help restore the island!

The first planting event is being held on June 16th at 10 am. Please meet at Robin Yule's (480 East Fox Lake Road). Bring a shovel and 2 or 3 buckets. AND, be prepared for the weather and bugs. If you have any questions or would like more information contact Christa Sharp at [christa\\_casselmann@hotmail.com](mailto:christa_casselmann@hotmail.com).

### **ANNUAL RIBFEST**

To all our Rib Fest Attendees/Supporters:

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. Be sure to set aside items which may be of interest. Items you may have received as a gift that may not be useful to you may be a hot item for our table sale. Or if any of you find it within your hearts something you may wish to purchase & submit for the Raffle Auction.

We are always looking for ideas and gifted donations so keep us in mind. I thank you in advance. I can be reached at 705-435-6961 (email: [bsporty@bell.net](mailto:bsporty@bell.net) ) if you need to contact me.

Also, please let us know as soon as possible if you wish to attend. Contact me, or any board member, for tickets. The caterer needs time to plan for the correct number of persons.

Karen Beamer, Social/Fundraising Officer

### **PROPOSED FIREWORKS DISPLAY**

We will be putting on a fireworks display this year for the Canada Day celebration. The intention is to put on a display that all can enjoy in place of a number of small private displays and hope that we will receive donations from residents specifically for this event. We will also try to arrange some corporate sponsorship. We will put on as much of a display as we can for the money we have. Proposed location is from a raft located (temporarily) near the center of the lake to make the display as visible as possible to all residences but, of course, viewing from boats will be possible. If you would like to make a donation towards this event, please contact any board member as soon as practical so that we can continue planning for this event. We hope that the event will be successful enough that it can become an annual event.

### **BOAT LAUNCHING**

As previously stated, boat launching should only be done with the permission of the property owner. In some cases, a donation is expected which is passed on the Huntsville Hospital, FLA or other cause.

In particular, please note that launching or removing boats at the Camp Winnebago beach requires prior permission and arranging of the date and time. Also, there will be no launching or removal of boats on their beach whatsoever when camp is in session (late June until about mid-August)

### **FOX LAKE LOGO CLOTHING**

Clothing with the Fox Lake logo is again available. There is an order form available on the Fox Lake website ([www.foxlakeassociation.org](http://www.foxlakeassociation.org)) or contact Ellen Fox directly. Note that all

orders and money must be received by Ellen on or before July 15 and that the clothing will be delivered at regatta.

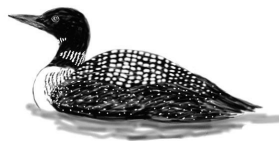
### RENTER GUIDELINES

Residences on Fox Lake are being rented more frequently every year. The Board thought it would be helpful to have some "Guidelines for Renters" available to help those renting their properties to communicate practical advice and Fox Lake values to their renters. Our first attempt at these guidelines is at the end of this Newsletter. Please provide any comments you may have to any Board member – additions, deletions, revisions etc. The guidelines will be revised and reissued as comments are received.

We hope that these guidelines can be provided to tenants as hardcopy or that the guidelines are posted in the residence. If anyone would like a laminated copy, please contact any board member.

### 2012 SUMMER EVENTS SUMMARY

- **Fireworks Display** – When suitably dark on Saturday, June 30. Rain date Sunday July 1.
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- **Annual General Meeting** – 9:30 a.m., Saturday, July 14<sup>th</sup> at Leslie and Jack van der Meer's (479 West Fox Lake Rd).
- **Annual Rib Fest** – Saturday, July 14<sup>th</sup> 4:00 p.m. at Sandy McLennan's (100 Rachel's Lane)
- **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> at Camp Romuva beach



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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).

## Renter Guidelines

May 2012

### 1. Garbage

- Raccoons, bears and birds tear open bags, containers are highly recommended
- Put garbage out ONLY on day of collection (Thursday on East and North Fox Lake Roads; Tuesday on West Fox Lake Rd.)
- If you cannot put garbage out on day of collection, take it home

### 2. Boat Launch

- There are no public boat launches on Fox Lake – contact your owner regarding boat launching
- Camp Winnebago does not allow boat launching from late June to mid-August and always requires prior arrangements for time and date.
- Be sure outside of boat and trailer are clean; invasive species are not wanted

### 3. Boating

- Keep clear of other boats, particularly those towing skiers, tubes etc.
- Do not pass between markers or rafts and shore
- Avoid all water plants – they are very fragile
- Minimize wake at all times; no wake in rivers
- Minimize motor operation after sunset

### 4. Noise

- Noise travels easily over water
- Be conscientious about loud music, language
- Noise should be minimized after 10 p.m.
- Dogs should be kept under control

### 5. Island

- Keep it clean, remove all waste
- Preserve all vegetation; do not cut or damage trees or plants
- If you want a fire, bring your own wood and a pail; douse fire before leaving

### 6. Lights

- Stargazing and lack of glare on the lake are important
- Minimize night lighting; use only what is needed and only when it is needed.