



<http://www.foxlakeassociation.org/>

A MESSAGE FROM THE PAST PRESIDENT

Once again this summer, we had reasonably good weather for Ribfest, Regatta and Corn Roast although those of you who were there will remember the rather abrupt end to regatta when the skies opened. All events were well attended and, I think, enjoyed by all who were there. My thanks go to all who made the events possible.

Beyond social events, the executive was busy with a number of activities that are detailed elsewhere in the Newsletter but summarized here.

Judy Maxwell took on leadership of Lake Plan Implementation with initial emphasis on getting some key items embedded in the Town of Huntsville Official Plan (see below for Judy's update). This will eventually have a significant cost. Ribfest netted about \$2000, so the FLA is in a good financial position.

Lake monitoring continued under David White's leadership – water samples were collected, Benthic monitoring was done for the second year and clarity readings were taken. The MNR's temperature / level monitor was repaired and relocated and results are once again available on line. For more detail, please see David's update below.

A small group of volunteers met and more small trees were planted on the island as part of the ongoing reforestation effort. Unfortunately, in August, persons unknown cut down healthy trees, littered the island and left a fire unattended which was spotted by canoeists in the morning and doused using bailing pails before it spread farther than it already had.

Jim McMahon built a loon nesting platform and installed it near the small island in the north end. The hope is to entice loons to nest on Fox Lake once again. Please give the island lots of space when running boats in that area.

As many of you know, I have decided to come out of retirement and have accepted a position in the United Arab Emirates so Pat and I will be moving to Abu Dhabi. We are quite excited about it and expect it will be a great adventure. On the down side, it means that Pat and I will have little time at Fox Lake and for this reason, we have resigned our positions on the FLA executive. My message in the spring was about participation. I am pleased to say that several persons came forward to take our places.

Being president for the past 3 years and bit, was an interesting, educational and usually enjoyable experience. I would like to thank the other members of the executive and all those others who helped out in various ways over that time. We are fortunate to have these dedicated and capable persons making the Fox Lake community a better place for all of us.

See you all soon,

Robin Yule

A MESSAGE FROM THE INCOMING PRESIDENT

I wanted to take the opportunity with this newsletter to say hello to everyone on the lake as I step into the role as President and also to thank Robin Yule for the excellent leadership that he provided to the Fox Lake Association over the three plus years that he served as President. Robin leaves with the Association on a sound financial footing and with a number of significant initiatives in place that will enhance the lake experience. I've spent the last 3 years as Vice President of the Association and look forward to carrying on with these key activities such as the implementation of the Lake Plan recommendations, now being capably led by Judy Maxwell, the continued focus on lake stewardship and growing our Lake Association membership base.

As we approach the holiday season I want to pass on best wishes and look forward to seeing everyone in the new year.

Regards,

Tom Gillette

COMMUNITY NEWS

For many years there were few changes to the Fox Lake community. With exception of the north end development, there would be, at most, one or two changes of ownership per year. And some would simply be transfers of ownership within family members. Often there were no changes for years at a time. In 2013 there were at least six sales not counting the back lots on East Fox Lake Rd. Real estate on Fox Lake became the hot topic and the sounds of construction the background music. Owners went to all depths (putting in basements) and heights (building on existing footprints) and some simply moved the whole house while others are building new.

Camp Winnebago continues to invest funds in its facility and is upgrading two of the existing buildings over the course of the winter. They have filed a modified site plan with the town of Huntsville.

It is sad to say good bye to old members particularly Gord and Elaine Jackson. Elaine spent her whole life at Fox Lake and as Membership Chair, Editor of the Newsletter, Chair of the Fox Lake Plan Committee and a resource for all District, Town and FOCA news, Elaine was the Fox

Lake Google on speed dial and Gord her great support. They are greatly missed. But it is wonderful to hear that they are really enjoying their new life in Wellington County. Gord now has the ability to get around and they are both already participating in a number of activities offered in their community.

We are also invigorated by all the new community members, one couple, Canadians, living in the US, yet to build. The Knights on W. Fox Lake and the Moores on E. Fox Lake immediately became members and participants in the Fox Lake Association. Bill Knight has become a Board Member and Paul and Christine Moores volunteers. The Moores were the first to respond to the fire on the island on August 17th and for that we owe them a big debt of gratitude.

Over this spring, with the now infamous flood, and more recently, the windstorm that resulted in a 48 hour hydro outage, floating docks, beach chairs, errant boats and lost animals have all been reported and rescued by our Fox Lake community all through our Fox Lake Association email (foxlakeassociation@gmail.com). This is a sign of a community that cares and works together.

If you have news you would like to include in the next newsletter or know of any other newcomers or changes (mail or email addresses, phone numbers) in our Fox Lake community, please contact Mary Smirniw at 416-236-3226 or email at foxlakeassociation@gmail.com or msmirniw@sympatico.ca. Keeping our records up-to-date is always challenging.

THE VALUE OF FLA MEMBERSHIP

The Fox Lake Association has as its primary purpose to be a forum for discussion among property owners on matters of mutual interest related to the quality of the environment and the enjoyment of their properties.

All owners have a large investment in their Fox Lake property and therefore have an interest in ensuring that Fox Lake continues to be the kind of place they fell in love with originally both in the short term and in the long term for their children and grandchildren. The Fox Lake Association can be considered the best insurance there is for this. You pay very large dollars to insure your cottage and property – what do you pay to ensure that the lake and the community continue to support the value of your property?

One example from the past – some years ago the north end was an abandoned farm and not developed. One owner of the property proposed a large development – over 100 building lots, a campground and a marina and docking facility for over 50 boats. Can you imagine how that would have changed the character of the lake? What would summer be like for residents near that end of the lake and for others with that amount of boat traffic and noise? The FLA actively fought that proposal and some generous members footed the legal bills which were in the tens of thousands of dollars.

Some may think the FLA does nothing but organize social events.

Amongst other things, the FLA:

- Maintains a website with information on FLA activities and links to related topics

- Maintains an email address for communications between the FLA executive and the Fox Lake Community and others.
- Maintains a record of property owners for communications and alerts as needed.
- Communicates by newsletter to owners on current issues and events
- Monitors building and variance applications that may affect the lake and comments if appropriate
- Organizes and conducts several water quality monitoring activities that provide information on trends in water quality and will provide warning if problems appear.
- Is working at incorporating some unique Fox Lake features and values into the Huntsville Official Plan to more solidly ensure that some key elements of the lake are protected
- Actively promotes good water and boating safety
- Strives to protect the three crown land islands on the lake and has an ongoing project to replant part of the central island in the south end.
- Is a member of the Federation of Cottagers Associations (FOCA) that provides to the FLA and to members, advice on many topics, government lobbying on behalf of cottagers, insurance options and much more

The annual membership fee is small and a great bargain for the assurance that the overall interests of the lake are being looked after. More important than the fee is your participation and input at meetings, by email or in discussion with other Fox Lakers, so that your views and opinions are known. Equally important is your willingness to help out in some of these activities to ensure that the FLA does as much as possible to make things the best they can be.

Lastly, the FLA runs three social events that are enjoyed by hundreds of persons each summer – Ribfest, Regatta and Corn Roast. The next regatta will be the 42nd. As always it is free but only exists because volunteers make it happen and the FLA provides insurance (one of our significant expenses).

Increased membership makes the FLA a more effective organization by including more comprehensive and diverse input in decision making and providing more conclusive evidence of representation of the lake when dealing with government.

Membership IS important to you.

ISLAND REFORESTATION UPDATE

This year's island planting was a great success. There were over 15 volunteers that came out to plant approximately 25 trees and shrubs. We had lots of kids to help with the planting which was very exciting. Hope to see everyone out again next fall to continue with this project and monitor our success. Thanks for everyone's hard work this year!

FLA SWAG

The FLA is looking for your input as to what you might like to see available to order next spring in the way of clothing or items with the Fox Lake LOGO. We were thinking perhaps coloured tees with the large LOGO in kids and adults sizing, as well as coolers for beverage bottles or cans (aka coldie-holders). **If you have any further suggestions please let us know.**



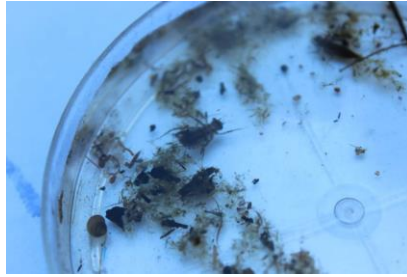
Sarah models her FLA shirt

LAKE STEWARD REPORT

The Fox Lake Association continued monitoring the Lake in 2013. Reiterating the results provided verbally at the AGM, Ice-in was December 12th 2012 and Ice-out was April 27th 2013. The Secchi results (water clarity) averaged 2.4 metres in 2012. This is somewhat higher than the running average. Two thousand and thirteen results have not been averaged yet. Please note that Secchi depth readings are highly dependent on weather conditions. Total Phosphorus readings in 2012 averaged 10.7 micrograms/L, consistent with the last three years.

No Spiny Water Fleas nor Zebra Mussels were detected in the Invading Species sampling for 2012. Luckily, neither were detected in Buck Lake. However, there are Spiny Water Fleas in Lake Vernon. Literature indicates that Fox Lake is fairly safe from Zebra Mussels due to its low pH (acid water). The 2013 invading species sampling was carried out July 17th. The results of this sampling will not be available until late spring 2014.

We had a good Benthic Monitoring session this year on August 23rd. There were fewer volunteers than last year, but we were finished by 12:00 noon. The results are already out and available on the Fox Lake Association web site under 'Lake Monitoring'. Briefly, some measures are up, some are down from 2012. No clear trend is likely to be established for years to come. Please look up the results for your own interpretation. The link includes an explanation of the significance of the various groups of species detected.



Benthic Macroinvertebrates

The last item; the MNR water level/temperature gauge is back up and running with the link posted on the FLA site.

Let's hope for an early Ice-out next spring!

LAKE PLAN UPDATE

Following the Annual Meeting in July, the Board appointed Judy Maxwell as Official Plan Officer and gave her a mandate to coordinate the work involved in having key elements in the Fox Lake Plan incorporated into the Huntsville Official Plan or the Huntsville Zoning By-Law. Christa Casselman and Jack van der Meer volunteered to help Judy. They both have relevant professional experience.

A number of lakes in the region (Vernon, Fairy, Mary, Peninsula and Menominee) have already incorporated short sections of one to three pages into the Town's Official Plan, documenting their vision for the future of their lake and the unique characteristics which might require special consideration in future Town decisions with respect to land use and development. For each unique characteristic, they prepared a "planning justification report" summarizing the issue. If you want to see what these Lake Plan sections look like, go to page 92 of the Town of Huntsville Plan (Section 8.13). Lake Vernon, for example, focused on

- Minimum frontage in deer wintering areas;
- Shoreline development along the Big East River;
- Development on backlands;
- Cultural and historic sites; and
- The Hoodstown Portage.

The unique characteristics can therefore cover a wide range of issues, and they are likely to be different for every lake.

The first step (in August) was to meet with the Planning Office at the Town to get a better understanding of what the Town needs from us. After a fair bit of reading the Town website, we prepared a work plan which was reviewed with the Board at the Thanksgiving Weekend meeting.

By January, we hope to have a compilation of the existing research on some of the unique issues identified in the Fox Lake Plan in 2009. They include the rock pile in the North Bay, the portages at the Buck River and Hoodstown dams, and identification of ecologically sensitive areas which would require special attention if site plans are being considered in future. While the Association has files on all these topics (thanks to Elaine Jackson's work over the years), we expect that more research may be required. As we define our information needs to write our own planning justification reports, we will be putting out calls for help and will welcome assistance from residents on the Lake.

We will be reporting on our progress to the Board in May and hope to have more to say at the next Annual Meeting in July.

PLANNING AHEAD: 2014 SUMMER EVENTS

AGM-July 12, 2014 AND Ribfest-July 12, 2014

Regatta-August 2, 2014

Corn Roast-August 30, 2014

RIBFEST VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Ribfest is our only fundraiser and the FLA's kickoff social event for the summer.

Ribfest, for those have not yet attended one, starts Saturday afternoon, with a gathering of Fox Laker's to visit with friends, make new friends and acquaintances, play horseshoes and generally have a good time. They can buy tickets for raffles on a number of donated items. Later in the afternoon, a catered meal is served – ribs and chicken, a variety of salads, and deserts. Water is provided at no charge. Following dinner there is a live auction on other donated items –some of them quite spectacular.

While this event is fun for all there and raised about \$2000. For the FLA in 2013, it did not happen by itself. To make ribfest happen requires organization and work. Please consider helping out with (you don't have to do the whole thing) any of the items listed below. Simply let it be known (tell any member of the executive) that it is OK to call you when things are being organized for 2014.

- Buy plates, utensils, napkins, condiments, water etc.
- Sell tickets – (Print tickets, distribute to sellers, turn in money)
- Solicit, collect, transport items for the raffles and auctions; set up raffle tables and items, sell tickets
- Set up tables, chairs, garbage containers; put away same and remove garbage
- Run the auction, MC the event

It is too much for 1 or 2 to manage – an hour or two from a bunch would make it all very easy for everyone.

FLA EXECUTIVE

At the Annual General Meeting in July, Jim Crawford was elected a director to replace Don Shepley who resigned. We thank Don for several years of service to the Fox Lake community and welcome Jim to the executive.

At an executive meeting in October, the resignations of Pat Currie as a director of the FLA and Robin Yule as a director, Chairman of the Board and President were accepted. As a result, the board of directors made the following changes.

- Tony Maxwell and Bill Knight were appointed as directors. These appointments will be confirmed at the 2014 Annual General Meeting. We thank them for volunteering.
- Tom Gillette (formerly Vice-President) was elected Chairman of the Board and appointed President. Tom deserves thanks from the entire community for taking on these posts
- Tony Maxwell was appointed Vice-President

Implementation of the Lake Plan objectives is important and will continue to require a lot of effort. Judy Maxwell accepted an appointment as Lake Plan Officer. She has started working on some of the high priority items with help from the executive and other members (and more volunteers would be welcome).

FOX LAKE ASSOCIATION EMAIL: foxlakeassociation@gmail.com

President, Lake Plan Committee Member	Tom Gillette tgillette@bell.net 647-922-7161
Vice-President	Tony Maxwell
Past President	Robin Yule
Recording Secretary	Sharon Lillico
Treasurer	Jim McMahon
Director	Christa Casselman-Sharp
Director, Social/Fundraising	Karen Beamer
Director	Bill Knight
Director	Jim Crawford
Officer, Webmaster/Merchandizing	Ellen Fox
Officer, Lake Steward	David White
Officer, Membership	Mary Smirniw
Officer, Lake Plan	Judy Maxwell
Newsletter Editor	Katie McMahon

This newsletter is published and funded by the Fox Lake Association Inc. It is distributed to all Fox Lake residents or 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.

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).

