



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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My message this spring is about participation. The FLA exists to benefit all Fox Lakers and attendance at social events and membership numbers indicate that there is substantial support for the FLA. What we need is for the support to be shown also through helping out with some of the work. The same persons shoulder more than their share over many years. Some fresh and, I hope, younger faces would be very welcome. To this end, we will be asking members and their families where they might help as part of the annual process to renew memberships.

Ribfest is probably the most work of any of our activities – help in ticket sales, ticket management, auction item collection, auction organization, setup, cleanup etc. would be appreciated.

We also need to deal with changes in the Ontario legislation covering non-profit corporations (the FLA is such a thing). We will need to determine exactly what we need to do (probably change some of the documents of incorporation and possibly our constitution). Someone with an interest or skills in that area would be a great help to the executive in resolving these issues.

We would also like to have new members on the board – either as directors or officers (or both). This is not nearly as time consuming or difficult as many think – 2 or 3 meetings and perhaps 10 or 20 hours in a year). New thoughts and fresh ambition would be wonderful and appreciated.

At the end of this Newsletter is a list of things you may consider. Please discuss with your Fox Lake family and friends what you could do to help. Please call any member of the board (Pat Currie and I are at 705-783-5451) or send us an email (foxlakeassociation@gmail.com). We would be happy to hear from you.

The FLA is a member (and FLA members as individuals are members) of the Federation of Ontario Cottager's Association. This is a significant expense for us but provides a number of benefits. They provide advice on such topics as the changes in the Non-profit Corporations Act and private road liability issues, discounts on insurance for cottages and boats to name a few. I hope that you took the time to look at the FOCA member update that I forwarded (by email) to most of you in mid-April.

As always, I want to wish you all a SAFE summer. Please be careful with large boats on the small lake, especially when towing tubes or skiers. Also, please be careful around boats towing boats and skiers. Lastly, remember that it is hard to see a swimmer on windy, wavy days – swimmers should stay close to shore at busy times or be accompanied by a boat.

I look forward to seeing you at Fox Lake over the summer. Please drop by our dock on the north end if you are out on the water.

Robin Yule, President

FLOODS AND FIRES

Spring High Water

This year, towards the end of April, melting snow combined with very high rainfall caused flooding throughout Muskoka. Highway 11 was closed briefly, the Ravenscliffe road was closed at the Big East River bridge and the shoulders washed out badly at Ravenscliffe. East Fox Lake Road was flooded for a day or two. North Fox Lake Road was washed out and impassable for a few days.

The lake level rose to about 3 feet higher than the usual spring high level. As a result, there were a number of loose docks, boats and other items and damage to structures on the shore. While this was an unusual year, the lesson for all is that items near the lake need to be tied off or secured well before leaving for the winter-even if they are located about the high water mark!

Here are a few photos taken by lake residents. Share your photos! Our webmaster, Ellen Fox, will post them to foxlakeassociation.org. Email photos to foxlakeassociation@gmail.com



Bush Fire

On May 2, there was a large bush fire on Mount Ararat, property owned by Camp Winnebago. The hill is on the right side of the Hoodstown road between the Ravenscliffe Road and Hoodstown. A tree falling on a power line may have started it. At least 4 fire trucks and two water bombers were on the scene all afternoon and the Hoodstown Road was closed from about noon to 7 p.m. in the area of the fire. CTV reported that about 10 acres was burnt. For photos visit www.foxlakeassociation.org

LAKE STEWARD'S REPORT

The results of our 2012 invading species tests are in and it is good news! Fox Lake is free of both spiny water fleas and zebra mussels, but we need your help to keep it that way!

Unfortunately, our water gauge stopped reporting data on April 19th just as the water levels and temperatures were beginning to rise. Sadly this means those not at the lake have not been able to

monitor the record high water levels from the comfort of home. David will be contacting MNR to see what the problem is and hopes it can be resolved quickly.

David White, Lake Steward

**Report from the Muskoka Stewardship Conference April 27th
hosted by the Muskoka Watershed Council.**

Many interesting workshops were available – with emphasis on the importance of stewardship of our natural resources as increased residency and climate change brings about more and more pressure to the health of our lakes and wetlands. Dr. Andrew Paterson, with the Ministry of the Environment spoke about analysis using lake sediments to track algae over the decades.

Blue Green Algae is becoming an increasing problem in many lakes and waterways mainly due to – warmer water temperature – less ice-cover – longer stratification and less mixing of waters in our lakes – higher nutrient loading – precipitation changes – higher residences. Muskoka is presently experiencing an increase in fall temperatures, and shorter periods of ice coverage, early signs of climate warming. Incidences of Algae blooms have greatly increased since 2006 all over Ontario. Blue Green Algae like it HOT!!! Sun, heat and drought directly favour algae blooms.

Some forms of blue-green algae can produce toxins, which are harmful to your health, and the health of your animals. The most common toxins are called microcystins. Symptoms of human health effects from contact with these toxins can include – itchy, irritated eyes and skin if you swim in the contaminated water – if the toxins are swallowed, symptoms such as headaches, fever, diarrhea, abdominal pain, nausea and vomiting. However, if swallowed in large quantities more serious health issues may occur.

Reducing the health risk in the event of an algae bloom:

1. Do not drink, bathe or shower in untreated water. Children, & pets are at particular risk.
2. Do not use herbicides, copper sulphate or other algaecides that may break open algae cells and release toxins into the water.
3. Do not boil the water. Boiling water may release more toxins into the water.
4. Do not cook with the water. Your food may absorb toxins from the water.
5. Be cautious about eating the fish caught in water where blue-green algae blooms occur.
6. Do not treat the water with a disinfectant like chlorine (bleach). This may release toxins into the water.
7. Do not rely on jug filtration systems, as they do not fully protect against toxin poisoning.
8. Use alternative water sources including bottled, carted or tanked water or call a water treatment service provider for help.

If you suspect a blue-green algae, assume toxins are present, avoid using the water and call the Ministry of the Environment Spills action Centre HOTLINE at 1-800-268-6060. It will be checked out within 1-2 days. More information is available on the www.foxlakeassociation.org website.

As a Lake Association, we need to ensure that we are doing everything possible to protect the health of our lake and wetland areas. Phosphorous controls the volume of algae and Chlorophyll A concentrations affect the types of algae. Shoreline naturalization of trees and vegetation are very important to prevent erosion and the movement of sediment and phosphorous from entering the lake. Septic systems should be inspected regularly to prevent the movement of phosphorous. Run-off should be directed away from the lake and into a wetland area if possible. Be aware of phosphates in your cleaning products.

We all need to do our part to protect our lakes and environment for the enjoyment of future generations.
Ellen Fox

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)

BOATING SAFETY

As we get back in to boating season, here are some reminders, courtesy of the OPP website for what you are required to carry in your boat (under 6m in length, and human powered)

- ✓ Lifejacket or PFD of appropriate size for each person on board
- ✓ Manual bailer capable of holding 750mL
- ✓ Paddle or anchor
- ✓ Minimum 15m of buoyant heaving line
- ✓ A sound signaling appliance (e.g. whistle or horn)
- ✓ Watertight flashlight or 3 flares

And some samples of the fines associated with various boating offences:

Failure to have proof of competency or required pleasure craft license on board, \$250

Operating a human-powered pleasure craft without PFDs/lifejackets of appropriate size for each person on board, \$200 plus \$100/additional missing PFD

Operating a vessel to tow a person on water without a person other than the operator keeping watch on every person being towed, \$350

More at: www.tc.gc.ca and www.opp.ca

ISLAND REFORESTATION UPDATE

Last fall many volunteers came out to help transplant some native trees unto the island. On my last visit out to the island, before the snow started falling the trees were looking good. I'm looking forward to visiting the island later this spring to check on how the plants overwintered. Our next tree-planting event will be in the fall and we look forward to having more volunteers assist in the island reforestation. Date and events details coming soon.

My husband and I love our cottage at Fox Lake. Every changing season has something special that keeps us driving up weekend after weekend so we can enjoy the splendors of the current season. We have recently added a joy to our list of things we love...harvesting maple syrup. We don't do the harvesting (or any of the hard work that goes into it) but we join our neighbours in the maple syrup fun. This has become a ritual and something that our family looks forward to every year. We join in to have a fun filled day to help our friends make lots of delightful maple syrup. This day consists of hikes in the forest to collect the sap, standing around and open fire, watching the sap boil, drinking beer, watching the kids play in the snow, watching the sap boil, eating Finnish pancakes (my husband's specialty), drinking beer and we watch the sap boil a little more.

It is a long process, which I feel lucky for my family to be a part of. Our neighbours work hard to produce something delicious off their land that they get to enjoy (and they share with us) all year round. It teaches my kids some valuable lessons about respecting the environment around them and how lucky we are to have some splendors at our fingertips every weekend.

Christa Casselman, Director

PLANNING AHEAD: 2013 SUMMER EVENTS

AGM-July 13, 2013 AND Ribfest-July 13, 2013

Regatta-August 3, 2013

Corn Roast-August 31, 2013

A Note Regarding Ribfest

As you may know, Ribfest is not just a great social outing where you can meet your fellow Fox Lakers who you may not meet otherwise – a great thing for newcomers to the lake. We have games and great ribs with salads and desert.

After reviewing our survey results, for this year, we are going to offer hot dogs as well as ribs. This is being done as a low cost alternative primarily for kids.

It is also our only annual fundraiser and we ask for your support. We have raffles and fun auctions with a few items donated by local merchants but mostly donated by Fox Lakers. Please let us know about items that you wish to donate. Practical items (new or gently used), regifts, artwork and services are all greatly appreciated. If you wish to make a donation, please let us know by July 1 if possible so that we can prepare. (Call Pat Currie at 705 783 5451 or Karen Beamer at 705 435 6961 or email bsporty@bell.net).

We also need to guarantee numbers to our caterer at least 2 weeks in advance. It makes things very difficult (and you may miss out) when attendees wish to buy tickets at the last minute so please get your tickets well ahead of time (by July 1 weekend if at all possible).

For tickets call **soon**:

Karen Beamer 705 789 1330 (cottage), 705 435 6961 (home)

Pat Currie 705 783 5451 (home/cottage)

Mary Smirniw 705 789 8762 (cottage)

OPPORTUNITIES TO VOLUNTEER

Volunteering to help with any of the activities below does not obligate you to any more than you wish to do. Everything from being the main organizer to just showing up for an hour or two is possible and all help is appreciated. There are large and small jobs, hi-tech and labour, in the spotlight and behind the scenes – something for everyone.

Knowing whom we can call on when we need some help will make things much easier for activity organizers. Please provide names of those interested in any of the following:

Ribfest – organizing, tickets, auction items, Announcing, setup, cleanup etc.

Regatta – organizing, setup (putting floats in water, moving tug of war rope), cleanup, judging (sand castles, race finishes), recording/ribbon presentation, running the bull horn

Corn Roast – organizing, setup, cleanup, corn purchasing

Island Reforestation – organizing a planting, providing trees, planting trees

Newsletter – collecting information, editing material, writing articles

Sign Posting – making signs, posting signs, maintaining boards

Membership – data base maintenance, new owner greeting, membership renewals

Executive – join the board, attend a meeting, take on a role

Website – maintenance, updates, posting photos

Special Projects – Not For Profit Corporations Act changes.

Benthic Monitoring – sampling small organisms at the water's edge – this is a once/year 4 hour activity that is interesting and informative and would be great for the 10-16 year olds with sharp eyes (or anyone else who would like to help out).

Anything Else

Thanks much,

Fox Lake Association Executive

Fox Lake Association Board and Officers 2012-2013

President, Lake Plan Committee Member	Robin Yule robinfoxpause@yahoo.ca 705-783-5451 (Fox Lake–summers) 705-380-3209 (summer cell) 863-547-4148 (winter)
Vice-President, Lake Plan Committee Chair	Tom Gillette
Past President	Jim Watson
Recording Secretary	Sharon Lillico
Treasurer	Jim McMahon
Director	Christa Casselman-Sharp
Director, Social/Fundraising	Karen Beamer
Director, Lake Plan Committee Member	Pat Currie
Director, Lake Plan Committee Member	Don Shepley
Officer, Webmaster	Ellen Fox
Officer, Lake Steward	David White
Officer, Membership	Mary Smirniw
Lake Plan Committee Resource Person	Jack van der Meer
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.

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).

