



Fox Lake Association Incorporated

SPRING 2014 NEWSLETTER A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

After the challenging, and seemingly endless winter we just had, I know we are all looking forward to a very enjoyable summer at the lake. And as I move into my new role as President, I would like to encourage everyone's participation and involvement with the activities of the Fox Lake Association.

From a participation perspective, this summer the association again has a number of events scheduled that I hope you will be able to attend. In particular, I hope that many of you will be at the Annual General Meeting which provides a good opportunity to hear what is happening, voice your opinion and meet new people. Also, later that same day, we will be holding what has been previously dubbed Ribfest with a different, and more economical twist this year. Additional events later in the summer will include the Annual Fox Lake Regatta in August and the Corn Roast over Labour Day weekend ...more on all of these summer events later in the newsletter.

From an involvement point of view, the Lake Association continues to focus on issues and initiatives on behalf of the association members and all the cottagers on the lake to create a safer, more sustainable and enjoyable environment for everyone on the lake. We would ask that our members continue to get involved with the activities of the Association particularly around many of the items identified in the Fox Lake Plan.

For those of you who are not members, please consider joining. As our membership grows and more interested parties are being heard when setting directions for Association, the strength of our presentations and communications with local government is enhanced. The membership fee is very affordable and is perhaps your best investment in protecting our Fox Lake neighborhood from possible detrimental changes due to inappropriate or unwanted development or environmental damage. If you are not a member today come out to the Annual General Meeting and hear more.

I look forward to seeing you at the upcoming events and wish everyone a pleasant and safe summer.

Tom Gillette, President

2014 SUMMER EVENTS

AGM-July 12, 2014 and **BBQ + Auction** - July 12, 2014

Regatta - August 2, 2014

Corn Roast - August 30, 2014

FOR 2014 RIBFEST IS NOW BBQ + AUCTION

Over the last several years Ribfest has been our only fundraiser and is the FLA's kickoff social event for the summer. This year we are changing things up slightly. So, for everyone, and especially those who have not yet attended one, here is the plan for this year. After the Annual General Meeting, **BBQ + Auction** will start 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. During this time, you'll be able to buy tickets for raffles on a number of donated auction items.

Later in the afternoon, a meal is served – this year a BBQ with hamburgers and hotdogs - including a variety of salads and side dishes. Everyone should continue to bring their own beverages and water is provided at no charge. The major benefit of this format is the price per person will be only **\$5 per person (including kids)!** So, we are hoping to see many more of you at the event this year.

Following dinner there is a live auction on other donated items –some of them quite spectacular. The auction has become quite a popular and fun event and last year raised \$2000 for the FLA.

However, this event does not happen by itself; we'll need help to make it a success. Please consider helping out and contribute an hour or two to help us organize and run the event by volunteering for any of the items listed below:

- Buy plates, utensils, napkins, condiments, water etc.
- Sell tickets – (contact cottagers, 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
- Help with BBQ activity on event day (capable chefs only!)

To get involved please contact any member of the executive and let them know you are interested in helping out. Thanks.

As it has the past two years, the event will take place at **Sandy McLennan's, 100 Rachel's Lane, North Fox Lake.**

For tickets contact:

West Fox Lake: Bill Knight (wknight@cogeco.ca)

North Fox Lake: Tom Gillette (705 788 0342 - cottage); (tgillette@bell.net)

East Fox Lake: Mary Smirniw (705 789 8762 - cottage)

Lake Steward Report

The ice finally cleared off of the lake on April 28th. That was only one day later than in 2013, though more than a month later than in 2012. The ice-in date, November 24th, was two weeks earlier than usual. The lake level and temperature gauge survived the ice conditions this winter, so real-time readings can be accessed at the MNR link which is on the FLA website.

Secchi depth (water clarity) averaged 2.2 metres last year, slightly higher than the average for the last five or ten years. Benthic monitoring results were posted on the FLA site last fall, they are there for your interpretation. It is too early to detect any trends since 2013 was only the second year of results. The 2014 benthic sampling session is scheduled for Friday August 15th this year. If you would like to participate in looking at the 'critters in the mud', please keep this date in mind. More details will be provided at the AGM. Results for the 2013 Invasive Species monitoring are not yet available, they will be reported at the AGM. In summary, for the factors we monitor, there were no significant changes in Fox Lake in 2013 -- good news.

ISLAND REFORESTATION

We will be continuing our efforts to replant the island. Our 3rd annual planting event will take place Labour Day Weekend. Exact date and time will be determined closer to the event. Stay tuned and we look forward to seeing you all again this year.

FINANCIAL REPORT

As we approach the end of another Association year I am pleased to report that we continue to maintain a sound level of financial stability. Our bank account remains at a comfortable level with our assets growing by almost \$3,000 over year end 2013. Annual revenues from memberships continued to rise and together with fund raising have consistently exceeded our expenses.

With our current positive financial position the Board has voted to set aside \$5,000 to cover the expenses we anticipate will be associated in getting the Town of Huntsville to incorporate elements of our Lake Plan into the Official Huntsville Town Plan later this year. In 2014, we will also continue to cover all expenses related to the annual regatta and the annual corn roast with no cost to those attending.

I would recommend that we continue to build the Association's financial resources in coming years so that we can continue to accommodate future one-time expenses like the cost of integrating into the Huntsville Town Plan.

Jim McMahon, Treasurer

LAKE PLAN ACTIVITY REPORT

The Board is working on an application to incorporate the Fox Lake Plan into the Official Plan of the Town of Huntsville. Progress on the application was discussed at the May 17 board meeting, and we are pushing to complete a draft application by mid-July.

Key components of the work include:

- An estimate of the number of vacant shoreline lots, updating the information from 2009.
- Investigation of options to create a safe pathway around the Hoodstown Rapids, which will involve discussions with local camps and the Lake Vernon Association, as well as the Town.

- Conversations with Lake Waseosa Ratepayers Association to explore how we can work together. The LWRA represents five small, narrow lakes, so we can learn from their experience.
- Follow up with Paul Moore re his interpretation of the origins of the Rockpile in the North Bay. (see below).
- We have learned that cutbacks in federal and provincial environmental services makes it difficult to gather information on ecologically sensitive areas.

We look forward to further discussions with Fox Lake members at the Annual Meeting in July.

Judy Maxwell, Lake Plan Officer

COMMUNITY NEWS

Probably the most significant community news is that we have all survived one of the most brutal winters in recent history with little collateral damage. The exception being a few frozen pipes, painful backs from all the snow shoveling, but, the most painful of all was the assault to our pocketbooks from the ever increasing cost of hydro and heating fuel. Some did manage to make it to Florida between epic snow storms, but unfortunately to little relief from the cold. While most of us only managed to get to the local box stores Sharon Lillico and David Blanchard did have an exotic and very romantic river cruise from Paris to Nice. Most of us hunkered down and waited it out, only to run out of wood and patience

Hunkering down, of course, is not a Yule tradition. When things get tough the Yules take to the road and I don't mean Muskoka Road #2. Robin Yule, FLA past president, and his wife, Pat Currie, set off to Abu Dhabi in January for a two year work contract (and adventure).

Pat writes *"Abu Dhabi is a very beautiful city. Today I'm sitting in the living room looking out at the Arabian Sea and it is the vivid turquoise colour you see in Bermuda. Abu Dhabi city is on an island about 5 mi wide at the sea and about 12 miles deep narrowing to the mainland and houses about 1 million people. Near the sea it is all high rises like New York City. We live on a man-made island separated from the city by a channel (canal) that's about as wide as the length of a football field. Our island Al Reem Island is small about 2.5 mi x 3.0 mi, so we see a lot of water. Our apt is on the corner, 43 floors up! looking north over the sea and east over the island. (Our friend lives nearby on the 69th floor of a 72 floor building!!) This island is still pretty much undeveloped so there is a lot of open land (read sand) and many high rise buildings under construction (unfortunately in our sight-line), but we can see the port with cruise ships docked and the apt. building is right on the edge of the island (canal) so from 43 floors up it looks like water is going right under us and I can watch the boats coming and going"* Only a slight difference from her perch on the highest point of Fox Lake.

The other traveling Yule is Alix, also a former FLA president, who became the director of Caribbean Local Economic Development Programme (CARILED) last June and is based in Trinidad and Tobago for the next two years. The ultimate goal of the program is to contribute to increased sustainable local economic growth benefiting men and women in the Caribbean region through the growth of the micro, small and medium size enterprises.. Alix also racks up the air miles by jetting off to Florence, where daughter Jennifer Walden, an award winning visual artist now living in Yellowknife, was taking a course at Florence Academy of Art, and to St Lucia and Thailand where she was winding up two previous projects.

There must be something about Fox Lake that inspires talent such as Jennifer's, Gabriel Andersen (visual artist), Ellen Fox (photography) and singer and guitarist Drew Wright, who was a Canadian Idol finalist. I'm sure that there is a lot more talent on Fox Lake and lots of community news but we don't know unless you tell us. Please keep us updated.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

FLA Membership seems to be consistent at a little over 50 % of the property owners which is a very low rate for a community as small as Fox Lake. Membership is important and the case for membership was brilliantly outlined by Robin Yule, our past president, in the newsletter last fall. Also posted on the FLA website, www.foxlakeassociation.org. New members are even more important. Those new to the community bring new ideas and enthusiasm that enriches us all. A perfect case in point is a recent note from Chris and Paul Moore who joined the FLA last summer and eagerly went about to learn as much as they could about the area.

Where our old timers were merely curious about the origins of the pile of rocks at the end of the bay, Chris and Paul set out to learn more. Below is an email with their hypotheses;

Last summer a question you often asked was if I could explain the "unusual rock formation" mentioned on pages 53, 62 and 63 of the Fox Lake Plan. Turns out I might.

First some background.

On Monday May 12th 2014 after a brief chat with Brian Fox, Chris and I headed out for the Limberlost Forest and Wildlife Reserve to explore their trails and scout out a possible canoe trip. I had read that this area had great cross-country skiing in winter and hiking in the summer. I had one page from the Limberlost Trails Master Trail Guide which the info centre in Huntsville had printed for us. You can print the whole guide at www.limberlostlodges.com in PDF format or just look at it online pages 102 and 103. When we returned I started reading portions of the Trail Guide. Following the Geology section I came across "Naomi's Rest" where they speak of "an unusual rock formation". It sounded and looked from the pictures similar to the Fox Lake rocks. Further reference was made to the Brent Crater Guide in Algonquin Lake. A 450 million year old meteor impact that blasted billions of tonnes of rock up to 50 km away. Maybe even all the way to Fox Lake unless there was a closer impact crater.

Recently, I came across the earthcache called "Skeleton Lake Meteor. I've copied part of the description from www.geocaching.com below. This earthcache in Skeleton Lake is 10.4 miles from our cottage so maybe 11 miles (or 17.5 km) from the "unusual rocks" of Fox Lake. I think our rocks may come from a meteor impact either Skeleton Lake or some other one. For the record Naomi's rest is 17.6 miles away. Is anyone aware of any other meteor impact craters nearby?

More info about Skeleton Lake Meteor can be found at <http://ottawa-rasc.ca/wiki/index.php?title=Odale-Articles-Skeleton>, as well as many other sites. I'm sure you can Google as well as me.

Yes I'm suggesting that possibly the meteor that created Skeleton Lake blasted out a rock the size of a small house that landed on a rock outcrop on the shore of Fox Lake and broke into those rock fragments we see today upon impact.

I hope this helps, maybe we are a step closer to solving the mystery or maybe you need a better screening process for who you let move onto your beautiful Fox Lake."

Excerpt of Skeleton Lake Meteor -Geocache Description:

The exposed rock face of this island tells a story. The rock you are looking at is called breccias. Breccias are composed entirely of rock and mineral fragments in a matrix of smaller, but similar, fragments. The rocks at the target site are melted, shattered, and mixed during the impact explosion. This rock is the result of a meteor that hit this location thousands of years ago. The impact of a meteor shatters the base rock, deforms it, melts it and re-assembles the rock with new properties. "Breccias" is the new rock that is formed.

...at the other shore of the open lake...you will find a steep shoreline. That is the other side of the crater. Note that distance...that will give you an idea as to the diameter of the meteor.

Once again we are indebted to Paul and Chris, last summer they put out the fire on Robinson Island, and now the teachers that they are, encouraging us to find out more about our environment. We need more fresh ideas and idealists. Please fill out the attached membership application and send in your cheque.

Mary Smirniw



Fox Lake Association Incorporated

Membership Application for 2014-2015

Date _____

Name _____

Lake Address _____

Lake Phone _____

Home Address _____

Home Phone _____

Email Address _____

Providing us with your email address enables us to communicate more effectively with you at reduced mailing costs to your Association.

Please pay at the AGM on July 12th or mail this form with a cheque for \$40 payable to Fox Lake Association.

To:
Jim McMahon, Treasurer
Fox Lake Association
1008-3900 Yonge Street
Toronto, ON M4N 3N6
