



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

## **A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

The President's message usually starts with a comment on what the previous winter was like. However, over the past few years, last winter being no exception, it has provided a negative start to my message. So, instead this year I thought I'd begin with a bold prediction that we will have a spectacularly fine summer season up at beautiful Fox Lake. One caution on this forecast...I also picked the Maple Leafs to make the playoffs this spring.

Hopefully my prognostication will come true and as usual the Fox Lake Association will be running a number of events that will add to the enjoyment this summer. The first event is our Annual General Meeting to be held on Saturday, July 11<sup>th</sup>. This year we opted not to hold a social event after the AGM but have decided to put more focus on the Corn Roast which will be held on Saturday, August 29<sup>th</sup> this year, the weekend before Labour Day. We are planning to add the popular association fund raising auction to this expanded Corn Roast event and we'll provide a number of BBQs for folks to use with a BYOF (bring-your-own-food) format. As usual, corn will be provided. The association will also be running the Annual Fox Lake Regatta on Saturday, August 1<sup>st</sup>.

There are specific details on these events with times and locations outlined later in the newsletter. But right now, our most pressing need is for some volunteers to help us with organizing and running some of the Regatta events coming up at the beginning of August. If you are interested in getting involved with the Regatta please send us a note to our email address.

I also wanted to give you a brief update on two activities that the association has been involved in since last fall. Through the winter and spring the association was involved in preparing a position to present to the OMB hearing set up to review an appeal by Henry Ender on his rezoning and severance application that was denied by the Town of Huntsville in April of 2014. That application would allow him to create three new building lots along the Buck River in the north end development. The appeal was held on March 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> and the Fox Lake Association again presented its opposition to this matter because it was contrary to the existing subdivision agreement and was likely to have significant environmental impacts to the sensitive Buck River area. To-date there has been no decision back from the OMB on this appeal.

The second key project that has involved the association is the activity to integrate our Lake Plan into the Official Town of Huntsville Plan. This initiative is being led by Judy Maxwell on behalf of the association and there is an update from Judy on this activity later in the newsletter that also solicits input from all association members on this work.

One last reminder, our website continues to be developed thanks to the fine work of Ellen Fox and has lots of information, links, photographs, etc. You can also find newsletters (like this one), meeting minutes, directories and other useful information relating to the Lake and the association there. The email address for the association is [foxlakeassociation@gmail.com](mailto:foxlakeassociation@gmail.com) and messages for the board can be sent to it.

So, a brief update for everyone on things past and present and I am looking forward to meeting many of you again at the association events throughout the summer.

Tom Gillette  
President

## **FLA MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

After the coldest winter on record and one with record breaking snowfalls, Fox Lake residents had a very late start to a much awaited spring. Although we did experience a couple of significant high water levels they were nowhere near the limits of 2013 nor was the damage as extensive. Once again, thanks to Fox Lake residents who reported sightings of boats, docks, slides and even the camp's diving platform, most were recovered with minimal damage. The exception being a 14 foot aluminum boat which somehow ended up lodged under the Hoodstown Bridge and then totally disappeared from sight. Thanks to Frances Mallin-Parker who sent in dramatic photos (see below. WARNING: This photo might be too graphic for some boat lovers!), the owners were able to learn of the fate of their beloved boat and hold a private family service on the bridge to say their goodbyes. Condolences to the family were sent on behalf of the Fox Lake Association and a warning to others to keep a tight rope on boats that might want to escape the confines of a small lake like ours.

It is that sense of community co-operation, not to mention the tremendous time and effort put in by Tom Gillette with the OMB application and Judy Maxwell's work on the Lake Plan, that we all benefit from through the Fox Lake Association. Please keep me posted with any updates or changes in contact information either through the FLA email: [foxlakeassociation@gmail.com](mailto:foxlakeassociation@gmail.com), or my email [msmirniw@sympatico.ca](mailto:msmirniw@sympatico.ca). The FLA website: [foxlakeassociation.org](http://foxlakeassociation.org) has the full membership form. Membership dues (\$40 made out to Fox Lake Association) can be paid at the

Annual General Meeting or sent to Jim McMahon, Treasurer Fox Lake Association, 1008-3900 Yonge Street, Toronto, ON. M4N 3A6.

Mary Smirniw  
Membership Chair



Boat at Hoodstown Bridge courtesy of Frances Mallin-Parker

**LAKE PLAN UPDATE-** *Your comments are needed before July 3<sup>rd</sup>*

The big news is that we are now ready to share a draft Planning Justification Report with you and all the residents of the Lake. The plan open for comment until July 3<sup>rd</sup> and will be discussed at the Annual General Meeting scheduled for Saturday July 11<sup>th</sup>.

The Town of Huntsville will launch a review of its Official Plan in July, and we are expected to submit our report in July so that it will become part of the review process. Fortunately, we now have a draft of the planning report which updates our understanding of the state of the lake which was set out in great detail in the 2009 Lake Plan. With your help, we can submit the report to the Town soon after the Annual Meeting. Having the Planning Justification Report in the Town's files and excerpts in the Official Plan means that the Town is alert to the unique characteristics of the lake and aware of the vision and values of the residents.

It is a vision that embraces diversity in lifestyle, “while ensuring the lake, the shoreline and the surrounding landscape . . . remain a relatively natural and healthy environment not just for wildlife and fish, but also for the use and enjoyment of the Fox Lake community.”

The draft report will be sent to you by email on June 15<sup>th</sup>. You can save it to your desktop or print it. The review process will be as follows:

- June 14. Review and discussion with the FLA Board.
- June 15. Email the report to residents of the lake.
- July 3. Deadline for comments from residents of the lake.
- July 5. FLA Board discussion of resident comments.
- July 11. Annual Meeting -- Discussion of points of contention
- July 25. Sign off by the Board
- July 28. Submit to the Town

You can send your comments by email to [maxwell.judith@gmail.com](mailto:maxwell.judith@gmail.com) or you can call her at 613 232 6453 before July 3<sup>rd</sup> and then at 705 787 0275 from July 6<sup>th</sup> on. If you would prefer a printed copy, please get in touch with Mary Smirniw.

In your comments please consider the following questions.

- Are there any issues that have not been included about which you feel strongly?
- Are there statements that you strongly support and therefore want to be on the record to keep in the draft?
- Are there statements that you oppose? If so, please explain why.
- Other comments?

There is a bonus in this timing. Because the review of the Official Plan is about to begin, we will not have to submit an application to amend the Plan, and therefore do not have to pay the rather expensive fees associated with that process.

Judy Maxwell  
Lake Plan Officer

## LAKE STEWARD REPORT

There are some results from the lake monitoring carried out in 2014. Good news from OFAH regarding invading species. Both Fox and Buck Lake tested negative for Spiny Water Fleas and Zebra Mussels. The 'suspected' result from 2013 for Zebra Mussels was not repeated for 2014.

The Ice In date was December 12th, with Ice Out on April 21st.

Water clarity (Secchi Depth) averaged 1.8 metres, a little less than the last few years, but in line with 2007 - 2009. Total Phosphorus was a little higher than the last few years, but was less than in 2006-2009.

Benthic Monitoring results are posted to the FLA website, please check them out. This year, the Benthic Monitoring session will be on **Friday August 21st**. Volunteers would be appreciated.

David White  
Lake Steward

## PLANNING AHEAD: 2015 SUMMER EVENTS

The FLA executive have decided to forego the BBQ fundraiser this year. Instead there will be a silent auction at the Corn Roast.

Last day for boat launch at Camp Winnebago is Monday, June 21<sup>st</sup>

**AGM**-Saturday July 11, 2015 at 600 East Fox (McMahon cottage). Doors open at 9:30, meeting starts at 10am. Bring your own chair, and please note it is a steep climb from the water

**Regatta**- Saturday August 1, 2015 at the Shepley Beach. Organizer needed!

**Corn Roast**-Saturday August 29<sup>th</sup> at the McMahon Beach. Note this is a week earlier than normal (the weekend prior to Labour Day).

## FLA EXECUTIVE

FOX LAKE ASSOCIATION EMAIL: [foxlakeassociation@gmail.com](mailto:foxlakeassociation@gmail.com)

President, Lake Plan Committee Member	Tom Gillette tgillette@bell.net
Vice-President	Bill Knight

Past President	Robin Yule
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Officer, Membership	Mary Smirniw
Officer, Lake Plan	Judy Maxwell
Newsletter Editor	Katie McMahon

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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, 1008-3900 Yonge Street, Toronto, ON. M4N 3A6.

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).

