



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

### **A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Last weekend I was sitting on my deck looking down the lake and musing on how fortunate we are as neighbours to have such a beautiful place as Fox Lake to come to year after year. Yet again it was a great summer followed by this glorious warm fall we have been enjoying. So with the holidays peeking around the corner we wanted to wrap up the year with a Newsletter update and an early look at events planned for next year.

This year we began the summer with our Annual General Meeting graciously hosted by Jim McMahon. We had terrific attendance at the meeting which was, I believe, a great testament to the involvement of the membership and the vitality of the Association. Many of the activities covered at the AGM will be touched on later in this Newsletter.



And we had beautiful weather for the annual Regatta with great attendance and lots of fun had by everyone there. Thanks again to all the volunteers who worked to make Regatta a success again this year.

Last but not least was our combined Corn Roast and Auction held the weekend before Labour Day this year. For the first time we added the FLA Auction to this event and were able to raise close to \$800 for

the Association's treasury. While the weather was a bit gloomy for this event, the rain held off and we were spared the exiting finish to the event that we had the previous year.



Auction items at the Corn Roast included original art work, pottery and a plane ride

In addition to these annual events we were able to move forward as an association on a number of important items. A very important initiative was led by Judy Maxwell who was focused on getting the key elements of our Fox Lake Plan integrated into the Town of Huntsville's formal plan that is in the process of being finalizing. This effort has been over a year in development and through the summer Judy reviewed this work with membership and finalized a Planning Justification Report that was submitted to the Town on July 26th. As well, the draft text for the Town of Huntsville Official Plan pertaining to Fox Lake was provided to the Town for inclusion in their planning work. More from Judy on the Lake Plan status later in the Newsletter.

The Association continued its work on monitoring water quality under the stewardship of David White with two initiatives this summer involving a testing program from the University of Waterloo and annual benthic monitoring activity with the Ministry of Natural Resources.

The issue of the operation of Camp Winnebago's wake boat became a significant issue during the summer and the association raised the concerns of cottagers with the principals of the camp during the season. While there was some optimism we were seeing better behaviour from the boat operators towards the end of the year, it is the association's intent to jump on this issue with the camp right at the start of next summer.

And finally, on September 8th, we received some good news on the long awaited OMB decision on the Ender appeal for the rezoning and severance request on his major piece of property along the Buck River. The OMB denied the appeal to reverse the Town's earlier decision and disallowed the request which would have created three new lots in the north end along an environmentally sensitive area of the Buck River. The Fox Lake Association presented its opposition to the new development as it would

be in contravention of the Subdivision Plan that was agreed to for the north end years ago with the Association's participation.

In rendering it's decision the OMB stated the following: "The Board finds that it would not be in the public interest to grant the proposed consent, pursuant to s. 51 (24)(b), given the provisions of the Subdividers 18 PL140402 Agreement. Having reviewed the correspondence that provides background information concerning the negotiations that resulted in the Subdividers Agreement, it is clear to the Board that the FLCA [*ie. Fox Lake Association*], while not a party to that agreement, did provide extensive input during a lengthy process that took place over several years. On the basis of Mr. Marshall's opinion that the 1997 Subdividers Agreement continues to be in the public interest, the Board finds that it would be contrary to the public interest to permit the Applicant, who has enjoyed the benefits of establishing a 19-lot subdivision, to now create an additional three lots contrary to that agreement."

So, that is a wrap-up of activities from this year and I want to wish everyone a joyous upcoming Holiday Season. I look forward to seeing everyone next summer.

Tom Gillette  
President, Fox Lake Association

## **PLANNING AHEAD: 2016 SUMMER EVENTS**

Please put the following dates in your summer calendar for next year. The events will be similar to the successful format from this year with one change...the Corn Roast and Auction will be moved back to the Labour Day weekend.

- **Annual General Meeting – Saturday, July 16, 2016** (Hosted by Bob Shepley, East Fox Lake Road)
- **Regatta – Saturday, August 6, 2016** (location to be determined)
- **Corn Roast and Auction -Saturday, September 3, 2016** (location to be determined)

## **FLA EXECUTIVE ROSTER**

There were several changes to the FLA Officers and Directors this summer with Karen Beamer resigning as a Director after many years of extraordinary support in organizing the Association's social events. In addition Sharon Lillico has left the Executives team after many years of wonderful work as the recording secretary for the organization (rumour has it that she ran out of pencils!). Thanks again to both for the terrific support.

Adding to the organization, we are delighted to note that Paul Moores has volunteered to join the Board as a Director and was confirmed at the July AGM Meeting.

With those changes below is the current structure of Officers and Directors:

President	Tom Gillette
Vice-President	Bill Knight
Past President	Robin Yule
Director	Christa Casselman-Sharp
Director	Tony Maxwell
Director	Jim Crawford
Director	Ellen Fox
Director	Paul Moores
Treasurer	Jim McMahon
Officer, Lake Steward	David White
Officer, Membership	Mary Smirniw
Officer, Lake Plan	Judy Maxwell
Newsletter Editor	Katie McMahon

## **FLA MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

As well stated by our past president Robin Yule in the 2013 Fall Newsletter, still on the FLA website, "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" to that end the board members of the FLA have served the community well. The history of their accomplishments is well documented, be they the scaling back of large developments, as in the past, or the current proposed development on the Buck, which was turned down by the OMB. Not to mention the organizing of water quality monitoring activities, Official Lake Plan and much more that impacts us all directly. All of this has been done by a core number of members, families really, who have put in their hours and some even large sums of money.

Fox Lake has changed as has its population. We are no longer a collection of little seasonal cabins but significant structures and many that are now occupied year round. Essentially, Fox Lake is almost fully developed and yet membership has not increased significantly.

On a good note, some new residents have become fully involved by joined the board and others have become supporters and participants in social events held by FLA. A big thank you to Tanya Swann and Karen Bentley for taking on and organizing the Regatta on such short notice. They did a commendable job. Thanks you to Bob Shepley for generously offering his wonderful beachfront for the Regatta. A big thanks to Jim McMahon and family for hosting and organizing the Corn Roast and to the many wonderful people who donated items for the auction. Particularly Ellen Fox and Gabriele Andersen whose many talents and generosity are much admired. The FLA was able to add over \$700 to our coffers and many happy bidders went home with some impressive pieces of art.

These social events are a way of connecting the community and getting to know each other. It is amazing how much you find in common as you watch a child/grandchild build a sandcastle or handle a canoe. It is that sense of community that adds to the enjoyment of our traditions and creates memories at the lake.

We are connected by the things that we love about Fox Lake and to make sure that this is the best investment that we have made, we need to be united and involved. There is power in numbers. New blood is always welcome and not just by the black flies and mosquitoes.

If you have not yet paid your dues or want to become a member please send your cheques (\$40) made out to Fox Lake Association to Jim McMahon, Treasurer FLA, 3900 Yonge Street, Suite 1008, Toronto, ON M4N 3A6.

Mary Smirniw  
Membership Chair

## **LAKE PLAN UPDATE**

Thanks to all of you who provided input to the work the Fox Lake Association has done to prepare a Planning Justification Report to the Town of Huntsville in time to be included in the Town's initiative to update the Official Plan. As you know, the Fox Lake report was approved at the Annual General Meeting in July and then submitted a few weeks later.

The Official Plan shapes Town Council's decisions on a myriad of issues with respect to environment, economic growth and infrastructure. To add to the complexity, the District of Muskoka has also begun a review of its Official Plan. Both the Town and the District plans can have repercussions for Fox Lake. We probably won't see the outcome until 2017, but we will try to monitor the process.

Every municipality is required by the province to create an Official Plan and to review it every 5 to 10 years. (The last review was completed in 2006.) The review process gives residents of the District an opportunity to explore the tensions and tradeoffs between development and environmental sustainability and insert the views into the review process.

A key issue for us is whether the District of Muskoka will continue to do regular surveys of the health of the lakes, or whether we and other lake associations will be faced with the cost and the administrative challenge to continue the surveys.

Our goal is to track the trends in land use and lake stewardship, so that we can keep residents of the Lake and the Town informed about the health of the Lake. We have begun to do this in the report we just submitted to the Town. But our capacity to do so in future, depends on the survey work done by the District of Muskoka and the Muskoka Lakes Council. (You can explore <http://map.muskoka.on.ca/Exponare/restpublicapplication.aspx> for the maps of the Town of Huntsville and <http://www.muskokawaterweb.ca/lake-data> to see the lake monitoring data.)

The District, like many other government agencies, is said to be curtailing data collection in order to reduce costs. This could put an extra burden on associations like the FLA to collect data and to monitor the trends in the health of their lake – presumably by partnering with each other and by organizing volunteer efforts. It will be important for the FLA to monitor the trends in data collection and consider what it can do to

While the formal data is vital, the Association also depends on the knowledge of its members. So we encourage you to let us know if you see changes in shoreline, wetlands, water quality or other issues important to your ability to enjoy the best possible quality of life at the cottage. The Board has recently decided to appoint a government relations officer to stay current on issues affecting the Lake and communicating any FLA positions to the various Government organizations.

Judy Maxwell  
Lake Plan Officer

## LAKE STEWARD REPORT

Once again there is nothing too remarkable to report. The water clarity measure of Secchi Depth averaged 2.1 metres, consistent with the long-term. The MoE Lake Partner results for total phosphorous will not be available until the spring. The same for invading species. Sampling for these parameters were carried out as usual in early spring and summer respectively.

For the second year, the University of Waterloo sampled the lake in August. These detailed results are posted on the FLA website. You can compare year-to-year.

For the fourth consecutive year, benthic monitoring was carried out, led by a BioTech from the District of Muskoka. For 2015, we had some young volunteers in addition to the 'usual suspects'. Thanks to all who helped in this educational morning session. The results are posted on the FLA site, along with an interpretation guide. Some good water indicators were up, more were down. No reason to be alarmed, it is a very small sample and long-term trends are not clearly obvious. The benthic monitoring results were discussed with Rebecca Willison of the District. She stated that our results looked fairly consistent. She also said that they are working with scientists at MoE in Dorset to determine how to make the benthic results easier to interpret. We can expect changes in how the results are reported in the future.

Please check out the FLA website for the detailed results of the association's monitoring efforts.



Benthic Monitoring 2015

David White  
Lake Steward



*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, 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).*