



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

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hi Everyone,

After a back and forth spring, it looks like good weather is finally here to stay so we felt it was time to get our Spring Newsletter published before the calendar clicked over to summer. I wanted to bring all the members up to date on a few items that affect us on the lake and also remind you of the Fox Lake Association events for this summer.

Starting with the events, again this summer the Fox Lake Association will be running three events beginning with our Annual General Meeting to be held on July 16th. As always, the Association will be running the Annual Fox Lake Regatta which will be early this year on July 30th. ...for anyone who may have noticed we had the wrong date in Fall Newsletter for this event. Finally, we will be holding our annual Corn Roast on the Saturday of the Labour Day weekend and will couple that with our FLA fund raising auction as we did last year. There are specific details for all of these events with times and locations outlined later in the Newsletter. We are hoping that these events provide an opportunity for all the neighbours on the lake to get together, get reacquainted and have some fun.

In addition, the Association will continue its work on monitoring water quality this summer with our annual benthic monitoring activity in conjunction with the Ministry of Natural Resources. More on this from our Lake Steward David White later in the Newsletter.

I also wanted to bring you up to speed on a few topics that the Association had been involved on behalf of the members. The issue of the operation of Camp Winnebago's wake boat became a significant issue last summer and the association raised the concerns of cottagers with the principals of the camp during the season. We will be raising this point with the camp principals before camp opening this summer in the hope it will create better behaviour from the boat operators. We'll do a checkpoint on this topic with the members at the AGM.

In the Fall Newsletter we reported that last September 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 appeal was denied and the OMB upheld the Town's earlier decision

that disallowed the request which would have created three new lots in the north end along an environmentally sensitive area of the Buck River. Unfortunately, this decision was yet again appealed to the OMB and the decision voided as the OMB felt that there were judgmental errors by the OMB adjudicator in that decision. So after all that work, another date has been set for August 30th to re-hear the appeal. The Town of Huntsville is in the process of determining how it plans to respond and the Association will continue to stay involved in this issue.

I wanted to close with a few safety reminders as we begin the summer season. A number of us have noticed that the sandbar at the mouth of the Buck River has increased in size and now extends well out into the lake and is very close to the surface. Boaters should be cautious of their speed operating in this area. Also please be sensitive to the 'No Wake' signs for the Buck River and the Foxtail. And finally, if you are visiting or camping on any of the lake islands please use the fire pits for any fires and try not to disturb any loon nesting platforms that may be on the island.

Wishing everybody a great summer and looking forward to getting together again at the upcoming FLA events.

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 last 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, 372 East Fox Lake Road). Doors open at 9:30 am. Meeting starts at 10:00 am. Chairs limited so please bring your own.
- **Regatta Saturday, July 30, 2016** (Shepley Beach)
- **Corn Roast and Auction Saturday, September 3, 2016** (location to be determined)

FLA MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Although this is supposed to be a spring newsletter it is almost difficult to know when spring started as there were snow storms in April, a glorious summer like May long weekend and single digit temperatures in early June. The one thing for sure is that those fluctuations in temperature did not hold Mother Nature back from her wonderful display of trilliums on the back hills of West Fox Lake Road. The trillium display seems to get bigger and better every year. Much like the properties on Fox Lake.

Even the beaver family has moved from their modest abode by Loon Echo to a newly built large upscale structure with the dramatic mystery rocks as background.

The beavers, like the rest of us seasonal and permanent residents, want to live in a safe natural environment and maintain a healthy community. By building such a home they, like the rest of us, have signaled a commitment to stay. We, like the beavers, affect and are affected by the lake whether it be water levels or water quality. Fox Lake Association (FLA) is mandated to make sure that all interests of the lake are looked after. The Fox Lake Association membership is open to all who want to support that mission and participate in promotion of matters of mutual interest related to the quality of the environment and the enjoyment of Fox Lake.

We are a small lake, with a small membership and even smaller group of volunteers most who have served for many years. We need to increase that membership and are putting out a call for volunteers. I know that we are a community rich with experience and ideas and we need your participation, input and feedback to make us a more effective organization. Please join the Fox Lake Association!

Mary Smirniw, FLA Membership

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.



LAKE PLAN UPDATE & THE OFFICIAL PLAN

The Town of Huntsville is deep into its review of the Official Plan which governs land use across the municipality – in urban, rural, and waterfront communities (like Fox Lake) as well as the settlements (like Utterson and Port Sydney). The existing plan is 10 years old, and the region has changed. The local economy is sluggish, unemployment is high, and too many jobs are low paid. Many lakes are showing signs of development pressure.

The Review began in October with a visioning exercise where participants were invited to identify how they see the Town in 20 years. The new vision is as follows:

"Huntsville is vibrant, caring and welcoming. It celebrates and is steward of our natural environment, arts, culture and heritage. It values a strong and resilient economy. Growth will continue but will be sustainable and balanced with the public interest and the impact on our quality of life."

Based on that vision, goals and objectives for Environmental Sustainability, Social Sustainability and Economic Sustainability were established and then approved by Council in February.

<http://www.huntsville.ca/en/townHall/Official-Plan-Review.asp> They are designed to shape the decisions the Town Council will make in coming months with respect to land use issues that are important to our quality of life at Fox Lake.

The visioning report strives to build bridges between environment and economy, for example, by introducing the notion of "eco-tourism" which is defined as tourism that supports conservation and improves the well-being of local people. And it bridges social and economic tensions by adopting active transportation (hiking, cycling etc) and universal design (a priority focus on accessibility for older people and those with disabilities) as key objectives.

The revised Official Plan will also include the text approved by the Fox Lake Association in July, 2015, setting out its priorities for development of the Lake. Our text focuses on issues the pattern of shoreline development, conservation, the Fox-Vernon portage, and monitoring the health of the lake. These same issues are highlighted in the Town's vision, so, in theory, we are on the same page.

But it is one thing to vision and another to set policies where interests conflict. The other risk is that the Town will choose not to enforce those practices when clear infractions occur. (You will recall that Fox Lake lost about 12% of its wetlands when the Town did not intervene to stop an unauthorized landfill on the lot at the entrance to the Buck River.)

The next steps in the Official Plan Review require the Town to get down to specifics. The consultants are now working on several Background Papers, they will be the subject of more public consultation events which could be convened in late summer. We hope to have more information for you at the Annual Meeting on July 16th.

Judy Maxwell, Lake Plan Officer

LAKE STEWARD REPORT

Interested in the water temperature before you dive into the lake? Why not check out the online temperature from the Ministry of Natural Resources gauge. Here is the link. (It is posted on the FLA website.)

<https://www.hobolink.com/p/95af30544f59bfc203432f8860449a54>

You can check out the water level and temperature for the past day, past week and past month.

In 2015 we monitored Fox Lake for the usual parameters. Water samples were taken in early May and sent to MoE in Dorset to determine spring Total Phosphorus and Calcium. Total Phosphorus averaged 12.0 micrograms/L and Calcium was 1.2 milligrams/L. The TP is right in line with our usual results, whereas the Calcium is a little on the low side. Let's hope this is a one-off and it will rebound in the 2016 sample. The Secchi depth (water clarity) averaged 2.1 meters for the year. Again about the usual.

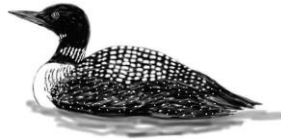
This year, and indeed it was this year, ice-in occurred on January 4th and the ice went out on April 22nd.

According to the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, Fox Lake tested negative for spiny water flea and zebra mussels in 2015. We will sample again in July.

Results for the 2015 Benthic Monitoring are posted on the FLA site along with an interpretation guide. Please check them out. This year the session is scheduled for Friday August 19th. As always, we will need volunteers to chase and capture the critters from the sample pails. More details will be available at the AGM.

Incidentally, the lake level is 294.53 meters ASL and the temperature is 17.2 degrees right now (2016/06/09 16:43).

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).