



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

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

With cooler weather and the leaves now falling we all need to let go of summerwhich as always went by too quickly. It was once again a great summer and the weatherman cooperated with excellent days for all of the Association events. The season began with our Annual General Meeting kindly hosted this year by Bob Shepley. We had a great turnout of the Association membership and number of key topics were reviewed and discussed at the meeting. For those who attended and for those who were unable to join us, the minutes of the meeting are now posted on the Fox Lake Association website.

The 44th Annual Fox Lake Regatta had the unusual circumstance of being in July this year but again was very successful with lots of competition and fun had by all....especially the kids. Particular thanks go out to Robin Yule and Alix Yule who took on the organization of the event on relatively short notice. In addition, gratitude to all the volunteers who helped make the event work. The Regatta results are posted on the FLA website here <http://www.foxlakeassociation.org/annual-regatta-july-30-2016.html>

Regatta 2016:



Photo credit: Paul Moores

On the Saturday of Labour Day weekend we held our combined Corn Roast and Auction. The weather was fantastic especially after the rain we had for the occasion over the previous two years. Thanks go out to Sandy McLennan who provided the venue (and BBQ) to support the event. The auction was able to raise \$400 to help with future Association events and programs.

Corn Roast 2016:

Photo credit: Robin Yule

In addition to these annual events we were able to move forward as an Association on a number of important items. Judy Maxwell continues the work to integrate the Fox Lake Plan into the Huntsville Official Plan. This effort has been several years in development and we hope to see this finalized by the Town early next year.

The Association continued its work on monitoring water quality under the stewardship of David White. In August we once again completed our annual benthic monitoring activity with the District of Muskoka. We appreciate the effort of all to the volunteers who devoted time to this activity.

The issue of the operation of Camp Winnebago's wake boat continues to be a significant issue with both the Association and cottagers raising concerns with the camp during the season. This is an issue that will continue to require focus as we get into the next cottage season.

And finally, on August 30th and 31st the Fox Lake Association was a party to the second OMB hearing reviewing the appeal of the severance and zoning amendment relating to the lot along the Buck River at the north end of the lake. As we did at the Town review and at the first OMB hearing, the Association presented its concerns with the proposal. Also, with the help of the funds generously donated by a number of the Members we were able to engage Rick Hunter, a respected planner, who was able to illustrate a number of areas where the proposal did not align to the Huntsville Official Plan. I also wish to thank the Members who attended the hearing to show their support for the Associations position and to many who also sent letters to the OMB prior to the hearing. At the end the OMB deferred their decision on the matter and to date we have not heard anything further. As a benchmark, the decision from the first OMB hearing took over five months and as soon as the Fox Lake Association is made aware of the decision from this hearing we will let the membership know.

So, that is the Fall update from the Association and until we reconnect next Spring I wish you all a good winter and an enjoyable Holiday Season.

Tom Gillette, President, Fox Lake Association

PLANNING AHEAD: 2017 SUMMER EVENTS

Below are the events currently planned for 2017 with dates and locations. Please note them in your calendars for next summer.

Annual General Meeting – Saturday, July 15, 2017 (Hosted by Jim Watson, East Fox Lake Road)

Regatta – Saturday, August 5, 2017 (Shepley Beach, East Fox Lake Road)

Corn Roast – Saturday, September 2, 2017 (location to be determined)

FLA MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

"Times They Are A-Changin'" as fast as autumn leaves whose beauty always take your breath away. Who has not been moved by the splendour of fall and if not at the cottage checked out the local fall-colour reports hoping to be there in time for the optimum colour. Those fortunate enough to live at the "cottage" get to enjoy the spectacle on a daily basis.

Fox Lake has experienced lots of change over the past couple of years. A number of wonderful new and talented people have chosen Fox Lake for their home. Many whom I have met this summer are genuinely eager to learn about Fox Lake and its community.

There is little history about Fox Lake except for the personal anecdotes and it is those personal stories that bring the place to life. This summer I came across a lovely little booklet by Betty Perkin written in 1994 chronicling the Perkin family history at the lake starting in 1935.

"The Muskoka Years"

*For the young and very young
Those of now and those to come
They look around and ask to see
Just how did we come to be
This friendly Fox Lake community*

Beautifully put. Some 80 years later we are still that friendly community.

One particularly touching story in Betty's account is that of Frank Scriver who lived a solitary life in the back woods of Fox Lake and the many occasions that the community, particularly Jack Spanner, one of the original settlers and Jim McMahon and Judy Maxwell's grandfather and Lew Perkin, helped Frank out. Frank even wrote a poem in appreciation of Jack and Lew's aid on Thanksgiving Day in 1948. For those interested in learning more we plan to add this to the Fox Lake Association website.

Inspired by Betty's stories, with the wine and ideas flowing (not sure which came first) at the Annual Thanksgiving Wine and Cheese on East Fox Lake Rd, it was suggested that we all write our most

memorable stories of our time at Fox Lake. Those stories would be posted on the FLA website to be enjoyed by all. Who knows, some talented individual might win the Fox Lake Prize for Literature. Judges yet to be selected but the criteria would be old enough to read and not be old enough to be judgmental. So somewhere between 6-12 years of age.

Another way to learn more and contribute to the community is to volunteer. Please contact Tom Gillette at tgillette@bell.net to find out how best to use your particular talents.

Those who have yet to pay their membership dues there are now two options. For those who live a paperless life we have now added the option of an e-transfer which can be accomplished by sending Jim McMahon an email at j.mcmahon@sympatio.ca. And those who want to use up a lifetime of paid for blank cheques, please send your cheques for \$40 made out to Fox Lake Association to Jim McMahon, Treasurer Fox Lake Association, 1008-3900 Yong Street, Toronto, ON. M4N 3A6.

In order to keep our membership records current please keep me posted on any changes to your contact information by email either at foxlakeassociation@gmail.com or directly to msmirniw@sympatico.ca.

Mary Smirniw, FLA Membership

LAKE STEWARD REPORT

Fox Lake was unusually clear this year, as many have noted. For 2016 the average Secchi Disc reading was 2.8 metres. (If this continues, I'm going to need a longer rope!) Two-point-eight is at odds with the 2006 to 2015 average of 2.0 metres. A possible causes could be low spring runoff carrying less material into the lake. The Lake Partner Ontario-wide results for Secchi depth are not yet published. We don't know if Fox Lake clarity is an anomaly or the phenomena is widespread.

There is good news regarding the 2016 sampled calcium level. It has rebounded from the unusually low figure in 2015. Fox Lake this year tested in line with our six year average. Still considered low, but better than last year.

Benthic Monitoring for the fifth year was conducted in August. We had fewer young-eyed volunteers, perhaps skewing the results toward the larger invertebrates. The 2016 results are posted on the FLA website in that dauntingly complex chart, also posted is a graphic representation of the indices (the last seven factors in the chart) used to summarize aquatic invertebrate composition. The graphs compare Fox Lake to the Muskoka averages. Check it out here: <http://www.foxlakeassociation.org/benthic-monitoring.html> Thanks to the dedicated folks who participated this year.

Results for invading species are not yet available.



Photo credit: Katie McMahon

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

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

David White, Lake Steward



Photo credit: Katie McMahon 10/10/2016



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).