



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

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I certainly hope everyone had a pleasant summer with enjoyable days woven through some of the wind, rain and power outages we all experienced at the Lake. An interesting summer from that perspective. However, we were able to get three great days for our annual events even though we had to move the Regatta to Sunday to accomplish that.

The season started out with our Annual General Meeting graciously hosted by Jim and Lynda Watson at their new cottage. We had a very good turnout of the Association membership and we were able to review a number of important topics with everyone. We were also fortunate to have two representatives from Camp Winnebago join us at the meeting and we were able to have a discussion on issues of concern to both the FLA members and the Camp. Also, special thanks to Cindy Taylor for organizing and hosting the beer tasting event with Muskoka Breweries after the meeting. For those who were unable to join us at the meeting, the minutes of the meeting are posted on the Fox Lake Association website.



Regatta 2017 Photo credit: Paul Moores

As mentioned earlier, we had to move the 45th Annual Fox Lake Regatta to Sunday to work around the funky weather. Particular thanks go out to Alix Yule who once again headed up the organization of the event. Also thanks to the many other volunteers who made the day a success. And a special thanks to Bob Shepley for use of his beach for the event yet again. The highlight of the day was saved to the very end when the West Fox Lake team won the coveted tug-of-war trophy for the first time. All of the Regatta results are posted on the FLA website under the 'Social Events' heading. More photos here: <http://www.foxlakeassociation.org/annual-regatta-july-august-6-2017.html>

The annual Corn Roast ran as usual over the Labour Day weekend with another great turnout. Thanks again to Sandy McLennan who provided the venue and his usual good spirits to the event. Once again we added the Associations fund raising Auction to the event and were able to raise over \$1000 to help with future Association events and programs.



Corn roast photo credit: Katie McMahon

In addition to these annual events the Association was able to move forward on a number of other important items. Judy Maxwell and Alix Yule are finalizing the work to integrate the Fox Lake Plan into the Huntsville Official Plan which we will provide an update on later in the Newsletter. As Lake Steward, David White continued his work on monitoring water quality with a number of initiatives he will provide a report on in this Newsletter as well.

As mentioned earlier, at the AGM we were able to have a frank and open discussion with two senior representatives of Camp Winnebago on a number of key issues including the operation of Camp Winnebago's wake boat that been a significant issue with cottagers over the last several years. The Camp appears to understand the concern and has committed to a number of operational changes they hope will eliminate the issues raised. Hopefully this will be the start of constructive dialogue with the Camp on these types of concerns going forward.

Finally, the Association engaged Rick Hunter, the Planner who provided advice to us for the OMB hearing, to work on the Bylaw being proposed to the Town for the four new lots along the Buck River to ensure the Bylaw was consistent with the environmental safeguards proposed at last year's OMB hearing.

That is a brief recap of the summer from the Association's perspective and on behalf of all of us on the Association Board I want to wish everyone a great winter and an enjoyable Holiday Season.

Tom Gillette, President, Fox Lake Association

PLANNING AHEAD: 2018 SUMMER EVENTS

Below are the events currently planned for 2018 with dates and locations. Please note them in your calendars for next summer.

Annual General Meeting – Saturday, July 14, 2018 at Bob Shepley's, East Fox Lake Road)

Regatta – Saturday, August 4, 2018 (Watson's Beach, East Fox Lake Road)

Corn Roast – Saturday, September 1, 2018 (location to be determined)

UPDATE ON OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Over the summer there were a number of changes to the Officers and Directors on the Fox Lake Board. Paul Moores and Jim Crawford stepped down as Directors after serving for a number of years. As well Mary Smirniw gave up her role as Membership Officer that she did a great job with for over three years. Coming on as new Directors are Jack Van der Meer elected at the AGM and Alix Yule endorsed as a Director at our last Board Meeting on October 29th. As well, Alix will continue to maintain her role for Government Relations.

With those changes here is the current Board roster with roles:

FOX LAKE ASSOCIATION BOARD AND OFFICERS 2017 - 2018

President
Tom Gillette
647-922-7161

Officer, Treasurer
Jim McMahon

Director
Bill Knight

Director, Government Relations

Officer, Membership
Robin Yule

Officer, Secretary
Jim Watson

Officer, Lake Plan Committee
Judy Maxwell

Officer, Lake Steward

Alix Yule

Director

Christa Casselman-Sharp

Director

Tony Maxwell

Director, Website / Merchandising

Ellen Fox

Director

Jack Van der Meer

David White

Newsletter Editor

Katie McMahon

FLA MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

This is my first newsletter article since becoming Membership Coordinator as of the Board meeting in October. Most of you know me, but for others, I live with my wife Pat Currie at 180 Yael's Nature Walk from May to October. My thanks to Mary Smirniw who did such a good job for many years.

Jack van der Meer has kindly offered to assist and be the Membership person on the west side. If anyone would like to help with membership (particularly someone on the east side) please let me know. The main duty is meeting and greeting new owners and conveying their contact information.

As of this letter, we have 45 members according to our master list. I hope we will be able to increase membership in the coming years because I believe that membership is very good for Fox Lakers as well as being good for the Association. To that end, we will be creating a brochure to encourage non-members to join. If any of you have ideas for what would make good selling points, please let me know; my email is robinfoxpause@yahoo.ca.

To make membership renewals easier, we have made it possible to pay dues by e-transfer (we will still take cash or a cheque if you prefer) and we will be sending out a friendly reminder in the spring. Membership maintains a list with people's names and email addresses so that we can communicate effectively with the Fox Lake community. It will be a great help to me if everyone lets me know about changes in ownership or email address or failure to receive emails and include new or corrected information whenever possible.

I wish you all a good winter and look forward to seeing everyone at the lake.

Robin Yule, FLA Membership

LAKE STEWARD REPORT

Fox Lake has returned to more customary readings for water clarity compared to last year's high readings. This validates the theory that last year's results were due to very low runoff. This year there was plenty of runoff throughout the spring and most of the summer. The 2017 average reading is not available yet but is likely around 1.9 metres.

The calcium and phosphorus readings as well as Invading Species results are not available until 2018.

Benthic Monitoring for 2017 was carried out with a different leader from the District of Muskoka. The sample collection technique seemed to be somewhat different than in previous years. It was a dreary, rainy morning so most of the extraction of the critters was carried out indoors, at low light levels. This was the sixth year of sampling. The results are not promising, best shown graphically at:

http://www.foxlakeassociation.org/uploads/7/8/6/5/7865414/fla_2017_benthic_results_graphs_2012_-_2017.pdf

Let's hope that this is an aberration and not a trend.

Two FLA representatives attended a workshop in August sponsored by the Ontario Centre for Climate Impacts and Adaption Resources (OCCIAR) and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, Parry Sound District. The Workshop was titled *Climate Change in Muskoka: a Workshop on Extreme Weather and Waterfront Property*. A rather telling quote on the back cover from Sir Nicholas Stern: "Adaption is the only means to reduce the now-unavoidable costs of climate change over the next few decades". The workshop was held shortly after the very intense storms caused substantial damage north and east of Huntsville. The collected talks at the workshop are posted at:

http://climateontario.ca/w_CCinMuskoka_WP.php

There is a lot of interesting information in this publication as well as links to many pertinent websites. It was pointed out that the 5000 km² Muskoka River Watershed consists of 2000 lakes with 64 dams and 37 daily-monitored gauges. The dams were never built or intended for flood control. By 2050 Ontario is predicted to have 3-4 degree warmer winter temperatures and a 10 to 20% increase in winter precipitation.

David White, Lake Steward



Benthic sampling volunteers-photo credit: Katie McMahon

Fox Lake Plan and Town of Huntsville Official Plan Review

The FLA board and officers have continued to work over the summer and this fall to get the Lake Plan for Fox Lake recognized by the Town of Huntsville and the corresponding policy provisions incorporated into the Town of Huntsville's Official Plan.

We are nearly ready to submit three documents to the Town of Huntsville to the Official Plan team. They are now on the FLA website where you can read them. We are keen to get comments from members of the Association, so please send your comments to the FLA e-mail address or to Alix Yule at alixyule@hotmail.com and Judy Maxwell at maxwell.judith@gmail.com.

The three documents are:

- i. The Lake Plan for Fox Lake which was approved by the membership in 2009;
- ii. Planning Justification Report for Fox Lake outlining the rationale for why the Town should accept the Fox Lake Plan and incorporate relevant planning provisions into the revised Official Plan. (This is an updated version of the document approved at the Annual Association Meeting in July, 2015); and
- iii. Draft Land Use Planning Provisions for Fox Lake to be incorporated into the Official Plan that will guide future development decisions that impact Fox Lake. This is a new document.

Here is some background on the Official Plan process: The Town's Official Plan is the document used to manage growth and determine how land is used within the Town's boundaries. The Official Plan sets out the principles, policies and by-laws that guide development decisions within the Town's jurisdiction.

The Province of Ontario requires that all municipalities review and update their Official Plan every five years and the Town is currently in the middle of such a review process. The District of Muskoka has recently unveiled its draft revised Official Plan. The timing is right for the FLA to submit its Lake Plan to the Town as input into the Town's Official Plan review process this fall.

The Town's Official Plan review process (outlined on the Town's website) is being undertaken in three phases. In Phase 1 a number of background papers were prepared and examined and public consultations were held to update the Town's vision. This first phase resulted in a document outlining the Preliminary Policy Directions for the new Official Plan. The process is now in Phase 2 during which the Town's planning committee is reviewing the background reports and seeking public input on what should be included in the revised Official Plan. This will be followed by Phase 3 – the actual writing of the new OP – over the winter. There will be more public consultations on the draft Official Plan in the spring and the Town hopes to have it completed by the summer of 2018 and submitted to the District of Muskoka for approval.

The FLA will submit these three documents to the Town's planning committee this November and follow up with committee members to ensure that the Fox Lake community's concerns and priorities related to future development around the lake are taken into consideration as the new Official Plan is formulated.

For your review we have added these documents to the Fox Lake Association website under the 'Fox Lake Plan' section. If you have any suggestions or comments we would ask that you forward them to the FLA email address or Alix and Judy directly by November 20th. Our goal is to submit the two documents to the Town before the end of this month.

Counting the Boats

For the past four summers, the Association has been counting the number of boats visible on the shoreline and backshore at the July and August long weekends. We now have enough history to tell a story -- a story which has its surprises and sheds interesting light on the state of development of Fox Lake.

The Fox Lake "fleet" in 2017 totaled 364 in 2017, up 64% from 2014. Canoes, kayaks and sailboats account for two-thirds of the fleet. And the number has increased from 138 in 2014 to 247 in 2017. What a parade that would make if they all came out on the same day!

There were 43 high speed boats – those used for skiing and tubing plus wake boats and personal water craft (PWCs). They account for just 10% of the fleet, but they need a lot of space when they are active on the lake.

The number of high speed boats increased by 26 % over the four years. But personal water craft are displacing traditional ski boats, which have declined to 25 from a peak of 38 in 2015. PWCs have increased rapidly from 2 in 2014 to 14 in 2017. (PWCs are harder to count, as some are stored where we cannot see them from the water and others are rentals that are on the lake for short spells.)

This year we started counting stand ups (a new type of craft) and pedal boats (making a comeback). There were 38 pedal boats and 16 standups for a total of 54. This raises the total count for 2017 to 418 boats on the lake. We will be tracking their growth in coming years.

As boat traffic increases, we need to be concerned about boat safety, especially in the narrow passages between the islands and shore. The rapid growth in the fleet also demonstrates the intensification of development on the lake in recent years.

By the way, this tracking methodology is widely used in the literature on recreational carrying capacity, and was adapted for Fox Lake by Christa Casselman Sharp in 2014.



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).