



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

## **A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Hi Everyone,

Another summer at the lake is upon on and I thought rather than speculate on the weather forecast I'd pass on the prediction from the Farmer's Almanac. They are calling for summer to be hotter than normal with rainfall below normal in Southwest Ontario (including Muskoka). The hottest periods will be in early and late June, early July, and mid- to late August. September and October will be warmer and slightly drier than normal. So, there you have it, and it sounds to me like we have great weather right through the early fall. We'll audit the Almanac's prediction in the Fall Newsletter!

To complement this projected fine weather we have a number of events planned starting with the Fox Lake Association's Annual General Meeting on Saturday, July 14<sup>th</sup>. The 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Regatta will be held on Saturday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, weather permitting, as we learned last year. That will be followed by our Labour Day Corn Roast on Saturday September 1<sup>st</sup>. The AGM is intended to be informative but the other two events are focused on fun. I'm looking forward to getting the members together at these events throughout the summer. More information on the events later in the Newsletter.

In addition to planning for the summer events, other Association activities have carried on through the winter and spring. We continue to work on having key elements of our Fox Lake Plan integrated into the new version of the Official Town of Huntsville Plan.

In addition, the Association will continue its work on monitoring water quality this summer and will carry on with our annual benthic monitoring activity in conjunction with the Ministry of Natural Resources. More details on the latter two topics are provided later in the Newsletter.

Robin Yule has taken over the responsibility for membership for the Association and makes a case later in the Newsletter for becoming a Fox Lake Association member. We would appreciate help from existing members in encouraging friends and neighbours who are not currently members to join.

And finally, we were all saddened by the news of the recent passing of Dr. Donald Shepley. Don was a longtime resident on the lake and a great help to the Lake Association over the years. Please see the *In Memoriam* for Don at the end of the Newsletter.

I look forward to meeting up with many of you at the events planned for this summer and I wish everyone a warm and sunny summer ....as promised (?) by the Farmer's Almanac.

Tom Gillette  
President, Fox Lake Association

## MEMBERSHIP

I am looking out over the new leaves reflected in a flat calm lake. It is the view that keeps us coming back and that makes us love this place. Please do not take it for granted. As change continues everyone must do what they can to preserve those things that the owners think make Fox Lake special. A strong and committed Association is our best hope for ensuring that Fox Lake remains a wonderful place. Our goal is to have all owners as members and I urge you to join if you are not currently a member. Our website has the form for joining and dues can now be paid by e-transfer. We welcome any comments you may have about the Association. I look forward to seeing many of you over the summer.

Robin Yule  
Membership Officer

*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.*

OR

***NO CHEQUE BOOK REQUIRED!!*** You can now do an ***email money transfer*** for quick and easy payment! Email your dues to [j.mcmahon@sympatico.ca](mailto:j.mcmahon@sympatico.ca); please make sure to include which property you are paying for in the email body.

## PLANNING AHEAD-SUMMER 2018 EVENTS

Please put the following dates in your summer calendar. Again this year we are combining the Corn Roast and annual Auction over the Labour Day weekend.

- Annual General Meeting Saturday, July 14, 2018 at Bob Shepley's (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 August 4<sup>th</sup> (Hosted by The Watsons, 550 East Fox Lake Road)
- Corn Roast and Auction – Saturday September 1st (Sandy McLennan's – 100 Rachel's Lane). Auction items welcome (contact Ellen Fox for details)

## FOX LAKE PLAN AND TOWN OF HUNTSVILLE OFFICIAL PLAN REVIEW

The Fox Lake Association Board submitted three documents to the Town of Huntsville in November 2017 as input into the Town's Official Plan review process. These three documents were:

- i) the Lake Plan for Fox Lake which was approved by the membership in 2009;
- ii) a 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; 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.

The Town's Official Plan Review Committee acknowledged receipt of the documents and said they would review our submissions to ensure that they can all be implemented and/or included in a land use document. The Official Plan review process is now in Phase 3 – the drafting of the new Official Plan. The committee is in the process of identifying which policies from individual lake plans can be incorporated into the Official Plan. The first draft of the Official Plan document should be available in mid-June and the Town will be scheduling information sessions and focus group discussions shortly thereafter. The FLA board will inform members about the public information sessions and will review the draft plan and participate in the discussion sessions.

## REGATTA

*It's the best day all summer, the day everyone will be there.*

*The kayaks are lined up like a rainbow,*

*flanked by green lily pads and razor sharp clams.*

*The ribbons are ready to be pinned.*

*My hat is ready for a fresh batch,*

*its time to replace the old with the new.*

*Smiling faces all around, yet one stands out.*

*Auntie Barb is smiling at the sidelines,*

*her hat as colourful as the kayaks.*

*The sandcastles are being built up with care.*

*A small village rises from the golden sand.*

*The fox sits upon his wooden seat gleaming in the sun, watching who will win the battle.*

*Suddenly a whistle blows: ready, set, go!*

*West vs. East, who will win?*

*The rope that is pulled in both directions is the tie that binds us all to this place.*

*The battle has begun - the smell of victory is in the air along with the smell of water.*

*The slimy sand is between our toes as we pull with all our might,*

*the rope burning in our hands as we fight the slip.*

*Suddenly we slip - the fox has run the other way this year as we taste the murky waters  
of defeat.*

*Family gathers around as we cheer and jeer at the loss, knowing the fox has crossed the lake  
and found a new home,*

*until next year when we gather once again.*

*Under the sun and sand, the fox will be waiting.*

-Poem by Ewan Finbow, age 12, East Fox Lake cottager

## **TIPS FOR PROPER GARBAGE DISPOSAL**

Over the past year there have been a few of incidences garbage/recycling being left out inappropriately for pickup. This is a friendly reminder to ensure that proper garbage disposal procedures are adhered to throughout the year.

- Garbage is not to be left on the roadside in bags that are not enclosed in some sort of hard garbage container. Bags without proper protection will be opened by ravens, crows, rodents and possibly bears leaving garbage littered over the road.
- For Recycling please ensure all containers have been rinsed well as food sediments are a big attraction for our winged friends and others. Recycling containers need to be left beside garbage containers and not inside or they will not be picked up.
- Town of Huntsville picks up garbage and recycling only. Large items like mattresses, chairs, furniture or barbecues need to be taken to the Stitsted Landfill.
- Garbage and recycling collection is weekly for the period May 1 to October 31. For November to the end of April recycling is weekly but garbage collection is biweekly. Garbage pickup is Thursdays.

Proper garbage procedures will help in keeping our roadways free from litter and the Fox Lake Association thanks you for your diligence in this matter.

## **LAKE STEWARD REPORT**

The association monitored the usual parameters in 2017. Water samples were taken in May and sent to MoE&CC in Dorset. The Total Phosphorus result was 10.9 micrograms/L. This is about the average for the last eight year. Calcium tested 1.6 mg/L, exactly the same as 2016. This confirms the rebound that occurred that year from the very low figure in 2015. Secchi disc readings measure water clarity by determining how far light penetrates the water column. The average reading for 2017 was 1.8 meters, slightly lower than our running average, but not far out-of-line. The year before we had an extraordinary average of 2.8 meters.

Awaiting confirmation from Ellen, we have no 2017 ice-in date. It will be announced at the AGM. The ice-out date was May 5, 2018 – the latest ever, according to easily available records.

No spiny water fleas were detected in the 2017 sampling for invading species. Buck Lake also tested negative.

Benthic monitoring results for 2017 are posted on the FLA website. As mentioned in the Fall Newsletter, they were not encouraging. This year it would be a real help to get a few younger volunteers. **Please note, the time spent chasing and capturing the critters in the buckets do count as volunteer hours for high school students.** The session for 2018 is scheduled for Friday August 17<sup>th</sup> starting at about 9:30. More details will be forthcoming at the AGM.

David White  
Lake Steward

### ***In Memoriam for Dr. Donald Shepley***

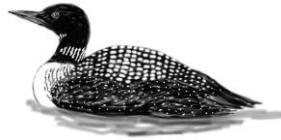
**April 1938 to April 2018**

*The Fox Lake community was saddened this spring by the passing of long-time Fox Lake resident and cottager, Dr. Donald Shepley. Don first came to Fox Lake in 1953 for a family holiday when his parents rented the Tipper cottage in the south-east bay. After several summers of renting, Don's parents built their own cottage, called Comalot, in Tipper's Bay in 1964. Eventually Don's brother Bob took over that property and Don and his wife Elizabeth built their own cottage down the shore in 2003 and named it Cumagain.*

*Don and Liz spent their honeymoon at Fox Lake in 1961, at the Tipper's cottage, where their first meal was a tin of beans (the only thing they could find in the cottage!). Don and Liz brought their three children, Scott, Marc and Karen, to Fox Lake for a month of vacation every summer and for holidays in the winter once the road was plowed. Liz remembers the time Don went to get water from the well one winter and fell in, managing to climb out up a pipe but suffering hypothermia and taking hours to warm up beside the wood stove. Don always dreamed of retiring to Fox Lake – a place he called "magic land" - and Don and Liz made that dream a reality in 2008 when Don retired from his medical practice in Whitby and they became year-round Fox Lake residents. Scott, Marc and Karen and their spouses are frequent*

*visitors to Shep's Cabin along with Don and Liz's six grandchildren. Many of us will remember when their daughter Karen was married on the beach.*

*Don was a long-term member and strong supporter of the Fox Lake Association. He will be missed by us all.*



*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 do 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.  
Or send an e-transfer to [j.mcmahon@sympatico.ca](mailto:j.mcmahon@sympatico.ca)*

*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).*