



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

## **A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Hello Everyone:

As I write this, there are snow flurries in the air and chickadees at my bird feeder – autumn is coming to an end so it must be time for the FLA Fall Newsletter.

Thanks to all who made our summer season activities a success this year. That includes the people who organized and hosted events, the volunteers who worked at the events, and all of those who attended and participated. The Annual General Meeting on July 13, graciously hosted by Jeanette Grant, brought out about 35 people to enjoy the warm sunshine and discuss FLA business.

The 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Fox Lake Regatta on Saturday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> was hosted and well-coordinated by Lynda and Jim Watson. The rain held off so that a large crowd of participants and spectators were able to enjoy a marvelous afternoon. The East side managed to hang on to the Tug-of-War Trophy for another year. Thanks again to Sandy McLennan for hosting the Regatta Horseshoe Tournament on Saturday morning. The Regatta results are posted on the FLA website at <http://www.foxlakeassociation.org/regatta-2019.html>





Photo credit: Alix Yule

The FLA's Annual Labour Day Corn Roast was held again this year on Sandy McLennan's lovely lawn. Attendance was down from previous years so we are planning a new format for next year – a Fox Lake "Fall Fair". Watch for details in the Spring Newsletter.



Photo credit: Cindy Taylor

Please mark your calendars now for all of the 2020 activities:

- FLA Annual General Meeting - Saturday July 11
- Fox Lake Regatta – Saturday August 1
- Fox Lake Fall Fair – Saturday September 5

We had some changes in the FLA Board of Directors and Executive Officers this year. I extend my appreciation to Jack van der Meer and Jim McMahon who have stepped down, and welcome Jim Harper who has joined the Board as a new Director. Cindy Taylor has taken on the position of Treasurer. The current board members and officers are:

*Board of Directors:*

Alix Yule – Director, Chair of the Board, President  
Bill Knight – Director, Vice-President  
Tom Gillette – Director, Past-President  
Cindy Taylor – Director, Treasurer and Social Media Administrator  
Ellen Fox – Director, Website Administrator  
Christa Casltleman-Sharp – Director  
Jim Harper - Director

*Officers:*

Katie McMahon – Newsletter  
Jim Watson - Secretary  
David White – Lake Steward  
Robin Yule – Membership

I hope everyone has a safe, healthy and enjoyable winter and best wishes for a lovely Christmas and New Year holiday season. See you in the spring if not on the snowshoe or cross-country ski trails!

Alix Yule, FLA President

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Greetings to all of you. The FLA is doing well and we have welcomed new people on the lake as members. Currently we have about 60 members.

As always I encourage non-members to consider membership - for the low price of \$40, the FLA provides lake monitoring, social events, legislation monitoring and membership in the Federation of Ontario Cottage Associations (who provide lobbying and monitoring of government activities at the provincial and federal level).

Karen Beamer undertook the procurement of FLA logo apparel with great success. Many people purchased Fox Lake T-shirts, hoodies and ball caps. If you missed out or would like more, please let the FLA know via our email or by letting an executive member know. If there is enough interest, we will order more.

The constitution and by-laws of the association are in need of general cleanup. I will be working with Jim Harper and Tom Gillette to develop drafts with a target of approval at the 2020 AGM. If you would like to assist with this or advance opportunity to comment, please let me know. I hope to have drafts ready for distribution with the spring newsletter so that everyone will have time to consider and comment the documents before the AGM.

Robin Yule, Membership Officer

### **Did you know? The Fox Lake Association has a Facebook page!**

This is a private group, so you must request to join. So far, it has been a great place for sharing sunset photos and lost boats!

[https://www.facebook.com/groups/318929168304976/?ref=group\\_header](https://www.facebook.com/groups/318929168304976/?ref=group_header)



### **PLANNING AHEAD-SUMMER 2020 EVENTS**

Please put the following dates in your summer calendar.

- FLA Annual General Meeting - Saturday July 11- Hosted by the Andersons
- Fox Lake Regatta – Saturday August 1
- Fox Lake Fall Fair – Saturday September 5

### **LAKE STEWARD REPORT**

For 2019, as usual, the association monitored Fox Lake. As happened last year, we did not sample for invasive species as that program has been on hiatus. Water samples were taken in May 2019 and sent to MoEC&P in Dorset as part of the Lake Partner program. Total Phosphorus and Calcium results will not be available until late November. Secchi disc readings (water clarity) for 2019 averaged 2.1 metres, very close to the running average for Fox Lake.

Restating the ice-in/out results from the spring newsletter, ice-in occurred on November 22, 2018. Ice-out was May 1, 2019, the second latest on record. The lake was ice covered for a total of 161 days. The fourteen-year average winter ice-cover period is 134 days. The shortest was 106 days for the 2011/12 winter. It will be interesting to see what happens this year.

Benthic Monitoring was carried out on August 19 at a new location, in the north end of the lake. The results are posted on the FLA website. Richness and EOT have increased and Chironomids are down -- all good things. Predators continue fluctuating, no Shredders were detected and Collector/Gatherers are below the Muskoka average -- all not good things. These results can not directly be compared with the previous seven years since the site changed. Please consult the FLA website for detailed information on how to interpret the results. We expect to use the second location next year and then alternate every two years between the two sites. Thanks to Ellen Fox for hosting the event and to all the volunteers who turned up for the session. It was a good time.

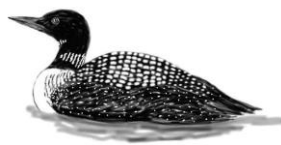
Concerns have been expressed regarding algae in the lake. Fox, is a dystrophic lake (high in dissolved organic carbon) and is somewhat less subject to algae blooms than other lakes. The billowy brown clouds that lurk in the lily pads are made up of filamentous algae, not blue-green algae. Quoting from a Muskoka Watershed Council Technical Bulletin:

"Algae form the base of most aquatic food chains and are a valuable and critical component of a healthy aquatic environment. The types of algae found in Muskoka include diatoms, green algae, pigmented flagellates, and bluegreen algae."

"The relationship between algae, algal blooms and water quality is complicated. However, it is important to understand that the presence of algae in your lake does not necessarily indicate reduced water quality, but it can be the starting point for a larger problem in the future."

David White, Lake Steward

***Want to get involved with the FLA?***  
***Have a question or concern?***  
***Email: [foxlakeassociation@gmail.com](mailto:foxlakeassociation@gmail.com)***



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*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).*