



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Now THAT was quite the winter!

The early snow that fell on the second week of November just settled in and stayed, and more kept joining it right into April. So there was lots of snow in the bush, and those of us who stuck around had our hands full with shovelling, blowing and ploughing our roads. On the other side of that picture though, snowshoeing and skiing was great, and we only had occasional days of brutally cold weather temperatures.

Spring was also a little different from normal. The snowpack that stayed forever and the late April rains combined to bring our water levels up significantly. Fox Lake fared better than those downstream from us. Our water was the highest it has been for several years, and it, and the retreating ice have moved around some of our shoreline structures. We only saw one dock floating down the lake, and that was rescued and returned. However, the wind and ice did rearrange some docks around the lake. By my reckoning, the ice left the lake totally on May 1, but on April 30 it gave a last gasp, and with a south wind came back up the lake and moved my floating docks well up on shore. Never turn your back on Mother Nature!

But winter and ice and floods are now behind us, (I hope) and the lake is at more normal spring levels. Fox Lake roads are as passable as is normal; the leeks are up; trees are budding; and trillium buds are showing, and almost open. Spring is here. Summer is coming.

As is normal, we plan to have the traditional summer events on tap, including our Annual General Meeting (July 13), the Fox Lake regatta (August Long weekend), and a Labour Day weekend corn roast. More details are in this newsletter, or will follow as details become finalized.

Welcome back summer. Welcome back Fox Lakers. We will see you on the water.

Jack van der Meer



Muskoka Road 2 at Easter

MEMBERSHIP

Greetings to all Fox Lakers.

We are headed into another summer with the Association organizing the usual events as detailed elsewhere in this newsletter. We are fortunate to have about 60 members but would be very pleased to see this number grow. New ideas, new perspectives and new energy are always very welcome.

Membership dues are due in the spring - please consider paying prior to the AGM as this saves time on that day. E-transfer is preferred and details will be sent as soon as transition to the new Treasurer, Cindy Taylor, is complete. Cheques made out to the Fox Lake Association can be mailed to me at 180 Yael's Nature Walk, Huntsville, ON P1H 2J2. Dues are still only \$40.00.

Robin Yule, Membership Officer.

SUMMER EVENTS-MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

AGM- Saturday July 13th at 317 West Fox Lake Rd.

Doors open at 9:30 am. Meeting starts at 10:00 am. Chairs limited so please bring your own

Regatta- Saturday August 3rd at The Watson's, 550 East Fox Lake Rd.

Benthic Monitoring- Monday August 19th -location TBD

Corn Roast- Saturday August 31st at Sandy McLennan's, 100 Rachel's Lane

Want to remind yourself of last year's regatta results? They're on our website!

<http://www.foxlakeassociation.org/regatta-2018.html>

LAKE STEWARD'S REPORT

The association monitored the usual parameters in 2018, with the exception of Invasive Species. The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters revised that program last year and did not send out the sampling kits, nor will they for 2019.

Water samples were taken in May 2018 and sent to MoE&CC in Dorset. The Total Phosphorus result was 13.5 micrograms/L. This is up substantially from the last two years but just a tad above the established background level for Fox Lake. Calcium tested 1.6 milligrams/L, exactly the same as the previous two years. This confirms the rebound that occurred in 2016 from the very low figure in 2015. Secchi disc readings (water clarity) for 2018 averaged 2.1 metres – very close to the running average for Fox Lake.

Ice-in occurred on November 22nd. The earliest yet, according to my records which go back to 2002 (with a few dates missing). Ice-out was May 1st, the second latest. The lake was ice covered for a total of 161 days, the longest period I have on record. The fourteen year average winter ice-cover period is 134 days. The shortest was 106 days for the 2011/12 winter.

Benthic monitoring results for 2018 are posted on the FLA website. The good news is that *Richness* and the *Collector/Gatherer* factors are back to the Muskoka average and *Chironomidea* are down below the average. The bad news is that our *Predators* continue to fluctuate wildly, *EOT* (mayfly, dragonfly and caddisfly) numbers are well below the Muskoka average and no *Shredders* were detected in the last two years. Please consult the FLA website for detailed information and how to interpret the results.

<http://www.foxlakeassociation.org/benthic-monitoring.html>

This year the benthic monitoring session will be on **Monday August 19**. We expect it will be at a different location than usual. We hope that the results will be more promising at a location that has not been disturbed every year since 2012. The new location will be announced at the AGM. As always, volunteers are needed. Young eyes are always appreciated.

FROM THE TOWN OF HUNTSVILLE

The Town of Huntsville announced the launch of a new Community Engagement Website Myhuntsville.ca. The platform is an excellent tool for residents to get involved in Municipal activities by providing their ideas and opinions to help shape our community.

The Town believes that a mobile, responsive website will make it easier for residents to discuss and share their views on projects that matter to them, in a forum where their input is part of the

decision-making process. And the best part is this can all be done from the comfort of their own home or dock 24/7.

The Town would like the FLA to help promote participation in the Strategic Plan Survey, which the Town is currently seeking input on. They (and we) believe you would be interested in participating and providing your views on how The Town should advance strategic areas; such as, Natural Environment and Sustainability, Roads and Infrastructure, etc.

Key links:

Community Engagement Website: Myhuntsville.ca

Strategic Plan Engagement Survey: <https://myhuntsville.ca/strategicplan>
[Media Release](#)

BOAT COUNT 2018

According to the Fox Lake Plan, cottagers have complained about too many boats since the 1940s. They felt that motor boats were disturbing the serenity of the lake.. As the Fox Lake Association prepared for the revisions to the Official Plan for the Town of Huntsville, it was decided to do an annual boat count so that we could track the trends in boat activity. It is an indicator of the stage of development on the lake.

We now have five years of data, enough to be able to see how patterns of boat activity are changing. We do the count on the July and August long weekends, typically the busiest weekends of the summer and we record the average of the two weekends. Here is a quick summary.

- In 2014, there were 222 boats on the lake on average. And the fleet increased by 71% to 379 boats by 2018.
- Motorboats of all types and sizes increased by 25% -- from 84 in 2014 to 105 in 2018.
- Meanwhile the non-motorized fleet -- canoes, kayaks and sailboats -- doubled in size, increasing from 138 in 2014 to 274 in 2018.
- And these comparisons exclude the 51 standups and pedal boats counted in 2018 because we don't have data for the early years. Standups are newcomers on the scene, and pedal boats have become popular again.
- Note that the ski, tubing and wake boats in 2018 are actually in decline. But they have been replaced by personal watercraft which increased from 2 in 2014 to 12 in 2018.

These counts are informal. We only count what we can see on your waterfront. If your boat is locked away in a shed, it is not counted. Our thanks to the team that does the count: Jim McMahon drives the boat, Chris and Paul Moores log the boats on a long spreadsheet, and Judy Maxwell does the summary for the Newsletter.

Source: Fox Lake Association. Average number of boats visible on the waterfront on the July and August long weekends.

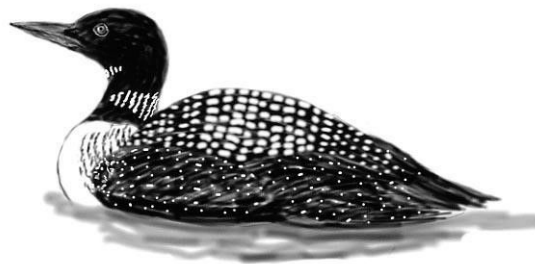
Fox Lake Boat Counts, 2014-18 (average of July & August long weekends)						
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	% change 2018/2014
Motorized						
Ski/Tubing	29	38	36	25	28	
Wake	3	3	4	4	2	
Personal Watercraft (PWC)	2	3	7	14	12	
<i>High-speed boat subtotal</i>	34	44	47	43	42	24%
Fishing	34	44	46	57	49	
Pontoon	13	14	15	15	12	
Planes, electric	3	3	2	2	2	
<i>Motorized Subtotal</i>	84	105	110	117	105	25%
Non-motorized						
Canoe, kayak, sail	138	172	255	247	274	99%
<i>Non-motorized Sub-total</i>						
Total	222	277	365	364	379	71%
					0	
New categories						
SUP, pedal, other				54	51	

Notes:

1. Pedal boats and Stand Up boards are reported for the first time in 2017, but not included in totals.
2. Camp Winnebago and Camp Romuva together accounted for 73 boats in 2017 and 74 in 2018

Source: Fox Lake Association

22-Oct-18



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:

Robin Yule 180 Yael's Nature Walk, Huntsville, ON P1H 2J2

E-transfer details coming soon.

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).