



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

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello and welcome to summer weather at Fox Lake. What a very short spring we have had – May started with winter temperatures and lots of snow and ended with summer temperatures and mosquitos!

This May the lake also lost one of its long-term residents and dear friend and neighbour to many in the Fox Lake community. Elizabeth Shepley of East Fox Lake passed away at the hospice in Huntsville with her family by her side. Liz, her late husband Don, and her children and grandchildren have been active members of the FLA and supporters of our many activities over the years. I know everyone around the lake joins me in expressing our condolences to the Shepley family.

The coronavirus pandemic and restrictions continue to affect us all. Physical distancing continues to be the norm around the lake with neighbours greeting each other from a distance. Many of the shops and services in Huntsville remain closed and those open are operating with curbside pick-up or physical distancing measures in place. These measures are likely to continue into the summer as Ontario moves slowly through its re-opening stages. A reminder that information about what is happening in Huntsville can be found on the Huntsville Doppler news service at <https://doppleronline.ca/huntsville/covid-19-updates/>

Following the provincial directive, Camp Winnebago will not be operating this summer; however, the owners and family may stay there from time to time. They have generously made their boat launch available for Fox Lake residents and information about how to access this opportunity was sent out by the FLA in a separate e-mail. The FLA executive held its spring meeting (virtually by Zoom) on May 21st and discussed and made some decisions regarding the Association's planned summer activities in light of the pandemic and public health guidelines.

Annual General Meeting: The AGM is scheduled to be held on Saturday, July 11 at 10:00 a.m. Our constitution and the Ontario Corporations Act require us to hold a general meeting annually. We discussed postponing the meeting until August or September in the hope that the restrictions on group events is lifted, but as this is uncertain, we decided to go ahead with our

meeting on July 11 and to conduct it virtually. We will send an invitation to everyone on our email mailing list two weeks prior to the meeting. This invitation will include the meeting agenda, the annual financial report, the slate of Board of Directors for confirmation (all current directors have agreed to stand again) and instructions on how to join the meeting from your computer, mobile phone or tablet.

Annual Regatta: The regatta is scheduled for Saturday, August 1. It will not be possible or advisable to conduct our usual large group event. Therefore, we are planning a modified regatta this year with lots of fun on the water and on the beach – but in your own boat and on your own beach. There will be sandcastle building for kids, boat and dock decorating for families and a boat “parade”! Watch for more details to be shared at the AGM and sent to everyone on our email list.

Corn Roast /Fall Fair: This end of summer social event is scheduled for Saturday, September 5. We had planned to alter the format this year to introduce a “fall fair” atmosphere with old-fashioned family-friendly games and contests. We are going to wait and see how August unfolds. If it is possible to host a group event at that time, we will. Otherwise, we will postpone until next year. We will keep you informed.

On behalf of the FLA, I extend our sympathy to the families that lost their cottages this spring when three cottages on West Fox Lake were destroyed by fire. Best wishes for a smooth rebuild!

Remember that keeping a physical distance from others in our lake community is not keeping socially isolated. Please keep in touch with each other and reach out to any member of the FLA executive if you have questions or need assistance with issues around Fox Lake.

Sincerely,
Alix Yule
FLA President

MEMBERSHIP

Greetings to all of you in this strange year. We are fortunate that Corona virus (as compared to many places) has lightly touched Muskoka and we hope that it may continue that way. Please be very careful if commuting to the lake and back from elsewhere.

Welcome new owners who have joined the Association:

- Steve and Meghan MacAulay and their two boys at 385 West FLR
- Cam and Christine McIver at 581 West FLR

We are happy to have them and already Steve was instrumental helping rescue Rick Faccini and his boat when Rick capsized in mid-May.

Despite disruption of our social events the association remains busy on number of issues as noted elsewhere in the newsletter so please continue your support. If you not currently a member, please join us. The cost is low and you get a voice on issues, direction, and a variety of benefits - this year, for example, we were able to arrange a boat launching opportunity at Camp Winnebago even though the Camp will be closed this season. Please extend your thanks to the Camp for accommodating the Fox Lake community in this way.

Dues for the year May 2020 to April 2021 are now due. Please remit \$40 via one of the following methods:

- By e-transfer to foxlaketreasurer@gmail.com - be sure to include your name and Fox Lake road # in your email.

OR

- By cheque made out to Fox Lake Association % Alix Yule, 422 East Fox Lake Road, Huntsville, ON P1H 2J2

I hope to see most of you over the summer, if at more of a distance than we would like.

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



PLANNING AHEAD-SUMMER 2020 EVENTS

Please put the following dates in your summer calendar. As uncertainty continues with respect to public gatherings due to the pandemic, the FLA would still try put some fun into our summer and we are trying to adapt to the new rules as best we can.

- **FLA Annual General Meeting - Saturday July 11-** Virtual meeting
- **Fox Lake Regatta – Saturday August 1-** new physically distanced format
 - *This year, we will be replacing our Regatta traditional format with a format that will bring the party to you! Assuming that some forms of family gatherings will be allowed by August, we will be operating an FLA flotilla/armada/regatta of boats that will cruise the lake, offering prizes for participants in different categories that can be performed on your own beach or dock. We'll have prizes for boat decorating, sand castles, costumes – all of which can be displayed on your property and judged by our travelling boatloads of fun! More details will be posted on our Facebook page (Fox Lake Association) and via email as the date approaches. Get your creative juices flowing as this year's theme is "Fun and Fashion in the Summer of Covid-19". Our hope is to maintain the social, while respecting the distance!*
- **Fox Lake Fall Fair – Saturday September 5**
 - *Prior to the recent events arising from the pandemic, your FLA board was looking to revamp our Annual Corn Roast by turning it into a Fall Fair which would incorporate more family friendly events and games. Again, as we don't know what restrictions will be in place this September, we will advise you of our plans as the date approaches.*

LAKE STEWARD REPORT

Fox Lake first froze over on November 27th, however strong winds partially opened it up again. Permanent ice-on commenced December 1st. Ice-off occurred April 11th. The period of ice cover was 132 days – the running average of the last 15 years is 134 days. You may remember that the lake was frozen for an additional month the winter before (2018/19).

The results of water sampling from May 2019 are as follows:

- Phosphorus was 10.3 micrograms/L. This is actually below our running average and somewhat better than our 2018 results of 13.5.
- Calcium was 1.4 milligrams/L. This is lower (and worse) than our average of 1.56.
- Secchi depth (water clarity) was 2.1 meters, very close to our running average.

Sampling for 2020 happened in early May and submitted to MoEC&P in Dorset. A week later, we were instructed not to submit samples – too bad. It will be interesting to see if our samples are going to be analyzed.

The 2019 Benthic Monitoring results are posted on the Fox Lake website. There will be no Benthic Monitoring for 2020. The District of Muskoka is not hiring a Biotech this year. No worries about nagging requests for volunteers at the AGM.

This is going to be an interesting year.

David White
Lake Steward

OTHER NEWS YOU CAN USE:

COTTAGE RENTALS IN 2020

There are two provisions within the Ontario Emergency order that affect cottage rentals in Huntsville/Fox Lake right now:

1. The **short-term rental ban** continues as part of the Ontario Emergency Orders that have been extended until at least June 9. That means that no short-term rentals are allowed except in cases where emergency accommodation is required.
2. Social gatherings of more than 5 people are banned.

The OPP is responsible for enforcing these Covid-19 related emergency orders and can be contacted at 1-888-310-1122

Separately, as part of a public consultation process that began in early 2019, the Town of Huntsville has enacted bylaw 2019-122, which is an act to **regulate short-term rentals** in our area. This by-law has a significant impact on the rental of cottages in our area.

Some of the key provisions include:

- a. **All rental properties must be licensed** with the town. Licensing includes requirements such as a site plan be submitted for the property and the property will be inspected to ensure it meets all current fire and safety codes.
- b. An **annual fee** must be paid to the town to operate the rental;
- c. Limits on the number of people and cars are mandated as part of the license, including **occupancy limited to two (2) people per legal bedroom**, and cars limited based on the amount of legal parking space available.

There are other significant provisions included in the by-law which we encourage you to read at:

<https://www.huntsville.ca/en/home-property-and-planning/short-term-accommodation-rentals.aspx>

The FLA board will also be meeting with the town to better understand this by-law and will advise our members of the information we learn from that meeting.

DARK SKIES

Both Fox Lake Association and the Town of Huntsville's Plan encourages landowners to help Stop Light Pollution in Our Night Skies.

FOCA points out that there are many benefits to "**Dark Night Skies**". They list and elaborate on the following:

WHY we should care:

- Star gazing is an amazing family activity:
- Better night time with less nuisance glare
- Increased safety on both land and water. Light pollution from unshielded, broad range lights near lakes is made worse by the reflection off water.
- Energy and Monetary savings
- Protection of wildlife and lake ecosystems. Light plays myriad roles in nature: changing light patterns can disrupt an ecosystem's balance. In water environments, daily cycles for organisms such as zooplankton are controlled by light, while others, such as fish, are attracted or repelled by it. Studies show that moths, fireflies, salamanders, frogs, songbirds and other wildlife are affected when artificial nighttime lighting influences navigation, predator-prey relationships, foraging behaviour, reproduction, mating, and other biological and ecological characteristics.

HOW we can help - landowners are encouraged to prevent light pollution by:

- When shopping for lights ask questions and seek out lights that reduce light pollution.
- Light for necessity
- Choose glare-free lights and lights that are shielded to direct light down on targeted areas stop light from escaping sideways and upwards.
- Aim lights down and away from water Choose lights that direct light onto the ground, where it is needed.
- Install lower wattage bulbs
- Use dimmers and timers

For further information, please visit –

<https://foca.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/Night-Skies.pdf>

GARBAGE/RECYCLING TIPS

Garbage/recycling pickup is weekly May to the end of October. With pickup on Tuesdays for West Fox Lake Rd and Thursdays for East and North Fox Lake Roads means that garbage is often left for several days awaiting pickup. Animals of the woods and birds of the air can make a mess of garbage and recycling that is left outside of proper containers. Most owners have proper containers to store garbage, however, recycling is often left outside containers in clear

bags (required) creating temptations for birds, in particular ravens and four legged creatures. To prevent recycling being spread by wildlife please make sure containers are washed/clean and left in clear bags that are covered by blanket or tarp or placed in a specific covered container designated recycling. If this is not possible, please take recycling home with you.

Update due to COVID-19 Requirements. Under the present Covid-19 situation the Town requires that all recycling needs to be bagged, tied and sealed or secured in blue boxes so that it can't overflow or blow around. Two stream recycling with paper products separated from plastics, steel and glass remains in effect. Mixed recycling or recycling not in bags will not be picked up. Cardboard boxes do not have to be bagged as long as they are broken down, flattened and tied together. Garbage must be bagged, tied and sealed. Loose garbage in cans or bins will not be collected.

Large items such as barbecues, chairs, broken tables, mattresses will not be picked up and must be taken to the Stisted or Bracebridge landfill site for proper disposal by property owner. Hazardous waste disposal is available at the Bracebridge site (temporarily suspended due to Covid 19). Electronic waste can be dropped off at Intyre Electronic Recycling, 7 East Airport Rd. Huntsville free of charge. Open 9-5 M-F, 9-12 Sat. Bins are available for 24/7 drop-off.

We trust that this information is helpful in ensuring our Fox Lake roadways remain free of garbage litter.

LAKE CARE

We have had a couple of incidences of foreign objects that are not natural to a healthy lake ecosystem being deposited in the lake. Golf balls, beer bottles, cans, pop cans, bottles and plastic bags do not belong in the lake. The FLA promotes maintenance of a healthy lake environment for present users and future users and hopes that property owners would ensure reasonable practices are taken to accomplish this goal.

Fox Lake Association:

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 Casselman-Sharp – Director
Jim Harper - Director

Officers:

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

Finally here are some photos to remind us all why we love Fox Lake:



📷 J Harper



📷 K McMahon



📷 K McMahon

Want to get involved with the FLA?

Have a question or concern?

Email: foxlakeassociation@gmail.com



This newsletter is published and funded by the Fox Lake Association Inc. It is distributed to all Fox Lake residents for 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. 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).