



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

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello and greetings to all as spring arrives at Fox Lake. The ice went out on April 11, most of the snow has disappeared (although there have been fresh flurries this week) and the migrant and summer birds are arriving. We were fortunate to be spared any significant spring flooding this year.

However not much else is normal these days. The coronavirus pandemic is affecting us all and our Fox Lake community, friends, neighbours and extended family members are impacted in many different ways. I know that many of you had great plans for spring and summer and that these are now not going to unfold as you had hoped.

The plans for our regular FLA summer events are also on hold. It is unlikely that we will be able to hold our annual General Meeting, Regatta and Corn Roast as we usually do – and we will keep you informed in future newsletters and on our website and facebook page as we know more.

However, we are all in this unprecedented situation together and I hope we can stay connected and support each other through these tough times. The FLA executive continues to serve our members and community and will be meeting and communicating virtually over the coming weeks and months until we are able to get together again in person.

At this time I thought it might be useful to share with you the following information and announcements from provincial, district, town and local sources that may be of interest to you.

Stay healthy, stay strong, stay home if you can, and stay two moose lengths apart when talking with your neighbours!

Sincerely,

Alix Yule
FLA President

COVID-19 CASES IN MUSKOKA

As of April 15, 2020, the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) has reported 14 laboratory-confirmed cases in Muskoka. Six are in Gravenhurst (of which four have recovered), four in Huntsville (all recovered), three in Muskoka Lakes (of which one is recovered, and one is deceased) and one in Lake of Bays. Updates from the SMDHU can be found on their website at <http://www.simcoemuskokahealthstats.org/topics/infectious-diseases/a-h/covid-19>

TRAVEL TO MUSKOKA

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit joined the Premier of Ontario, our MPP and Muskoka mayors and doctors in requesting people with a secondary residence in Muskoka to stay home in their primary residence and if they do travel to Muskoka to take special precautions. A poster with considerations and guidelines is included on the following page.

FIRE BAN

The government of Ontario has designated the entire province as a “Restricted Fire Zone” in an effort to ensure that first responders, including fire fighters, are available where their efforts are needed the most during the pandemic. No outdoor fires at all are allowed – this includes burning grass or debris, campfires and cooking fires, even those in an outdoor fire grate or fireplace.

PROPERTY TAXES

The Town of Huntsville has waived the penalty for late payment of interim tax payments for the two-month period from April 1 to May 31, although encourages property owners who can to please pay according to their original due date. MPAC has announced that the 2020 Property Assessment Update has been postponed so that property assessments for 2021 will continue to be based on the 2016 assessment.

DISTRICT WASTE MANAGEMENT

There has been no change to our collection days, however the District requires that all garbage be securely contained, sealed and tied in garbage bags. Material for recycling in clear bags must also be sealed and tied while recyclables in bins must be secured so materials don't overflow or blow/scatter. Although the Stisted landfill site remains open, the District requests that residents postpone non-essential trips and only drop off items if absolutely necessary.

OUTDOOR AMENITIES, MARINAS AND BOAT LAUNCHES

The Ontario Emergency Act has been extended to May 12 and may be further extended after that. This Act includes the closure of outdoor spaces and services including parks, playgrounds, marinas and boat launches and bans meetings of more than 5 people who are not members of the same household.

CAMP WINNEBAGOE

Camp Winnebago is closed and may remain closed for the camping season this year. That decision will be taken by Camp owners soon. Whether or not Fox Lakers will be able to launch their boats at the camp this season is unknown at this time.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Thinking of

Cottaging or Camping during the  COVID-19 Pandemic ?Society of Rural
Physicians of Canada
Student Committee**Think carefully!****For most people, staying at your primary residence will be the safest solution with best access to health care resources!***You may experience challenges:*

- Limited ways to access the health care system other than ER, which has limited capacity to handle an increase in visits
- Severe shortage of health care professionals and staff
- Limited or no ICU beds/ventilators for very sick patients
- Limited or no COVID-19 testing, and a longer wait for results
- Limited medication and grocery supply
- COVID-19 is circulating in many small towns!

*We love visitors
but not during
pandemics***"Do's and Don'ts" for Cottaging During the  COVID-19 Pandemic****Do:**

- ✓ Heed advice from local mayors requesting you not visit/stay at your cottage
- ✓ Self-isolate for 14 days if you were out of the country BEFORE heading rural
- ✓ Consider that travelling rural requires prep-work that exposes you to others
- ✓ If you go, self-isolate for 14 days before shopping locally
- ✓ Support your small-town neighbours and show community pride!

Don't:

- ✗ Visit your cottage if you have cold or flu-like symptoms
- ✗ Leave your cottage if you develop symptoms, instead call Public Health
- ✗ Stock up on groceries and prescriptions at the local grocer/pharmacy
- ✗ Head rural if your chronic health conditions (e.g. heart conditions, diabetes) are not stable
- ✗ Travel back and forth between residences as this increases the risk of spreading the virus to your community and the pit-stops along the way

SHORT TERM RENTALS

The Ontario government's Emergency Order bans all short-term rentals, except for those rented to individuals who are in need of housing during the emergency period such as medical personnel and first responders.

LOCAL UPDATES

For updates on the coronavirus situation in Huntsville, including announcements on what businesses are open and how some have modified their services and opening hours, check the Huntsville Doppler local news website at <https://doppleronline.ca/huntsville/covid-19-updates/> This is a good source for other local news as well.

THE FOX LAKE ASSOCIATION**Website:**

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

Facebook Page:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/318929168304976/?ref=group_header

Board Members and Officers:*Board of Directors:*

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David White – Lake Steward

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Want to get involved with the FLA? Have a question or concern?

Email: 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).