

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



### **A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Greetings to all as we enter our 2023 summer season at Fox Lake!

You will find information in this newsletter about the summer activities the FLA has planned - the FLA Annual General Meeting on July 8, the Annual Regatta on August 5 and the Annual Corn Roast/Fall Fair on September 2. These three events provide opportunities for us to discuss issues concerning the lake community, to meet our neighbours and to socialize with each other in a family-friendly setting. Everyone around the lake is welcome, including family members and guests of residents. Please join us!

A new officer has joined the FLA Executive team. We welcome Kevin Harris as Coordinator of a new Propane Buyers Group. If there is sufficient interest from FLA members, our association will join the Woodland Heights Propane Buying Group and other lake associations to negotiate an advantageous annual price for propane. Joining the group is entirely voluntary and will be open to any member of the FLA. You will have recently received an FLA e-mail about the group and are welcome to contact Kevin for more information or to indicate your interest in joining.

We have been following the progress of the Bell Canada application to install a mono-pine telecommunications tower on Hoodstown Shores Road that is expected to significantly improve cell phone coverage and internet access around the lake. The FLA made a deputation in support of the tower to the Huntsville Planning Council on May 10. At that meeting, the council recognized the many letters of support for the tower that it has received from residents of Fox Lake. The Planning Council voted in favour of providing concurrence with Bell's application, and construction of the tower is expected to begin later this year.

The FLA Board Members and Executive Officers rely on residents to keep us informed of issues concerning the lake community and to volunteer to help organize events. Please don't hesitate to contact any of us to discuss issues or to volunteer. Our contact details are provided later in this newsletter.

Happy Spring and Summer everyone!

Sincerely,

Sincerely,  
Alix Yule  
FLA President

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## MEMBERSHIP

Spring is here, as cool as it continues to be.

I have been sending out FOCA information more regularly than before because there are so many issues that could affect Fox Lake and we should be aware of what is going on. We pay a membership fee to FOCA each year and I believe it is good value.

The FLA has been active in local issues. The President, Alix Yule, made several presentations to the Town Planning Committee, most recently in support of the proposed Bell cell tower (5G) to be erected on Hoodstown Road. The FLA presentation carries weight because of the number of owners represented.

Our membership for the past year was about 55% of owners. We encourage non-members to join. The FLA provides many benefits as noted above and the fee is quite low.

**The membership dues for 2022-2023 (\$40.) should be paid now. We prefer e-transfer to [foxlaketreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:foxlaketreasurer@gmail.com) but you can pay by cheque to the FLA delivered to 422 East Fox Lake Road, Huntsville ON, P1H 2J2. Please use the email above which is not the association general email address.**

Please let me know if any of your email addresses change so that we can continue to get information to everyone. Also, if you are aware of new owners around the lake, please encourage them to become members and to provide contact information.

If you have not yet checked out our Facebook page, please do so. It is also a valuable communications tool. [https://www.facebook.com/groups/318929168304976/?ref=group\\_header](https://www.facebook.com/groups/318929168304976/?ref=group_header)

Robin Yule  
Membership Officer.

## PLANNING AHEAD-SUMMER 2023 EVENTS

Please put the following dates in your summer calendar.

- **FLA Annual General Meeting - Saturday July 8th 10:00am-** Hosted by Sharon Lillico & Dave Blanchard at 504 East Fox Lake Road.
  - Please join us for the meeting and stay for socializing afterwards. Light refreshments will be served.
  - Due to connectivity issues we will not be offering a zoom/virtual option this year.
  - The meeting agenda, financial report and other documents will be sent out to our members by email two weeks prior to the meeting
- **Fox Lake Regatta – Saturday August 5th** This year's theme is "Christmas in August"
  - The venue for main afternoon events will be the Finbow and Yule beaches on the East side

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- People who would like to volunteer can do so at the AGM or contact regatta coordinator Sue Finbow @ [suefinbow@hotmail.com](mailto:suefinbow@hotmail.com).
- The regatta events flier will be provided at the AGM and sent out by email prior to the event.
- **Benthic Monitoring - Friday August 18**
  - Time and location will be announced at the AGM and updated by email prior to the event
  - Volunteers are needed – please contact our Lake Steward, David White at [dbw@hotmail.com](mailto:dbw@hotmail.com)
- **Fox Lake Fall Fair/Corn Roast – Saturday September 2nd**
  - Information to be provided at the AGM and updated by email prior to the event
  - Volunteers are needed – please volunteer at the AGM or contact president Alix Yule at [alixyule@hotmail.com](mailto:alixyule@hotmail.com)

## LAKE STEWARD REPORT

There is not much news to report for the spring newsletter other than Ice On occurred on December 13<sup>th</sup> 2022, Ice Off, April 16<sup>th</sup> 2023 The lake was covered for 124 days. Our running average for ice cover is 132 days.

The province has still not released the water chemistry results for 2022. Secchi depth (water clarity) was reported in the Fall Newsletter as 1.9 meters. Our running average is 2.0 meters. Water samples were obtained in May and submitted to the Lake Partner Program for 2023.

Benthic Monitoring has been scheduled for **Friday August 18th**. Please keep the date noted if you're able to volunteer. We will announce location and more details at the July AGM.

Friends of the Muskoka Watershed held a webinar in February on cyanobacteria (CYB) aka blue-green algae. It was a very interesting session with Dr. Neil Hutchinson providing current thoughts and scientific details. There has been a huge increase in CYB in Muskoka lakes since 2006, partly due to awareness. Interestingly, CYB is beneficial in releasing oxygen into the atmosphere. There is a well established correlation with high phosphorus levels resulting in blooms. However Muskoka lakes generally have quite low phosphorous levels, in fact, lower than would be expected to result in blooms. Other factors are contributing here. Research has revealed that CYB prefers stable water and competing species do not. Average wind speed has been declining over the last few years resulting in a more stable water column. Acid rain has resulted in lower calcium levels. Calcium is required for zooplankton. Zooplankton graze on algae. Daphnia, an important zooplankton, do better in cooler water and are affected by high chloride concentrations. Climate change and road salt are factors. Clearly the cause of CYB blooms are many and varied.

Let's hope for an environmentally uneventful season.

David White  
Lake Steward

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## **BOAT LAUNCHING AT CAMP WINNEBAGO**

Camp Winnebago has kindly offered again this year to permit Fox Lake residents to launch their boats at the camp beach before the camping season begins. If you would like to take advantage of this offer, please send an email to Ted Margel (tedmargel@gmail.com) and include: a) your name, b) your cottage/residence address, and c) the date and time you propose to launch your boat. Also you must send an e-transfer to Ted for \$40. Note that the latest date for launching is June 24.

## **FOX LAKE HISTORY PROJECT**

The Fox Lake Association is writing the history of Fox Lake, Ontario over time, right up to the present day. We are hoping Fox Lake residents and interested others will help us to collect stories and visual images that reflect the development of the whole Fox Lake community.

The project is being very capably headed by Chris Castle, a lifelong Fox Laker. There are a small number of others who help including Ellen Fox, Gabrielle Andersen, Teresa Tremblay, and Robin Yule, but more participation is encouraged and very welcome.

The history is taking shape as a number of entries on a website or blog. If you have a topic that you would like to write about and add to the blog, please let Chris know (christine.castle@gmail.com).

Comments, corrections and additions are welcome as the entire blog is considered a living document that can be changed and improved as time goes by. If you have not already done so, check out the current version at <https://foxlakehistoryproject.wordpress.com/>

The latest post - History of East Fox Lake is now up  
<https://foxlakehistoryproject.wordpress.com/2023/05/25/history-of-east-fox-lake-it-was-all-sand-pure-white-sand/>.

## **NAME-THE-ISLAND: A FOX LAKE COMPETITION!**

The FLA has learned that we can apply to have names officially assigned to the islands in Fox Lake. All three of our long-time islands are Crown Land, not privately owned, and we think it would be nice to have their names officially recognized. I mention three "long-time" islands because observant boaters will have noticed that a fourth island is being created at the mouth of the Buck River where high river water has cut a new channel into the lake, creating a small island east of the river mouth. Our three islands in the name-the-island competition include:

- South - The largest of the three islands at the south end of the lake just outside of the bay where Camp Winnebago and the mouth of the Fox Tail are located. This island has been known over the years as Snake Island, Camp Island and other names.
- Middle – A bit to the east of the mid-point in the southern half of the lake lies the middle-sized island. This island has been known by such names as Rock Island and Robinson Island, among others.
- North – In the north end of the lake is the smallest of our three islands. It has been known as Loon Island and Little Island and likely other names.

We will be asking members to suggest names at each of our Summer Events and will hold a vote at the end of the summer to determine the names preferred by the majority. The people who suggested the

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winning names will receive some great Fox Lake merchandise!! So please get your creative thinking in gear! You can also email your suggested island names to Alix Yule at [alixyule@hotmail.com](mailto:alixyule@hotmail.com)

### Highlights from the FOCA AGM

Despite a blizzard that forced most of us to attend remotely, the FOCA AGM highlighted several interesting initiatives that we'd like to share with our membership.

### FishLeadFree

A presentation was given about the Wolfe Lake Association's efforts to eliminate lead tackle from their lake through a lead tackle buy-back program. Did you know that one pellet of lead is enough to kill a loon and over 460 tons of tackle are lost in Canada every year? The lead is consumed by the fish, and the fish is consumed by the loons and other animals such as eagles. For more information, visit <https://wolfelake.org/fish-lead-free>. At our AGM we will assess if there is interest or enough demand to start our own tackle trade-in program, but in the interim it is a great reminder that lead has a terrible impact on the environment. While it is banned in provincial and federal parks, it's still out there potentially contaminating wildlife in other lakes.

### FireSmart

Another excellent presentation was provided from a representative of [www.FireSmart.ca](http://www.FireSmart.ca)

As our springs and summers become hotter and drier, there are ways that we can all adapt to this new reality and help to make our homes and cottages more resilient in the event of a fire. Firesmart.ca has developed an app and a homeowners assessment manual that you can download to assess your property and the area within 100m of it help make simple changes to improve your fire resilience profile. Some facts that were shared include:

- 85-95% of home without combustible roof survive a fire;
- It's the embers, not the big flames that cause the fires to start, so please always be careful with your campfires and bbqs!
- Fire moves through the crowns of trees and coniferous trees are the most volatile.

For more information, you can visit [firesmartcanada.ca/](http://firesmartcanada.ca/) and download their app from the Google Play or Apple app stores.

### A FEW REMINDERS

#### A. Garbage/Recycling/Composting

Garbage/recycling/composting pickup is weekly May to the end of October. November to the end of April pickup is biweekly for garbage and weekly for recycling and composting. Please ensure that garbage is in proper containers and is not left exposed overnight. Mammals and birds can make a mess of garbage and recycling that is left uncovered and unprotected.

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**Garbage Limits-** With the introduction of Green Bins for compost materials **garbage is limited to one 75L container or 75L bag per week**. After long weekends in the summer two bags are permitted.

**Recycling Requirements-** Muskoka has moved from two stream recycling to **one stream recycling** meaning that all recycling can be mixed and placed in open top containers (preferred) or clear plastic bags. Information on acceptable materials as well as collection schedules for garbage and composting can be found at <https://www.muskoka.on.ca/en/garbage-and-recycling/garbage-and-recycling.aspx>

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 the property owner. Hazardous waste disposal is available at the Bracebridge site and on specific days at the Madill transfer station.

Electronic waste can be dropped off free of charge at All Ontario Recycling (Port Sydney), Bracebridge landfill site or McIntyre Electronic Recycling, 7 East Airport Rd. Huntsville. ( 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.

## **B. Dark Sky**

Many of the residents of the Fox lake Community enjoy dark skies and find that excessive outdoor lighting and continuous solar lighting impinges on the enjoyment of the night skies in summer and winter. It would be appreciated if property owners would evaluate their need for night lighting and dock solar lighting.

## **C. Fireworks**

While fireworks are enjoyable to most people, we must acknowledge that fireworks negatively impact wildlife and diminish the quality of life for some people. For this reason, the Town of Huntsville has recently passed a new by-law that spells out very specific rules for the setting off of Fireworks. As with many things at the cottage, being respectful of your neighbours and other residents of the lake is ultimately rule number one however the new by-law includes the following regulations:

- Only consumer fireworks can be set off without applying for a fireworks permit from the Town of Huntsville.
- Fireworks can only be set off on weekends (Friday, Saturday & Sunday) between 6:00 pm and 11:00 pm and on New Year's eve, Victoria Day, Canada Day and Labour Day between 8:00 pm and 11:00 pm (1:00 am for New Year's eve).
- During an Extreme fire rating, fireworks are not allowed at ANY time or day.

As with any outdoor burning, please use caution when setting off fireworks and ensure you have adequate tools and water should the need arise.

## **D. Road Safety and Courtesy**

Vision 0 studies have confirmed an eye-opening fact: only 20% of pedestrians survive a crash at 50 km/hr but survivability rises to 90% at 30km/h.

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Many of our members have expressed concern about speed on the roads surrounding our lake. Last year, the town assessed East Fox Lake and determined that the majority of vehicles did not exceed the posted speed limit of 50km. However 50 Kms is enough to scare people on the roads, stir up dust and increase noise levels - and it can kill. The roads around Fox Lake are also a source of recreation for all of us and with the addition of ditches on the sides in recent years there is little room for pedestrians to move out of the way. So, please be kind, safe and conscious of the fact that many pets, kids, and other pedestrians are out walking on our roads. If you'd like to see the speed limit reduced to 30 km, that is something that the town would consider, so please let us know.

***Want to get involved with the FLA?***

***Have a question or concern?***

***Email: [foxlakeassociation@gmail.com](mailto:foxlakeassociation@gmail.com)***

**FOX LAKE ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBERS AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

President & Director Alix Yule

Past-President & Director Tom Gillette

Director Christa Casselman-Sharp

Membership Officer Robin Yule

Newsletter Officer Katie McMahon

Website Administrator Ellen Fox

Vice-President, Director & Treasurer Cindy Taylor

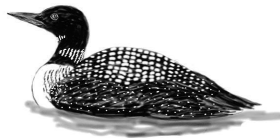
Director Jim Harper

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Secretary Jim Watson

Lake Steward David White

Propane Buyers Group Coordinator Kevin Harris



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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).*