

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2011



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Another summer is upon us and so far we have had good weather and the lake is warm (although somewhat high).

I hope as many of you as can make it will come to the annual meeting. It is not always exciting but it is important that we all remain aware of the current issues and express opinions on where we (the Fox Lake community) should be heading.

Also, I hope we will see many of you at Ribfest, our first social event of the year. It is a great time to meet neighbours and, just as importantly, persons from other parts of the lake who you might not otherwise meet. Please introduce yourselves to persons you don't know. It is a great way to make new friends and strengthen the community.

Last year we finally got the Lake Plan in place BUT that is just the starting point. A plan is something describing the path into the future. The Fox Lake Plan has lots of great ideas and recommendations and we are just getting started on implementation. This is not a job for the executive – it is a job for everyone. I will be asking for volunteers and twisting arms at the annual meeting to get everyone to take on some aspect of making Fox Lake a better place for us all. Please look at the Lake Plan (you should have a hard copy and it is on the website) and see if there is something that you would like to do or help with. Although some items are higher priority than others, all are worthwhile and all contributions are valued.

I wish to conclude with a general appeal. Even though we have an official Lake Steward (David White), I hope you will all think of yourselves as Lake Stewards. We need to take good care of our increasingly busy lake to ensure that it continues to be what it has always been and what we all love and value and want to be there for ourselves, our children and our grandchildren. Please take care of the shoreline, the forest and the water. Be especially gentle to the island as it is very fragile and has had a very hard time in recent years (a fire in April 2010 and trees cut down). Respect your neighbours when boating by minimizing wakes and noise. Try to keep the night sky dark and evenings peaceful.

Most of all have a very safe and very happy summer.

Robin Yule, President
Fox Lake Association

LAKE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

At our Annual General Meeting on July 17, 2010, our Association celebrated the completion over the past 8 years of a Lake Plan for Fox Lake. During the summer of 2010, copies of the lake plan were distributed to almost all lake residents and this project will be completed this summer. On July 24th, a Board meeting was held at which our new Vice-President, Tom Gillette, volunteered to take on the chairmanship of the new Lake Plan Implementation Committee. A priority list of 12 actions to be addressed was established. An immediate priority was to initiate discussions with the Town of Huntsville to have our Lake Plan adopted into the Town's Official Plan and relevant by-laws. (See article on how the by-laws affect our lake properties on P. 3 of this newsletter.) Discussions with the Town are currently ongoing. Remember: your assistance as a property owner and association member is needed to put our new plan into action!

SUMMER EVENTS (All events will also be posted on our website.)

- **Annual General Meeting**

Saturday, July 16, 2011 – 10:00 am

Location: 180 Yael's Nature Walk (north shore) at the home of Pat Currie. Watch for road signs. Take Ravenscliffe Rd. to North Fox Lake Rd. to Rachel's Lane to Yael's Nature Walk – or – come by boat. Pat's place is the second dock to the west of the Buck River entrance.

Agenda and information package to be on our website soon and to follow shortly via email (or enclosed for those receiving this newsletter via Canada Post).

- **4th Annual Rib Fest & Fundraiser**

Saturday, July 16, 2011 – 4:30 pm

Location: Sandy McLennan's cottage
100 Rachel's Lane (opposite Camp Romuva)
Bring your own lawn chairs, please.

Get your tickets early for this popular event!

Tickets \$25 before July 4th - \$30 after July 4th
Children (under 15) – half price.

Raffle prizes!

For tickets contact: Karen Beamer
705-435-6961 (home) 705-789-1330 (cottage)
bsparty@bell.net
Elizabeth Shepley
705-789-3969 (home/cottage)
deshep7@sympatico.ca
Pat Currie
705-783-5451(home/cottage)
patcurrie@cfl.rr.com

- **Annual Regatta**

Saturday, July 30, 2011 – 1:30 pm

Raindate Sunday, July 31 – 1:30 pm

Location: Mary Smirniw's Beach
526 East Fox Lake Rd.

If you'd like to help out, please contact Mary Smirniw at 416-236-3226 (home) or 705-789-8762 (cottage) or email her at msmirniw@sympatico.ca.

Watch for signs and a flyer with details to be distributed to lake residents closer to that date.

- **Annual Corn Roast**

Saturday, September 3, 2011 – 4:00 pm

Raindate Sunday, September 4 – 4:00 pm

Location: Camp Romuva's beach, West Bay

If you'd like to help out, please contact Jim McMahon at 416-487-8023 (home), 705-788-

9720 (cottage) or email him at james.mcmahon@rbc.com.

THE 2011 BOATING SEASON IS HERE!

Please wear your Personal Flotation Device (PFD) when you are on the water. This could reduce 50% of boating deaths. Consumption of alcohol aboard your boat could lead to the loss of all your driving privileges. Alcohol is involved in about 40% of boating fatalities.

The boat operator MUST have on board their Pleasure Craft Operators Card. If the boat is licensed, the license must be on board. If stopped and required to produce one or two of the foregoing items, you will have to have photo ID to ensure the item(s) are yours. Police Officers or Peace Officers are authorized to stop or board a pleasure craft. Ensure that you have ALL the safety equipment on board, well-maintained and accessible. Check the requirements for your boat in the *2011 Safe Boating Guide* published by the Office of Boating Safety, Transport Canada. Safety equipment is required for all vessels, human powered (canoe, kayak etc), sail and power.

The speed limit within 30 meters of the shoreline is 10km/h. You are responsible for any damage caused by wake or wash. There is an issue with wakeboarding wake.

Have your guests with you when you go over your pre-departure checklist prior to going out on the water. You have the responsibility for your guests and crew on board your vessel.

Items to check-

Is your buoyant heaving line in good repair?

Have you replaced the batteries in the watertight flashlight?

Are the PFD's the proper size for those on board?

Check your navigation lights.

Does your sound signal work?

Keep a proper lookout and have an enjoyable time on the water.

Courtesy Fairy Lake Association, Peter Van Buskirk

NATURE NEWS FROM THE LAKE

The ice went out on the north end of Fox Lake on April 23rd with a bit lingering at the south end. Water levels have been higher than normal this year, partially due to a rainy spring. On May 1st, the water gauge level showed

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294.71, a very high reading. By May 30th, MNR was reporting that Buck Lake was up 3' and they had all 8 logs out at the Hoodstown Dam. MNR tells us that rainfall and water levels broke all past spring records here this year. As our President, Robin, tells us we've had good weather, he must like rain! The levels slacked off again in early June but then rose again. The current level is higher than normal for late June.

In May, we had two loons on the lake that appeared to be taking up residence. However, they have since moved on, although we are hearing the occasional call and sighting a single loon at times. We are not sure why they do not stay with us anymore – perhaps a nesting platform would help? Or more small fish to eat?

COMMUNITY NEWS

This spring, the Fox Lake Community was saddened by two deaths. Sharon Lillico lost her mother in the early spring. The Finbow and Yule families lost a father, (great) grandfather, and (great) uncle with the sudden death of Gordon Finbow on May 6th in Huntsville Hospital. Gord was a longtime resident at Fox Lake, a Past-President of the Fox Lake Association, and an active community member. Our condolences to all.

HOW TOWN ZONING BY-LAWS WORK

To most homeowners, the last thing on our minds as we go through our daily routines is the town zoning by-laws. It's only until we want to do some "improvement" to our property, or similarly a close neighbour, that we are now forced to become familiar with the tangle of this 1" thick printed maze. The overall intent of these by-laws is to keep some semblance of order, fairness, and consistency to protect our individual privacy, property values and the environment, to name a few. These by-laws are borne primarily out of the "Official Plans" for each town or jurisdiction, are a living document and usually tweaked annually as obsolete situations are replaced to cover newer ones. Just in case you're curious, these zoning by-laws can be found in the (Huntsville) town website at this link:

<http://www.town.huntsville.on.ca/en/doingBusiness/ZoningBylaw.asp>

When a new lot is developed, or changes are desired for an existing structure, you must submit plans to the planning department at town hall. The staff will determine if the plan meets the zoning requirements of the lot in question. There are many potential zones

possible, but to keep it simple, the location of the lot will dictate the (predetermined) zone requirements to be met. If these are met, then a building permit is issued, and no further contacts with neighbours etc. are required. If the plans do not meet the requirements, then two basic alternatives are possible. First, if there are minor deficiencies to the zoning specs, then a request for a "minor variance" can be made. If the scope of the plans is substantially out of character for the existing zoning, then a request for rezoning the lot in question to a more appropriate zoning can be made. In either of the two situations above, now the cases go public, and open planning meetings are held. Meetings are held monthly at town hall, and generally are fairly informal. Individuals can represent themselves, or have professional planners represent them. Prior to these meetings, notification is sent to neighbours in close proximity to the lot in question, as well as concerned groups and agencies (public works, hydro, etc.). If the lot in question is on a watercourse or lake, then notification is also given to the Huntsville Lake of Bays Lakes Council (HLoBLC) and the Lake Association in question (if there is a contact for the lake on file). Again, the town website posts agendas and minutes for these committee meetings:

<http://www.town.huntsville.on.ca/en/townHall/councilcommitteeagendasandminutes.asp>

The Committee of Adjustment, and Planning and Design Committee are the two of interest. It is up to the recipients of the notification to review the requested changes or easements, and reply appropriately to the planning department prior to the meeting. If there are no objections, then a simple "no objection" reply can be sent. If there are objections, then these can be detailed and sent, or in the case of strong objections, the planning meeting can be attended and objections can be stated in person, when prompted. If clarification is needed before the meeting, the planning department staff is more than willing to help with this. The more researched an objection is, the more likely it will have an impact on the decision of the planning committee. There are no guarantees, however, that an objection will succeed. There are many factors in play, but generally there is strength in numbers to opposing zoning issues.

The Land Use Committee representative of the HLoBLC will review pertinent applications for zoning changes/variances, and whenever possible, consult with the representative of the individual lake association involved. In most cases, we try to keep a united front, and support the lake association's view to each

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application. Where there is no specific lake representation, we decide on the position which best serves the interests of the general lake community, with particular emphasis on the preservation and protection of the environment, while keeping the intent of the original zoning requirements in mind. We consider the most favourable position for not only the lakes but the watershed areas feeding the lakes.

The above is meant to give a general overview of the process involved around land use zoning by-laws, and hopefully has not been over simplified, as they can become complicated in their application. We welcome any inquiries from residents on lakes, rivers, or other watershed properties who may have questions or concerns regarding zoning or variances.

Courtesy of Huntsville Lake of Bays Lakes Council (HLoBLC), written by Ken Sharer Co-Chair Land Use Committee

WHAT KIND OF FUTURE WILL MUSKOKA HAVE?

Residents of Muskoka, whether permanent or seasonal, long-time or recent, generally value this wonderful place. Our forests, rocks and water, our crisp clean air, our rural and small town lifestyle, our caring neighbours, our creative community of artists and artisans, our diverse recreational possibilities, and our relative lack of traffic (avoid Main Street in Huntsville, at 3.30pm) all make Muskoka a place we enjoy living in. The Muskoka Watershed Council works with watershed residents toward maintaining these values.

Muskoka was not always the way it is now – just ask any old-timer – and it's very unlikely to stop changing in the future. So, a question worth asking is what will Muskoka become in the next 40 years? Of course, that simple question cannot be answered so simply, because the future could be any of a wide range of possibilities depending on the forces that act to cause change, and depending on what we do as citizens of Muskoka to influence those changes. Let's consider the two main forces for change – development and climate change.

Muskoka is currently a very desirable recreational destination, as well as a favoured place to move to in order to escape the city. The pressure for even more such opportunities to live in Muskoka, generated by a growing Toronto, is unlikely to diminish, and very likely to grow as the GTA population grows, and as the baby boomers living there move into their

retirement years. The growing improvements to internet access across Muskoka enhance this pressure because internet makes it possible to use a home office to do many types of work from home that formerly required an office in the city. We can count on growing pressure to develop Muskoka, with more homes and cottages, and a larger year-round and seasonal population. The good times are likely to keep on rolling, but these good times will cause a lot of local change.

Changes to the Muskoka climate are well under way and these will also continue. Until now, most residents have been relatively unaware of the changes that our changing climate is bringing but the extent of change that has now taken place, and the anticipated trajectory over the next 40 years, suggest that a changing climate may have effects on our lives in Muskoka that are fully as important as the changes due to further development.

Development brings jobs and a healthier tax base. It can also bring greater demands on

already stretched municipal services, and much greater pressure on the many "environmental services" that Muskoka provides us for free. Without adequate planning, development could change Muskoka into a place that would be a lot less desirable than what we have now. Just imagine suburban sprawl stretching from Gravenhurst to Huntsville, with tendrils of unplanned development stretching west to Port Carling and east to Dwight; shopping centers springing up like roadside mushrooms all across the district; more and more roads cutting through our forested land, all of which have to be ploughed in winter; ever more pressure on our water resources to supply peoples' needs and dispose of our wastes; and a progressive loss of the rural essence that makes our environment so great to live in. Clearly, without adequate planning, development could degrade Muskoka into a place we would not recognize. We have good planning regulations now, but will they be good enough to control the increased demand to develop? Will current policy ensure development is guided into appropriate directions, and are we citizens even agreed on what those appropriate directions are?

Climate change brings additional pressures that will change Muskoka, and we have less capacity to manage these changes than we do those due to development pressure. The climate pressures are insidious because they are silent and often hidden – they include changes to patterns of rain and snowfall, a

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general warming, and consequent climate change, and on how we decide to act to control or adapt to them. It is unrealistic to anticipate a Muskoka in 40 years that has not changed from today. But it is possible to imagine a Muskoka that is different from today, but still a very attractive place to live, work, and raise a family; a place with a vibrant recreational sector, a creative community, a knowledge community – a place in which people with creative ideas turn them into new year-round businesses that build new employment opportunities and add to our overall prosperity. This is not a pipe dream, but we

will not discover that future by sitting idle, waiting for it to happen to us.

The goal of the MWC is to sustain and enhance the air, water and terrestrial ecosystems of the watersheds of Muskoka for the environmental, health, economic, spiritual and intrinsic values they provide. Helping us all to see what is needed to attain a good future helps achieve that goal.

A Muskoka Watershed Council Report from the Huntsville Lake of Bays Lakes Council Newsletter, Spring 2011



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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.

The Association works diligently to promote the common interests of its lake community, protect our environment and provide sponsorship of regular annual social events.

If you did not pay your annual dues of \$40/yr per family at our Annual General Meeting, you can pay your dues at our Annual General Meeting on Saturday, July 16th, 2011 – or - mail a cheque payable to Fox Lake Association Inc. to:

Jim McMahon, Treasurer, 277 Belsize Dr., Toronto, ON M4S 1M5.

In order to keep our membership records current, please include your name, home and Fox Lake address(es), phone number(s) and your email address (so the Association can communicate information to you cost-effectively).

**Fox Lake Shirts and Hats are again available 😊
See the list below for current choices and how to order.
Deadline for ordering is July 16th.
Future orders are also possible if sufficient interest is shown.**

Fox Lake Shirt and Hat Orders 2011



Cotton Ringspun Preshrunk T-Shirt - 4" Silkscreen left chest LOGO

\$20.00	SIZE	White	Sport Grey	Red	Navy	Pink	Light Blue	Lime	Orange	Chocolate	Black
Mens regular neck								(kiwi)			
Ladies scoop neck fitted											
Ladies regular neck								(Kiwi)			
Youth regular neck											
Todd-ler regular neck					Royal			XX		XX	XX

Micro Polo Shirt 100% polyester - wicks - evaporates- breathes
 Classic flat knit collar -2 button placket - side slits with bar tacks - **Stitched LOGO**

\$45.00	SIZE	White	Stone	Mocha	Pink	Red	Olympic Blue	Navy	Green Tea	Black
Mens					XX					
Ladies										

SIZING CHART

	Small	Medium	Large	XL	XXL
Mens	36-38" chest	39-41" chest	42-44" chest	45-48" chest	49-52" chest
Ladies	33-35" chest	36-38" chest	39-41" chest	42-44" chest	45-47" chest
Ladies Scoop-neck / fitted	25" below bust	28" below bust	32" below bust	34" below bust	XX
Youth	Size 6-8	Size 10-12	Size 14-16	SIZE 18-20	
Toddler	2T	3T	4T		

Caps and Visors (brushed cotton with contrast trim)- **Stitched LOGO **\$20.00****

Visor	Black with natural	Khaki with black	Navy with natural	Red with natural	Royal with natural	White with black	Forest with natural
Cap	Black with natural	Khaki with black	Navy with natural	Red with white	Royal with white	Stone with navy	Forest with natural

Name - **Telephone -** **Total Items-**
Address- **Total Payment-**

Cash or Cheques payable to **"Fox Lake Association"** with order due **July 16th .**
 Give orders to board members or send to - **Ellen Fox**
 722 East Fox Lake Rd
 Huntsville ON P1H2J2