



April 2005

NEWSLETTER

22 Highway 60
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President's Message

Fellow Fairy Lakers,

This is the first of three newsletters planned for 2005. In this edition, you will find topical news items, a calendar of events, stories of importance on lake stewardship and a special historical look at development on Fairy Lake.

As we move towards summer, we have tried to look to Lake Stewardship initiatives that will provide FLA members an opportunity to gain a better understanding of the health of the lake, the adjacent waterfront areas and more importantly the human health aspects of our lake and eco system.

Over time, government agencies have tested the water for clarity, turbidity, dissolved oxygen and other eco sensitive qualities. These tests are designed to help us understand what is happening with the lake including its ability to sustain fish and other aquatic life. The human health aspects of bacteria testing have not been addressed, however, and we feel it is time to begin to understand this aspect of our lake so that we will be better informed about potentially dangerous situations.

Other lakes in the Muskoka region are already doing this type of testing and while it is evident there have been some relatively normal spikes in dangerous bacteria, either driven by significant rain events, winter run-off, concentrations from poorly operating septic systems or from regional sewage spills into the lakes, for the most part our lakes are safe.

Fairy Lake is unique relative to many regional lakes in that it is the funnel and settling basin for both Peninsula Lake and Lake Vernon together with their associated watersheds. Fairy Lake is also downstream from the Town of Huntsville. These conditions point to our need to understand more about the human health aspects of the water we use.

The Muskoka Heritage Foundation, District of Muskoka, Muskoka Watershed Council and many of the larger lakes in the district have organized a program that we will participate in, to help monitor this aspect of our water. We will have a more

complete report for the May newsletter that will be delivered on the Victoria Day weekend during our membership blitz. Volunteers are needed to take water samples at specific locations. The time required is minimal and we feel we can complete this program with as few as six volunteer families. Please let us know if you would be willing to help out in this worthwhile cause.

We are also looking into two programs for this summer, to make the cottage/waterfront residence experience more rewarding. First, we have planned an evening of star-gazing at the Echo Valley Observatory connected to the Delta Grandview Resort. This event will be able to accommodate up to 25 participants per evening and we will determine how many evenings to arrange based on demand. As well, we have the opportunity to go out on our lake with a crew of biologists and naturalists to get a better look at the flora and fauna of our lake. This outing will be about an hour in length and will involve gathering samples of water and lake critters so that participants can gain a better understanding of the eco system and learn why it is important to act with the long term interest of the lake in mind when we are on the water and as we maintain our lakeside lots and fragile shorelines. Both of these events are for lakefront residents of all ages. Further information including dates and costs will be available in the next newsletter.

As always, we need your membership dues to carry on with our normal activities and we welcome any money or time donations to help us carry on with lake stewardship and other Fairy Lake important initiatives.

Our Lake Plan sales were better than expected in 2004 and while this does not generate any appreciable profit, it does get our message out to the residents of Fairy Lake and the local Town Planning Department. I am pleased to report that our Lake Plan has been given serious consideration by the Official Plan Review Committee and we trust will influence the zoning regulations for future development of our waterfront.

Please feel free to contact any FLA board member with your questions, concerns and/or comments. Have a great Fairy Lake summer.

Stewart Day, President, FLA

Fairy Lake Association's Mandate

"To preserve, protect and promote the ideals of good stewardship on Fairy Lake and the surrounding areas, including:

- The protection of the natural beauty and environmental quality of the lake and its surrounding shoreline,
- The use of the lake and the surrounding areas for safe recreational purposes, and
- The social interaction of the Association members and the members of the community at large."

Fairy Lake Association By-law

Thank you Navigation Buoy Volunteers

Last year, we had the problem of needing volunteers to help with the annual navigation buoy placement and maintenance program. We are proud to say that we now have three volunteer families that are sharing the work. As a brief history, the buoys have been maintained, over time, by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Town of Huntsville, the Bathtub Derby organizers and recently, by the Stronach family on Fairy Lake. With Federal, Provincial and local Government cutbacks and the fact that our waterways are not charted, the job of placing the buoys was thrust upon the FLA some years ago. While it is not mandatory to have navigation buoys on our waters, we feel the buoys aid everyone in navigating Fairy Lake safely.

Ken and Barb Stronach looked after the buoys for several years and finally needed help in doing the work. So, we are very fortunate, indeed, to have three new families volunteering to take care of the buoys close to their waterfront. Kevin Barnes now looks after the buoys near the entrance to the canal to Peninsula Lake; Bruce Laver looks after the area near the outflow to Mary Lake and Julia and Mike Bertelson have taken over the responsibility of the buoys at the mouth of the Muskoka River flowing into Fairy Lake (by Camp Kitchen). I am sure all of these volunteers could use a hand in this work so, if you live nearby, or see them working on the buoys, please see what you can do to help. Thank you volunteers; we appreciate your efforts in making Fairy Lake navigation a safe and enjoyable experience.

Stewart Day, President

Day on the Water

This summer, the Board of Directors of the Fairy Lake Association have decided to offer a day on the water for our members to spend time with qualified naturalists to gain an appreciation of the lake and its delicate eco system. The cost will be \$20.00 per person or \$30.00 per family up to five people to spend one hour on the water discovering what makes our lake work. We all enjoy the water in one way or another and this outing will allow us all to gain a greater appreciation of the lake and its eco system issues. The article that follows is a description of the program provided by Robin Tapley, director of the Nature Trails program at the Delta Grandview Resort. Please review this information and let the Social Convener, Cathy Jordan, know before the May long weekend if you or members of your family would be interested to take part in this program. If we get enough interest by that timeline we will arrange a couple of dates, one being a rain date and will advise all who indicate an interest. We also have an opportunity to go to the Observatory for an evening of stargazing so if you would be interested in that – please let us know at the same time.

The program is designed to allow the general public a hands-on opportunity to collect scientific data and learn about the intricacies of aquatic, terrestrial and wildlife research on Fairy Lake. A series of one - hour expeditions will be offered throughout the day. Participants on these expeditions will work along side research assistants from Nature Trails, collecting data through: seine netting, water quality testing, dissolved oxygen and temperature recording, water bird surveys, evasive plant and cormorant distribution, nesting surveys and identification of microscopic organisms found throughout Fairy Lake.

On completion participants will have a clearer understanding of the methods and procedures used to collect and analysis scientific data and how it is used to evaluate the current status of a lake.

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Bugs in the Mud

In the spring of 2004, Don Case, Barb Stronach and Kathy Hunter attended a workshop designed to teach volunteers how to do Benthos water testing. Benthic monitoring is the study of the bugs that naturally live in all lakes and streams and that form the aquatic food chain. The bugs are primarily aquatic insect larvae such as blackflies, mosquitoes, beetles and dragonflies. Other species include leeches, crayfish, snails and freshwater clams.

The use of benthos data has proven to be a reliable tool in determining the health of a lake or stream because benthos is sensitive to subtle changes in water quality. Benthos accumulates small amounts of pollutants, which may be lower than standard water testing can detect.

Last summer, a group of Fairy Lake volunteers, headed by Don Case, collected samples of mud from three sites on Fairy Lake, under the supervision of a college student working for the District of Muskoka Lake Health Program. After returning to Don's dock with buckets of muck, the task of catching and identifying 100 microscopic bugs, from each of the three sites, began. Using tweezers, droppers, trays, charts, and high powered microscopes, the team identified and catalogued 300 bugs in all. We were all wishing for younger eyes by the end of the morning! These samples were then sent to the Ministry of the Environment, in Dwight, where they would be archived and referenced as being taken from healthy sample sites.

We are scheduled to begin visiting the test sites on Fairy Lake again, this spring, and invite you to assist in this intriguing water testing program. It took 5 adults a total of only three hours to collect the data that was required. Students are welcome to assist in this study which will not only add to their volunteer hours but will enrich their outdoor experience.

Contact Kathy Hunter by e-mail or call 789-8464 to add your name to our growing list of 'water-testing' volunteers.

Stake in the Lake

Municipal Government/Planning

During the past several months, the Planning Department has invited comments from the Fairy Lake Association on several building/severance applications. We responded to the following items on behalf of the Association:

- Had no objection to an application for the severance of a property on Swallowdale Road
- Expressed concerns about the application for an oversized boathouse
- Attended a Committee of Adjustment meeting to express concerns about proposed setbacks for a new dwelling
- Investigated a possible zoning infraction on a residential lot
- Investigated a potential storm water run-off situation at a new home construction site.

We greatly appreciate the efforts of the Planning Department in helping us reach our goal of protecting and preserving Fairy Lake for future generations. Over the past few months, they have assisted us with the interpretation of several zoning by-laws, have carefully monitored all waterfront applications prior to them reaching any decision, and have conducted two site inspections prompted by the concerns of several lake residents.

Developing and maintaining waterfront property requires a unique set of guidelines. Many agencies can provide us with resources on how to be responsible property owners. So, if you are not sure how to proceed with your project, consult the Planning Department, the Watershed Council, the Muskoka Lake Health Program, or the Federation of Cottagers Association (FOCA). These groups are able and willing to give you sound advice that will help you work within the limits of the by-laws that have been established to ensure that the character of the lake and the quality of the water are preserved.

Whether we knowingly defy the sound principles of waterfront living or whether it is through a lack of knowledge that has put us in a compromising situation with other waterfront residents, ultimately, the power lies within each one of us to behave responsibly, as we live and play at the lake.

FLA Board of Directors	President Stewart Day Ph. 705 789-4117 Fx 705 789-1965 day_st@vianet.on.ca	Vice President Position Vacant	Membership & Community Relations Kathy Hunter Ph. 705 789-8464 hunters@clearwavetech.com	Recreation & Social Cathy Jordan Ph. 705 788-0805 Fx 705 788-9083 cathyjor@vianet.ca	MEMBERSHIP \$25/yr Send cheque payable to 'Fairy Lake Association' & contact details to the address on pg 1, top R.
	Secretary & Editor Cara Celotti Ph. 705 788-9100 ccelotti@hotmail.com	Government Liaison Position Vacant	Treasurer Bruce Gowan Ph. 705 788-9361 bgowan@surenet.net	Marketing Bill Coon Ph. 705 787-0217 wcoon@sympatico.ca	
	Lake Stewardship Chair Position Vacant				

Springfield Farm

When one gazes around Fairy Lake you cannot help but notice the tract of open fields that grace the southern shore. Springfield Farm was founded in 1869 by William and Lucy Jane Holinshead. The same family has operated the farm for over 135 years.

William and Lucy Jane came from Hertfordshire, England in 1869 with their two young sons Thomas and Frank. After spending some time in Hamilton they came North to take advantage of "The Free Grants and Homestead Act of 1868". William set out to find his new home and came across a well-watered piece of land with several springs and a creek that ran through it. Realizing how important a good water source was he "laid claim" to the property and named it Springfield Farm. William also noted that there would be a considerable amount of arable land once the trees were cleared.

The family slept on cedar boughs until with the help of the Indians they were able to construct a shed to afford them some shelter. In later years this shed was used as a smoke house for curing meat. William began by erecting a small log shanty for his family and clearing the land as per the conditions set out in The Land Grants Act. New settlers had to clear fifteen acres in order to receive their deeds. It was in these fields that crops of grain, hay, vegetables, peas, and watermelon were grown to feed the family and livestock. A barn was built and stocked with livestock including pigs, sheep, cattle, chickens and a pair of oxen. When William purchased the oxen they had to be driven across Fairy Lake on the ice, as there were no roads.

It was also with the help of the Indians that Lucy Jane learned the very necessary skill of baking bread and she in return taught them how to make white cake. When William accidentally put an axe through his foot he probably would have died had the Indians not been there to help once again.

By August and November of 1875 they had met the conditions of The Land Grants Act and received two separate Deeds of Land for 197 acres in total. When the Locks were completed in 1875 much of William's potato field was swallowed up by the rising waters of Fairy Lake. As compensation for his lost land the Crown granted him a parcel of land consisting of 47 acres adjoining the lots that he already owned.

By 1887 the family consisted of seven boys and four girls. In January of 1894 diphtheria swept through their home. With great sadness William and Lucy Jane buried three daughters and a grandson, thirteen year old Hannah, six year old

Vicky, twenty three year old Emily (Mrs. Langton Baker) and her five month old infant son. They were laid to rest high in a field overlooking Fairy Lake. Finding the view of Fairy Lake from there to be one of his favorite spots William had already predetermined that this would be where the family cemetery would be located.

Around the turn of the century two substantial bank barns, each built on a stone foundation were erected. They had stables below to house the livestock and room to store the year's crops above.

The farmhouse was built circa 1894. With navigation opened up between Mary, Vernon, Fairy and Pen Lakes in 1899 the Holinsheads began operating a tourist resort then known as "The Holinshead". Along with the farmhouse there were two additional cottages dotted along the shoreline for housing, one of which still remains today. They could accommodate 30 guests and raised all of the vegetables and meat needed for the table. A white flag was raised on the end of the dock when tourists needed to be picked up by the steamer. Another popular attraction for the tourists was the beautiful sand beach that was located a short distance from the house. Church groups also used the beach bringing the congregation by boat for their annual picnics. A short distance from there, high on a hill overlooking Fairy Lake is Sunset Rock where you can watch the sun set over the town of Huntsville. It too was a popular destination among the tourists and is still frequented by family and friends. It was also a popular camping spot for many years by the children at Swallowdale Camp.

William and Lucy Jane continued to welcome guests until William's death in 1908 at the age of sixty six. Lucy Jane lived in the cottage beside the farmhouse until a few years before her death in 1933 at the age of eighty nine. With William's passing, his son Gifford purchased the farm and resort and soon afterwards married Annie Rogers from Minden. They had three girls Viola, Doris, and Elda and two boys Gifford Jr. and Perry. Gifford and his family continued to farm and receive guests each summer. In 1918 he and his family decided to move to town and the farm and resort was sold to his older brother Thomas. Thomas and his wife Elizabeth (Slatter) and their seven children Edna, Grace, Irene, Alfred, Reginald, Ewart and Rosa moved down from their farm on Brown's Road. They carried on the tradition until Thomas' death in 1935 at the age of sixty eight leaving the responsibility to his son Ewart and his wife Eileen (Nickason). Ewart and Eileen operated the Resort for a year or two after Thomas' death, but Ewart's main interest was in farming and he wanted to pour all of his energy into the production of the farm. For many years after the resort ceased, people who had vacationed at

the Holinsheads in years gone by would stop in for a cup of tea and to reminisce.

Ewart and Eileen continued to farm, doing things the traditional way but in 1958 despite his love for good Percheron horses, he purchased a tractor. There was just as much work to be done but at least it was finished a little faster. He kept and worked his horses but over the course of about five years he gradually converted all his farming implements for use with the gas tractor. From then until he sold them in 1971 they were used primarily for hay rides although he did take them to the fields to work occasionally just for old time sake. Ewart would also show his horses at the Fall Fair each year bringing home many first place ribbons. In 1969 Springfield Farm celebrated its 100th anniversary. A reunion was held bringing family, neighbours and former guests to Springfield Farm for a taste of its homegrown hospitality once again. Over two hundred people attended bringing with them various artifacts, photos and memories.

In 1973 Ewart and Eileen divided the farm up among their four children, June and her husband Norm Yearley, Clarence and his wife Pat, and John and his wife Susan all of whom built on their lots, raised their families on the farm and still reside there today. Edward remained in the farmhouse and together he and Clarence worked the farm with their father. Ewart's wife Eileen died in 1984 at sixty-six years of age, and he continued to farm until his health declined in the late 1980s. He was still always willing to ride along while others checked on the cattle or brought in the hay. Edward chose to move to town in 1993 shortly after his marriage. That same year Clarence, with his wife Pat and their two children Cyndi and Tom

moved into the farmhouse. With the help of family they cared for Ewart until his death in 1994. Clarence has continued with the farming as he had done for many years previously while living in their home located a short distance from the farm.

In more recent years Springfield Farm has seen the introduction of a sixth generation. Cyndi, her husband Paul Aben and their three young children now live in her childhood home. Tom and his partner Jen Hicks have turned the remaining tourist cottage into a far more modern abode. The cattle still roam the fields, crops are still planted in the spring and harvested in the summer, and the miles of William's original cedar fence lines are always being improved upon. Ewart once commented that when he was younger, on a clear night he could see only four lights along Hwy #60 or the East Road as it was known as then. Now the outside chores in the winter can be done by the lights reflected in the sky from the town of Huntsville. The beach is still used by family, extended family and friends, and the steamboats have been replaced by motorized watercraft.

It is with the help of family and wonderful neighbours that Springfield Farm has kept the hay wagons rolling.

This article was prepared by the Holinshead Family for this newsletter. The family collaborated on the details but it was Cyndi Aben, nee Holinshead, who lives on the farm in her childhood home that did the editorializing. Many thanks Cyndi for the work that you put into this article

Stewart Day, President, Fairy Lake Association.

“Looking Back” Submitted by, Doug Stone

Can you imagine why a dozen or so middle-aged couples, most of them year-round residents on Fairy Lake, would form a sailing club? And name it THE FAIRY LAKE ATHLETIC SUPPORTERS? Any how, that is what happened about thirty years ago.

Each summer Sunday afternoon, weather permitting, they would gather on the dock of one of the group. The host would have selected the sailing course for the day, complicated if possible, explain it to the participants, supply snack food (you brought your own liquid refreshments), then say, “Let's Go!”

The sailboats were all Sunfish, with the exception of Dr. Geoff Ascah's, so that skill in sailing was a deciding factor for the winner. We stayed on Fairy Lake, but circled the islands or went between the Twin Sisters, (that is when Dr. Joe Hunt's centre board hit the rock ledge and threw Maureen into the water---we didn't laugh until she had surfaced).

Sailing skills were important, but so was being up-wind of the others. Someone suggested that I could go faster if I polished the hull of my boat. It didn't work for me, but won me the nickname “Waxie”.

Returning to the host dock, we would boast or lie about what had happened during the race. We would enjoy more finger foods and liquid refreshments, then sail home, mentally preparing for next week. Those were good times and we miss them!
Where did all those sailboats disappear?

Membership Summary

Kathy Hunter

Our first newsletter has been published a month earlier this year with the intent of giving you early notice of upcoming events. Membership fees of \$25 have remained the same for the third year in a row. Although you are welcome to mail in your updated membership form with your annual dues, please feel free to wait until your Street Ambassador visits you on the May 24th weekend and they will collect it from you. Paying your Street Ambassador, directly, ensures that your form reaches us safely.

Just in case you have ever wondered, the numbers 1-29 on the FLA mailing labels are used to identify the streets/delivery sections of each member so that the sorting is speeded up, beforehand. The return address is a postal box at Shoppers Drugmart. Whenever you receive a group e-mail, BCC (Blind Copy) is used to preserve the privacy of your address.

Memberships rose in 2004 to 176, with 26 new members joining the Association. We hope that those who did not renew their memberships last year, will support our efforts in 2005. Donations totaled \$1050 in 2004. In addition to selling 45 Lake Plans, we donated a Lake Plan to each of:

- Huntsville Public Library
- Councillor, Scott Aitchison, Chair of the Official Plan Review Team
- Town of Huntsville, Planning Department
- Ministry of Natural Resources
- Department of Oceans and Fisheries.

In 2004, we had a total of 37 members who volunteered in the following areas:

- As 'Street Ambassadors'
- To monitor/test lake water quality
- As the newsletter mail team
- To maintain marker buoys
- To assist our Social Convener, Cathy Jordan with social events
- As Board members

Native Tree & Shrub Sale

On May 7th from 9-12 a.m. the Muskoka Heritage Foundation will be holding its sixth annual Native Tree and Shrub Sale. There will be two sale locations - one in Huntsville and the other in Bracebridge.

The plants are healthy nursery-grown material perfect for transplanting onto your property to add beauty, to provide habitat for wildlife and to fight against air and water pollution. In particular there are many carefully selected varieties for shoreline planting. These are ideal for naturalizing the water's edge of your property.

Fairy Lake Association

Treasurer's Report

Cash Statement - Year Ended March 31, 2005

Bank Balance - April 1, 2004 2,275.56

Receipts

Membership Dues	4,475.00
Advertising	200.00
Initiatives	1,090.00
Interest	1.10
Pancake Breakfast - Receipts	124.00
Shirt Sales	180.00
Golf-day - receipts	1,340.00
Lake Plan Sales	<u>2,200.00</u>

Total Cash Receipts 9,610.10

Disbursements

Lake plan Purchases	2,330.72
Pancake Breakfast Purchases	57.82
Golf Day Expenses	1,326.48
Member Communications	639.13
Annual Meeting	224.33
Post Office Box Rental	71.30
FOCA - Annual Fees	489.53
Donation - Huntsville Theatre	500.00
Huntsville Lakes Council	<u>25.00</u>

Total Cash Expenditures 5,664.31

Net Operating Surplus - Year 3,945.79

Bank Balance March 31, 2005 6,221.35

Guess the 2005 ice out date and win a Fairy Lake Association golf shirt!!!

Not that we are trying to rush summer, but... take a chance and guess when the ice will go out of Fairy Lake this spring. We will have a triangulation of three views of the lake to determine the moment when the ice really does go out of Fairy Lake. Please write your name, address and phone number (email will do too) with your guess on a piece of paper and send it to our P. O. Box by April 8th. All entries must be post marked not later than April 8th, 2005. It would also be a good time to send your annual dues - same as last year \$25.00. The winner will be notified with a phone call and the winners name will be published in our May newsletter. Good luck.