



October 2008

NEWSLETTER

51 King William St.
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President's Message: Looking Back

Kathy Hunter, President

As we marvel, once again, at the magnificent colours of autumn, heightened OCCASSIONALLY by a burst of sunshine, we are also saddened by the closing of the cottage, the absence of boat traffic with those squealing tube riders and the clear promise of cooler temperatures, (and more than likely, more rain). The 'screen-door slamming days' of visitors and kids are behind us now.

For the Fairy Lake Association, it is also a time when demands upon our time have lessened and we can reflect upon the many achievements of the association during this past year. Our accomplishments have been made possible through the efforts of over 40 volunteers.

FLA Initiatives

1. Lake/ Boating

- The new spar-type navigational markers which were made possible by a joint venture with the Town were installed by our own volunteers.
- Lake Clean-up in the spring
- Three types of water testing

2. Land Development

- The Board voted in favour of hiring a Planner to represent us should a controversial development issue arise. We need to be on an equal footing with any developer who is likewise represented by experts in planning.
- We will continue to monitor development and comment on applications where an amendment to the current by-law is requested in order that a project is approved.
- We will notify the neighbours of any property owner applying for a by-law amendment
- We have been included on the Zoning By-law Committee where we have contributed suggestions that would give consideration to the special needs of waterfront property owners.

3. Communication

- Newsletter, Fairy Lake Ambassadors (a neighbour on your street)
- Email
- Web site construction
- Phone

4. Environmental Concerns

- After speaking with the management company for the LCBO plaza, the parking lot lights have been put on a timer so that they do not shine all night and create a glare on the lake.
- The Public Works Department is looking into placing signs at the town limits indicating the need for trucks to refrain from using engine brakes.

Good News from the AGM

At our Annual General Meeting in July, we were fortunate to be able to add three new enthusiastic members to the board, **Jim King**, a property owner from Jones Lane, **Jay Rhodes** from Cookson Bay, and **Julia Bertelsen** from Lake Drive. At our first Board Meeting, board members assumed the following positions:

President: Kathy Hunter
Vice President: Rob Zingel
Past President: Stewart Day
Secretary: Ingrid Sinclair
Treasurer: Bruce Gowan

Director: Julia Bertelsen
Director: Jim King
Director: Jay Rhodes
Director: Peter Van Buskirk

The board will continue to work on your behalf during the coming months. Please do not hesitate to contact any one of the board members with your queries or concerns. We wish you a healthy winter and look forward to hearing from you when the ICE GOES OUT!

Treasurer's Report

Bruce Gowan, Treasurer

For the latest fiscal year ended March 31, 2008, the association ended the year with a small operating surplus of \$314.00 on revenues of \$5,390.00 and expenses of \$5,076.00.

Revenue included \$4,450.00 in membership dues with the additional revenue being from initiative donations and \$25.00 in interest.

Major expenses included:

- Liability insurance
- Water testing equipment and expense
- FOCA annual fees
- Newsletter expenses
- Annual general meeting expenses
- Donations and bereavement



We continued to financially support FOCA and the Huntsville Lakes Council.

FLA ended the year with a bank balance of \$3,175.81 and a Guaranteed Investment Deposit of \$8,020.87.

More Good News ... for Water Quality

Catherine Cumberland, Water Testing Guru

Well, another summer has come and gone; much too quickly I might add. This is our third season of collecting and testing our water in Fairy Lake. What are we testing for? Bacteria. The collection begins around Canada Day and ends after Labour Day. The water is collected and tested every two weeks during the summer.

For the most part, our lake tests within normal limits and is safe for swimming. There were a couple of hot spots (higher than normal bacteria count). However, when a certain location tests above the safety guidelines, then another sample is immediately taken and retested. All the retests were within normal limits.

Should you be concerned? Not at all. What causes above normal bacteria levels?

- Fowl; especially large groups of geese
- Storm run off

What should you do if you are concerned for yourself or your children?

- Do not swim in heavy duck or geese areas or swim upstream.
- Wait 24 hours to go in the water after a heavy rain or don't stay in the water more than 30 minutes if it is within 24 hours



Thanks to Jonah Eng, Scott Litchfield and John Sinclair for chauffeuring Catherine around the lake.



Storm Sewers and You

A Story of the Underground



Urban runoff is commonly collected in storm sewers and discharged to waterways untreated, so that any contaminants carried by the storm water are discharged to surface water bodies that are used as the sources of our drinking water.

Storm water also picks up a lot of things on its way to area streams and rivers – litter, road salt, lawn and garden chemicals and more. ‘Backyard mechanics’ who drain oil, antifreeze or gas into the storm sewer pose a threat to the environment. Animal waste, soap residue from car washing and even leaves can find their way into the storm sewers, ultimately adding contaminants to our water source.

Are you doing your part to ensure that contaminants from your property are not making it into the storm?

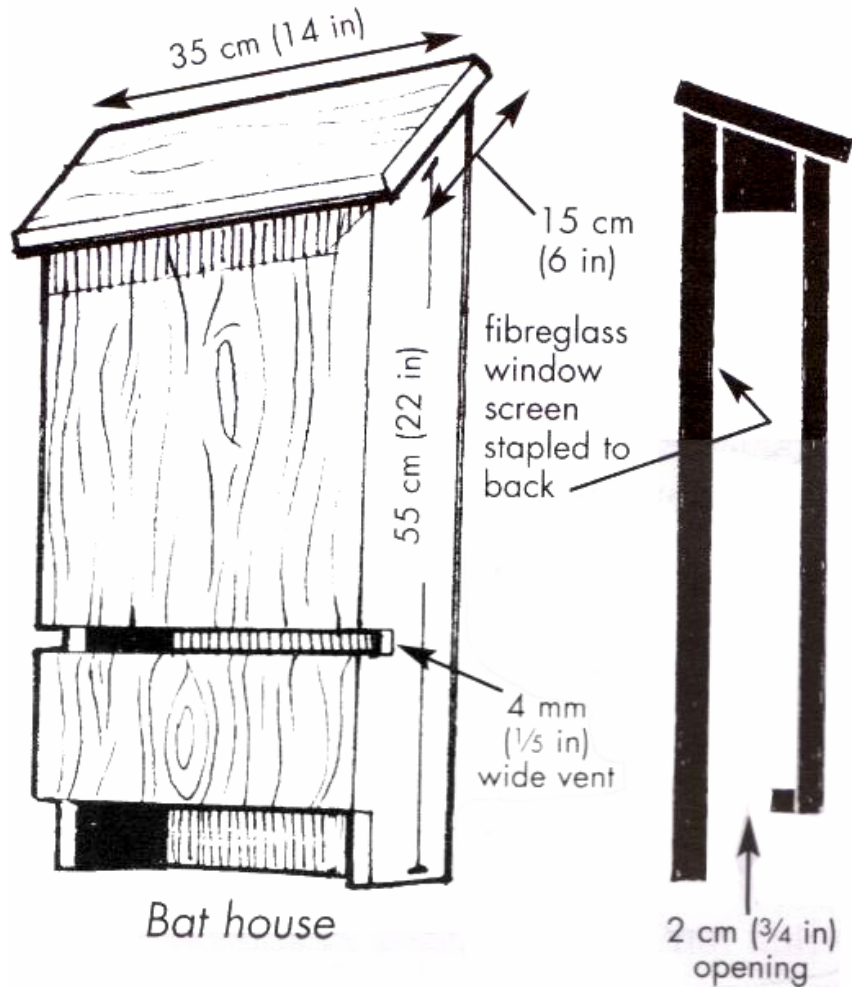
Did you know that anything that runs into the storm water system via the grates on the side of the road or anything that is put down the grate goes directly into Fairy Lake, untreated?

FLA Board Contact List

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Batty for Bats

Looking for a winter project? We've got one for you! Encourage insect-eating bats to live on your property by installing a bat house. Bats have a healthy appetite for various insects – including mosquitoes.



Locate your bat house at least 3-5 m above the ground, with a south or southeastern exposure that receives at least 4-6 hours of sunlight a day. Paint the box a dark colour to increase the solar heat absorbed by the box.



Did you know, bug zappers are ineffective on mosquitoes.

Flotsam and Jetsam

Fairy Lake Spring Clean-up, 2008

Large pieces of wood floating in the lake as a result of the high water level made navigation a hazardous experience this spring. Downed trees, pieces of cribbing and even whole docks found their way to shore, only to get hung up on rocks, lodged beneath docks or pushed back out to sea. Many responsible property owners, however, began corralling logs and various other bits and pieces of wood, early in the season, in anticipation of the clean-up event. Everyone recognized the inherent danger of pushing unwanted debris back into the lake, as boating season was now upon us.

Thus, it came to pass, that the first Fairy Lake spring clean-up was born. Brian Crozier, Director and Mark Flynn, Manager of Community Services, offered to close the boat launch to the general public for the clean-up period. Blayne Hutchins, a Fairy Lake resident and owner of Attainable Landscapes was hired to assist with the removal of the debris brought to the launch. Aces Containers was on site with a dumpster.

So, on a drizzling Saturday morning in May, volunteers assisted residents with the debris that was being dragged behind boats from all areas of the lake to the Centennial Boat launch. It seemed that each tree trunk that arrived that morning was bigger than the one before, until we finally decided that the 30 foot long pine tree had won the contest! We were fortunate in having the brawn of several members who manhandled / woman handled these behemoths to the awaiting chain saw and skids steer.

We would like to thank the many Fairy Lake Association members who participated in this massive clean-up. Your efforts have made Fairy Lake a safer place to navigate. We have scheduled the Second Annual Fairy Lake Clean-up for Saturday, June 6, 2009. See you in the spring!



More “Ice Cutting on Fairy Lake” Memories

Stewart Day, past president of the FLA, has his own ‘fond’ memories of getting ice for the family on Fairy Lake. The following is his response to Jim Fielding’s story about cutting ice on Fairy Lake, published in our spring 2008 newsletter.

I recall that when we would come in the summer for a month or more, before the cottage was built and we were tenting at our old property – my Mother would ask us to go to the Holinshead farm and get a block of ice. We did the short trip in a canoe and had to slug the block from the ice house to the lake, wash off the sawdust and get it into the canoe and home before it melted. Because of boyish delays, sometimes the block would be smaller than my Mother would have wanted but it usually lasted up to four or five days in the ice box. Then we would do it all over again. What fun!

Cheers,
Stew



The Fairy Lake Association Website is currently under construction.

We hope to have it up and running by Spring 2009!

ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY TIPS

Flatten your water and soda bottles and screw the caps back on
PET bottles are the clear plastic containers widely used for beverages and other products. Processing these plastics is much easier if the air is squeezed out of them and the caps are screwed back on. If you can’t crush the bottles, leave the caps off so that the bottles can be easily crushed at the recycling depot.

Recycle your clear plastic bags and film

Grocery bags, milk bags and similar plastic film can be recycled through the Blue Box program. However, the purchasers of plastic film are very insistent on cleanliness, so please ensure that your recycled bags are clean. Processing is made easier if you put all bags together within one big plastic bag.

Navigational Markers

Over the past number of years, we have all witnessed the increase in boat traffic on Huntsville's four connecting lakes. The excess speed of many of the boats through the channels connecting these lakes generates a 'wash' which can erode shorelines, swamp the nests of loons and other waterfowl, damage docks and moored vessels, interfere with safe navigation, disrupt wetland habitat, and upset canoes and small boats in these narrow channels.

In an attempt to mitigate the damage done by speeding boats, to foster safe boating practices and to help boaters navigate safely in our local lakes, the four lake associations have sought a solution to the problems arising from this increase in boat traffic.

For the past number of years our lake associations have voluntarily maintained a 'barrel' navigational system of markers in the main channels. We have created flyers and written articles to help educate our members in the ways of safe and considerate boating practices. We have requested that the OPP monitor the channels, in particular, more regularly.

Many of the boaters on our lakes today are not local lake property owners but rather, visitors to our waterways. Four lake associations believed that by replacing the 'unofficial' barrel markers in the busy channels with more traditional, official-looking spar markers sanctioned by the Town of Huntsville that greater respect for the 10km speed in these narrow channels would be shown. The Town of Huntsville would also be perceived as a partner working with the OPP and the area lake associations in managing safe boating on local waterways.

After submitting our rationale for the Town's contribution to this initiative, we received the very welcome news, that during the Town's budget talks, approval for the purchase of navigational markers had been granted.

We would like to express our gratitude to **Brian Crozier**, Director of Community Services, and **Peter Brown**, Director of Public Works, for their financial support in this endeavour, and to our volunteers, **Kevin Barnes, Mike Bertelsen, Brian Hunter, Dwayne Verhey** and **Peter Van Buskirk** who installed these markers.



Upcoming Events

We know it's early ...
very early ...
but mark your calendars (in pencil)
with the following reminders:



Ice Out Contest – beginning mid-March

Lake Cleanup – June 6, 2009

Pancake Breakfast – mid-June, 2009

AGM – early July, 2009



July 2008 Pancake Breakfast