



October 2011
51 King William St.
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Huntsville, ON
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NEWSLETTER

www.fairylakeassociation.com

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Pontoon Boat heading out to supervise the Triathlon at the crack of dawn

Message from the Chair

At the first meeting of the new Board in August, we decided to revise the FLA structure. Rather than select a President to act as leader, the FLA will now operate with two co-chairs; Kathy Hunter and Ingrid Sinclair.

Kathy needs no introduction. She's been involved with the FLA from its inception and acted as President from 2006 to 2009. Ingrid has been the association Secretary since 2006. With so many Board members sharing their time between Muskoka and other destinations, it makes sense to have two people fulfilling one role to cover for each other. Retiring President Rob Zingel did a wonderful job and we'd like to thank him but, please don't think that it takes two women to do the job of one man!

On page three, you will find the listing of FLA Board Members for 2012. Welcome to new members David Wexler and Linda Sprosten; thanks for stepping up to the plate.

Look for the "Planning and Development on Fairy Lake" Update in the Spring Newsletter!

Thank you, Volunteers

We are indebted to the many volunteers who carry out the numerous jobs that have contributed to the strength of the Fairy Lake Association over the past ten years. In all, we have over 40 volunteers who believe in the purpose of the association which is, the preservation and protection of Fairy Lake. We have been very successful in making our voice heard in the public forum. Our efforts and values have gained respect.

In particular, this year, we would like to recognize **Liz & Bruce Gowan** and **Jane & Peter Van Buskirk** as hosts 'exemplaire'.

Liz & Bruce Gowan have hosted our annual Pancake Breakfast for the past 10 years. Each spring, this event is eagerly anticipated by many, as it gives us all an opportunity to renew acquaintances after a long, cold winter.

Jane & Peter Van Buskirk, graciously opened their home for our Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon in August. Favourable weather, a delicious picnic lunch and the company of good friends contributed to a wonderful gathering. Thanks to **Barb & Ken Stronach**, owners of Seven Main Café, who catered this festive occasion.

We are so fortunate to have members put their name forward as volunteers. Some members are on specific volunteer committees such as Street Ambassadors, Newsletter Team, or Navigational Marker Monitoring Team. Others say, "Just call us any time you need help." Our list of volunteers continues to grow.

Thank you, EVERYONE!

Without your interest, your involvement and your financial support, the Fairy Lake Association would cease to exist.



Volunteer Luncheon Hostess, Jane Van Buskirk
With guests Sheldon Culham & Board secretary, Ingrid Sinclair

Fairy Lake Association Board of Directors for 2011-2012

<p style="text-align: center;">Ingrid Sinclair: Co-Chair</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;">  <div style="text-align: right;"> <p>Newsletter Editor CONTACT: sinc@rogers.com 705-789-6962, 416-487-9949</p> </div> </div>	<p style="text-align: center;">Kathy Hunter: Co-Chair</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;">  <div style="text-align: right;"> <p>Membership Chair, Planning & Development Committee CONTACT: hunters@clearwavetech.com 705-789-8464</p> </div> </div>
<p style="text-align: center;">Rob Zingel: Past President</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;">  <div style="text-align: right;"> <p>Planning & Development Committee, Rep for Huntsville Unity Plan CONTACT: rzingel@northernprojectplanning 705-788-4375</p> </div> </div>	<p style="text-align: center;">Peter Van Buskirk: Secretary</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;">  <div style="text-align: right;"> <p>Navigation & Water Safety Contact, OPP Liason, Huntsville/Lake of Bays Lakes Council Rep CONTACT: petervanb@sympatico.ca 705-789-1067</p> </div> </div>
<p style="text-align: center;">Bruce Gowan: Treasurer</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;">  <div style="text-align: right;"> <p>CONTACT: bgowan@surennet.net 705-788-9361</p> </div> </div>	<p style="text-align: center;">Dee Mallette: Co-Treasurer</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;">  <div style="text-align: right;"> <p>Membership Committee CONTACT: rmallette007@sympatico.ca 705-788-0844</p> </div> </div>
<p style="text-align: center;">David Wexler: Officer</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;">  <div style="text-align: right;"> <p>Planning & Development Committee, Alternate Rep for Huntsville/Lake of Bays Lakes Council CONTACT: david.wexler@hotmail.com 905-889-5884</p> </div> </div>	<p style="text-align: center;">Linda Sproston: Officer</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;">  <div style="text-align: right;"> <p>Membership Committee/Social Secretary CONTACT: lsproston@yahoo.com 705-787-0110</p> </div> </div>



TREASURER'S REPORT

Bruce Gowan

At the Annual General Meeting, the Treasurer reported that the association brought in more revenue this past year because of the slight increase in membership fees. Expenses were reduced because we didn't conduct a lake clean-up in the spring.

Current Year (2011)		Previous Year (2010)
Operating surplus	\$2,187	(\$1,001)
Revenues	\$6,596	\$5,039
Expenses	\$4,408	\$6,039

Characteristics of a Healthy Lake Ecosystem

A Healthy Lake:

- Natural shorelines providing a buffer that filters runoff and pollutants
- Well vegetated to provide shade such as trees and shrubs
- Good water quality that has low levels of pollutants or excess nutrients
- Water clarity remains constant or normal
- Relative absence of invasive species around or within the lake
- Abundant and healthy fish and wildlife
- Lake conditions changing gradually and naturally over time, not rapidly

An Unhealthy Lake:

- Lack of natural shoreline (advanced shoreline development, erosion and hardened shorelines)
- Poor water quality, with high levels of E.coli, phosphorus and other pollutants
- Frequent changes in water clarity
- Rapidly changing aquatic plant and algae growth, possibly due to high levels of phosphorus
- Invasive species affecting lake healthy, native species and human use
- Loss of fish and wildlife habitat with declining populations

Source: FOCA, Federation of Ontario Cottager's Association; 2011



Bubblers



Some of the lake residents utilize a bubbler system on their docks during the winter period. The Fairy Lake Association has made some enquires about such systems. We have found out that the resident may be liable under the Criminal Code of Canada section 263.1



Duty to safeguard opening in ice

263. (1) Every one who makes or causes to be made an opening in ice that is open to or frequented by the public is under a legal duty to guard it in a manner that is adequate to prevent persons from falling in by accident and is adequate to warn them that the opening exists.

Offences

(3) Every one who fails to perform a duty imposed by subsection (1) or (2) is guilty of:

(a) Manslaughter, if the death of any person results there from;

(b) An offence under section 269, if bodily harm to any person results there from; or

(c) An offence punishable on summary conviction.

R.S., c. C-34, s. 242; 1980-81-82-83, c. 125, s. 18.

FROM/DE: OPP Bracebridge, ON

DATE: 31 January 2011

OPP ISSUE AWARENESS NOTE FOR ICE SAFETY

(BRACEBRIDGE, ON) – The OPP encourage the enjoyment of safe and responsible snowmobiling. Operators should always be aware that no ice is safe, and proceed with caution.

Lakes in our area that are used for seasonal recreation are experiencing a growth in the use of bubblers and other ice inhibitors that can affect the quality of the ice around them and on the entire body of water.

The OPP encourage snowmobilers to stay on marked trails when traversing frozen waterways.

The OPP remind all riders who choose to venture out onto frozen waterways to consider every dock, boathouse or moored vessel to be unsafe and keep well away.

If you are a waterfront property owner and employ the use of an ice inhibitor, you are required by Federal Statute to safeguard any opening in the ice by marking it adequately to prevent anyone from falling in.

Reference section 263 (1) of the Canadian Criminal Code.

Wasps

Who knew that wasps were parasitic? The evidence is in the first picture.

Many, but not all species of wasps are parasitic. These creatures search for specific insect hosts using sensitive organs on their ovipositors (egg laying organs) and their antenna. Many types of parasitic wasps prey on just one or two species. Once the female finds the right host, she lays her eggs in its body. The larval wasps feed on the host, and then break free at adulthood.

Unlike bees, wasps do not usually consume nectar or pollen. Instead, the majority of wasps are carnivorous. They feed on insects or carrion. Some wasps, such as the yellow jacket, also consume fallen fruit and other sugary foods. This and their garbage scavenging behaviour, make them a common pest at outdoor meals. Some wasps also feed on plants, creating galls, or swellings in the plant stem or leaf.

Read more: [Behavior of Wasps | eHow.com http://www.ehow.com/about_6600885_behavior-wasps.html#ixzz1ZGhreso0](http://www.ehow.com/about_6600885_behavior-wasps.html#ixzz1ZGhreso0)



Wasps feeding on a dead mole




Wasp Nest

Fairy Lake Membership Statistics 2011

# Properties in Data Base	297
# Permanent Residents	178
# U.S. Residents	4
# U.K. Residents	1
# Out-of-Province Residents	3
# 2011 Memberships renewed to date	141
# 2010 Memberships yet to renew based on 2010 info	29
# 2010 Memberships renewed	170
# 2009 Memberships renewed	178
# 2008 Memberships renewed	164
# email addresses (includes multiples in one family)	226
Database updated with assistance from street ambassadors	24

FLA Events for 2012

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| Ice out Contest | March 2012 |  |
| Pancake Breakfast | Saturday, June 16, 9:00am – 11:00am
Hosted by Bruce and Liz Gowan
260 West Brown's Road, 705-788-9361
Please bring a lawn chair! | |
| Annual General Meeting | Saturday, July 7, doors open at 9:00
Meeting begins at 9:30am – 11:30am
Partner's Hall, Algonquin Theatre
<u>Let us know if you're interested in joining the Board!</u> | |
| Huntsville/Lake of Bays Lakes Council (HLoBLC) Fundraising Barbeque | Summer of 2012 – Date TBA
2011 revenue was \$925.00 | |

Water Quality in Fairy Lake **What's in our water?**

For the fifth summer season, we have carried out Recreational Water Quality Testing at 10 shallow water sites (swim sites) on Fairy Lake. Every second week throughout July and August, Ingrid Sinclair traveled around the lake to collect water samples in sterilized jars which were kept in a cooler until she passed the samples on to Julia Bertelsen.

Following scientific protocol for determining ecoli and coliform count in recreational water, Julia incubated the water samples for 24hours, read the results and documented the numbers on a spreadsheet. Our results were verified by the *Central Ontario Analytical Laboratory* in Orillia.

Our test results have proven, once again, that Fairy Lake is safe for swimming.

“BUT”, you may say, **“There was a lot of green mossy growth floating in the lake this year.”**

Bob and Dee Mallette, who volunteered to test the Water Clarity this summer, found that the clarity reading had diminished substantially from last summer. Last summer the clarity disc (Secchi disc) was visible to a depth of 3.90m **while this summer the disc was visible to only 2m.** Test results are analysed at the Dorset Environmental Science Centre as part of the Ontario-wide Lake Partner Programme.

Residents from around the lake voiced their concerns. So we took action.

Jack and Helen Pearson, from Allison's Point Road, volunteered to collect a sample of the water containing some of the algae and took it to be tested at the Dorset Environmental Science Centre (DESC), Ministry of the Environment.

Report from phytoplankton technologist

The fluffy green cloud of material was a mat of common filamentous green algae, mostly *Oedogonium*. Other genera included *Spirogyra*, *Zygnema*, *Mougeotia* and possibly *Cladophora*. *Cladophora* is notorious in the Laurentian Great Lakes. Filamentous green algae can be a nuisance especially if they accumulate on beaches and decompose. However, they are widespread and naturally occurring. They flourish when conditions (temperature, light, nutrients etc.) are favourable and form especially in shallow, static waters. The hot summer may have contributed to more algal growth than usual. Many are free floating but those which start out attached to a substrate may become dislodged. Some form floating mats. Any phosphorus entering the lake may stimulate algal growth.

Thanks to Julia Bertelsen and Ingrid Sinclair, Bob and Dee Mallette and Jack and Helen Pearson for helping us to monitor the quality of water in Fairy Lake.

A penny's worth of advice: When bees swarm your outdoor picnic, throw a few copper pennies down on the table. There's something in the copper that makes them disappear immediately!

Water Levels on Fairy Lake

Dave MacPherson,
Water Management Technical Specialist, Ministry of Natural Resources

To address the concerns of many lakefront property owners regarding water levels, the FLA invited Dave MacPherson to our Annual General Meeting in July to explain the complicated process of managing lake levels. The full presentation can be viewed and read on the Fairy Lake web site at www.fairylakeassociation.com by clicking on the topic '**MNR presentation on Managing Lake Levels**' to the left on the HOME page. Meeting the Objectives, Page 10, is particularly relevant.

Dave explained that:

- The need for Water Management Plans originated from Hydro deregulation and is administered under the Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act.
- The Muskoka River Watershed is managed following the direction of the Muskoka River Water Management Plan.
- The plan was developed to balance the needs of the many stakeholders on the system and is a valuable tool for Water Control Staff.
- A Water Management Plan involves extensive research and consultation to establish priorities for water level management; this way operations staff can focus on managing the lake to a level that is most appropriate.

On a daily basis, staff check and record water levels on 16 lakes, discharge in 12 rivers, precipitation at 6 locations and the weather forecast from three sources. This information is used to decide how to manage individual dams to achieve the goals described in the Water Management Plans.

REMINDER: Winter conditions can wreak havoc on our shoreline structures and property. Please ensure that you have taken all necessary precautions for securing or storing your waterfront structures and toys. As an extra precaution, appoint someone to monitor your property while you are absent. It only takes a moment to write your name, address and phone number on your property. Should your canoes, kayaks or docks go missing, it will be easy to contact you so you can retrieve your valuables.

Three Simple Steps to Reduce Excess Nutrients in the Lake

1. Reduce or Eliminate Fertilizer Use
Remember, what goes on your property goes into the lake! Rain carries these fertilizers into the water and encourages the growth of algae.
2. Maintain Your Septic System
Pumping out your septic tank on a regular basis is critical to reducing nutrient flows into the lake. As a general rule, pump out your septic tank every 2 to 3 years.
3. Be Careful With Soap
Soaps should be phosphate free. Soapy wastewater should be disposed of in soil at least 60 meters from the water's edge to prevent algae blooms.

Community Partnerships with the Waterloo Summit Centre

Robin Brushey, Events Manager - Waterloo Summit Centre

As you may now know, the Waterloo Summit Centre for the Environment serves as an extension of the University of Waterloo main campus. It is a research, teaching and community centre that the University hopes to establish as a high profile research centre for ecology, climate change, tourism, land-use planning and local economic development. The University of Waterloo is quite keen on establishing partnerships with the local community and a lake association, such as the Fairy Lake Association is no exception.

The area of research development is one area where partnership opportunities exist. The rate at which research projects are developed on the Main Campus and at the Waterloo Summit Centre for the Environment depend on various factors including the University of Waterloo's faculty interest and expertise, project funding, local research sites, interested and available graduate and undergrad students, lab and other research equipment and supplies, and community support & partners. So if your Lake Association has research ideas, or can enable research through access research sites and/or funding support, there are increased possibilities for research partnerships.

There are a number of research projects currently in operation or soon to be in the works for the Muskoka area through the Waterloo Summit Centre for the Environment, in conjunction with the University of Waterloo and local Muskoka partners. A few of them include:

- Town of Huntsville partnered projects like an Assessment of the Unity Plan, and "The Big Transect" which accesses how urbanization is affecting ecosystem response in the Huntsville proper,
- An assessment of the ecological integrity/stream inventory of Peninsula Lake catchment, in conjunction with the Penn Lake Association,

A few projects with the Muskoka Watershed Council, including a project valuing natural capital and ecosystem services and a project on standards for natural areas, and

- A project where three students have been examining invasive species and management in Stewart Lake, in conjunction with the Stewart Lake Association . . . and more.

With the laboratory and information technology upgrades coming to the Centre, we intend to expand the work to include work on eco-tourism, projects on green businesses in mid-sized towns like Huntsville, expansion of approaches to ecological restoration, and conservation efforts.

We look forward to keeping the Lake Associations and their members apprised of the research activities going on in and around the centre. I anticipate some research presentations and seminars taking place at our Centre where community members can learn about some of these projects and other research projects that tie into the activities of Muskoka in greater detail.

In the meantime, **regular updates on what's currently happening at the Waterloo Summit Centre for the Environment** visit www.environment.uwaterloo.ca/research/huntsville or join us and tour the building at one of our Community Visit Open Houses on:

November 2nd, and December 7th from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm.

We'll make sure that the coffee pot is on!

