



FARLAIN LAKE Community Association

Farlain Lake Community Association Newsletter

Ripples

Summer Issue 2016

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Summer is Almost Over!



Doggon it! Summer is Over!

Fall is almost here and it's been one of the hottest, if not THE hottest, summers on record!

Read on for important information as we bid farewell to the "dog days of summer"!

Message from the President

Another summer has come and gone and was it ever a hot one! We can now look forward to a beautiful display of colour and cooler nights by the campfire gazing at the stars. No matter the season, our lake has so much to offer and enjoy.



Since our last newsletter a great deal has happened. We had our AGM at the end of July, one week earlier than in previous years. This was in response to concerns raised by members about being able to attend during a long weekend, when they often had guests. The feedback received was that the meeting was one of our best. Important topics were covered and excellent speakers delivered the messages. Updates on the Eurasian Water milfoil issue, septage, water quality, and fire prevention were provided.

We also had our boat parade on the August long

President Herb Huck at the AGM

weekend. The number of participants was down, likely due to the competition from a long waterslide in town the same day.

Those who participated had a great time and prizes were awarded to all. Thanks again to our sponsors for their generous support of this community event. Please support those who support us year after year. A special thank you also goes out to our parade marshal, Tammy Turpin for another great job done.

Our community is not without its challenges. As Deputy Mayor Walma and Councillor Hinton mentioned at the AGM, the septage solution for Tiny has been deferred. Given the lack of legislation at the provincial level to force haulers to use accredited sites for dumping, the Township thought it was best to defer investing millions of taxpayer's dollars to build something that may not be used. The focus has turned to lobbying the provincial government to take action and pass the long awaited legislation to eliminate the spreading of raw sewage on land. If you share our concern, please make sure to let your MPP and the provincial government know about the issue and how you feel about it.



Councillor Richard Hinton & Mayor Steffan Walma

We also have the ongoing battle with Eurasian Water Milfoil.

Our problem has gotten worse as the invasive species has spread to other areas in the lake. Three areas at the south end of the lake along Andrew Drive had isolated plants in the water which have been removed. However, the bigger discovery was a large area of infestation at the northwest end of the lake. The problem is spreading quickly and we will need to find new solutions and additional funding to protect our lake. Property owner's can support our efforts by becoming a member of the association and join our fight! Please help us get more members by encouraging everyone you know in the community to join the FLCA.

The Board is interested in your views on how we are doing and what matters most to you. In that regard we will be sending out a short survey to solicit your feedback this fall. Please complete the survey and help us serve your needs better.

Herb Huck

FLCA President

Eurasian Watermilfoil Update - A Growing Threat

by Pete Andrews

There has been a setback in FLCA's management efforts to reduce Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) population while preventing the spread of the invasive plant elsewhere in the lake.

The EWM infestation site has expanded and the invasive plants have spread to other areas in the lake. Small immature plants were discovered in three separate areas in the south end of the lake.

Several hundred mature plants were recently discovered in the very northwest part of the lake.



The cause of the resurgence of EWM in the primary infestation site is unknown but being investigated.

The growth of EWM plants outside the main infestation area in the south end of the lake may be attributed to natural events that occurred in December 2015. The unusually mild temperatures prevented ice forming on the lake. Without a protective ice cap, EWM vegetation was dislodged and dispersed to shoreline areas in the south end of the lake by high waves and strong winds. Some plant fragments may have settled to the lake bottom and taken root.



EWM Covering Surface in Main Infestation Site

A planned hand harvesting project scheduled for July 2016 was deferred due to the size and density of the main infestation site. It was also deemed prudent not to undertake a hand harvesting project until the cause of accelerated EWM growth was better understood. Since EWM plants primarily reproduce through their stolon (a plant root extending horizontally within the sediment) a pilot project involving jute benthic mat (bottom barrier) was undertaken as an interim measure to slow the growth of EWM on the perimeter of the infested site.

The



Volunteer Diver Mike Jones Mapping Main Infestation Site

FLCA is exploring a relatively new management system known as diver assisted suction harvesting (D.A.S.H.). This method enables a diver to direct EWM plants removed by hand from the lake bottom sediment into a suction hose which transports the vegetation to the surface. Water is drained from the vegetation and the EWM plants are disposed of inland.

Concerned lake community residents have asked about the plant's rate of spread and how long it would take before Eurasian watermilfoil would become prolific throughout the lake. There are no documented Canadian or American studies on the rate of spread within a particularly water body. Variables (e.g. type of water body, water depth, clarity, temperature, trophic state, bottom sediment type, recreational use, etc.) will determine how fast EWM will spread within a water body. The number of Eurasian watermilfoil fragments produced in the lake will also determine the rate of spread.

If someone was to ask me if I was a soothsayer or an alarmist, I would say I am a bit of both. Based on research over the past four years and discussions with academic experts in the field of invasive plants, I can predict that EWM will continue to spread and colonize throughout the lake. In the United States, some lakes are fully covered with EWM vegetation resulting in loss of fisheries, restricted recreational activities such as swimming and boating, and reduction in real estate values. Could the worst case scenario happen in Farlain Lake? Yes! It may not happen in my lifetime or it may happen sooner than I anticipate.

There is no easy solution to the invasive species problem. There is no silver bullet to make the problem go away. Since EWM is established in Farlain Lake it will never be eradicated; the problem can only be managed. This year is a turning point in the evolution of EWM in the lake. If proactive steps are taken now, the invasive species issue can be managed to a point where the values we enjoy today will be enjoyed by future generations.

To succeed in our efforts to manage Eurasian watermilfoil, it will take a collective effort by the lake community. We must continue our outreach efforts to make lake users aware of the present issue and the potential ramifications if EWM is not managed. There are lake community residents, who I refer to as NMPY (not my problem...yet) who can't relate to the issue at hand because their enjoyment of the lake has not been affected. We must ensure that everyone is apprised of the downside of delaying a more aggressive effort to manage Eurasian watermilfoil.

To succeed in our efforts we will need money and volunteers. We will need funds for the removal of EWM from the lake, for communication efforts, and for the training of volunteers in the monitoring of lake for invasive species. We need volunteers to serve in various capacities; without new volunteers the workload for current volunteers becomes unsustainable. Without funding and volunteers, EWM will gain the upper hand and the costs associated with managing the problem will be much greater in the years to come.

Latte on the Beach

by Pete Andrews

Contrary to rumour, Starbucks has not set up shop on Farlain Lake and is dumping left over beverages into the lake.



What appears to be a latte drink washed up on shore is a product of nature. The foam washed up on shore is created in the lake when surface tension of water (the attraction of surface molecules to each other) is broken down and air is mixed in, creating bubbles.

All lakes contain organic matter, such as algae and plants, and when these decompose they release the natural organic compounds into the water, which lessens the surface tension. An increased level of algae is present in Farlain Lake this year due to the high levels of pollen that were deposited by trees into the lake in early spring. With

strong winds, waves agitate the organic compounds transforming them into a foam. Watercraft also mix air with the organic compounds producing foam in the lake.

Foam will collect in large quantities on windward shores. Natural foam has a somewhat earthy fishy aroma and may have an off-white, tan, or brown colour. Scum from a concentration of algae and rotting vegetation may have an appearance of an oily sheen that resembles a motor oil slick. Scum may form a soupy mass on the surface of the water along the shoreline.

The foam and the scum are a natural occurring phenomenon that should not be confused with pollution....or even a Starbuck's double latte.

2016 Boat Parade

Congratulations to the Maginn family, First Prize winners at our annual Boat Parade!



Under the Sea

We'd like to thank all participants for their creative efforts and providing entertainment for those watching from the shore! Our sincere thanks as well to Minty's Marine Service - Andy and Michelle - for once again supporting the parade!

Please go to the [FLCA web site](#) for more photos!

**2016
Farlain Lake
Annual Boat Parade**



Did You Know...

where the angels welcoming visitors to Penetanguishene originated?

Back in 1920, the original angels were an Ordination gift from his wealthy business man father to Father Gerald Lahey, a Jesuit Priest. He and Father Athol Murray agreed that the angels would be an excellent commemoration of the friendship between the French and English founders of the town. The two bronze angels, one marked "Ontario" and the other "Quebec", were formally dedicated in 1921, 300 years since the arrival of Governor Champlain in 1621. They were placed on either side of the entrance to the south side of town, receiving new bases and face lifts in 1971 and 1975, and now have a permanent home in the Centennial Museum on Burke Street. They were replaced in 1988 thanks to the efforts of the Heritage Committee.

From Historic Huronia published by Sunshine Canadian Entertainment Vol VI September 2016.



We Need You!

...and we need your support in growing our membership!

More members mean a stronger voice for the Farlain Lake Community. And membership provides access to valuable information, a strong community network, the opportunity to influence the future of our Lake and

protect it for generations to come.

Join for one, two or five years and encourage your friends and neighbours to do the same! Download the [Membership Form](#) here.

