

FARLAIN LAKE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Minutes of August 17, 2022 – AGM

AGENDA – August 17th, 2022		
Time	Topic	Facilitator:
7:00 – 7:05	Intro to Zoom and Webinar Format	Jeanette Parker
7:05 – 7:10	Welcome and Introductions	Elizabeth Di Chiara
7:10 – 7:15	Approval of 2021 Annual General Meeting Minutes	Elizabeth Di Chiara
7:15 – 7:25	Report from the President	Elizabeth Di Chiara
7:25 – 7:30	Membership Report	Pat Kelso
7:30 – 8:00	Special Presentation – It’s All About the Water	Aisha Chiandet, SSEA Water Scientist
8:00 – 8:10	Farlain Lake Plant Study Report	Kelly Biagi, PhD
8:10 – 8:20	Eurasian Watermilfoil Update	Tom Hayes
8:20 – 8:25	Social Events	Scott Dales
8:25 – 8:35	AED (Automated Electronic Defibrillator Devices) on Lake	Elizabeth Di Chiara
8:35 – 8:40	Financial Report	Ross Graham
8:40 – 8:50	Election of the FLCA Board of Directors and Recognition of Retiring Members	Doug Kirk Elizabeth Di Chiara
8:50 – 9:00	Questions and Answers with Wrap-up	Jeanette Parker
9:00	Adjournment	Elizabeth Di Chiara

1. Intro to Zoom and Webinar Format

Zoom basics were reviewed by FLCA Board member Jeanette Parker, technology manager for the meeting. Attendees were invited to submit a question at any time. Poll questions would be displayed on the screen.

2. Welcome & Introductions

President Elizabeth Di Chiara began the meeting at 7 pm, thanking both members and non-members for attending. There were over 70 participants registered for the meeting. The quorum of 10 members had been met. Elizabeth introduced the FLCA Board and welcomed our special guest and presenter, Aisha Chiandet, SSEA Water Scientist. She then reviewed the Agenda.

3. Approval of 2021 Annual General Meeting Minutes

Draft Minutes of the 2021 meeting had been posted to the FLCA website with a link included with the notice. No changes were forthcoming.

Motion: That the Minutes of the 2021 FLCA AGM be approved.
 By: Wendy Huck
 Second: Pat Kelso
CARRIED

4. Report from the Board – Elizabeth Di Chiara

Environmental issues continue to be a key priority for the FLCA.

Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM)

- Our first educational webinar on EWM was held in June.
- The OTF three year grant period 2019 to 2021 inclusive had been extended to the end of 2022 due to our inability to implement our management strategy with the exception of the application of a herbicide in 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic. A second extension had been submitted and approval for the grant period to now go to the end of 2023 just received. Funds for the management of the EWM would be available for another year.
- SOLitude Lake Management was contracted to conduct a full lake aquatic plant study in July and a report was to be available later in the fall.
- Appreciation was extended to our dedicated EWM team for their continued hard work on the project, and also to the SSEA for its support with planning, monitoring, mapping and education.

Other Issues

- Water quality monitoring continued through the MNRF's Lake Partner program and FoTTSA's testing program. Thank you to Kelly Biagi for assuming the water sampling role for FLCA.
- Internet service around the lake was now much improved with Bell's "Fibre to Home" implementation.
- Our sincere thanks go to Scott Dales for organizing the virtual Kid's Fishing Derby again this year.
- Boat wakes continue to be a concern and the community was encouraged to be "wake aware" of the impact on the shoreline, environment, and the safety and enjoyment of those on shore.

Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (ONCA)

- The provincial government has passed ONCA which updates legislation governing non-profit organizations such as the FLCA. A review and possible revisions to our articles of incorporation and by-laws must be completed by October 2024 to ensure compliance with the new Act. Changes would be brought back to members for approval prior to submission to the government.

Communication

- Communication continued to be vital and 26 elerts had been sent out since February, messages were posted regularly to our Facebook page, and we have responded to many messages through the general mailbox and Messenger.
- Our appreciation to Jeanette Parker for her assistance with communication and with our technology. Jeanette also serves as the FLCA's representative on the FoTTSA Board of Directors.

Conclusion

- Sincere thanks were extended to the FLCA Board for all its hard work. Each member of the Board has a role over and above participation in Board meetings. Sustaining the leadership needed to keep the FLCA going and growing continues to be a huge challenge.

- We need members to step up and take on leadership positions, bring fresh ideas and new energy.
- Membership is growing and we provide a collective voice. An association reflects its members, its volunteers and its leadership. It's important to use your voice and the "power of community."

5. Membership Report – Pat Kelso

- Membership Director Pat Kelso provided her report, indicating there were 121 members in the 2021-22 membership year and 120 in 2020-21. Numbers tended to fluctuate between 90 to 120 members. There were 36 new members this year.
- To date, 73 members had already renewed for the 2022-2023 membership year which began August 1st.
- Pat encouraged members to talk to neighbours and friends about joining the Association and reviewed the benefits of membership. Through the FLCA, members are kept informed of current issues and provided a cohesive voice for the community, particularly re environmental issues. Concerns included EWM, septage and water quality. Membership provides liaison with other cottage associations such as FoTTSA and FOCA, as well as the SSEA and Tiny Township. Members also have access to retail discounts through FoTTSA.
- New members could join by downloading the membership form from the website, contacting the FLCA through inquiries@farlainlake.ca or any member of the Board.
- Membership continued to be only \$40 per household and could be paid through e-transfer, cash or cheque, and for 1, 2 or 5 years. Members who have paid a multi-year fee could contact the FLCA at inquiries@farlainlake.ca to confirm expiry dates.

6. Presentation from SSEA – Aisha Chiandet

- Aisha Chiandet, SSEA Water Scientist was introduced for her presentation. Working with the SSEA since 2005, she has focused on long term water quality monitoring and developing citizen science programs. The SSEA were partners with 8 municipalities in our water shed area, including Tiny Township. Some support was also received from other federal and provincial agencies. SSEA's focus was on water quality and invasive species.
- Aisha noted that a pdf copy of her slides would be posted to the FLCA website.
- Farlain Lake is a small shallow lake with no outlet. It is fed by groundwater and is moderately nutrient rich. Its surroundings are 88% woodland, 10% residential and 2% rural.
- Lake sampling is done every 2 weeks and the water is tested for its chemistry and algae analysis.
- The citizen science program includes monitoring the water level, ice spotters and shore watch.
- The SSEA also provides technical support to the EWM committee.

Algae:

- The algae was also discovered in other lakes in the area.
- In our lake, samples were collected on July 27 in the southeast and southwest areas. Three species were identified that can produce toxins.
- A second sample was done on Aug 3, which included the north end as well. That sample was clear. Toxins were detected, but at a low level.
- Toxins can persist while blooms are breaking up. They can be harmful to people and animals. Boiling water does not get rid of toxins. Do not consume the water or use it for household

purposes. When the bloom is active and visible, avoid contact, do not swim and do not consume any fish. The bloom is mainly spread by the wind not through boat activity.

- It is difficult to predict how long the bloom will take to dissipate. It is a good sign that the toxin levels are coming down.
- Once conditions are no longer favourable, the toxin cells will die off and sink to bottom of lake. It is possible that some cells could survive the winter.
- Algae is a microscopic single celled plant which can exist as a group of cells. It is part of the lake ecosystem. It can attach to rocks and hard surfaces. The issue becomes when there is too much algae. It can have a smell and clog anchors.
- Different types of algae are grouped based on their growth patterns. There are free floating, mat forming, attached and macro.
- Free floating algae was in our lake. A blue green bloom can produce toxins, but not always, which is why testing is necessary by the MECP and results reported to the Health Unit and Township. For example, most mat forming algae does not produce toxins.
- It is possible to have other types of algae mixed in with the bloom, making identification difficult.
- Data from water sampling had been collected over the years. In 1973 algae levels were low. In 1990 there were complaints about algae. Data was collected by the Ministry in 1996. In 2011, the SSEA took water samples. In 2016, the SSEA survey detected algae but not a bloom. In 2020, samples were taken at various depths. The 2022 SSEA water sample survey was currently being analyzed.
- Temperature is a key factor. Algae reproduces better with warm conditions. Early season warm temperatures could have started its growth. Low oxygen at lower levels can also release algae. In our lake the water temperature can be the same at the top and bottom levels.
- Blooms are difficult to predict. Other factors to consider are water temperature and rainfall. Higher water temperature promotes more growth as do more ice-free days.
- In 2022, the water clarity only allowed us to see 50% down and we would have expected to see all the way down. Over the long-term phosphorus levels have remained low although levels are higher at the bottom of the lake.
- To limit algae growth, maintain your septic system, eliminate fertilizer use, keep a natural shoreline, reduce runoff and soil erosion, promote native aquatic plant growth and do not restrict the natural water circulation.

Water Level Update;

- Thank you to the Citizen Scientists for collecting the data from the water level gauge installed near the boat launch. Aisha provided links where people could access more information. Updates were posted every 2 weeks. Elizabeth thanked Aisha for her valuable presentation and questions were then addressed to Aisha.

Q1 - Is it alright to swim in the lake?

You should take a precautionary approach since the toxin levels can vary. It is a personal assessment of the risk. Some people are more sensitive than others. You should wash after going swimming.

Elizabeth noted that although the Health Unit had reported that the toxin levels in the samples were below the recreational standard, people should be cautious about swimming if the water did not look clear. The Ministry did not have a plan for resampling at this point. We need to keep them advised. In particular, children and pets could be vulnerable.

Q2 - Are toxin levels published?

The recreational limit is 2.0 and drinking water level is 1.5. In July the reading was 5 and in August it was 1.

Q3 - When will sampling be done again?

SSEA is taking another sample on Tuesday of next week.

Q4 - What are symptoms of exposure?

Symptoms can vary from person to person. You can develop a rash or have an allergic reaction such as respiratory issues.

Q5 - Could it impact a drilled well on the shoreline?

No, but we are not sure how it moves through ground water.

Q6 – What method of sterilization could be used?

Treatment is an activated charcoal system.

Q7 - Could the dead trees on the shoreline have contributed to the bloom?

No, it takes time for a tree to decompose.

Q8 - Can you harvest the algae?

You would need a special fine mesh.

Q9 - What communication is being sent?

The Township hand delivered flyers after the July 27 sample. FLCA had posted on Facebook to reach non-members and will continue to update as we receive more information. The information chain starts with the SSEA contacting the Ministry which then contacts the local Health Unit, and they then contact the Township. SSEA usually contacts the Township as well initially. The FLCA is in contact with the SSEA, Health Unit and the Township.

Q11 - Any algae blooms on other lakes in the area?

No blooms have been found on Kettle Lake or Gignac Lake.

Q12 - Does the septage field have an impact?

It is a distance away from the lake. Phosphorous gets bound by sediments. It is not very likely that it is impacting nutrient levels.

Q13 - Can we get rid of it?

No, we need to wait it out.

Q14 - Is there a map of the bloom?

No, however the wind tends to blow to the south. However, the wind direction could change.

Q15 - Could birds be contributing?

No.

Q16 – Could the dumping of pool or hot tub water have an impact?

No.

7. Farlain Lake Plant Study Report – by Kelly Biagi, PhD

- Kelly Biagi, who has earned her PhD in hydrology, is a member of the EWM team, a citizen scientist and was project lead for the aquatic plant study completed by SOLitude Lake Management in July. This was the first time such a comprehensive study has been done although a less extensive study had been completed by Peter Andrews in 2012. Thank you to Don Ferguson, Brian Kelso and Greg Goss for their assistance.
- The team from SOLitude completed its survey over two days. The team ecologist would throw a rake with 20 ft length and analyze the plants which were brought up.
- EWM sites were also noted on the map shown by Kelly in her slides. Red was considered dense if 75 to 100% of the plants were EWM. Yellow was classed as medium and green was trace infestation. Two red areas were identified. Last year there were 17 EWM sites.
- Water nymph and Illinois pondweed were the two major native plant species.
- Changes have been noted. The richness of the plant species both for native plants and EWM has declined.
- The full detailed report was expected from SOLitude later in the fall and would be shared with members.

8. Eurasian Watermilfoil Update – by Tom Hayes

- Tom comments that this plant continued to grow and the north end of the lake in particular was a hot spot. However we were better off than most lakes as our active management efforts had helped to keep EWM in check.
- The root ball of this plant was large and must be dealt with to destroy the plant. Our research on how best to manage the infestations resulted in control methods that had included hand harvesting, benthic mat placement, and use of the DASH system as well as the application of a herbicide, Reward.
- The EWM Committee this year learned of a herbicide product called ProcellaCOR which had been approved and was now being widely used effectively in the US. Health Canada was in the process of reviewing it for use in Canada, and the final step in the process was to hold public consultations.
- Dr. Mark Heilman of SePRO, which developed the new product, visited our lake at the beginning of August to examine the infestation areas. If the product received approval, he feels it would be very effective in managing the EWM in our lake.
- Our priority this year was identification and detailed mapping of the infestations in the lake. Unfortunately, a herbicide could not be applied due to the blue green algae and water advisory. Mats could be placed in some of the denser areas.
- The EWM committee would continue its due diligence. Planning over the coming year would include the option for the application of ProcellaCOR if approved, or Reward as an option.

Q1 - Could Reward have an impact on algae bloom?

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We would have to check with the SSEA. Reward was last applied in July 2021.

9. Social Events – by Scott Dales

- The Fishing Derby was a catch and release event held on July 1st and was very successful. It experienced an increase from 25 children participating last year to 45 this year. There were very creative stories and hats.
- Local sponsors were very supportive and provided excellent prizes. It was hoped they may be able to present the prizes in person next year. Accordingly, a BBQ may be held the day of the event.
- The Georgian Legacy cruise sailing out of Penetang had offered a 10% discount for FLCA members. They will be approached to continue this discount next season.
- Two Golf days were planned for 2023. The first would be held on June 10 at the Orr Lake Club and the second at the Balm Beach Golf Club on September 16. Registration would be available 2 weeks prior to the event.
- Ideas for social events were welcome.

10. AED (Automated Electronic Defibrillator Devices) on Lake – Elizabeth Di Chiara

- A group of property owners on Andrew Dr purchased an AED which was installed at 86 Andrew Drive next to the public access to the lake. It was installed in a case on the inside wall of a hut on the driveway for protection from the elements as it was temperature sensitive, and would be moved indoors during the winter.
- A 2-hour basic training session was held which included a CPR refresher and how to use the device. The cost of the device and training session was approximately \$3,000 and each family contributed approximately \$350. There was a designated manager who was responsible for monitoring the device. An alarm would sound if the case was opened.
- This experience could possibly be a pilot for the lake and the Board had been discussing options. A poll question of those present was taken as follows:

Poll:

Which option do you prefer?

- a) Encourage community members to consider the Andrew Drive approach
- b) Consider installation of a device at the boat launch and possibly the north end
- c) Pursue the possibility of installation of devices around the lake.

The results were split so a commitment was made to investigate options further and report back to the members.

11. Financial Report – Ross Graham

- Detailed financials would be posted on the website for members' review. The fiscal year end is July 31.
- The FLCA funds were held in 3 buckets: 1) EWM Reserve Fund, 2) FLCA Operations and 3) OTF Grant.
- The EWM fund consisted of donations received from the community since 2018, sponsors and FLCA fundraising separate from the OTF grant. It was set aside for EWM expenses following the end of the OTF grant period.

- From 2013 to 2022, \$112k had been raised with expenditures of \$85k, leaving a balance of \$27k which was being held in reserve. Of this, \$20k was invested in a GIC.
- The FLCA operations consisted of membership dues less operating expenses. There was an opening balance of \$8k with membership revenue of \$5k offset by \$3k of expenses, such as the system costs (web site hosting and maintenance, communication programs such as Constant Contact), and insurance, leaving a closing balance of close to \$11k.
- Ontario Trillium Foundation grant funds were received throughout the grant period which commenced in 2019. The FLCA must continue to meet the grant specifications to receive the funds. As a result of extensions approved by OTF, the funds would be available until December 2023.
- To date, \$174k has been received and with \$152k in expenditures, there was a balance of just under \$23k to be spent.
- By the end of 2022, the FLCA will receive another \$26k. All the funds must be spent by the end of the grant period, and expenses must be closely monitored. A final report on the use of the funds and the impact of the work supported by the grant would be required by OTF. Any unused funds would be returned to the OTF. After those funds are gone, only those funds set aside in the reserve fund would be available for managing the EWM.

Motion: That the FLCA members grant the authority to the Board of Directors to approve the unaudited annual financial statements when the annual revenue does not exceed \$100,000.

By: Ross Graham

Second: Herb Huck

CARRIED

12. Election of FLCA Board of Directors – Doug Kirk

- Directors can be elected for up to 2 three-year terms with one-year extensions. Members are encouraged to run for election to continue the association's work.
- The Board provides leadership and continuity. Our by-laws set the Board at a maximum of ten directors. The current Board had 8 directors serving staggered terms.
- There were two nominations this year for new Directors: Gerry Pipe and Margaret Brohm.
- There are five continuing directors:
Elizabeth Di Chiara, President
Wendy Huck, Secretary
Tom Hayes, Director , EWM
Scott Dales, Director, Community Engagement
Jeanette Parker, Director, Communications and FoTTSA Representative

Nominations:

Directors for Re-election:

Ross Graham, Treasurer (extension for 1 year)

New Directors:

Gerry Pipe, Director (election for 3 years)

Margaret Brohm, Director (election for 3 years)

Motion: That the slate be approved by the members for election to the FLCA Board as presented.

By: Doug Kirk

Second: Tammy Turpin

CARRIED

Congratulations and welcome to Gerry and Margaret.

- Doug noted the need for someone with financial experience to ultimately assume the role of Treasurer when Ross Graham completed his extended term.
- Framed certificates would be presented as shown on the slides to our three retiring Board members. Sincere appreciation was expressed to Don Ferguson as Vice President for his expertise, Pat Kelso who had done a great job with membership and EWM, and to Doug Kirk who had been involved as a past president as well as our representative on FoTTSA.
- Elizabeth expressed sincere thanks to all on our Board for their dedication, hard work and commitment to the lake and its community.

13. Review and Discussion of Submitted Questions – Jeanette Parker

- Jeanette reviewed the questions that had been submitted via the chat function throughout the meeting:

What can we do about boat wakes? We have shared information about the impact of wakes. Ongoing education has been our focus. Trying to limit or restrict vehicles can only be done through a very extensive process through Transport Canada.

Comment - When communication was being issued about the algae bloom, it appeared that some of those located on back lots did not receive the flyers.

Comment - People need to scoop up after their pets and keep them on a leash.

What can we do about noise and light pollution? There is an impact on people and wildlife.

Our focus is on education and information as opposed to policing. We have distributed information in the past on the negative impact of light pollution particularly at night.

It was a Township decision to discontinue speed bumps and insert a sign displaying speed of vehicles coming down Military Road.

What can be done about potholes? You would need to contact the Township.

What about short term rentals who bring in boats? The Township and the FLCA have sample renters' agreements on their website. These can help with education and awareness.

14. Adjournment

- Elizabeth thanked everyone for their participation in our virtual meeting and adjourned the meeting at 9:30 pm. She noted that member input was always appreciated. Members were reminded they could contact the FLCA and any member of the Board through inquiries@farlaine.ca.