



FARLAIN LAKE Community Association

Farlain Lake Community Association Newsletter

Ripples

Spring Issue 2016

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Spring at Farlain Lake

High water levels continue!

Please report found or missing
docks to:

inquiries@farlainlake.ca.

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Membership in the FLCA
Severn Sound Environmental
Association

Tiny Cottager (FoTTSA)

Save the Dates: Annual Meeting Sunday July 24 and Boat Parade
Sunday July 31! Watch for details.

Read on for important information as we head into another wonderful
season at the Lake!

Message from the President

Spring has arrived along with all the activity that goes on in our community as we prepare for the warmer weather ahead. In prior years we worried about snow buildup on roofs, but this year it is the high water level that is causing concern. If you find a strange dock floating by please tie it off and notify us so we can help find the rightful owner.



Your Association has been busy working with the Township and the [Severn Sound Environmental Association \(SSEA\)](#) on items identified in the Lake to Sky program. This year Tiny Township allocated \$13,000 towards water quality and management initiatives at Farlain Lake. Work has already begun on testing the water flowing into the north end of our lake from the only feeder stream. Findings from this research may help us understand why the Eurasian Water Milfoil, (EWM) seems to be thriving just out from where the stream enters the lake. See the separate article contributed by the SSEA in this issue.



This year has been challenging from a membership perspective. Our numbers are down and far too many resources have been expended on pursuing renewals instead of other

initiatives to improve our community. In an effort to reduce the time spent on this matter, we will be introducing longer term memberships for the first time in 2016. The hope is that those who find themselves too busy and sometimes miss renewing their membership will take advantage of this initiative to simplify matters. We will also start our membership drive earlier this year so please welcome our canvassers and support your Association. I also ask for your support in getting your neighbours involved. So much has been done for our community by this organization and much more can be done if we all support the FLCA.

On the septage front, the FLCA sent letters to the Township and the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change to see how things were proceeding. The update from the Township indicated that they were pursuing alternatives to share facilities with neighbouring communities instead of building a "Tiny only" facility. The hope was that this would be a quicker and cheaper alternative. Five communities were identified and the hope is to narrow this list down to two shortly. The Ministry of the Environment responded by saying that they are undertaking a review of their hauled sewage policy within the next 6 to 12 months. The Ministry indicated that two inspections have been done on the Awenda site since it began operations and no compliance violations were detected. Sampling from two wells on the property did indicate a slight increase in nitrate levels, but they still fell within Ministry guidelines. The Awenda site permit is up for renewal in March of 2017, but without any indications of damage to the watershed and with no treatment alternatives available, it is highly probable that the certificate will be renewed and the site will continue to operate for several more years.



You may also be interested in knowing that the portable traffic calming humps will be installed on Andrew Drive across from the boat launch before the end of May, according to Tim Leitch, Manager of Public Works. This is a fairly new technique being employed to deter speeding in areas of the community that have higher risk levels of accidents.

Finally, your Association continues to monitor and investigate ways of controlling the EWM. An underwater camera will be used this year to better determine the scope of the problem and to monitor progression. New techniques will be researched to determine if they are feasible and potentially more effective than the hand harvesting measures used in past years. At this time, controlling the spread of the invasive species is our only option as eradication once the plants are established is virtually impossible.



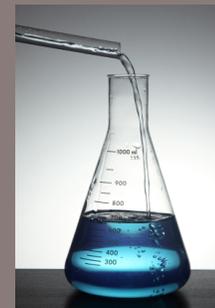
Keep your calendar free for our annual boat parade scheduled for July 31st. We need more creative entrants to give those Andrews a run for their money! We are also looking at adding a second summer event for the community so stay tuned!

On behalf of the FLCA, we wish you all a wonderful year at Farlain Lake!

Herb Huck
FLCA President

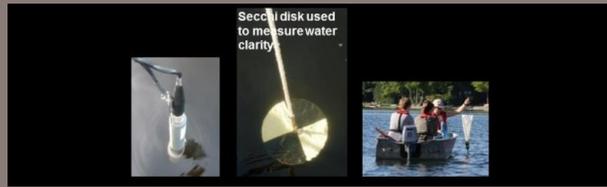
SSEA Checks the Health of the Lake

Farlain Lake is a hidden gem, tucked away in a forested landscape. It is a unique lake in that it is fed by groundwater, precipitation and a small amount of surface drainage, but with no surface outlet. The lake is thought to discharge via groundwater flow to its downstream neighbour, Kettle's Lake (aka Second Lake). With an average depth of 2.3m and a maximum depth of 5m, Farlain Lake is shallow, and has a well-established aquatic plant population, including a patch of the alien invasive Eurasian Milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*). Nearly the entire shoreline is developed with either permanent or seasonal dwellings, although the watershed itself is 88% forested. The single constant inflow is a coldwater stream that is heavily influenced by groundwater (based on conductivity, alkalinity and pH). These characteristics collectively shape the water quality conditions of Farlain Lake.



Beginning in early May and continuing to the end of September 2016, the Severn Sound Environmental Association (SSEA) will collect samples and physical measurements every two weeks from the deepest point in the centre of the lake, as well as from the inflowing tributary. Physical measurements will include water temperature, oxygen content, turbidity, and water clarity. Samples will be analyzed for nutrients (phosphorus and various forms of nitrogen), basic chemistry (e.g. pH and ion composition), and algae communities. Communities of zooplankton, which are microscopic invertebrates that feed mainly on algae

and act as a food source for fish, will also be analyzed.



Past surveys done in 1996 and 2011 have shown that Farlain Lake is a moderately enriched lake, with moderately low nutrient concentrations, and with moderate algal biovolume and clarity. Nutrient concentrations and algal biovolume in 2011 were lower than in 1996. The open lake has moderately hard, alkaline water based on conductivity, alkalinity and pH. Lake and inflow total phosphorus concentrations are low - the seasonal lake mean for 2011 was 9 µg/L, which is below the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) recommended guideline for preventing nuisance algae blooms. Based on MOECC's Lake Partner Program results between 2007-2014, the long term mean is 10.6 µg/L. Sodium and chloride are also very low, indicating minimal influence from road salt and the diluting effects of groundwater. There was a moderate amount of algae growth in the open waters in 2011. Rooted aquatic plants may be outcompeting the algae community for nutrients. Zooplankton were present in lower densities in 2011 than in 1996, and communities lacked the large-bodied animals that consume the greatest amount of algae. As of 2011, invasive zebra and quagga mussel veligers (larval stage) were absent from the lake.

Results from the 2016 survey of the lake and stream will be used to compare with previous surveys and will allow for the detection of trends in water quality and biological communities. For more information, contact the SSEA office in Midland at (705) 527-5166.

High Water Alert

An alert was sent out to FLCA members and former members a few weeks ago. The water levels remain high and as of last weekend, there was still little to no beach around the Lake.



Some docks are damaged, some pieces of docks have floated down the Lake towards the south end. Some boat houses are damaged or flooded. Some property owners at Lake level have experienced flooding in the basements.

You can check out the photos on the FLCA web site at www.farlainlake.ca.

Please contact the FLCA if you have a dock or pieces of one in front of your property and if possible send a photo to inquiries@farlainlake.ca so we can facilitate. The same applies if you are missing anything.

Fire Safety

As summer approaches, it's the time of year for burning leaves, bon fires and fireworks! Here are important things to keep in mind to ensure your safety and that of our community:



Outdoor Fires

- Please remember to purchase your Fire Permit to enjoy outside fires - available at Toanche Basin Store for \$25. To avoid unnecessary fines, please comply with all burning conditions that are listed on the burn permit. These permits are available at a number of locations in Tiny, and the Township office can provide the details.
- Check with the Township office every time you are considering an outdoor fire to determine whether open air burning is permitted. The Township office number is 705-526-4204. Be sure any visitors using your cottage also know this number. A recording regarding possible Fire Bans is always available after hours.
- Build open air fires on bare soil contained in a pit. Remove leaves and twigs from around the fire to keep it from spreading. In our area, the diameter of an outside fire must not exceed one meter.
- Always keep a bucket of water, sand, or shovel close by and supervise the fire at all times.
- Never leave the fire unattended and be absolutely sure to fully extinguish your fire before returning indoors!
- Consider keeping all smoking to outside areas. Keep a large can with water nearby so butts can be safely discarded.

- Drink responsibly. Tobacco use and excessive alcohol consumption are contributing factors in many fires and can lead to serious injuries.
- Burn candles in sturdy candleholders that will not tip and are covered with a glass shade. When you go out, blow out!

Fireworks

- If you choose to have family fireworks on your property, appoint a responsible person to be in charge. Only adults who are aware of the hazards and essential safety precautions should handle and discharge fireworks.
- Fireworks are not allowed when a fire ban is in effect.
- Carefully read and follow the label directions on fireworks packaging.
- Always keep a pail of water close by when discharging fireworks.
- Discharge fireworks well away from combustible materials like buildings, trees and dry grass.
- Keep onlookers at a safe distance, upwind from the area where fireworks are discharged.
- Light only one firework at a time and only when they are on the ground. Never light a firework in your hand or re-light duds. For dud fireworks, soak them in a bucket of water for a minimum of 30 minutes.
- Discharge fireworks only if wind conditions do not create a safety hazard.
- Keep sparklers away from small children. Sparklers burn extremely hot and can ignite clothing, cause eye injuries and result in severe burns. As the sparkler wire remains hot for some minutes after burnout, it should be immediately soaked in water to avoid injury.
- If someone gets burned, run cool water over the wound for three to five minutes and seek medical attention, if necessary.
- All fireworks should be disposed of in a metal container.



When are Fireworks Allowed?

Only between dusk and 11 p.m. as follows...

Midland: Allowed on Victoria Day, Canada Day and "as approved"

Penetanguishene: Allowed on Victoria Day, Canada Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day and the week prior and/or following, or when special permit allows

Tiny Township: Allowed on Victoria Day, Canada Day and the five days prior and/or following, and on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day; also allowed if approval granted by chief fire official

Please be considerate of your neighbours, wildlife and the Township By-laws!

Spring Clean-up - Yard Waste

Bi-weekly curbside Spring Leaf and Yard Waste Collection is under way in Simcoe County.



Place your materials at curbside by 7 a.m. on Monday of your collection week. To determine your yard waste collection week please [click here](#), or consult the waste management calendar.

Collection may not coincide with your garbage day. Utilize yard paper bags, cardboard boxes, compostable bags or open-rigid containers.

ACCEPTABLE MATERIALS:

- *leaves
- *grass
- *garden waste
- *straw bales
- *cornstalks
- *brush

Penetang, Midland and Tiny are Week 2 on the schedule. [Click here](#) for more details and to download the waste management calendar.

Pet Alert

Please watch out for your pets - there have been some coyote sightings around the Lake this spring.



Also - just a reminder that by-laws do not allow any dogs to be running at large in the Township. All dogs must be kept on a leash when off the owner's property and are at risk of being picked up by the animal control if found running loose off their property. Please keep your pets safe - running loose not only endangers others, it puts your pet potentially in harm's way, particularly on the roads.

All dog owners are required to pick up after their pets anywhere on township property.

Take care of your pets and show consideration for your neighbours!



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.



Are you renting your property this summer?

Please [click here](#) to access the *FLCA Guide for Renters* and sample *Renter Agreement* available for downloading on the FLCA web site..