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# FARLAIN LAKE

Community Association



## RIPPLES

FLCA eNewsletter

Spring 2012



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## ***President's Message from Doug Kirk***

To all Members and Potential Members

Welcome back to Farlain Lake for the 2012 lake season.

For those who never left the lake last fall, the winter of 2011/12 almost wasn't. The ice was out very early this spring.

For those who left for the winter months, you'll find the initial spring growth well advanced as you return and water levels about where you'd think they should be in the spring despite the relatively light winter.

Your Association Board met three times over the winter to stay on top of ongoing issues affecting the community. Of note, we attended two meetings of the Township's Community Recreation Committee, who had been assigned the task of reviewing a request to Township Council for additional lake access. A solution, acceptable to all parties, was achieved with no material change to the lake accesses already in place.

Through the efforts of our dedicated former President Pete Andrews we have moved forward the assessment of the lake's health and identification of long term stresses on its health. The Board is reviewing Pete's report and assisting in the development of a long term plan to promote the environmental health of the lake.

On the fun side, a boat parade is being planned for early August, building on the success of last year's re-introduction of this Farlain Lake tradition.

The FLCA starts the 2012 season in good shape with over 100 active members thanks to the work of our Director for Membership, Elizabeth Di Chiara in particular.

We look forward to another great summer enjoying the positive attributes of spending time at the lake. See you there.

Doug Kirk  
President

### ***What We Do and How We Care For the Lake and the Community***

- \* Advocate for the interests of the Lake's residents and the Lake
- \* Organize events such as the annual boat parade and Annual General Meeting
- \* Keep Association members and other community residents informed of current issues



**Former FLCA Vice-President  
Bill Sweeney**

- \* Liaise with the Township and other government agents on environmental issues, land development, fisheries, community safety, municipal services, etc.
- \* Collect water samples for the MOE Lake Partner Program to monitor water quality and total phosphorous levels in the Lake
- \* Monitor and assess watercraft activity and issues on the Lake
- \* Monitor the watershed for invasive species

### ***Upcoming Association Events***

#### **2012 Annual General Members Meeting**

Please join us and bring a neighbour or two to our 2012 AGM to be held on **Sunday, August 5th, 2012**. Complete details including the start time and location will be confirmed at a later date. Please join us to support your Association and to stay involved and informed about the issues that matter to you and to the Lake.

#### **2012 Boat Parade - Saturday, August 4, 2012**

That's right - The annual Boat Parade is actually annual again. Watch your email inbox this coming week for an announcement with all the details.

#### **2012 Photo Contest**

Watch your email inbox for a special announcement concerning the 2012 FLCA Photo Contest. Entries will be judged for originality and evoking the spirit of the Farlain Lake community. All submissions will be available on Facebook for viewing and feedback. A great prize will be awarded at the 2012 AGM.

### ***A Mini-History of a Tiny Lake - Farlain Lake By Elaine Sweenie***



Farlain Lake is located between Concessions 16 and 19 of Tiny Township, just inland from Toanche and adjacent to Awenda Provincial Park. A geographer would call it a finger lake, because it is the result of glacial action scraping a long narrow gouge which then filled up with water. Thus, Farlain Lake is a spring fed lake, approximately 2 1/2 miles long and 3/4 of a mile wide.

Over 200 registered lots surround the Lake providing enjoyment to both permanent and seasonal residents. The majority of the land was originally part of three large farms. One was the Quesnelle farm, which fronted on the 16th concession and ran back to include the south end of Farlain Lake. The other 2 farms, which included the whole west side and the north end, were owned by the Cooks, which explains why many locals have called it Cook's Lake.

The Quesnelle farm remains but ceased to be an active farm a few decades ago. It was the first to sever off cottage lots and so the recreational use of the south end began in the 1920s. By the 1930s there was a population sufficient to support Moon's Place, a combination convenience store/dance pavilion, which was also the site of many euchre parties and general good times. Moon's Place and all other commercial ventures have long since disappeared from the lake.

The north Cook farm, a 400 acre general farm since the 1870s, was sold in 1945 to a Mr. Taylor, who used it as a recreational property and as an investment. In the '50s he created cottage lot developments, sold many lots and built on others to rent out as summer places. When he died in 1959, he willed the remaining property to Millie Alport, who gradually sold the rental cottages, usually to long-term tenants. Millie lived in the original Cook farmhouse, and on the six acres still in her possession she kept four palomino horses until ill health forced her to give up the farm in 1995. Many children on Farlain Lake got their first thrilling horseback ride on Honey Bee, who lived for all but two of her 32 years on the shores of the Lake.

The Cooks purchased the 300-acre south farm in 1900 from the Georgian Bay Lumber Company. In 1928, David Pratt, of Midland, purchased it as a hobby farm. He had "caretakers" work the farm and did extensive reforestation and major excavation work to create a series of ponds out of the original one so that he could raise trout for

sport fishing. In 1935, his son Lorne built a summer house on a point of land about the middle of the farm's shoreline but as time went on it was rarely used. Because it sat alone amidst a mile of forested shore, the youngsters on the lake came to think of it as "the haunted house." They saw it as a test of courage to enter it and it became great fodder for their campfire stories.

In 1969, the farm was divided and sold. The original 1911 farmhouse and 235 acres went to the Polish National Union, who used it for recreational purposes and the remainder went to a developer, who began the 90-cottage lot development known as Wildwood Estates. In 1986, the Polish Club sold the farm, but retained 10 acres on the south side of the 17th Concession and built a new clubhouse on the shore. The current owners of the farm, the Sweenies, regret to say that there are no trout left in the ponds.

In the '90s, a proposed development of the north tip of the lake (the underground drainage end) and the Gypsy moth invasion caused the reactivation of the cottagers' association to deal with these environmental concerns. The association succeeded in having strict environmental protection rules put in place on all remaining building lots and future development. The association has also served as a forum for information addressing a variety of concerns both specific to our Lake and to the Township as a whole.

One area of action arose from concern over the six unfortunate drownings on the lake over the last 30 years. Perhaps because Farlain is such a small calm lake, carelessness creeps in. The association has sponsored water safety courses in the hope of preventing any more tragedies.

It also tries to disseminate general information on how to maintain the water quality of the lake, an important need considering the high population density on a small lake. Each year water quality and clarity tests are done and the results are reported at the annual meeting. At the association's request, the Simcoe District Health Unit has checked for faulty septic tanks.

The residents of the lake have been asked to use environmentally friendly detergents and to discourage the use of soaps and shampoos in the lake and not to use fertilizers on their lawns which would wash into the lake, promoting weed and algae growth.

And for fun, the association has an annual picnic and games day, followed the next day by a decorated boat parade, led by 'Farly', the elusive Farlain Lake monster, who only appears this one day a year.



### ***Why Are We Members***

We are members because:

- \* Membership allows us to participate in an organization of active, interested, and concerned people
- \* Membership enables us to provide input into community and stewardship planning
- \* Membership gives strength to the FLCA so that it can speak and be heard to all levels of government
- \* Membership enables us to know our neighbours and stay connected in the Farlain Lake community



Help to strengthen our Association by recommending membership to your neighbours or by volunteering some of your own time for an FLCA event. For membership and volunteer information, please contact Elizabeth DiChiara at [inquiries@farlainlake.ca](mailto:inquiries@farlainlake.ca) or just visit our website [www.farlainlake.ca](http://www.farlainlake.ca) and follow the link to "Become A Member"



As we approach the peak summer boating season, the FLCA Board of Directors wish to remind you to be courteous and make your safety and the safety of others a priority when operating your powercraft at the Lake.

## Happy Summer!

**Editor's Note: If you would like to contribute an article or photo for an upcoming edition of *Ripples* or if you have any feedback or suggestions for content, please contact James Tuck, Director, Communications at [inquiries@farlainlake.ca](mailto:inquiries@farlainlake.ca).**

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