FARLAIN LAKE Community Association

Ripples
Farlain Lake Association Newsletter

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Issue: Holiday Issue 2014 **December 2014**

Welcome to the Holiday Issue of *Ripples*! As 2014 draws to a close, we wish you and yours a warm and joyous holiday season and a happy, healthy and successful 2015!

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It's hard to believe that another year at Farlain Lake has come and gone. As I reflect on the accomplishments of the past year we should be extremely proud of what we have achieved as a community.

Our membership stands at 96 and our retention is at 91%. Both well

FLCA Board

Herb Huck - President
Doug Kirk - Past President
Pete Andrews - Vice President
Don Ferguson - Secretary
Ross Graham - Treasurer
Bill Sweenie - Director
Pat Kelso - Director

Newsletter Editors

Elizabeth Di Chiara
Tammy Turpin

Send articles and ideas to:
inquiries@farlainlake.ca

ahead of the previous fiscal year. Membership is the key success factor for any association and I encourage each of you to reach out to others in the community that have not joined and encourage them to do so to further increase our ability to represent our community and protect our lake.

President Herb Huck at work during FLCA Weedstock

We undertook a significant environmental project to control the spread of Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) which poses a serious threat to the enjoyment of our lake and the value of our properties. With the leadership of Board member Pete Andrews a comprehensive three year aquatic invasive species control plan was developed and initial steps executed with the guidance of the EWM Control Steering Committee and the help of many community volunteers. This was a labour intensive and costly endeavor; we reached out to both the community and Township of Tiny for support and financial assistance. Both stepped up to the plate big time. The Farlain Lake community donated over $8,000 and the Township contributed $1,800 for year 2014. The Township has committed an additional $3,700 over the remaining two years of the multi-year EWM control project. I thank all of you for your generous financial and volunteer support.

Your Board also monitored the septage disposal situation in the lake's watershed, collected lake water samples for ongoing water quality monitoring, implemented another successful annual boat parade, provided information to help you decide on the best candidates for our next municipal government, developed a new web site, modified our by-laws to ensure continuity of the association and communicated with you on a regular basis. Yes a great deal was accomplished but so much more can be done.

For 2015, the Board has ambitious goals which include;
* Identify and implement one or more initiatives identified in the Lake to Sky community management plan that was approved by FLCA members in 2012.
* Continue to increase membership over the 100 member threshold.
* Engage with our new mayor and councilors through presentations /recommendations to Council
* Implement the second year of the EWM control project which will involve invasive plant removal through hand harvesting projects and through enhanced education/awareness initiatives.
* Actively monitor developments related to the septage disposal field in the lake's watershed and to participate in the Township's reactivated Septage Management Class EA Process.
* Review opportunities for more lake community social activities
* Address road safety issues
* Provide valuable information to members about our lake and the community
* Seek new sources of financial support to ensure the continued success of our association

* Identify and recruit new Board members
* Address any new risks or threats to the values we all share.

Members of your Board have also been recognized for their contributions towards environmental stewardship by the Severn Sound Environmental Association over the years. In 2013 Bill Sweenie was the recipient of the Bob Whittam Environmental Award for his ongoing water quality monitoring and watershed protection efforts. Pete Andrews received the 2014 Bob Whittam Environmental Award for his aquatic invasive species prevention and control efforts (see below). I can't tell you what a privilege it is to be able to serve as a member of your Board with such a dedicated, caring, and knowledgeable group of individuals. I thank each of them on behalf of the community for all they do for us.

I wish you all a safe and enjoyable winter season and look forward to meeting you next summer.

Herb Huck
President

PETE ANDREWS RECEIVES ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD

Congratulations to Pete...

Our sincere congratulations go to Pete Andrews as the recipient of the 2014 Bob Whittam Environmental Award! Pete received this well deserved award for his "achievements in research, and efforts in the restoration and protection of Farlain Lake in the Severn Sound ecosystem for present and future generations."

Those of us who know Pete, know how humble he is and he did not want us to make a special announcement about his award earlier in the fall. While Pete has indicated that he accepted the award on behalf of the FLCA Board and the FLCA members who "richly deserve recognition for protecting Farlain Lake and the values we all share", we also all know that without his dedication, leadership, vision, knowledge, experience and insight, most of our efforts to protect our Lake would not have happened and certainly would not have had the success we have enjoyed to date. Pete, Daryl and the Andrews family have contributed countless hours to many environmental initiatives, including the most recent battle against the Eurasian Watermilfoil invasive weed.

The Severn Sound Environmental Association (SSEA) Partner's Gala, at which the award was presented earlier in the Fall, was well attended by past and future Tiny Township Council members. Pete thanked past Mayor Ray Millar for his support over the years and his volunteer efforts on this year's EWM hand harvesting project. He also thanked Gibb Wishart for his past support and his involvement with the EWM control project. Steffen Walma, the new Deputy Mayor told Pete that he was impressed with our accomplishments and volunteered to be a 'weed warrior' in 2015.

Left to Right:
Pete Andrews, Garlfield Dunlop, MPP and Keith Sherman, SSEA

The award is named in honour of Bob Whittam who is recognized as a multi-faceted environmentalist/naturalist. In addition to the award, Pete also received a certificate of congratulations from Garfield Dunlop, M.P.P. on behalf of the Ontario Government.

This is the second year in a row that a representative from the Farlain Lake community has been awarded the Bob Whittam Environmental Award with Bill Sweenie as the recipient in 2013. This honour bodes well for the FLCA and its volunteers.

Congratulations Pete!

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

If not, this may be your last issue....

Did you renew your membership for 2014-2015? If you are one of our current 96 members, we thank you! If not, the membership year runs from August 1-July 31 annually. We will be dropping those who have not renewed after this issue. Not sure? Simply contact us at inquiries@flca.ca to confirm.

To renew now, simply send in your cheque for $40 payable to the Farlain Lake Community Association along with the form below or drop it off to the FLCA address. We would love to get over that 100 mark and hope you will help support your community!

Spread the word about the FLCA - forward this newsletter and encourage non-members to join. Download the 2014-2015 Membership Form here.

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