

FARLAIN LAKE

Community Association

Ripples

Fall/Holiday Issue

December 2017

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From the President...



As we approach a new year, this is an opportunity to bring you up to date on our activities since the summer. It's been an extremely busy year, with a major focus on the ongoing battle against the Eurasian Water Milfoil.

No volunteer association functions without the help and support of so many people and I would like to recognize those who have contributed so much to the FLCA. We continue to enjoy tremendous support from the Township and our elected leaders and it is a privilege to be able to work with them.

We also value the relationship we have with

the Severn Sound Environment Association (SSEA), and appreciated the presentation with an update on last year's water quality survey by Aisha Chiandet. The members of FLCA Board work hard on your behalf and I thank them for their continuous support. Your new Board includes myself, Don Ferguson (Vice President), Ross Graham (Treasurer and Secretary), Bill Sweeney (Environment), Pat Kelso (Membership) and returning to the Board is Elizabeth Di Chiara, (Communications). I would also like to recognize and thank those volunteers who have dedicated so much time and hard work to the battle against the EWM under the leadership of Pete Andrews with a significant amount of support from his better half, Daryl. As you can see by the number of people involved in the affairs of the community, this is truly a community association and it takes the whole community to be successful.

For those not able to attend the Annual Meeting back in July, [my report](#), draft [Minutes](#), [EWM Presentation](#) and [SSEA Presentation](#) are attached here and will be posted on the FLCA web site shortly. My report provides details in particular on the challenges we continue to deal with such as the high water levels, monitoring the septage issue, water quality, the cancellation of the annual Boat Parade for this year and of course the ongoing EWM issue among other activities. Pete Andrews has provided a short "abstract" of the EWM activities in this issue of the newsletter and a very comprehensive article which has been posted to the web site under Stewardship. The amended [FLCA By-laws](#) approved at the AGM are attached here and also posted to the site.



The Board has met twice since the summer and began by setting the key objectives for the upcoming year. The three objectives agreed upon include continuing to focus on the EWM, identify ways to improve our communication capabilities (including a review of the web site and social media), and fund raising. The Board and the EWM Committee have also reviewed the efforts and outcomes over the summer in order to work on plans for the coming year. We will continue to encourage members of the community to help us reach that target of \$80,000 over 3 years to provide funds in support of the fight against this invasive weed. In addition, the Board is working on proposals for grants from other sources.

It's not too late to order your 2018 Farlain Lake Calendars! Just place your order through the inquiries@farlainlake.ca email using the [Calendar Order Form](#) attached here. Payment is easy using [etransfer](#) or sending in a cheque.

In addition, we have provided input into the Township Official Plan and the Tiny

Township Recreation Master Plan. We have had a lull in communication with you since the summer due to volunteer time constraints but are now back on track with this newsletter. Since we have no way of securing pages on our web site to restrict them to members only, we will be including information specifically for members in this newsletter or other email blasts. An example is the [2016-2017 Financial Statements](#) for the past year which are attached to this newsletter. We will also try to keep these articles shorter and use the web site for more general information. Only members will now receive all the key information about the association activities and happenings in the community. Utilizing social media such as Facebook to enhance communication with our members is another goal for the year.

Membership is critical to our survival and our success! Our membership year started August 1 and if you have not yet renewed, this will be your last communication. So please act quickly and use the [Membership Form](#) here to make sure you don't miss out! We need your support!

In closing, I wish everyone a wonderful and joyous holiday season and a very healthy and happy 2018!

Herb Huck
FLCA President

EWM Alert !

by Peter Andrews, EWM Project Coordinator

Eurasian Watermilfoil is Spreading

- EWM is spreading in the lake and elsewhere in Canada.
- The invasive aquatic plant is found in many Ontario lakes.
- EWM can be found close to Farlain Lake in Penetang Harbour and in Little Lake Park Midland! Despite FLCA's efforts since 2014, the plant has spread to other areas of the lake including four different locations on the west side
- Human recreational activities (e.g. boating, fishing, etc.) and natural interaction (e.g. waterfowl, fish, aquatic mammals, heavy wave action, etc.) can damage the fragile EWM plant leading to the spread of EWM through plant fragments.
- Unfortunately our lake with its shallow depth, allows sunlight to reach the bottom of the lake in most areas, which is an ideal environment for EWM plants to grow and thrive
- If EWM is allowed to spread unchecked, the invasive plants will increase in size to become a dense floating mat in front of our properties, destroying the lake's ecology as well as our enjoyment of our beautiful lake



New Infestation Near
Lakeview Cres.

What has your Association been doing for you?

- The team has researched and built a prototype diver assisted suction harvesting system (DASH) that efficiently transports hand harvested plants to the lake's surface. It is used to support the harvesting efforts by contracted commercial divers. More details can be found on our website @ www.farlainlake.ca
- Our control plans for 2018 involve the use of jute benthic mats that kill the EWM plant while allowing native plants to survive. We will continue our hand harvesting of EWM plants using FLCA's DASH equipment.
- As there is no government funding available to support this effort, we have undertaken fundraising with a 2017 mail-out campaign, a FLCA 2018 calendar, Aquatic Weedfest event and other initiatives



We need your help!

- The fundraising efforts, research and building of systems plus the actual on the ground work has been done primarily by volunteers. This core group is made up of only 1% of the lake community's population.
- Thank you to those who have donated, but you will be interested to know that 68% of the lakefront owners did not donate to the 2017 fundraising campaign and only 6% of the back lot owners contributed to fight against EWM.

What can you do now?

- It's not too late to become a member of the Association and/or make a donation to support these efforts -- we offer the option to make a donation through [e-transfer](#) or cheque.
- Talk to your neighbors about the threat of EWM to our lake and the challenges we are facing in controlling EWM in the years to come.
- Share this email with neighbours and friends of Farlain Lake who are not FLCA members and encourage them to financially support the EWM control effort and to become FLCA members.
- Get involved by volunteering to help on EWM monitoring and control efforts or help with fundraising projects.

UNWANTED INVADERS OF FARLAIN LAKE

***By Robyn Rumney, Invasive Species Intern
Severn Sound Environmental Association
www.severnsound.ca***



Plant and animal species are moving around the planet, assisted by increasing globalization, climate change and other human caused factors. This movement results in plants, animals and micro-organisms occurring outside their normal "native" range, where they are known as non-native species. We see the impacts of this global movement locally, species like purple loosestrife and sea lamprey originated elsewhere and have since become commonplace in North America.

The problem with non-native species lies in their ability to outcompete native species, as they lack natural predators and competitors to control their populations. When non-native species spread unchecked they become invasive, and can damage the environment, the economy and human health.

Despite being a small inland lake, Farlain Lake is not immune to the effects of invasive species. As many Farlain Lake Community Association (FLCA) members are aware, an invasive aquatic plant, Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*), has become prolific in portions of Farlain Lake. Eurasian watermilfoil's dense growth is threatening the lake's native wildlife, hindering recreational use and reducing the aesthetic appeal of affected regions.

Eurasian watermilfoil isn't the only invasive species that should be on the radar of Farlain Lake users. Invasive fish, plants and aquatic invertebrates also have the potential to enter the Farlain Lake area.

Preventing the introduction of invasive species is critical...

- Do not dump leftover bait water or aquarium contents into Farlain Lake. This water could cause the spread of invasive fish, plants and invertebrates, even if they are not visible to the naked eye.
- Clean, drain and dry your boat before entering Farlain Lake, particularly if it was recently in another waterbody. Zebra and quagga mussels (*Dreissena polymorpha* and *Dreissena bugensis*, respectively) have not yet been found in Farlain Lake, but their microscopic larvae could easily enter the lake attached to unwashed boats. If they do invade Farlain Lake, zebra and quagga mussels could threaten the native mussel population, affect nutrient cycling and pose a safety hazard for swimmers.
- Plant native species in your gardens, as many non-native landscaping plants have the potential to escape and become invasive. Non-native species such as



Zebra and Quagga Mussels

Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*), periwinkle (*Vinca minor*), goutweed (*Aegopodium podagraria*), yellow iris (*Iris pseudacorus*), and European common reed (*Phragmites australis*) can be visually appealing but should be avoided due to



European Common Reed

their tendency to become dominant. Luckily, there are many native alternatives that can be cultivated instead and pose no harm to Farlain Lake's environment. Native plants are also the preferred food source for native insects and birds.

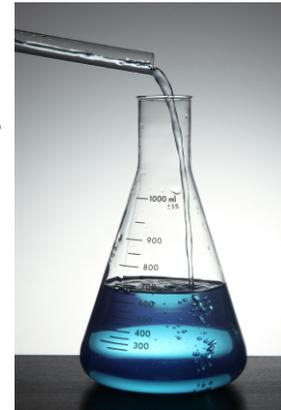
- Do not transport firewood; instead buy firewood near where you will burn it. Transporting wood can result in the spread of invasive forest insects, such as emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*), that could affect the health of the Farlain Lake's surrounding forests.

The Severn Sound Environmental Association (SSEA) is piloting an Invasive Species Program. This program will coordinate invasive species mapping, monitoring and control programs in the Severn Sound watershed (including Farlain Lake), and ultimately produce an Invasive Species Strategy for the area. SSEA will support and work with a variety of partners, including the FLCA, to prevent and manage invasive species. If invasive species are found, the sightings can be reported to SSEA by calling 705-527-5166; a staff member will confirm the identification and file a report.

More information about invasive species and how to help prevent their spread can be found on the SSEA website: www.severnsound.ca.

Well Water Testing Results

The 2017 FoTTSA well water Nitrate testing program was successfully completed with 113 water samples tested and no well water samples exceeding the drinking water guidelines of 10 mg/l for nitrates or 1.0 mg/l for nitrites. In fact, 78 samples had no detectable amounts of either contaminate and only two samples had any positive Nitrite reading.



Nitrates, compounds which contain one nitrogen molecule joined by three oxygen molecules (NO_3), can come from nitrogen fertilizers which are carried by rain or irrigation into groundwater. Additional sources of nitrates can be human or animal waste products.

Nitrites are compounds which have one nitrogen molecule joined by two oxygen molecules (NO_2) and come from the same fertilizer or waste products as nitrates. Nitrite compounds are quickly transformed in soil into nitrates and so usually have a much lower concentration than nitrates in ground water.

Thank you to those who collected the well samples and those who acted as association coordinators. We couldn't have had a successful nitrate program without you.

It's Not Too Late to Get Your 2018 FLCA Calendar!

Share the beauty of Farlain Lake...just in time for the holidays and the New Year...

As one of the successful fund-raising strategies developed for the battle against the Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM), the FLCA created a beautiful 2018 calendar filled with memorable photos of Farlain Lake throughout the four seasons of the year.



Sales have been great and only a limited number of calendars are left. Many thanks to those who have already purchased one and supported our fight against this invasive weed. These calendars would make a great gift for family, friends or business colleagues for the holidays. So many calendars are in circulation at this time of year but these photos hold special meaning for those of us in the FLCA community because they reflect the beauty of the Lake and because all funds raised go towards protecting it.

The cost is only \$20 each, no tax, and the cost of mailing is included. Remember that ALL of this amount goes to the **Save Our Lake Campaign** against the EWM. Payment may be made via cheque or e-transfer (instructions are on the order form).

Just complete the attached [order form](#) and return it via email to inquiries@farlainlake.ca.

Winter Safety Alert!

The snowmobiler in the photo on the right (courtesy of Roger Klein, CTV News, Barrie), a 60-year-old man, was very lucky. **He plunged through the ice on Farlain Lake on Sunday afternoon**



December 18. The man was in the frigid water for about a half hour. OPP came to his rescue but an officer had to carefully crawl out to the man on his stomach and pass him a rope. He was taken to hospital for hypothermia. Police say this rider is lucky to be alive.

Another snowmobiler went through the ice on Penetanguishene Bay the same day - he was wearing a floater suit and was able to make it to shore.

The ice is still very thin and not at all safe - PLEASE STAY SAFE - STAY OFF THE ICE! It is was too early to be going out on it.

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 [2017-2018 Membership Form](#) here.

Payment is easy now with the introduction of e-transfer - [click here](#) for instructions.

From the Farlain Lake Community Association, we wish you and your loved ones a season filled with wonder, peace and joy, and a very happy and prosperous 2018!

