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# RIPPLES

FLCA eNewsletter

Fall 2012



**Farly (pictured above with skipper Bill Sweenie and photographer Pete Andrews) led the parade of 17 decorated boats around the lake to cheering crowds. Farly received a "fashion make-over" for the parade thanks to Daryl Andrews.**

## ***Everyone Loves a Parade!***

The second annual Farlain Lake Boat Parade was launched on Saturday August 4 - one of the hottest days of the summer of 2012.

Our sincere thanks go to **Tim Konnry** and **Tammy Turpin** for organizing and running the fun-filled event! Special thanks go to our prize sponsors who's generosity allowed us to award ALL participants a prize!

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### **Membership**

Have you renewed your FLCA Membership for 2012-2013 yet?

If not, [click here](#) for the form and send in your payment of only \$30 to the address on the form.

**White Pines, Factory Recreation, Mad Michaels Restaurant, Balm Beach Go Carts, Kelseys Restaurant, Home Hardware, Boston Pizza, EB Games, Foodland, and JVL Home Improvements**



**Coming Events**

November 6  
Tree Lighting  
(Midland)

November 7  
Jingle Bell Skate  
(Penetang)

November 8  
Festival of Lights  
(Penetang)

December 1  
Santa Claus Parade  
(Midland)

[Forward to a Friend](#)

Check out more photos of the parade on the FLCA web site at [www.farlainlake.ca](http://www.farlainlake.ca) under Photo Gallery. Be prepared to put your creative juices to work next summer so we can have the biggest boat parade ever!

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



As summer has now given way to the autumn colours of fall, it is time for giving thanks. For many of us, the Thanksgiving weekend was a time to celebrate the closure of another fabulous summer at Farlain Lake with family and friends around the dinner table. It was also the time for many of us to remove boats, rafts, and docks from the lake and prepare for the onslaught of winter. Many of us have now said farewell to the lake until the spring.

Thanksgiving weekend, for me, was also a time to reflect on Farlain Lake events and activities that helped make the summer of 2012 enjoyable and memorable. None of the events and projects could have been accomplished without FLCA Board members and Association volunteers. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Elizabeth Di Chiara who not only oversees membership services, but also plays a key role in communicating with members, Herb Huck who serves as our recording secretary and meeting organizer, Ross Graham who manages our finances, Tim Konnry who masterminds the annual boat parade, Bob Allan who provides an important link to the Township on community matters, James Tuck who managed the FLCA photo contest, Bill Sweenie who is oversees water quality monitoring as well as keeping a vigilant eye on the septic disposal situation, Pete Andrews who is our 'jack of all trades', environmental guru and researcher/planner. These are

the people who move our agenda forward with action and dedication. I would also like to thank the members of the Association for their ongoing support through membership fees and volunteer work.

Farlain Lake is the link to all lake community residents. It is a jewel within Tiny Township. The lake and its watershed is the home of a diverse variety of birds, animals, and fish. The quality of water is good. The land is blessed with good forest cover. The lake offers residents and visitors a variety of active and passive recreational activities. The lake community is family oriented and safe. We must always be thankful for what we commonly value and share. The FLCA will continue to work to protect and enhance Farlain Lake and its surrounding watershed for current and future generations.



If you have a neighbour or friend in the community who is not yet a member of the FLCA, please encourage them to join and help support our efforts! Use the link on the right to forward this newsletter to them or [click here](#) to download the membership application form to pass on to them.

Please take the time to read this newsletter as it includes a wealth of information that is important to you the members of the community. Also, add our web site to your "Favourites List" on your internet browser and check it regularly for new information.

One of the most important roles the FLCA plays is that of education and communication. If you have ideas for content for the newsletter and/or the web site, or would like to contribute and article yourself, please contact Elizabeth Di Chiara at [elizabeth@cscm.org](mailto:elizabeth@cscm.org). We'd love to hear from you!

Best Wishes  
Douglas E. Kirk  
President

### ***Who's Property Is This?***

When community residents utilize the large forested lands surrounding the lake they are not quite sure if the land is public or private. Public land can be Crown land owned by the Province of Ontario. The Crown land in our watershed is part of Awenda Provincial Park. Permitted uses of the provincial park forested land is enunciated under the Provincial Parks Act. Public land is also municipal land governed by the County of Simcoe or the Township of Tiny. While there is no County land in the Farlain Lake community, there are a number of Township properties that fall under the jurisdiction of the Township of Tiny.

There are also a number of large tracts of land in the lake community that are privately owned.

Trespass is an issue. In some cases there may be people simply crossing a property while walking around the lake. In other situations, people are using their recreational vehicles on private land, dumping garbage, gathering firewood or hunting.



Community residents and visitors need to respect private property. They also need to seek permission from a private landowner to use the land even for walking.

The Ontario Provincial Police (O.P.P.) stress that it is the private property owner's responsibility to place No Trespassing signs. They also noted that it is up to the intruder to prove he/she has the right to be on the private land. In cases of consistent property trespass violations, the property owner may have to meet with the O.P.P. to decide what actions that can be done to address trespassing issues.

The owners of the properties south of Andrew Drive and at the west end of Andrew Drive have for many years permitted community residents to hike along the forested trails while walking around the lake. Most people assume that the trails are on public land, which is not the case. In recent years operators of all terrain vehicles (ATVs), dirt-bikes, motocross bikes and snowmobiles have used the same trails. Many of the off-road motorized vehicle riders use the forested land respectively and safely. Unfortunately usage of the private land has increased in recent years and damage to the forest habitat and trails has become apparent.

Respect and friendliness are key ingredients to being a good neighbour in the Farlain Lake community. Another key factor in good neighbour relationships is respecting private property. Be a good neighbor!

## ***Basic Satellite Television for Free***

***Act by November 30, 2012!***

Shaw Direct, a division of Shaw communication Inc., offers satellite to home (DTH) television services. It competes with Bell in this segment.

The company offers a lightly publicized basic package of 6 to 8 channels as a free service. The program is called Local Television Satellite Solution or LTSS. As part of Shaw's acquisition of Global Television a couple of years ago and recognizing that the move from analog to digital over the air (OTA) television in Canada would result in some homes being without locally receivable OTA television, Shaw



proposed this program to offset the loss. Farlain Lake is such an area as we've lost Global analog (CH 7) a couple of years ago, and TVO (CH 51) and CBC - Radio Canada (CH 34) as of July 31, 2012.

The dish, installation and receiver are free provided you don't have a DTH service at your Farlain Lake property. Call Shaw Direct (1-888-782-7602) to provide them with your Lake address information and they will email you an application form. Once they receive the completed form and they have qualified you, they will ship you a receiver and refer you to a local installer who will come out and install the dish. You have to provide a 6 x 6 post or a conveniently located tree and they will do the rest.

The package gives you most of the Toronto channels (CBC, CITY, OMNI-1, CHCH, Global, Barrie's CKVR (CTV-2), and Sudbury's CTV service. Pretty good considering it's free!

**The offer will expire at the end of November so it is important to register by then.**

## ***Honkers on the Decline***



Canada Geese have been a serious problem on Farlain Lake for a number of years. The FLCA has been working on a number of strategies over the years to manage the population of Canada Geese on the lake. The good news is that the population has declined from 40 geese last year to a resident population of 9 geese in 2012. This reduction is primarily due to the efforts of residents with large shoreline properties who have obtained a permit from the Canadian Wildlife Service to cull Canada Geese on their property. With a significant reduction in the resident population, there will be fewer Canada Geese returning to the lake early next spring to mate.

While legally culling Canada Geese on large tracts of land has proved beneficial to the lake community, the best strategy, since geese like grass, is to replace lawns with a natural landscape.

What to do with what the geese leave behind on your property? Scrape the 'dung' into a container and bury the 'goose poop' in the bush....away from the lake. The 'goose poop' is high in phosphorous and will serve as a natural fertilizer for plants. However, allowing the 'goose poop' to enter the lake will contribute to the deterioration in the quality of water. Too much phosphorous in the lake water contributes to algal blooms and weed growth.

## **Farlain Lake Community - A Sense of Place Building a Vision for the Future with the Lake to Sky Management Plan**

**by Pete Andrews**



A sense of place is the connection between people in the Farlain Lake community and the natural features where they live. A sense of place is also defined by the social relationships in the lake community in which people live. A sense of place emerges through knowledge and experience of the history and

geography of the area, its flora and fauna, its fisheries, and the growing sense of the lake and its surrounding landscape after living there for some time. Those who develop intimacy with a place over time tend to accept responsibility for it. Understanding the intrinsic values shared by all lake community residents can help inspire and empower everyone to take action to preserve those values we collectively embrace or take part in restoring those values in our lake community.

To help define that which is important to us and create a focus for something worth caring about, the FLCA sought input from members on a collective vision for the future of the Farlain Lake community. This vision will form a key building block for the Lake to Sky Community Management Plan that is been developed by the FLCA Board of Directors.

A questionnaire was distributed at the 2012 Annual General Meeting and a survey was distributed to all FLCA members in late August to obtain answers on two basic questions. What are your hopes and dreams for the Farlain Lake community in the year 2037? What values do you hope will guide changes over the next 25 years? Feedback generally fell into three major groupings. Some of the key comments are as follows:



### **Natural Environment**

#### **a) Water Quality**

- \* We want clean water quality that can sustain fish and wildlife, and the population of the lake community
- \* Water quality remains as excellent as it is today
- \* High water quality and water levels

#### **b) Natural flora and fauna**

- \* A healthy ecosystem is important to our enjoyment of the lake
- \* Green spaces and natural areas protected and preserved
- \* Pristine lawns replaced with more natural vegetation

- \* Preserved shoreline
- \* More stretches of shoreline left or returned to a natural state
- \* Trim lower branches to obtain a view rather than cutting the whole tree. Plant more trees along the shoreline
- \* Restock the lake with fish

## **Built Environment**

### **a) Land Development**

- \* No further land development; keep development to a minimum
- \* Established maximum population density plan
- \* No condominium development or new subdivision
- \* Manage the development of inland properties

### **b) Energy**

- \* Sustainable, renewable energy like solar power

### **c) Infrastructure**

- \* Water system for east side of the lake
- \* Township maintains its properties
- \* Steep driveways adjoining roads properly drained to avoid erosion
- \* Inter-municipal (County of Simcoe/Township of Tiny) development plan for the lake community
- \* Cable network for TV and high speed internet
- \* Road traffic and speeds enforced by the Township.
- \* Better sewage disposal and recycling

## **Social**

### **a) Community pride**

- \* Positive co-existence between shoreline and inland properties demonstrating a 'sense of community.'
- \* People who enjoy the country and lake living...both permanent and seasonal
- \* Safe, friendly, open, accepting.... people can develop life-long friendships.
- \* A community, not just a collection of isolated homes and families who are disconnected from each other
- \* Youthful and more vibrant and active than at present
- \* Spirit of volunteerism

### **b) Activities and facilities**

- \* Seniors recreational centre/gathering place in the north east quadrant of the Township
- \* Tennis courts added to Toanche Park
- \* Walking/running groups
- \* Nature/walking trail around the lake
- \* Family and child oriented activities
- \* A no motorized boat lake or a boating controlled lake

### **c) Guiding values**

- \* Respect for neighbours...minimal impact on others. Quiet tranquil clean place not impacted by loud parties and outdoor music systems, unsafe operation of personal watercraft, boats operating close to shore, night lighting interfering with dark sky viewing, fireworks during non-permitted times, dog poop and garbage disposed of at the side of the road, etc.
  - \* Volunteerism....an educated community committed to the protection of the lake and surrounding environment
- To ensure concerned members of the community have an opportunity to comment on the future of Farlain Lake, we welcome you to describe

your vision of Farlain Lake community in the year 2037. Please forward your input to us by November 12, 2012.

***Thank you for your participation and support!***

## ***Getting To Know Farlain Lake***

Recently a FLCA director had a fireside chat with two lake community residents, John Q. and Mary J. Farlainlakers, about the health of the lake. Here's what they said....

***Q: We understand a report on the health of the lake has been written. Why was the report written?***

A: The report is called the State of the Lake report. It describes in detail the conditions of both the lake and its surrounding watershed. The current STL (State of the Lake) report is a central repository of information on the lake its watershed gathered over the past four years. The STL report was created to

- 1) evaluate the health of the lake and its watershed,
- 2) identify information gaps where more research and data collection is needed, and
- 3) provide insights of the both problems and potential solutions, as well as the serious challenges that lie ahead.

The STL will also serve as a key cornerstone of the Lake to Sky Community Management Plan that is being developed.

***Q: You referred to the report as current. What does the term 'current' mean and what does the report entail?***

A: The STL is 'living' document that will continue to evolve over time as new or better information becomes available.

The report itself is very comprehensive. It contains information on the lake's classification and description, the description of the watershed, geology, soils, hydrology, groundwater, lake water levels, surface water quality, climate and climate change, forests, wildlife, fisheries, shoreline and aquatic vegetation, invasive and exotic species, description of the lake bottom, roads and water systems, land use, land development trends and pressures, open space protection, the Township's Official Plan and zoning bylaws, wastewater and sewage disposal, wellhead and water supply protection, the lake's watercraft carrying capacity, land carrying capacity, the lake community's history and population distribution, and other subjects. We presented a summary of the report's findings at this year's FLCA Annual General Meeting.

***Q: What is the quality of water?***

A: The surface water of Farlain Lake is relatively healthy. Levels of nutrient concentrations (i.e. total phosphorous) have decreased since 1996. E-coli bacteria do not pose a health concern for recreational use by residents and visitors. Despite current good conditions, care needs to be taken to reduce human impacts (i.e. nutrient loading) to slow the aging process of the lake.

The quality of groundwater throughout the immediate watershed has not been assessed. Due to the thin layer of topsoil and sandy loam

lying beneath, groundwater is susceptible to surface contamination from land use activities. Sandpoint wells and shallow older dug wells located on smaller lots are susceptible to contamination from adjacent septic leaching beds and parking areas.

***Q: Is septage disposal still a problem?***

A: Septic systems within the lake community have been improved through the Township's septic system inspection program. As of August 2012 all septic system issues within the lake's immediate watershed have been dealt with.



Until the Township of Tiny constructs a central septage treatment facility, private pump-out haulers will continue to dispose of untreated septage on land. It is anticipated that the septage disposal field in the lake's immediate watershed will continue to operate until 2015 at which time the Township's septage

treatment facility should be built and operating.

For further information on the township initiative, go to the [Federation of Tiny Township Shoreline Associations \(FoTTSA\) web site](#) (Tiny Cottager).

***Q: Are weeds in the lake a problem?***

A: Aquatic plants are like plants in a garden. Some are useful and others are not. The majority of aquatic plants are beneficial to the lake's ecosystem. Two invasive species (Eurasian Water-Milfoil, Curly Leaved Pondweed) have been identified in the 2012 submerged aquatic plant study undertaken by the Association.

***Q: Is boating activity on the lake becoming a problem?***

A: A watercraft carrying capacity study undertaken in 2011 by the Association determined there were 387 non-powered and powered watercraft in the community. This is a high number of watercraft for a small lake. The potential for conflict, accidents, and environmental damage to the lake's ecosystem exists during holiday weekends when peak boating activity occurs. Due to its overall shallowness, the lake is prone to aquatic plant damage and turbidity (bottom sediments being stirred up) by power boat activity in shallow areas 1.5 metres deep or less.



***Q: It appears that new buildings are being constructed and older smaller cottages are being replaced with larger four season residences. How much development can the lake community handle?***

A: In 2011 there were 361 residential properties and 60 approved vacant properties within the lake's immediate watershed. Of the approved vacant building lots, seven were located along the shoreline and 53 were located inland. Since 2011 several new

residences have been built. There are approximately 975 permanent and seasonal people in the community.

A number of older residences have also undergone a major transformation to a larger dwelling. Changing one property may not result in a measurable change in the overall quality of the lake and its watershed, but cumulative demands (i.e. laundry facilities, showers, baths, swimming pools, hot tubs, etc.) can have an enormous impact on septic systems and the community's groundwater.

Increased development may also result in a loss of natural wildlife habitat. The carrying capacity.....the ability of the lake and the land area to support various uses by people....of the Farlain Lake community has not been determined. Additional development in the immediate watershed may limit the ability of Farlain Lake to recover if its carrying capacity is exceeded. The question... How much development is too much development?.... has yet to be answered.

**Q: The information in the State of the Lake Report sounds comprehensive. Will FLCA members be able to obtain a copy of the report?**

A: We are looking at the most efficient and economical way to make information to FLCA members for their personal use. As the cost to print one report is over \$22.00 not including administrative costs, the most feasible way to disseminate information would be to include the report on our FLCA website. Association members can review topics of interest on-line. As the STL is primarily a planning tool, the report will be shared with community partners such as the Ministry of Natural Resources, County of Simcoe, Township of Tiny, etc.

Contents of the report may not be used for business purposes unless agreed upon by the FLCA.

Please [click here](#) for a Summary of the State of the Lake Report for you to download in PDF file format.

## ***Monitoring Water Quality - Why Bother?***

***by Bill Sweenie***

Lake community residents have stated through various surveys in the past that water quality is their biggest concern. When asked to describe their vision for the future of Farlain Lake in the year 2037 at this year's Annual General Meeting and through a 'sense of place' survey in late July, quality water remains at the very top of the list of most valued characteristics of the lake according to FLCA members. A healthy lake is in everyone's best interest.

In a previous article on water quality, we outlined FLCA's continuing commitment to monitor the lake's water quality. We collect water samples for testing of nutrient levels (as indicated by the phosphorous level) through the Lake Partnership Program sponsored by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment. Data on water temperatures and water clarity is also collected for the Lake Partnership Program. This data will help determine the trophic



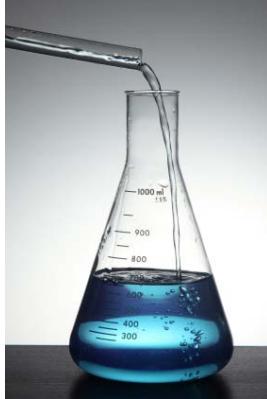
conditions of Farlain Lake and help determine whether the lake's water quality is changing over time. We also collect beach water samples for E-Coli testing as part of the Federation of Tiny Township Shoreline Association's water monitoring effort.

### ***Why is lake water monitoring important?***

First, the scientific data we collect will give a more accurate snapshot of Farlain Lake today in terms of water temperature, turbidity, and nutrient content - all factors that affect water quality. Second we can compare this information with records from previous years to see how Farlain Lake has changed over time. And third, we test the quality of the water to ensure that it is not being adversely affected by shoreline and inland development, recreational activities on the lake, and by natural contributors such as waterfowl, aquatic plants, and contaminants contained in rainfall and snowmelt. The data from the ongoing lake water testing also provides us with baseline information for use in identifying water quality issues, and emerging or potential concerns that can be addressed in the Lake to Sky Lake Community Management Plan.

### ***What is the lake's water quality rating?***

I am happy to report that the water quality in Farlain Lake is good and getting better. The Township of Tiny funded a comprehensive water quality study of Farlain Lake undertaken in 2011 by the Severn Sound Environmental Association. The lake assessment survey was conducted during spring turnover and summer stratification periods. Water quality parameters of the study included nutrients (various forms of nitrogen and phosphorous), chlorophyll a, water clarity (Secchi depth), dissolved oxygen, water temperature, specific conductance, pH, alkalinity, and major ions such as calcium, magnesium, sodium and chloride. The results of the lake water assessment were compared against data collected by the lake association over the years. The 2011 total phosphorous (Tp) level has the lowest concentration compared to the three previous years of data. The Phytoplankton (Algae) community was balanced. Compared to 1996, there was less algae in 2011. Water quality is another indicator of water quality. However, water clarity is difficult to interpret over the long term due to the shallow depth of the lake. Overall the lake is of moderate clarity with moderate low nutrient concentrations and algal biovolume.



### ***Why has the water quality improved?***

There is no definitive answer why the lake's water quality is improving. However, a number of factors have likely contributed to the current state of the lake. One major reason is the Township's aggressive septic inspection program. Over the years, many substandard septic systems around Farlain Lake that were not

functioning properly or failing were likely contributing to the contamination of the lake community's groundwater and the lake's surface water. Lake community residents brought their septic systems up to standard or installed holding tanks as a result of the Township's septic system inspection program. C.C. Tatham & Associates Ltd., the consulting company working on behalf of Tiny Township, has determined that all the issues in the Farlain Lake community that were identified in previous inspections have been dealt with. The re-inspection of septic systems in the Farlain Lake community will commence in 2013.

Another contributing factor to the lake's improved water quality is the use of environmentally friendly products by community residents. Household cleaners containing phosphates are being replaced by environmentally friendly chemicals. Other factors such as the creating of natural buffers at the shoreline to buffer storm water run-off contaminants, the reduction of fertilizer on lawns, the reduction in lawns, the use of four stroke engines versus two stroke engines on watercraft, and other proactive actions have all contributed to improving the water quality of the lake.

Also culling of geese through kill permits has reduced contamination from goose droppings.

### ***Do we need to continue monitoring water quality?***

It is imperative that we continue to monitor the water quality of Farlain Lake in the years to come. We must strive to answer basic questions. Is the lake safe to swim in? Are the fish and wildlife being protected? Is the water quality getting better, worse or staying about the same? What are realistic expectations of water quality based on the natural condition of the lake, the highly developed shoreline and inland properties, and the changing recreational demands of lake users?

Water quality has been identified as a priority of the Farlain Lake community. To address this priority the FLCA needs the assistance of community residents. One way to assist is to become a volunteer lake steward monitoring water quality. Another way is to adopt good lake management stewardship practices.



**Pat Kelso working to enhance the natural shoreline!**

*Photo taken by husband Brian*

**Next Issue coming Spring 2013**



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