Having trouble viewing this email? Click here





March Break 2013

RIPPLES

FLCA eNewsletter Spring 2013

Farlain Lake Community Association Events

- FLCA Community Meeting re Lake to Sky Plan Sunday June 23, 2013 9am–12noon Location TBA
- · Annual Boat Parade Saturday August 3, 2013
- FLCA Annual Meeting Sunday August 4, 2013

Everyone Loves a Parade!



Who will Take Home the Trophy this year??

Come one, come all, its that time again, to come up with some creative ideas and decorate your boat, bring out your friends, get to know your fellow cottage neighbours and win a prize!

In This Issue

2013 FLCA Boat Parade

President's Message

Fire Prevention at the Lake

Perspective on Courage

Farlain Lake's Underwater Forest

Eurasion Watermilfoil Threat

Farlain Lake Stewards

Septic System Inspection

Monitoring Water Quality

WE NEED YOUR HELP

FLCA Quick Links

The THIRD ANNUAL FARLAIN LAKE BOAT PARADE is once again taking place on Saturday August 3, 2013.

We will once again have many great prizes to be given out for the following categories;

BEST OVERALL DECORATED BOAT

- BEST THEMED BOAT
- FUNNIEST CONCEPT BOAT
- MOST TEAM SPIRITTED BOAT
- BEST "FARLY" THEMED BOAT

"Last year we had a wonderful turnout and I am hoping to see all who participated last year and looking forward to seeing many new comers!! Who is willing to beat out Chris Andrews this year and take the trophy home!! I know that my family is already working on themes!!" Tammy Turpin

If you would like to assist in anyway by collecting prizes from sponsors in town or donating a prize please contact either Tim Konnry – tkonnry@bosleyrealestate.com 416-846-6361 or Tammy Turpin – tammyturpin@rogers.com 647-278-5357

Any donations are welcome!!

Thank you
Tim & Tammy



Check out more photos of the parade on the FLCA web site at www.farlainlake.ca under Photo Gallery. Be prepared to put

FLCA Web Site

Membership Form for 2012–2013

FoTTSA Discount List

Membership

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

If not, <u>click here</u> for the form and send in your payment of only \$30 to the address on the form.

Coming Spring Events
In Town

Penetanguishene

Mother's Day Tea
May 11
2013 Cylce Camelot Bike
Ride
June 1
Teddy Bear Picnic
June 22

Midland

Sweetwater Harvest
Festival 2013
April 6-7
Midland Homeshow
April 26-28
Huronia Museum
Heritage Dinner 2013
May 3
Midland Districkt
Railroad Club Model
Train Show
May 25

your creative juices to work this summer so we can have the biggest boat parade ever!

Midland Buttertart Festival June 15

President's Message from Doug Kirk





With our clocks on Daylight
Saving Time and the days stretching
longer, we can anticipate another
wonderful summer on Farlain Lake.
As President, I look forward to
getting to know more of my lake
neighbours through some of the
fun social activities we mention
below in our newsletter. Note: Our
Annual Boat Parade date is Saturday

August 3rd.

Special events will be posted on our website as well. We're currently in the process of improving the site, so take the short online survey coming soon to give us your suggestions before we launch the site this summer!

Over the winter, our Board of Directors has been working hard to refine our Lake to Sky Community Management Plan. This plan, evolving out of our State of the Lake Report presented at last year's Annual Meeting, outlines environmental measures vital to our lake's healthy future. Watch for the announcement of a town hall meeting in June where this plan will be presented to you and your input sought. After incorporating feedback from you and from our community partners, we will present the Plan for approval at the AGM August 4th.

Also of environmental concern is the Township's effort to create a centralized septage treatment facility. The FLCA Board continues to monitor developments with Phase 3 of the Tiny Township Septage Management Class EA process and will keep you updated.

I am happy to serve as the President of an Association that is so dedicated to protecting Farlain Lake and safeguarding our community residents. We appreciate your support for the FLCA through your membership fees and your offers to help with the important initiatives of this volunteer organization. If you haven't yet joined, we hope that you'll recognize the importance of doing so, as your fees provide our sole means of support.

See you on the deck soon!

Doug

Best Wishes Douglas E. Kirk President

Fire Safety Tips from the Tiny Township Fire Department



Dino Pangrazzi **Public Education**

Welcome to spring everyone! Pretty soon, it will be time to start opening cottages for the summer season ahead. As a member of the FCLA. full time resident on the lake, and volunteer firefighter for our community; safety for all of us individually and as a group is my number one concern. In this regard, I encourage all of you to take the time necessary to carefully manage Tiny Township Fire Dept your opening season with the following tips I have offered below. I

hope you all have a safe and enjoyable summer!

Cottage Fire Safety Tips:

It's the law for all Ontario homes and cottages to have working smoke alarms on every story and outside all sleeping areas. Like many districts, Tiny has implemented a zero tolerance policy in this regard. Non-compliance could result in fines. If you are in a position to do so, install hard-wired alarms. If not, battery-operated models are quite acceptable. When purchasing smoke alarms, be sure to select a ULC-listed model with a hush-button feature. It allows you to silence false alarms easily without disabling the alarm or removing the battery. est smoke alarms at least monthly or each time you return to the cottage. Keep a new smoke alarm and extra batteries on hand, and replace your batteries every spring.

- Install separate carbon monoxide alarms near fuelburning appliances.
- Develop and practice a home fire escape plan to ensure everyone knows what to do if the smoke alarm sounds.
- Clean barbecues before using them. Keep an eye on lit barbecues and ensure all combustibles, as well as children and pets are kept well away from them.
- Remember to have a flashlight with extra batteries on hand.
- Check heating appliances and chimneys before using them. Have your chimney cleaned at least once a year, depending on the frequency of use.
- Please remember to purchase your Fire Permit to enjoy outside fires. Check with the Township office every time you are considering an outdoor fire to determine whether open air burning is permitted. You may recall that we were on a Fire Ban for most of last summer. 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. If open burning is allowed, fires should be built on bare soil contained in a pit. Remove leaves and twigs from around the fire to keep it from spreading. Always keep a bucket of water, sand, or shovel close by and supervise the fire at all times. In our area, the diameter of an outside fire must not exceed one meter. Never leave the fire unattended and be absolutely sure to fully extinguish your fire before returning indoors! 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.
- 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!



Firework Safety Tips:

- 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.
- 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 relight 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.

Power Outage Safety Tips:

To reduce fire risk during a power outage, the Office of the Fire Marshal recommends following these tips:

- Electrically connected smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms will not work when the power is out.
 Have battery-operated systems as a back up to provide early warning of any issues.
- During a power outage, make sure electric stove elements, TVs, computers, and small appliances are OFF or unplugged to prevent fires from starting when the electricity is restored.
- Cordless phones will not work when the power is out; so be sure to have a back up.
- Use flashlights or battery-operated lanterns instead of candles or hurricane lamps. If using candles, place them in a secure holder and cover them with a glass chimney.
- Propane and charcoal barbecues are for outdoor use only. Do not bring them inside.
- Only use portable space heaters that have been designed for indoor use and follow the manufacturer's instructions. Provide adequate ventilation by opening a window slightly while in use. Before re-fueling, turn off the heater, wait for it to cool, and take the heater outside to refuel.
- Purchase generators with recognized approval labels.
 Make sure the unit has proper connection receptacles and circuit breakers.
- Portable generators should only be used outdoors and carefully located to ensure that exhaust fumes do not enter the home. Allow the generator to cool before refueling and follow the manufacturer's instructions to do so.
- Store fuel for the generator in approved containers, outside the home.



BE SAFE!

A Perspective on Courage, Cooperation, and Community Contribution

From a Firefighter's Spouse

I love living on Farlain Lake! We have owned our cottage on the west side of the lake for twenty years, and we moved here on a full time basis ten years ago. Having grown up in a small community outside Toronto, I was delighted that my husband would now have the opportunity to experience this supportive type of living environment. In addition to the many bonuses of living here year round, he was also able to realize a childhood dream by joining the local Volunteer Fire Department!

In his nine years of service, I have witnessed an incredible amount of dedication and determination offered by the men and women who choose to contribute to our community in this way. It goes without saying that they respond to all fire calls. In addition to this, their job includes 'first response' to motor vehicle accidents, water and ice water rescues, medical calls, and power outages. In the course of their duties, they experience the satisfaction of helping many people in distress and assisting the community during challenging times. But they also witness tragedy and trauma, and they do it with unending compassion and courage. To prepare them for the many incidents they face, our firefighters undergo regular and rigorous training to ensure they are equipped for the tasks at hand, and meet stringent guidelines with respect to attendance in this regard. Their commitment is extensive on many levels, and I am humbled to know them all.

Our volunteers offer their availability on a 24/7 basis, and their lives are often interrupted at the busiest times; when the rest of us are enjoying holidays with family and friends. It only makes sense that the more people there are in our area, the more incidents are likely to happen. Hence, long weekends and statutory holidays prove to be especially busy. Nonetheless, both the firefighters and their families make this sacrifice for the safety of our community.

When my partner heads out to a call, as much as I support him in this endeavor; I also worry about his physical and emotional well being while he is away. Most times he comes home with positive stories and outcomes; and many times he reports to me about the appreciation and gratitude that is bestowed upon the firefighters by those being helped, and even those looking on or passing by. On occasion however, there have been incidents where community members have vented frustration on the firefighters in less than kind ways. For example, when they have to monitor a fire situation for an extended number of hours, which can result in excessive noise on the lake at odd hours of the day; or when they have to keep roads closed during power outages, again often delaying or re-directing our routes for significant periods of time.

It is indeed disheartening to me when I hear these stories relayed because I know that this team of dedicated and well-trained personnel are following strict orders put in place in order to keep our community safe. And I also know the toll this sort of interaction takes on their morale.

I pass this along to all of us as something to consider as we head into another season of celebration and joy with our friends and families here on the beautiful waters of Farlain Lake. It never hurts to take a moment to imagine our selves walking in someone else's shoes. As summer approaches, I would ask you to imagine what it's like to sacrifice your personal time with family and friends on a regular basis, and during times when the rest of us are simply focused on the goal of having fun and creating memories. The next time you see our firefighters on the street providing a service, consider honking at them and waving in appreciation! They are here for us, we are kept safe because of them, and they would be hard to replace!

Respectfully, Cheryl Moore

Farlain Lake's Underwater Forest Pete Andrews Aquatic plants perform some of the same roles in the lake as trees do in the forests surrounding Farlain Lake. Aquatic plants provide fish and wildlife habitat, stabilize soft lake bottom sediments, and prevent the spread of non-native invasive species. Aquatic plants can also improve the quality of the water by absorbing phosphorous, nitrogen, and other nutrients from the water that could otherwise fuel nuisance algal growth. Aquatic plants provide critical functions to the long-term health of the lake.

The FLCA undertook a comprehensive study of submerged aquatic plants in Farlain Lake in the summer of 2012. The study involved viewing aquatic plants with an underwater video camera, collecting and photographing specimens, preserving specimens in a plant press, and identifying species with the assistance of the Severn Sound Environmental Association and the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Most lake community residents would question the need for looking at 'weeds' in the lake. To begin, the term 'weed' is a misnomer. Essential, aquatic plants can be categorized as good or bad. Good aquatic plants are native to the area. Bad plants are exotic (non-native) that are deemed to be invasive.

The FLCA undertook the 2012 aquatic plant study to record and evaluate current lake conditions, and to assess the impact of human activity of the aquatic plant community in the lake. For example, power boat activity in shallow areas (1.5 metres deep or less) is detrimental to aquatic plants. The study not only identified the types of plant species in the lake but also the densities of those species. Data collected will help the FLCA determine a future course of action to address the presence of invasive species in the lake. An aquatic plant management program for Farlain Lake would focus on preserving and protecting desirable 'good' native species while controlling unwanted 'bad' invasive species through one or more control methods.

The 2012 aquatic plant study determined that Farlain Lake has a healthy, abundant and diverse aquatic plant community. Nine native aquatic plant species were observed during the study. There are areas of the lake where aquatic plant vegetation is non-existent or very sparse.

The presence of two invasive species (Curly-leaved Pondweed, Eurasian watermilfoil), were identified in two locations of the lake. Of greatest concern at this point of time is a small dense bed of Eurasian watermilfoil. The aquatic plant is an aggressive submerged plant that forms tangled underwater stands and dense floating mats. The dense vegetation can shade out native vegetation, alter water quality by increasing the temperature, and decrease oxygen levels in the water leading

to fish mortality. Eurasian watermilfoil offers little or no food or habitat for fish and wildlife. Dense concentrations fouls boat motors, limits recreational activities such as swimming and waterskiing, and reduces shoreline property values. While the plant can reproduce through seed dispersal or root system growth, the plant is spread primarily through plant fragments. The smallest fragments float on the lake's surface and grow roots. The plant fragments are transported to other parts of the lake through wind and wave action. The fragments sink to the lake bottom to seed themselves. Voila! A new plant is grown. Once a Eurasian watermilfoil infestation becomes established and is allowed to spread, it is extremely difficult, and very costly to control.

The last aquatic plant survey was undertaken in 1973 by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment. The survey did not identify the presence of invasive species in the lake.

The results of the FLCA 2012 aquatic plant survey determined the locations of target (invasive) plant species to be studied and managed in 2013. Ongoing monitoring of the lake's aquatic plants can identify trends before conditions deteriorate to the point where invasive aquatic plant management is prohibitively expensive or impossible. Ongoing vegetation surveys provide information that is essential to the administration of efficient, cost-effective control measures of invasive aquatic plant species.

The goal for the FLCA is to undertake needed aquatic plant studies in a reasonable time frame. There is a need for ongoing vigilance and readiness to address invasive species threats.

The 2012 submerged aquatic plant study report has been shared with the Severn Sound Environmental Association and with the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Eurasion Watermilfoil Threat

Help Avert a Crisis!





Farlain Lake now has Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM). Based on numerous studies and efforts to control the invasive species, EWM can never be eradicated....only controlled. EWM infestation can only get worse and must be caught at an early stage to have the best chance of arresting it.

What are we going to do about it? The FLCA discovered a small bed of EWM less than one acre in size

during its 2012 aquatic plant study of the lake. The pros and cons of various control methods, including biological (milfoil weevil) control and aquatic herbicide treatment, were discussed by the FLCA Board of Directors. The most cost efficient and ecologically sound control method for small infested areas is hand harvesting the EWM. The Board has developed a rapid response plant to reduce the amount of vegetation and restrict its spread throughout the lake utilizing the hand harvesting control method.

The rapid response effort will involve installing a floating containment curtain around the EWM site; the curtain prevents floating EWM fragments from dispersing from the hand harvesting operations. Volunteer divers will remove the entire plant, including the root system, from the lake bottom and convey the collected plants to on–surface volunteers in boats. The collected EWM plants will be transported by boat to the shoreline. A volunteer in a kayak will 'skim' the surface for floating plant fragments. On land volunteers will transport the plants inland for drying and burning. Divers will rehabilitate the hand harvested area with replanted native plants to stabilize the lake bottom and create fish habitat. The managed site will be monitored in 2014; any new EWM plants will be removed.

How much will it cost?

The cost of managing the EWM site and undertaking an educational awareness campaign for lake community residents and visitors will be about \$6500. The FLCA has applied for a grant of \$3100 from the Ontario Trillium Foundation to help defray the costs of the undertaking. The FLCA will need the

support of the lake community to cover the remaining costs of the invasive species control project.

Why?

EWM is a serious problem and it must be handled quickly and effectively before it gets out of control. If we don't take immediate action to control the small EWM infested area, then the lake community may have to spend more money and effort to control EWM lake-wide in the future.



How can I help?

We need volunteers to undertake the work involved in removing the EWM from the lake and disposing the plants inland. Volunteer assistance and community funding are essential to the success of the project. All donations, not matter how large or small are valuable additions to the Eurasian watermilfoil control effort and will assure the continuation of the vital work of the FLCA.

If you are willing to become a volunteer on the EWM control project, please contact Peter Andrews (pan747@sympatico.ca). If you are a diver and have diving equipment (i.e. SCUBA or a 'hooka' system) or know of divers who are experienced and have diving equipment, please let us know. If you are not a FLCA member and you would like to be a EWM project volunteer, we encourage you to become a FLCA member. Our Association has insurance covering volunteer work.

FLCA Lake Stewards

The FLCA is one of 600 volunteer lake stewards involved in monitoring 1,471 inland recreational lakes across Ontario. The collective effort, known as the Ministry of the Environment's Lake Partner Program, is the largest program of its kind in the world.

The focus of the Lake Partner Program is building a nutrient (total phosphorous) data base of Ontario lakes.

Water samples from Farlain Lake are analyzed and the information is added to the Lake Partner Program's data base. Information on Farlain Lake can be accessed through the Lake Partner Program website to determine the lake's nutrient status, the lake's comparison with other lakes in Ontario, and the changing phosphorous/water clarity levels in the lake over time.

Septic System Inspection...the Sequel Pete Andrews

The Township of Tiny septic re-inspection program was initiated in 2002. the first phase of inspections was completed in 2009. The second stage of the Township's re-inspection program began in late 2009 and is continuing. The Farlain Lake community is scheduled to be inspected in 2013.

One may ask why sewage systems need to be re-inspected if any problems were identified and addressed during the first phase of inspections in 2007.

The simplest answer is....safeguarding human health and the environment. The intention of the program is to be an ongoing maintenance program that continuously identifies and remediates deficient sewage systems. In addition, there are a number of sewage systems that were not quite old enough to be part of the program the last time that will be inspected this time around.

A properly functioning sewage system is an integral part of any home or cottage. The septic re-inspection program is undertaken to encourage regular maintenance of septic systems through mandatory inspections. Every septic system requires regular maintenance to ensure it is operating efficiently and safely. Under the Ontario Building Code it is the property owner's responsibility to ensure that their sewage system is working properly to protect the health of people in the lake community and the natural environment. Water quality improvement in Farlain Lake can be attributed to the improvements made in the lake community's septic systems in recent years.

The re-inspection program, undertaken by C.C. Tatham & Associates field staff on behalf of the Township of Tiny, will be

identifying possible septic system deficiencies. These include deficient septic and holding tanks, deficient grey water disposal systems, effluent above/below operating level of tank, leaching bed issues, lush vegetation or hard surfaces (i.e. buildings, parking areas, etc.) over the leaching bed, and other related concerns.

Properties with sewage systems installed in 2003 or after will not be inspected unless there is no permit on file at the Township. Septic systems that have been in use for more than 10 years (built prior to 2003) will be inspected.

The first stage of the current re-inspection program is a visual surface inspection of the sewage system by C.C. Tatham staff. The inspections will occur between May and September of 2013. The cost of this inspection is \$81.55 which is payable to the Township of Tiny. If payment is not received within the fiscal year, the inspection fee will be added to the 2014 property tax bill.

The second stage of the program involves the property owner arranging for their septic or holding tank being pumped out by a licensed sewage hauler. The property owner must request the hauler provide them with a written report detailing the condition of the tank at the time of the pump out. The report is to be submitted to the Township by the owner no later than September 30, 2013. If the tank was pumped out in 2012 or 2011 and the owner does not have a written report, they must still submit proof (such as a receipt) that the tank was pumped.

Prior to the re-inspection program being implemented, a letter will be sent by the Township to each property owner affected by program.

The re-inspection program is instrumental in protecting the quality of surface and groundwater in the Farlain Lake community. The follow-up inspection program also ensures that septic system problems are continuously identified and remediated within the lake community are effectively managed for the good of the community as a whole.

Monitoring Water Quality

Water Quality Quiz

In previous newsletters we provided information on the FLCA's ongoing water quality monitoring efforts and the results of the detailed water quality study of the lake undertaken by the Severn Sound Environmental Association.

To test your recall and understanding of water quality please circle your answer to the following questions.

QUIZ

- 1. What does a Secchi disk measure?
 - a) Temperature
 - b) Water clarity (transparency)
 - c) Salinity
- 2. What water quality key indicators are being monitored on the lake?
 - a) Copper and zinc
 - b) Phosphorous and E.coli
 - c) Chlorophyll a and phosphorous
 - d) Nitrite and nitrate
- 3. What is the key cause for water loss in the lake?
 - a) Water flowing from the lake's outlet
 - b) Evaporation
 - c) Transpiration
 - d) Household use
- 4. What does water quality tell us?
 - a) Condition (are levels of pollutants acceptable?)
 - b) Stress (are levels of pollutant loadings acceptable?)
- c) Response (are actions being taken to improve quality making a difference?)
 - d) Trends (are conditions getting better or worse?)
 - e) All of the above
- 5. What is the purest form of natural (untreated) water?
 - a) Rainwater
 - b) Water taken from the lake.
 - c) Water drawn from groundwater wells.
- d) Water drawn from drilled wells into underground aquifers.

To check your water quality understanding level, go to answers listed below.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

We are seeking volunteers to take an active role in monitoring water quality. Volunteers are a tremendous asset to water quality protection of the lake for the benefit of present and future generations.

What does it mean to be a volunteer?

We need two volunteers to form a team to collect water samples for the Ministry of the Environment Lake Partner Program. Samples are required once per month between May and October. The team would also collect water samples for E.coli testing the day after each holiday weekend throughout the summer.

We also plan to expand our monitoring efforts by installing a water level gauge. We need a volunteer to record water level readings throughout the summer.

What do I need to be a water monitor?

First and foremost you are interested in protecting the water quality of the lake. You also enjoy the out of doors as you will be collecting water samples from a boat at different locations on the lake. Training and monitoring equipment will be provided.

Ongoing water quality monitoring is necessary to understand the interactions between the environment and the lake.

Monitoring by volunteers is necessary to obtain long-term data or new data that otherwise may go unmonitored. Water quality data helps the community make informed decisions about maintaining or improving water quality in the lake.

BECOME A MONITOR! VOLUNTEER ACTIONS CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE.

If you are interested in becoming a water quality monitor or wish to know about the importance of water quality monitoring, please contact Bill Sweenie (telephone #) email: sweenie@csolve.net

Water Quality Quiz Answers

- 1. b)
- 2. b)
- 3. b) If you identified a) then you forgot the lake doesn't have an outflow.
- 4. e)
- 5. d) Water drawn from healthy groundwater aquifers is better because it is 'filtered' through particles of rock, gravel, sand, and soil deep.

Rating

100% - You are a water wizard. Share your knowledge with others.

3 – 5 correct – You show promise of becoming a lake steward who is interested in protecting the lake's water quality.

2 or less – Join the FLCA crew when we collect water samples as part of the ongoing monitoring effort. It will be a learning experience.

Forward email





This email was sent to elizabeth@cscm.org by <u>elizabeth@cscm.org</u> | <u>Update Profile/Email Address</u> | Instant removal with <u>SafeUnsubscribe™</u> | <u>Privacy Policy</u>.

Farlain Lake Community Association | 37 Andrew Drive | Penetanguishene | Ontario | L9M 1R2 | Canada