



FARLAIN LAKE Community Association

Ripples

Spring Issue 2014

April 2014



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The FLCA is all about building community and ensuring the health of our "jewel", the best kept secret in Huronia.

While It's Been Snowing, We've Been Working!



As we approach Easter weekend, I think it is safe to say that the "record" winter of 2013/14 is officially over! Who'd ever heard of the polar vortex before 2014?

While we were enduring record cold, snowfall, ice storms and the most ice coverage of the Great Lakes in decades, your Board of Directors has been working

We're contining to develop the web site to help build that sense of community and to act as a resource for all who enjoy our little piece of paradise. We welcome your input!

Visit us at
www.farlainlake.ca

so that the FLCA can accomplish much in the coming season!

Our highest priority is to hand harvest later this summer a small but growing area of Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM). This stubborn, invasive weed can have a devastating effect on lakes if left unchecked, because it will grow to completely cover the water's surface and kill all other natural vegetation below it. The problem looks to be at a manageable level now but needs to be resolved or we will face the Lake being choked with weeds in a few years. Working with the Board and volunteers, Peter Andrews has established a project team to accomplish "in water" hand harvesting in the early part of the summer.



By the end of April, non-members and members of the Farlain Lake community will receive a letter explaining this activity with a request to join our Association if they are not members and encouraging all to donate to this worthy effort. We thank the Tiny Township Council for the approval of a grant to support our efforts - but more is needed! A more detailed update is included in this issue of *Ripples*.



Your FLCA is also planning another entertaining Boat Parade on the August long weekend prior to the AGM and we continue to build the [FLCA web site](#) to include information that will assist the members of our community.

Your Board continues to monitor developments with the County and Tiny Township which may have a bearing on

activities at the lake. As well, we are following the development of Tiny Township's plans to treat septage within the Township or through arrangements with a nearby municipality. The FLCA is continuing its monitoring efforts of the septage field near the lake. See the article in this issue for more information.

As you can see, there is lots on the go pertaining to the well being of Farlain Lake. Your volunteer Board is deeply committed to Farlain Lake and as always could use the talents of additional lake community members to work on the Board. Please let us know if you'd like to help.

Looking forward to a great summer at the Lake! Happy Easter!

Doug Kirk
President

Eurasian Watermilfoil...A Growing Concern

Pete Andrews



As previously reported, the invasive aquatic plant Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) was discovered in 2012 as part of the FLCA's aquatic plant study of the lake.

Upoming Events Midland & Penetang Area

[Easter
Extravaganza](#)
April 19

[Midland Spring
Home Show](#)
April 25

[North Simcoe
Treasure Days](#)
May 10

[Grand Opening -
HMS Tecumseh
Centre](#)
May 22

[Senior Information
Day](#)
June 5

[20th Annual
Midland Library
Garden Tour](#)
July 12

Not a Member?

Join the Farlain
Lake Community
Association - [click
here!](#)

FLCA Board of Directors

Doug Kirk
President

Peter Andrews
Past President

Elizabeth Di Chiara
Vice President

Herb Huck
Secretary

Ross Graham
Treasurer

Tim Konnry
Director

What Has the FLCA done to date?

Bill Sweenie
Director

In 2013 we 'quarantined' the small isolated site at the southwest end of the Lake, and requested boaters and anglers to stay clear of the EWM infestation. Contact with the dense vegetation results in small plant fragments being separated from the aquatic plant. These plant fragments are dispersed by wind and wave action to other parts of the lake; one small plant fragment can form a colony of up to twenty EWM plants. Although this quarantine has been generally effective to limit traffic in the area, there are those who ignore the request and who are endangering the control efforts. We hope that all residents seeing any such trespass inform those in the quarantined area of the importance to stay out until we have eradicated the EWM.

During the summer of 2013, the FLCA also monitored the infested site and searched for the presence of EWM elsewhere in the lake. We observed individual plants growing in deeper water outside of the boundary of the 'quarantined' area. We also observed EWM plant fragments along the shoreline in different areas of the lake.

A EWM Control Project Steering Committee has been formed to develop a strategy to eradicate EWM from Farlain Lake. During the winter months we have been busy working on a number of initiatives. A request for a Tiny Township grant to support the EWM control effort has been approved by Township Council. We have applied to the Ministry of Natural Resources for a work permit that will enable the FLCA to hand harvest the invasive aquatic plant in 2014. We have arranged with the Association's insurance carrier to increase our liability insurance to cover the volunteers involved in the hand harvesting project. We have also been developing educational material that will be made available to community residents and visitors.

What Will Happen Next?

A letter will be mailed to lake community residents at the end of April seeking financial and volunteer assistance. We need to raise funds to cover the costs of the EWM control project. We have set a goal to raise \$4,100 for the EWM control project.



Membership dues currently cover FLCA annual operating expenses with little, if any, funds remaining for other initiatives. We will continue to work to increase membership and ask for your assistance in that regard. Please make sure your neighbours know about the Association, the value provided to the community, and the need for their participation. But membership alone will not cover the costs of the project. We will need to raise funds through donations and fund raising events. If we raise the necessary funds we will strive to remove Eurasian watermilfoil from the lake in 2014.

Why Be Concerned?



If we don't take proactive action to hand harvest the small infestation this coming summer then EWM will spread elsewhere in the lake over time. Eradication will no longer be an option. Ongoing control involving higher costs and challenges will be required. The worst case scenario is that

EWM will restrict boating and fishing, impact water quality, and decrease waterfront property values.

Please get involved!

- We need property owners to support this critical invasive species management project by being a good steward of our shared valuable asset....Farlain Lake.
- We need a strong FLCA membership in order to receive the support of municipal and provincial government.
- We need 'lapsed' members to [renew their FLCA membership](#) and we need new FLCA members.
- We need concerned lake community residents to donate to the EWM control project.
- We need volunteers to help with the hand harvesting project and the dissemination of educational material.

This is a call to action - together we can beat EWM!

Farlain Lake Caregivers

Pete Andrews

My journey on becoming a Farlain Lake care giver began a mere 47 years ago. I met the love of my life while we both attended the Ontario College of Art. Although I worked as a park ranger in an Ontario Provincial Park north of Huntsville during the summer I was invited by my future wife to visit her family cottage on my days off.



Farlain Lake was special. It had sand beaches and protected waters. The beautiful forest and seemingly unending shoreline offered an interesting and different view no matter where you were on the lake. Looking across the lake I could see Palomino horses in a pasture foraging along the shoreline.

Largemouth bass could be seen nesting in the shallow water by the dock. In the early morning mist a great blue heron could be seen standing at the end of the dock searching for food. A hike around the lake entailed walking on sandy roads beneath towering arches of tree branches. In the evening, fireflies could be seen flitting about in the dark while a nighthawk swooped through the air feeding on mosquitoes. The night sky was a kaleidoscope of twinkling stars as cottages along the shoreline remained in the dark with the exception of the odd campfire.

Over the years our children and eventually our grandchildren played in shoreline sand that my wife played in as a child. Squeals of laughter of children launching themselves off the dock into the warm waters of Farlain Lake were reminiscent of yesteryear's sounds of joy.



Nearly a decade ago I began noticing subtle changes in the lake and the surrounding land. The abundance of walleye (yellow pickerel) and largemouth bass were declining.



Monarch butterflies were becoming infrequent visitors. Bullfrogs no longer croaked at night. More land was being developed for homes and four season cottages. As natural shorelines were transformed into urban yards with succulent lawns the population of Canada geese increased. The night skies competed with nighttime lighting of shoreline buildings. Paved roads enticed people to drive faster. Power boats became larger and sail boats became ghosts plying the waters of Farlain Lake.

Change is inevitable. Nothing remains constant. However, it is my belief that we must balance change with environmental protection and sound lake management.

An opportunity presented itself several years ago when several like-minded concerned residents joined forces to refocus and revitalize the volunteer organization dedicated to protecting Farlain Lake. In a little over eight years the Farlain Lake Community Association has accomplished a number of goals. We have broadened the scope of the organization so that it is representative of both inland and shoreline property owners. We have created a long range plan for the protection of Farlain Lake. We have



organized a highly successful social event...the annual boat parade. Although people don't recognize it, the FLCA Annual General Meeting is another community builder. The FLCA has undertaken numerous studies in order to collect data on a broad range of lake and community concerns. We have also dealt with environmental, land use development, and lake use conflicts as

issues presented themselves. This has all been accomplished by a small core group of volunteers who serve on the Board of Directors or who became involved in various FLCA projects. These people are true Farlain Lake care givers. These volunteers are the stewards of our lake community environment who take care of our shared resources every day in every way. They have given their time freely to insure the natural beauty and high water quality of Farlain Lake will be sustained for years to come. They are present at every meeting where controversial issues of Farlain Lake are discussed. I am proud to be a FLCA volunteer and a Farlain Lake care giver.

While great strides have been made to build a strong lake community association I am troubled by the lack of support by many property owners for the FLCA which protects their interests.

The FLCA faces ongoing challenges with membership renewals and recruiting new members. Some property owners choose not to pay \$40 for a membership because they believe there are enough other people who are willing to pay. Some residents perceive the membership fee as being too high; they do not, however, realize that nearly \$1000 must be raised annually to purchase liability insurance to enable FLCA work to be undertaken and to protect the volunteers who do the work. Some property owners may not agree with what the association is trying to accomplish or

they feel the association is not accomplishing enough. Some property owners are simply not worried about anything that doesn't affect them directly. This is a paradox. The Farlain Lake Community Association benefits everyone.

I am also concerned that many association members and non-members support the work of the FLCA but don't volunteer for projects. There is a time in any volunteer organization when the same people who carry out the good deeds year in and year out move on. Unless FLCA membership increases and new volunteers step forward to become Farlain Lake care givers to support the association's priorities the Farlain Lake Community Association will cease to exist.

When I photographed the throngs of spectators along the shoreline enjoying the decorated boats during the annual boat parade my camera captured the excitement of young children. Many of today's youth will be tomorrow's lake community residents.

When I look at my grandchildren and other young children I try to envision what Farlain Lake and its surrounding forested land will look like in the future. I wonder what legacy we are leaving them today if we fail to continue to be Farlain Lake care givers.



In order that the FLCA remains meaningful and realizes its potential as a unifying force, we must first educate today's youth on the critical value of the lake and the role that they and their parents can play in the lake's protection. We must strive to engage lake community residents in the efforts to protect Farlain Lake and its surrounding lands. We must educate residents and visitors on the principles of lake and land stewardship. We must involve lake community residents in the work needed to protect what we value for generations to come.



We must all become Farlain Lake care givers.

Tiny Township Septage Management Initiative

Bill Sweenie



The Township of Tiny's quest to implement a septage management solution has taken a new direction.

As previously reported to FLCA members, Tiny Township initiated a Class Environment Assessment (EA) in 2011 to

determine the most cost effective manner to manage septage (septic system waste) generated within the Township. During the past two years the Township, its consulting firm R.J. Burnside & Associates Limited, and a project advisory committee reviewed five options.....do nothing, construct a sewage and collection system, construct a partial septage treatment system, construct a full treatment system, and contract for the disposal at nearby regional waste water treatment plants. An alternative to the disposal of untreated septage on land was scheduled to be implemented prior to 2015.

The Township's preferred option...construct full septage treatment works...was presented to Township residents and organizations at the June 2013 public information centre meeting. The capital costs of this option were estimated to be \$6,217,000 and the operations and maintenance costs were estimated to be \$489,000 annually.

Another option.....contracting regional waste water treatment plants to accept and treat Tiny septage was considered. Capital costs for this 'contracting out' option were estimated to be \$3,215,000 while the operations and maintenance costs were estimated to be \$2,203,000 annually. This option was initially rejected by Council but is now being revisited.

On September 9, 2013 Township Council directed Mayor Millar, the Chair of the Septage EA Project Advisory Committee, and appropriate staff to meet with the administration of nearby municipalities to discuss the option of accepting and treating septage originating in the Tiny Township on a contract basis. Discussions are underway with the towns of Midland, Penetanguishene, and Elmvale. Council also advocated discussions to occur with Infrastructures Ontario regarding financial assistance for the septage management project.

Phase 3 and Phase 4 of the Class EA project have been halted pending the outcome of discussions with potential partners regarding the treatment of Tiny Township septage on a fee for service basis.

As there is no firm deadline to report back to Council on the results of the discussions with nearby municipalities it is unclear what action, if any, will be taken in 2014...a year of electoral transition. Whatever septage management solution is approved by the Township of Tiny, property owners will likely be impacted by an increase in septage disposal and treatment costs. It will be imperative for the Township to communicate information about the septage management decision process to Township residents and business owners in a timely and transparent manner.

Septage Disposal Field Update

Bill Sweeney



In FLCA's continuing effort to monitor the septage disposal field located in the Farlain Lake watershed, we have accessed the results of groundwater tests undertaken on the Awenda site by Regional Sanitation Disposal Ltd.(RSD).

As part of the Certificate of Approval (CofA) issued by the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) to the septage disposal company, RSD, is required to undertake two groundwater tests annually. Groundwater is monitored for nitrate, nitrite, TKN, ammonia and

phosphorous levels. The groundwater samples are assessed by an independent laboratory.

The MOE has determined that the results were very good considering the Awenda site had been used for two full years prior to the samples being taken. Based on these results, the C of A was renewed to allow RSD to use the site for the disposal of untreated septage for the years 2013-2014. RSD's licence (CofA) to use the Awenda site concludes December 1, 2014.

The CofA may be extended for up to an additional two-year period pending 1) acceptable compliance adherence and 2) the implementation of the Township of Tiny's septage management solution. In other words, untreated septage will be disposed of on the Awenda site providing RSD abides by the requirements set out in the Certificate of Approval and until such time that the Township constructs a central treatment facility or partners with nearby municipal facilities to accept and treat septage emanating from the Township of Tiny.

Groundwater monitoring will continue to be undertaken in early April and late November of each year of the CofA extension. However, groundwater sampling frequency may be increased or decreased based on the results of groundwater sampling in 2013 and 2014.

The FLCA will continue to monitor the operations of the septage disposal field and to obtain results of the groundwater tests.

FLCA Renters' Guide Available



As a service to members of the Farlain Lake Community Association and other lake community residents who value and enjoy Farlain Lake we have created a Renters' Guide and a short form version called the Renters' Fact Sheet to foster improved communication between lake residents and seasonal visitors. [Click here](#) to download

the documents.

Many Farlain Lake cottagers rent out their property or loan it occasionally to extended family or friends. While we welcome new people to our lake, we would appreciate it if they had an understanding about the etiquette of cottage living in our community.

The Renters' Guide will help property owners appreciate their role in educating guests about basic cottage best practices and Township regulations. It also provides key contact phone numbers and points of interest in our community. The Renters' Fact Sheet is a condensed summary of the Guide that can be posted on the Fridge as a quick reference source.

We are partners in protecting Farlain Lake and ensuring everyone has a great experience at the lake. Please review and provide your guests with the Renters' Guide and Renters' Fact Sheet.

Thank you for your help in ensuring the ongoing enjoyment of Farlain Lake!

Summer IS Coming - Are You Ready?



Many members of the FLCA community are residents or seasoned cottagers. But we also have some new community members so here is a "quick list" of things to consider as you get ready for sitting by the Lake with drink in hand!

A few things that should be on your checklist if you are just opening up for the season:

- Fire Permit - Did you know? If you wish to burn a pile larger than 1 metre in diameter or height, you need a special permit. You also need a permit to burn in a 45 gallon drum or an outdoor fire pit or chiminea. You can purchase a permit for \$20 at the Mailloux Jug City store at the Northwest Basin.
- Boating - All Canadians operating a pleasure craft are required to hold a valid *Pleasure Craft Operator Card* issued by Transport Canada, regardless of age, engine power or length of boat. This is separate from your boat licence and is intended to confirm you are competent to operate the boat safely. The boat safety exam can be taken online.
- Fishing - [Click here](#) for a summary of fishing regulations in Ontario. July 5-13, 2014 is both National and Family Fishing Week.
- Check your smoke detectors to ensure they are operational. You may also want to consider carbon monoxide monitors.
- Inspect your BBQ and if appropriate your gas tanks.
- Check your chimney(s) for leaks, nests or other obstructions.
- Check your water drains and supply lines for leaks.
- Are you due for your septic tank to be pumped out?
- Are you planning to build this season? Check out the information on the [Tiny Township web site](#).



Planning to rent your property? Check out the Guide for Renters developed by the FLCA in the article above.



The upcoming holidays mean it's fireworks time again. Fireworks are permitted on Victoria Day and Canada Day and the 5 days either before or after these holidays unless special permission is received from the Chief Fire Official, and can be launched only between dusk and 11 p.m.

And finally - don't forget - there are many retailers in Penetang, Midland and the surrounding area that offer members of the FLCA a 10% discount. All you need is to tell them you are a member and have your membership card handy!

Can't find your card? Please contact Elizabeth Di Chiara at elizabeth@cscm.org and we'll get one off to you.



Check out the photos of winter at Farlain Lake on the FLCA web site at www.farlainlake.ca. Watch for the next issue of Ripples coming in the summer and please send your photos in to me at elizabeth@cscm.org so we can use them in the newsletter and on the web site!

Our very best wishes for a Happy Easter and a great summer season at the Lake!

Elizabeth Di Chiara, Vice President
Farlain Lake Community Association

[Forward this email](#)



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