



# FARLAIN LAKE

## Community Association

### Spring Newsletter

*Ripples*

May 2017

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Getting the Upper Hand on the EWM

Farlain Lake Well Survey Results

Fire Safety

Yard Waste



#### Spring has arrived at Farlain Lake!

High water levels are back again this year and a busy summer lies ahead for the FLCA - read on!

#### Quick Links

Guide for Renters

Boat and Water Safety

Membership in the FLCA

Severn Sound Environmental Association

Tiny Cottager (FoTTSA)

#### Save these Dates:

**Sunday July 2:** FLCA Aquatic Weedfest at Toanche Park

**Sunday July 2:** Junktique at Weedfest - deadline June 28 for applications

**Saturday & Sunday July 15&16:** EWM Harvesting

**Sunday July 30:** FLCA Annual General Meeting

**Saturday August 5:** Annual Boat Parade (tentative)

#### From the President...

Hello fellow Farlain Lakers!

The snow is gone, the birds are singing and the trees are starting to bud. Yes, it's the beginning of another great year at the lake and I can't wait to start enjoying it. Water levels are high again, so try to get up and inspect your property if you're not a year round resident. Winter has not been a time of rest for your association. Both the Board and the Eurasian Water Milfoil, (EWM) sub-committee have been active preparing for the upcoming year.

The Board has worked hard on the financial aspects of the association including the establishment of an electronic means of payment (e-transfers) that many have already used. We also relocated our bank account to Penetanguishine from the City of Toronto, arranged for charitable donation tax recognition for donations of \$1,000 and more with Tiny Township, and dealt with regulatory matters including tax filings and proposed changes to our by-laws that we will share with you at the Annual General Meeting, (AGM). Pat Kelso continues to work hard on driving membership, which I've very happy to say has just passed our annual target of 100!

But we still need more people to join and support the organization and the many important functions it performs. We have kept members informed of developments through our newsletters and special bulletins. The Board has also been involved with the EWM issue as several members of the Board also participate in the EWM sub-committee and the full Board works closely with that group to try to facilitate a timely response to the problem while managing our scarce resources.



The Board also received feedback from the Severn Sound Environmental Agency, (SSEA) on the well study commissioned last summer and funded by Tiny Township. This information should help in the study of our watershed and hopefully provide valuable insight to community members on safe well water practices. We are also awaiting the final results of the water quality survey undertaken by the SSEA last summer. With the results from that study we can compare the current status of our lake to previous studies to see how the water quality has changed over time. Thanks to our local council lead by Mayor George Cornell for their continued support and to the SSEA for their continued partnership in working towards a better understanding and managing of our precious lake community.

The biggest challenge facing our lake is the EWM invasive species. The original colony in the southwest part of the lake has gotten bigger and the infestation has spread all the way to the north end of the lake. Previous attempts to control the EWM have not been enough to prevent this spread. A more costly and comprehensive solution is required if we are to have any hope of controlling this problem. We have also discovered how pervasive this invasive species is, with numerous water bodies in North America impacted including Little Lake in Midland and sightings in Georgian Bay. This is a significant problem with no known solutions, just lots of different ideas on how to control it that need to be explored. We know that we will not be able to completely eradicate the plant from our lake, so ongoing control is the best option. To that end, we have undertaken a very ambitious fundraising campaign to try and raise \$80,000 over a three year period. Our sincere thanks to many who have generously donated to the cause - over \$30,000 has been raised to date. But we need many more to step up and help us with this significant battle.



If you haven't already contributed, please do so as soon as possible. Information on how to contribute can be found on our [website](#). We will also need to raise funds through sponsorship and grants, so anyone with ideas or contacts is requested to step forward and share their thoughts with the Board or EWM sub-committee. Pete will update you on the plans for this year in his article in this newsletter. Together we will overcome this challenge!

Enjoy the 2017 season at the lake and be safe!

Herb Huck

FLCA President

## Getting the Upper Hand on the EWM

*by Peter Andrews, EWM Project Coordinator*

In the recent mail out to Farlain Lake community residents seeking financial support for our ongoing efforts to manage Eurasian watermilfoil in our lake, a Q&A information document was included. The Q&A answered questions about the why, what, where, when, who, how, and the cost. You can find this information on the FLCA web site under **Eurasian Watermilfoil - Dealing with the Threat** or **download it here**.

This brief article will provide a little more insight into our two pronged approach.....fundraising and control strategy....to get an upper hand on the Eurasian watermilfoil that has spread to various areas of the lake.

With the exception of commercial divers who have been contracted to hand harvest the EWM plants this summer and a licensed water exterminator that has been contracted to treat the key EWM infestations with an aquatic herbicide prior to the hand harvesting project, all labour is provided by dedicated FLCA volunteers. While the overall control effort involves some administrative and communications costs, the biggest expenses are contracted services, capital, and material costs.

**Our Goal: \$80,000 to provide funds needed for a three year EWM control effort.**

While we reach out to each member of the lake community to contribute money towards a common goal to protect our lake, our EWM Steering Committee has embarked on other revenue generation initiatives. An ***Aquatic WeedFest*** environmental fair and fundraising event will be held **July 2nd in Toanche Park**; the Township park is located at the intersection of Concession 17E and Champlain Road. This family oriented event will include a **WingDing BBQ, music, a children's creative zone, a JunkTique car trunk sale, a silent auction, and educational displays.**

A 2018 FLCA Calendar is being printed for sale at the Aquatic WeedFest and other venues. The calendar features photographs of the lake community during the four seasons of the year. A crowdfunding initiative (**GoFundMe website.....search Farlain Lake project**) is reaching out beyond the Farlain Lake community for financial support for our control program. A EWM 'chain gang' initiative involves a paper chain that will be stretched around the lake to contain and stop EWM in its tracks. Donors will write their name on each paper link of the chain.

It is also our intent to apply for financial grants from granting foundations this coming summer; funding from any successful grant application would be provided in 2018.

Work is underway to develop a DASH (diver assisted suction harvesting system) to assist the contracted divers in hand harvesting the aquatic plants from the lake. There are no DASH units in Canada but the DASH system has been effectively used in the United States for the past decade. The DASH system expedites the transfer of collected vegetation to the surface to waiting volunteers who will transport the hand harvested material to shore for disposal. The hand harvesting project using the DASH system will take place on July 15-16, 2017 at the main pioneer colony in the south end of the lake and the smaller secondary infestation at the north end of the lake.

Two weeks prior to the hand harvesting project, a water exterminator, licensed by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change, will apply the aquatic herbicide Reward to the EWM vegetation to 'knock the plant mass down' so that the commercial divers have greater access to the plants roots. As the commercial divers will be using a direct air supply system (air hoses versus SCUBA tanks) the reduction in EWM vegetation will limit the hoses becoming snagged on the plants stems. The safety of the aquatic herbicide, the only herbicide approved for use in Canada by Health Canada, has been thoroughly researched.

As previously stated there is no 'silver bullet' control method and complete eradication of EWM from the lake will never be achieved. Moving forward into 2017 and beyond, the FLCA will strive to control the EWM growth through an integrated approach of limited herbicide treatment and an aggressive hand harvesting effort utilizing the DASH system. We will continue to monitor the lake for invasive aquatic plants. We will continue our educational outreach for the benefit of residents, renters, and visitors. We will continue to prevent the introduction and establishment of any other aquatic nuisance or invasive species in the lake.

Your support and volunteer hours are an important part of supporting FLCA's efforts to restrict the spread of EWM. By working together we can make a difference to protect, maintain, and keep Farlain Lake healthy for future generations to enjoy, as we do today.

***See the [Farlain Lake web site](#) for details on the  
FLCA Aquatic Weedfest and Junktique!  
Download the [Guide for Junktique Participants](#) and [Application Form](#)  
here.***

## Farlain Lake Area - 2016 Well Survey

*By Michelle Hudolin, Wetlands & Habitat Biologist,  
Severn Sound Environmental Association  
[www.severnsound.ca](http://www.severnsound.ca)*

In 2016, the Severn Sound Environmental Association (SSEA) conducted a survey of private water wells in the Farlain Lake area, funded by the Township of Tiny. The study area included shoreline properties and most of the second tier properties around Farlain Lake. The project helps address a need identified in the Lake to Sky Farlain Lake Community Management Plan (section 2.5: Wellhead and Water Supply Protection), and provides a baseline of information on wells in the area.



Well surveys were conducted by door-to-door canvassing by SSEA staff starting in July. Where possible, the owner was interviewed to obtain information about their well(s). Vacant lands without a cottage/house and properties serviced by municipal water were not visited. Well owners interviewed were asked for permission to photograph and GPS the well location, as well as measure the height of the well casing above ground. Well owners were provided with a package of information and resources. Water quality test kits, supplied by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, were provided to well owners that were at home during the SSEA's visit.

SSEA staff visited 283 properties during the survey. Nine property owners indicated they do not have a well, but use surface water from Farlain Lake as their water supply; 40 properties were vacant land with no house or cottage. Wells were documented on 116 properties; the majority (82) were drilled wells, followed by sand points (28), dug wells (5), and one unknown well type. The SSEA matched 51 wells to their corresponding well record in the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change well

database. For 101 properties, no well was seen during door-to-door canvassing by SSEA staff, no information was matched in the well record database, and the owner did not provide SSEA with well information by telephone or email.

Of the wells seen, 23 were in the 'best' category of well condition, i.e., the well casing was at least 40 cm/ 16" above the surrounding grade, and the well had a vermin-proof cap that prevents insects and other material from entering the well through the cap. Wells with a one-piece cap, or with casings that are low to the ground, buried or in a well pit below grade may allow surface water, debris and bacteria to flow into the well, causing water quality problems; a licensed well contractor can offer advice about properly upgrading these wells.

Several wells were located in gardens or were obscured by shrubs or decorative items. Ideally, a well should always be visible and easily accessible: garden plants can have roots that may damage the seal around the well casing, and decorative items can provide a home for insects and rodents.

Many wells owners provided information about drinking their well water: 51% reported drinking it untreated, and 21% drink the water after it has been treated, and 28% do not drink it. Treatment systems are not widely used in the Farlain Lake area, but include: sediment filters, water softeners, iron filters, reverse osmosis, and ultraviolet light.

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) recommends that private wells be tested at least three times per year for bacteria, and at least once a year for nitrate. Of respondents providing information on water sampling, only 19% are sampling three or more times per year for bacteria; 21% report testing once per year, and 60% are testing occasionally/infrequently or not at all. Of well owners testing for bacteria, some reported bacterial contamination of their wells, either intermittently or regularly. One well owner reported testing for nitrates every two years, no other respondents reported testing their well water for nitrates.

### ***Recommendations for Residents***

1. Test your well water regularly as recommended by the SMDHU, to stay informed about the safety of your water and the condition of your well. Test regularly even if your water seems fine, because you can't always taste, smell or see bacteria or other contaminants. Don't rely on your neighbour's test results - wells that are only a few steps apart may have different water quality. Early spring and the day after a heavy rainfall are good times to test your well water for bacteria. Bacteria testing is free for private well owners.

[SMDHU Private Citizen Drinking Water Testing website](#)

2. Don't hide your well. Keeping your well visible and accessible reminds you where your drinking water is coming from, can help you ensure that no improper activities are going on near your well, and allows you to inspect the well regularly.

3. Always use a licenced well contractor for work done on your well. The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change maintains a [list of licenced well contractors](#). Check with the well contractor in advance to be sure they are appropriately licenced for the type of work that is required.

4. Learn more about how to protect your well and common groundwater supplies. The [Well Aware website](#) and [Well Aware booklet](#) are good resources

for well owners.

## Fire Safety

As summer approaches, it's the time of year for burning leaves, bon fires and fireworks! Here are important things to keep in mind to ensure your safety and that of our community:

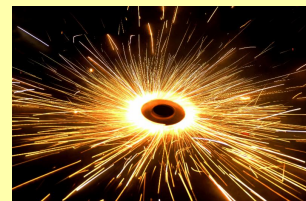


### Outdoor Fires

- Please remember to purchase your Fire Permit to enjoy outside fires - available at Toanche Basin Store for \$25. 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.
- Check with the Township office every time you are considering an outdoor fire to determine whether open air burning is permitted. 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.
- Build open air fires on bare soil contained in a pit. Remove leaves and twigs from around the fire to keep it from spreading. In our area, the diameter of an outside fire must not exceed one meter.
- Always keep a bucket of water, sand, or shovel close by and supervise the fire at all times.
- Never leave the fire unattended and be absolutely sure to fully extinguish your fire before returning indoors!
- 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!

### Fireworks

- 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.
- Fireworks are not allowed when a fire ban is in effect.
- 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 re-light 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.

### ***When are Fireworks Allowed?***

Only between dusk and 11 p.m. as follows...

**Midland:** Allowed on Victoria Day, Canada Day and "as approved"

**Penetanguishene:** Allowed on Victoria Day, Canada Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day and the week prior and/or following, or when special permit allows

**Tiny Township:** Allowed on Victoria Day, Canada Day and the five days prior and/or following, and on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day; also allowed if approval granted by chief fire official

**Please be considerate of your neighbours, wildlife and the Township By-laws!**

### **Spring Clean-up - Yard Waste**

Bi-weekly curbside Spring Leaf and Yard Waste Collection is under way in Simcoe County.



Place your materials at curbside by 7 a.m. on Monday of your collection week. To determine your yard waste collection week please [click here](#), or consult the waste management calendar.

Collection may not coincide with your garbage day. Utilize yard paper bags, cardboard boxes, compostable bags or open-rigid containers.

#### **ACCEPTABLE MATERIALS:**

- \*leaves
- \*grass
- \*garden waste
- \*straw bales
- \*cornstalks
- \*brush

Penetang, Midland and Tiny are Week 2 on the schedule. [Click here](#) for more details and to download the waste management calendar.

### **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 [Membership Form](#) here.



A graphic for a Town Hall Meeting. On the left, there is a blue vertical bar with the "Tiny" logo (a crest with a crown) and the word "Tiny" in a serif font. Below the logo, the text reads: "Town Hall Meeting", "May 27, 2017", "10am - 12 noon", and "Wyebridge Community Centre", "8340 Highway 93". An illustration of a hand holding a red and white megaphone is positioned at the bottom left. On the right, a white speech bubble contains the text: "Mayor Cornell and Members of Council invite you to the Township of Tiny Town Hall Meeting". Below this, it lists "Council Updates" (Wyevale Soccer Pitches, Canada 150 Events, National Health &amp; Fitness Day, Parking Strategy, Local Aging Plan) and "Information Tables" (Various Committees of Council, Fire &amp; Emergency Services, Severn Sound Environmental Association and local Public Libraries). At the bottom right, it says "Enjoy some refreshments and learn more about your community!".

Farlain Lake Community Association, 31 Farlain Lake Road West, Tiny, Ontario L9M 0B9 Canada

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