

# FIMLA Bulletin

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## Message from the President

### Ospreys Rebuild

We are pleased to report that a familiar landmark - the osprey nest on Eate's Island at the western end of the lake - has been restored. Storm winds over New Year's week snapped off the top section of the tree holding the nest, bringing it crashing to the ground.

The birds have returned and re-built their nest on the top of the broken tree. If only all reno's were accomplished in such an efficient and eco-friendly way.

### Annual General Meeting

Following a successful meeting last year at the Lion's Hall in Verona we are returning there for our annual general meeting in August (see details and directions overleaf). We are reaching a critical point in our deliberations over the lake plan and this venue provides a more suitable place to present the draft plan and get feed back from you - our members.



△ Osprey pair 'face off' the paparazzi.

After the formal business we hope you will stay for some food and refreshments and to 'meet and greet' your neighbours on the lake,

Don't forget your cheque book – to pay your annual dues (for this year, if owing, or next year!) and to order your copy of the Lake Plan book.

### Lake Plan Report

The main item of business at the FIMLA annual general meeting this

year will be a presentation of the draft lake plan and a request for approval of the proposals and recommendations in the report.

See the **back page** for a list of plan objectives and recommendations to be discussed at the meeting.

A first draft summary of the lake plan will be distributed to members free of charge at the meeting. The final version of the lake plan will be produced as an eighty page, full colour, perfect bound book available to members for the subsidised price of \$10 each. You can order your 'coffee table' copy of the lake plan at the meeting or reserve copies using the order form below left.

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**2009 AGM**

**See Overleaf for Details**

### FIMLA Lake Plan Order Form

Please photocopy, complete and return this order form with payment to:  
The Treasurer, FIMLA, Box 105, Hartington, Ontario, K0H 1W0

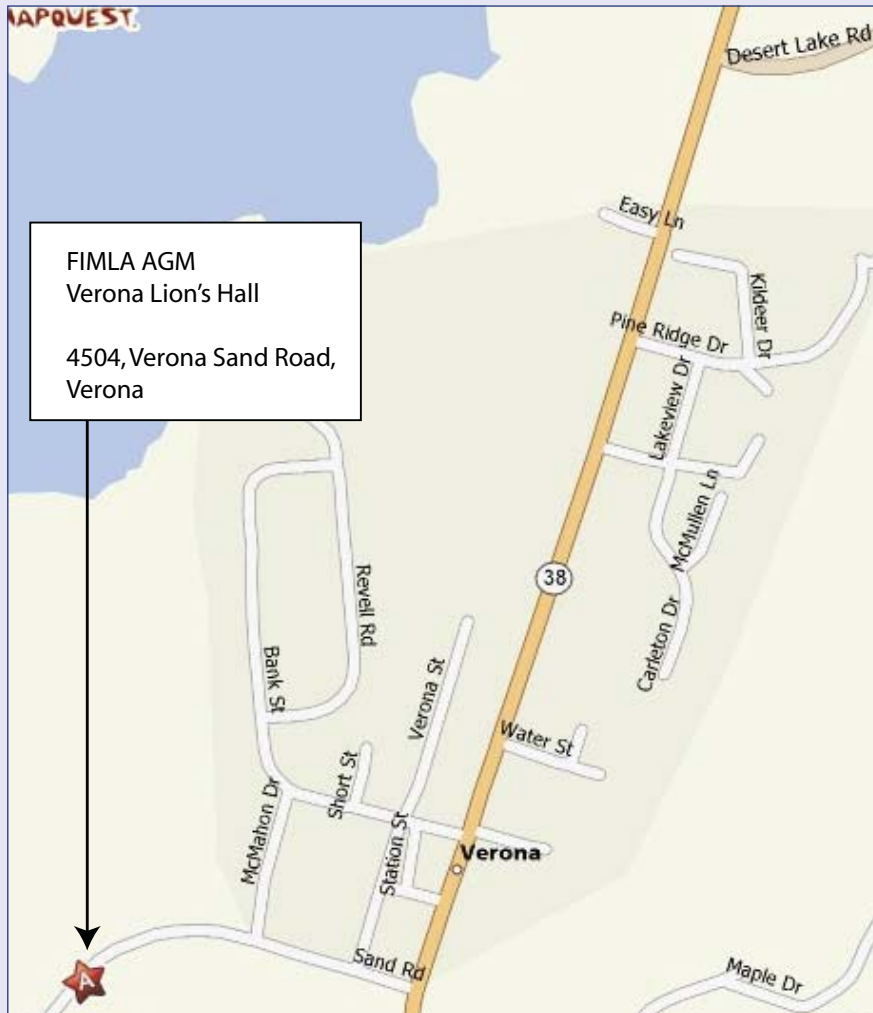
Title:	Name:		
Street:	City:		
Province/State:	Post/Zip Code:		
Telephone:	Email:		
Please reserve for me:	Qty	Price	Total
The FIMLA Lake Plan Book	_____	\$10.00	_____
Postage and handling		\$ 5.00	\$5.00
	Grand total		_____
I enclose a cheque/payment for \$ _____ CAD payable to 'FIMLA'			
Signature _____		Date _____	

## FIMLA 2009 Annual General Meeting

Sunday, August 2, 2009 at 1:00 - 4:00 pm

Location: Verona Lion's Hall, 4504 Sand Road, Verona

Map and Directions to Verona Lion's Hall for the FIMLA 2009 AGM



**From the South,** (Hinchinbrooke Road, Hartington, Kingston) take the 38 north to Verona and turn left at Verona Sand Road.

**From the North,** (Desert Lake Road) take the 38 south to Verona and turn right at Verona Sand Road.

### Membership Matters

A big thank you to all our paid up members. It is important that memberships are paid up to help fund the work of the Association. Current undertakings include water quality and fisheries studies and preparation of the lake plan. Publication of the lake report will also make a heavy demand on funds.

The FIMLA membership year runs from September 1st to August 31st and membership fees are due on September 1st.

According to our constitution dues must be paid on or before the date of the general meeting in order for

members to vote at that meeting.

For those of you who haven't paid your dues for 2008/09, this is a reminder that your \$25.00 is now due. Please make out a cheque to: 'Fourteen Island and Mink Lakes Association' or FIMLA and send it to:

The Treasurer, Fourteen Island and Mink Lakes Association, Box 105, Hartington, Ontario, K0H 1W0

### Are you up-to date with your FIMLA Membership?

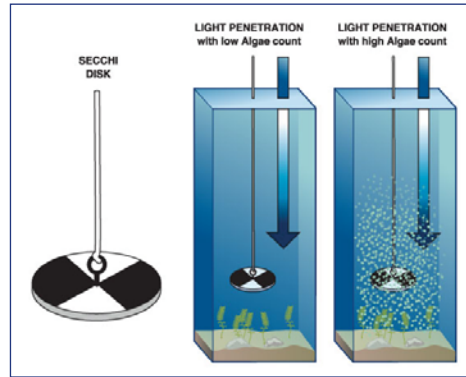
The members who have already paid their membership dues for 2008/09 are listed below:

- |                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Armstrong/Aronson  | Curtis/Elaine    |
| Babcock            | Frank & Jean     |
| Baur               | Romy             |
| Bennett            | Jennifer         |
| Bourne             | Tom & Yvonne     |
| Brewer             | Art & Diane      |
| Bryant             | Tom & Judy       |
| Buncel             | Erwin & Penny    |
| Cunningham         | Rhonda           |
| Dark               | Brett & Lory     |
| Dawes              | David & Taneda   |
| Gilmore            | David & Marion   |
| Halladay           | Kirk & Linda     |
| Harris-Lowe        | Rod & Percy      |
| Jennings/Clark     | Mike/Catherine   |
| Kirkwood-Zahara    | Allan & Paula    |
| Mackay             | Ian & Jane       |
| McDougall          | John & Ann       |
| McLeod             | Isabel           |
| McMahon            | Jim              |
| Natynczyk          | Walt & Leslie    |
| Neidbala/Sivilotti | Jamie/Jen        |
| Oliver/McLaren     | Linda/Elda       |
| Orser              | Keith            |
| Peart              | Peter & Marjorie |
| Peart/Katinakis    | Megan/Nikos      |
| Petrick            | Thomas & Laurie  |
| Pettis             | Craig & Ruth     |
| Pine               | Bill & Barb      |
| Place/D'Alo        | Tom & Grace      |
| Pople              | Victoria         |
| Powell/Barrie      | Robert/Sandra    |
| Poyner             | Darryl & Marian  |
| Raycroft           | Tom & Linda ▶    |

Rodgers	Gord & Barb
Sauve	Scott & Barbara
Smee	Ken & Wilhelmina
Smith	Charlotte
St. John	Stuart & Elaine
Stewart	Celia
Thomas	Ivor
Trammel	Keith & Carmella
Travers	David & Nicole
Trousdale	Stace & Carol
Trousdale	Austin c/o Robin & Susan
Tucker	Anne
Turner	Carl & Glenda
Valiquette	Mark & Kerri
Van Nest	Paul & Sharon
Weber	Hermann & Christa
Zimmer	Thomas & Dora

two in Fourteen Island Lake and one each in Mink, Buffy, Little John and Little John's Sister Lakes.

The testing will consist of taking water temperature and Secchi disk (water clarity) readings twice per month and collecting three water samples at depth



△ How the Secchi disk works.

(approx. 7.5m) once per month. The Lake Partners' Program will analyze the samples taken and information collected and provide FIMLA with the results.

In addition to providing us with a good snap shot of the current water quality in our lakes completion of the water quality testing program in 2009 will allow accurate base line comparisons with the available historical data. These comparisons may either confirm the stability of water quality within our lakes over the decades or indicate any emerging trends with respect to water quality to help us identify issues, if there are any.

**Water Testing Plans**

The water quality associated with our lakes is of major interest and concern for all residents and is a significant part of any lake report. Water quality expert, Mr Reg Genge, hired to undertake a thorough analysis of the water quality of our lakes, has now completed this work and forwarded his findings in a comprehensive report to the lake planning sub-committee. This information will be available at the 2009 annual general meeting and will form a major component of our lake report.

Although there was significant data available on the water quality of our lakes in the 60's, 70's and 80's, since then testing has been limited to once yearly as part of the Lake Partners' Program. To establish a current water quality data baseline for our lakes a much more intensive testing program needed to be undertaken.

To this end we have been working with the Lake Partners' Program to implement this testing program in 2009. The committee is pleased to inform you that comprehensive testing commenced in May this year. We have recruited and trained the volunteers and secured the equipment to do testing over a six month period at five sites, comprising

**Boat Launch Dates**

It has been agreed for the summer of 2009 that boats can be launched or taken out from Trousdale's boat launch during the following dates:

**Opening:** Saturday, April 25 to Sunday, May 24

**Closing:** Saturday, September 19 to Monday, October 12

**Please note:** this permission only applies to those who have paid their membership for 2009 to the Lake Association and/or their Road Association.

Gates will be locked outside these dates. If you have an emergency and must take a boat in or out when the gates are locked please contact one of the executive members of FIMLA and arrangements will be made. Also, we remind those of you who use the launch that a voluntary donation to the Willy's Lane Road Association (\$10 or \$15) would be appreciated.

**Fishing Update**

The results of a two-year fishery analysis of our lake reveal that little natural regeneration of pickerel (walleye) stock is occurring. Most specimens netted were the result of a stocking programme. Yet natural reproduction was healthy in the past. What happened?

Part of the answer may be that two streams that flow into the lake have become blocked either by silt or dams, both beaver and man-made. The pickerel cannot ascend these streams in late winter and early spring to lay their eggs.



△ Pickerel prospects may be improved.

Field work done in February 2009 reveals that one of these streams in the north-west corner of the lake and flowing south from little Cranberry Lake could very possibly be restored to its spawning capacity of years ago. The work and logistics required for this rehabilitation will be assessed in the summer of 2009. We are very optimistic the work can be carried out.

## Lake Stewardship Plan - Summary of Objectives and Recommendations

At the 2009 AGM, copies of a first summary of the FIMLA Stewardship Plan will be available, incorporating seven draft objectives of the plan, and recommendations to help meet these objectives. These are outlined below for you to consider in advance of the meeting. You will be asked to approve this material at the AGM after which the Stewardship Plan can be completed.

### 1.0 Natural environment:

To monitor, protect and enhance the ecosystems in our lakes and maintain healthy environment for fish, wildlife, and vegetation for now and for future generations.

#### Recommendations:

- 1.1 To maintain a complete species list (plants and animals) for the sub watershed, wetlands and forests;
- 1.2 To monitor the population of some of our more important species: loons, frogs, snakes....All our species at risk...
- 1.3 To monitor existing and be vigilant for any new invasive species;
- 1.4 To educate our residents and visitors about the importance of:
  - Maintaining habitat, especially shorelines;
  - Protecting species at risk;
  - Keeping new invasive species out of the area.

### 2.0 Water quality and water levels:

To maintain and improve our currently high level of water quality and water level management.

#### Recommendations:

- 2.1 To establish a comprehensive water sampling program for all lakes;
- 2.2 To establish a monitoring program for water levels across all lakes;
- 2.3 To assess the condition of the two dams – Little John to Mink and Fourteen Island Lake to Spring Lake and to engage Township, MNR, and Quinte Conservation in developing a comprehensive program to monitor and maintain these dams;
- 2.4 To educate and inform our residents and visitors as to what they can do to maintain good water quality in our lakes.

### 3.0 Fisheries and Fishing:

To monitor our fish and fish habitats and take actions to ensure a healthy population and sustainable fishery for anglers.

**Option 1: Status Quo.** Leave things as they are, and let the fishery naturally evolve to those species that will survive and flourish in the existing conditions of the lake.

#### Option 2: Encourage Walleye to Reproduce.

This option requires additional effort at finding potential spawning areas, improving them, doing some stocking, and monitoring the results.

#### Option 3: Increase Regular Stocking of Walleye.

This option requires an annual outlay of FIMLA funds to purchase walleye to stock the lake.

**Option 4: Lake Trout.** Introduce lake trout by stocking and manage the lake as an artificial Put-Grow & Take year round fishery sustained through stocking every 2-3 years. **Note:** *This option is considered not viable and has been dismissed.*

#### Recommendations:

- 3.1 Continue to examine the potential for walleye spawning in Fourteen Island and Mink Lakes, and apply for MNR funding to rehabilitate where potential exists;
- 3.2 Continue to monitor fish populations;
- 3.3 Conduct a creel survey to determine what fishermen are catching in the lakes;
- 3.4 Develop an awareness and education campaign about the lakes' fisheries, and current regulations.

### 4.0 Social and Recreational Activities:

To promote recreational activities that are safe, environmentally responsible, and respectful of each other's right to peace and tranquility.

#### Recommendations:

- 4.1 Expand upon the current FIMLA initiatives to promote safe and considerate boating;
- 4.2 Establish an awareness program on the environmental impact of poorly maintained boat engines;
- 4.3 Develop a 'good neighbour' awareness campaign to deal with noise and general behaviour on the lake;
- 4.4 Promote the concept of 'dark skies', and make residents aware of the importance of minimizing light pollution and maintaining our dark skies.

### 5.0 Emergency and Municipal Services:

To work with government agencies to improve police, emergency and other services.

#### Recommendations:

- 5.1 Request the County and Township to give high priority to a new ambulance station in the FIMLA area to serve this area on a 24/7 basis, and include a four wheel drive ambulance for rural areas for this new station;
- 5.2 Request County and Township to enhance and update the current GPS system to improve response time of emergency responders;
- 5.3 Maintain and expand the relationships with

the Fire Chief, the OPP detachment, and the Township of South Frontenac;

- 5.4 Continue the existing, and consider increasing, the self-help fire protection, as done by the FINFLA Road Association.

### 6.0 Development:

To ensure that future land development is in keeping with the environmental, social and physical character of the FIMLA area, and:

- to support administration and enforcement of environmental regulations, and
- to promote comprehensive environmental planning for the FIMLA and contiguous regions.

#### Recommendations:

- 6.1 Present the results of the FIMLA Lake Plan to the South Frontenac Township council, stressing components related to protecting lake values and dealing with new development;
- 6.2 Examine Official Plan and Zoning Bylaws to determine development potential on the lakes, and monitor future severances and subdivisions;
- 6.3 Advocate to the Twp. any changes thought to be necessary to the Official Plan and Zoning Bylaw, e.g., regarding back lot development and 'condominium/joint ownership' buildings. **Note:** *that this is in the context of Township OP and ZB that are extremely restrictive in terms of new lot development.*
- 6.4 Develop an awareness and education program on septic system care and maintenance;
- 6.5 Request the Township and Health Unit to include FIMLA properties on the township's septic re-inspection program.

### 7.0 Sense of Community:

To bring people of the FIMLA area together to establish and define our community and values and, as a community, to work together to implement this stewardship plan.

#### Recommendations:

- 7.1 Canvass the FIMLA community to determine level of interest in future community events;
- 7.2 Prepare and publish a history of the FIMLA area;
- 7.3 Expand the agenda of the AGM to include a broader community dimension;
- 7.4 Follow up the completion of the lake plan with a clear strategy for implementation and monitoring and reporting back to the community.