



Number 8

Spring 2011

FIMLA Newsletter

fimla@live.ca

www.fimla.org



FIMLA Watershed on Frontenac Maps

If you want an Osprey's eye view of our lakes you can now go online to www.Frontenacmaps.ca enabling you to view a digital map of the entire county.

You can zoom in on the map to bring up aerial photography showing buildings, roads, trails, shorelines and other features in fine detail.

Baseline mapping data includes road allowances, lot lines, contours and other information. You might even be able to spot your vehicle if you parked it in open space two years ago when the Ministry of Natural Resources did the aerial photography.

Frontenac County plans to work with

lake associations, Frontenac Stewardship Council and tourist organizations to put more layers of information on the map to provide a graphic picture of the County and local communities. ■

Township Approval for FIMLA Lake Plan

The FIMLA Lake Plan was presented to a meeting of South Frontenac Township Council on Tuesday February 8th, 2011. Lake Planning is being increasingly recognized as a valid and important tool for use by townships and other agencies in guiding their planning and management decisions, and the

document was very well received by councillors.

Gord Rodgers, FIMLA President, gave an overview of the plan and how it was produced. Council were informed that the FIMLA executive and lake community will be doing their best to implement the plan, and look to South Frontenac Township to assist in this endeavour.

Councillors were presented with an eight page summary of the report and a one page addendum identifying recommendations and actions in the report needing their support and involvement.

FIMLA was complimented on producing a well-researched, high quality document and action plan. It was agreed to reference the document in the Official Plan for South Frontenac. Although not legally binding, this ensures the FIMLA Lake Plan will have to be taken into account by the Township Council, and other agencies, when considering any plans or developments that could impact on the FIMLA area. ■



▲ Spot your lot. Frontenacmaps.ca can take you to places Google street view can't find.

Contents

- Message from the President
- Health of our Lakes - Water Testing
- Willy's Lane Boat Launch Dates
- Whippoorwill - Endangered Species
- FOCA Cottage Succession Seminar
- Membership Campaign
- Executive Contact Details
- Lake Association Project
- For Sale and Notices



Message from the President

As I write this message, I am looking out on a mostly ice-free lake, which just happened in the last two days. And since I heard my first loon last night, spring must really be here. I'd just like to see the thermometer up a bit higher, though.

After all the effort last year to complete our lake stewardship plan, this year is when the rubber hits the road – when we get down to the doing, instead of the planning. The good news is that, at our last meeting, the FIMLA executive went through the Action Plan (Chapter 8 of the plan), and found that most of the recommendations have either been dealt with, or have people assigned to do them.

All the water quality monitoring work is well in hand, thanks to Brett Dark's coordinating. Peter Peart is managing our fisheries actions, and Megan Peart (Peter and Marj Peart's daughter) has volunteered to coordinate most of the actions under our "Social and Recreational Activities" recommendation.

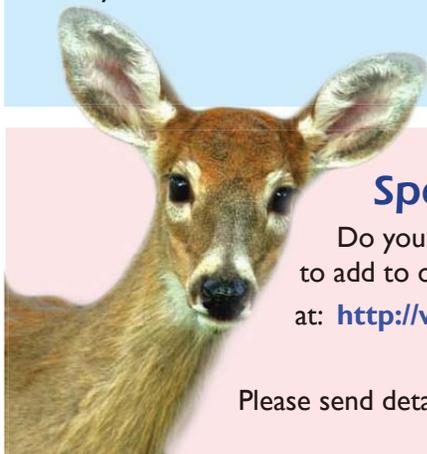
There are a few areas where we could use more help, and one in particular is to find someone to keep our species list up-to-date. So this is a call-out to anyone who would like to help with this. We're looking for someone who would take the initial list of plants and animals (Appendix A of the plan) and work with a small team of people to expand the list, and keep it up to date for a few years.

As you will see elsewhere in the newsletter, we've been to municipal council, and had a positive reception with the plan as a whole.

I want to say thank you to the FIMLA executive for a huge amount of effort over the last year – Brett Dark, Elaine St. John, Robert Powell, Peter Peart, and Anne Tucker. And a special thank you for all their work in putting this newsletter together and getting it out to you all.

See you around the lake, and on July 31st at the FIMLA AGM.

Gord



Species List

Do you have observations or photos of local wildlife to add to our species list? You can view the species list at: http://www.fimla.org/species_list.html

Please send details and photos to: fimla@live.ca

The Health of Our Lakes - Water Testing

One of the components of our lake plan was the detailed analysis of the water quality of our lakes. To that end we have expanded our annual water testing program at all five FIMLA lakes within the Lake Partners' Program.

Instead of testing once per year, at one site in each lake, we have been testing six times per year (May to October) and have expanded the testing on Fourteen Island and Mink Lakes to three sites. Each test consists of taking three separate water samples which are then mailed to the Lake Partners Program and tested for phosphorous content. Water clarity is also recorded through Secchi disc readings.

Results

The results of our 2010 testing are included in this newsletter and are compared with the historic test results for our lakes. 2010 results show generally that our lakes water clarity has increased, but so did the phosphorous content.

Increased clarity is a positive result while increased levels of phosphorous are not. This increase will not affect the natural trophic state of our lakes, and is not considered to be at a dangerous level state. (Trophic state is essentially a lake's ability to support plants, fish, and wildlife, classified according to levels of phosphorous, algae abundance, and water clarity.) However, results this year do mean that we must watch future levels closely and continue our expanded testing program.

Phosphorous Levels as an Indicator of Lake Health

For decades phosphorous, a crucial nutrient for growth of aquatic plants and algae has been considered a key driver of the overall productivity and health of fresh water ecosystems. In the absence of human inputs phosphorous only appears in lakes from erosion occurring

in phosphate-bearing rock and soil.

Human input factors include:

- Run off from land where fertilizers and manure are applied in excess of crop requirements
- Run off from forestry and urban expansion
- Industrial emissions to soil and water
- Municipal and household waste water discharge

Excess phosphorous can result in abundant growth of aquatic plants and could lead to a shift in the assemblages of fish and invertebrates in lakes. It could result in greater numbers of less desirable, pollution tolerant ones

appearing, including invasive species.

Decaying and unsightly algae and aquatic plant growth can release toxins, affect light penetration, water clarity and lead to declines in dissolved oxygen. This set of circumstances could trigger fish kills.

Potentially toxic blue algae can form blooms under certain conditions such as high nutrient loading and warm temperatures. Severe algae blooms are re-emerging in the Great Lakes and other Canadian bodies of water. Not since the 1970's, when legislation was introduced to limit phosphorous levels in our fresh waters, has public

The Lake Partner Program

The Lake Partner Program is a province-wide, volunteer-based, water quality monitoring program. The sampling program allows for early detection of changes in the nutrient status and/or clarity of the water of Ontario lakes. The program is a FOCA partnership with the Ministry of Environment.

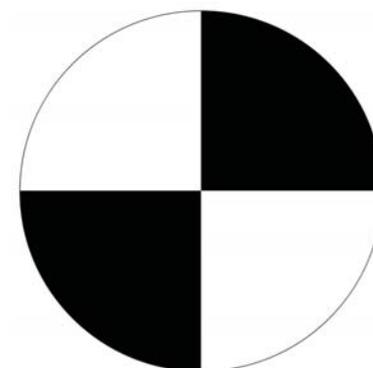
concern for nutrient loading in aquatic environments been so high.

It is for these reasons testing for phosphorous has been used as one of the main ways we can help determine the health of our lakes. Phosphorous and Secchi disc testing have been conducted since the 1970's on our lakes and therefore can provide valuable historical comparisons.

We are pleased to announce we will continue with the intensive monthly sampling at our lakes, rather than the once per year sampling that is the norm for the program. Our water testing volunteers are providing an invaluable service in providing the data needed to help us maintain a healthy aquatic ecosystem on our lakes.

This is our third year of an expanded volunteer testing program. On behalf of all our Lake Association members I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their efforts. ■

Brett Dark



▲ Secchi disc for measuring water clarity.

Figure 1. Water Quality Table								
Measure	Alkalinity	Water Clarity (Secchi disk depth)			Chlorophyll	Phosphorous		
		1975-2008	2009	2010		1975-1993	1975-2008	2009
Sample period	1975-1987	1975-2008	2009	2010	1975-1993	1975-2008	2009	2010
Fourteen Island Lake	71.5 mg/l	5.8 m	5.9 m	6.9 m	2.14ug/l	15.5 mg/l	12.6 mg/l	14.4 mg/l
Mink Lake	-	-	5.0 m	6.1 m	-	-	9.45 mg/l	10.45 mg/l
Little John Lake	97.9 mg/l	-	4.4 m	4.3 m	*1.9ug/l	*18.4 mg/l	13.7 mg/l	12.5 mg/l
Little John's Sister Lake	78.6 mg/l	-	*2.3 m	2.7 m	*3.98ug/l	*32 mg/l	13.7 mg/l	14.5 mg/l
Buffy Lake	-	-	*2.8 m	2.5 m	-	-	21.8 mg/l	22.5 mg/l
Comments	>25mg/l means NO sensitivity to acid precipitation; >50mg/l means susceptibility to zebra mussels.	*These lakes have naturally darker, "tea-stained" water.			*One year only, 1983	*One year only, 1985 15 mg/l considered threshold level for phosphorous		

▲ Fig. 1. shows water quality data presented in the Lake Plan, updated with the results of the intensive water sampling conducted on our lakes in 2010. Phosphorous samples and clarity readings were taken each month from May to October. Averaged out readings taken over that period for each lake are shown in bold. General conclusions are that the clarity and phosphorous content of our lakes have increased. Increased clarity is a plus, but increases in phosphorous must be monitored closely.

Willy's Lane Boat Launch Dates

It has been agreed for the 2011 season that boats can be launched or taken out from Trousdale's boat launch during the following dates:

Opening: Friday, April 22 to
Sunday, May 29

Closing: Saturday, Sept 17
to Monday, Oct 10

Please note: this permission only applies to those who have paid their FIMLA membership for 2010/11.

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.

A Feather From the Whippoorwill

by Emily Dickinson

A feather from the Whippoorwill
That everlasting - sings!
Whose galleries - are Sunrise -
Whose Opera - the Springs -
Whose Emerald Nest the Ages spin
Of mellow - murmuring thread -
Whose Beryl Egg, what Schoolboys
hunt
In "Recess" - Overhead!

The Whippoorwill - Endangered Species

You have probably never seen one, but given where our lakes are situated you have certainly heard one. Or more. The call of the whippoorwill at night is for me as emblematic of summer as the loon's tremolo. This love of the distinct three note mating call, however, is not one universally shared; a friend who is also a past president of our Association allowed that the bird's cry kept him awake at night. Courtesy prevents me from disclosing this philistine's name.

The whippoorwill has recently been placed on the Province's endangered species list. The preferred habitat for this bird is dry but patchy forest composed of pine, juniper and oak. We have this type of terrain in abundance, thus our resident birds. But the range used to extend as far north as Sudbury, east to Nova Scotia and west to Saskatchewan. No longer. More intensive farming and maturing forests have reduced the breeding grounds. It appears to be counter-intuitive, but sporadic forest fires can result in the type of woodland that whippoorwills prefer for hunting and breeding.

The breeding season for whippoorwills peaks a week before and a week after the full moon in late May or June. The females lay their eggs at this time and the eggs hatch, ideally, about ten days before the next full moon. Clever rascals these, because this timing ensures a maximum of moonlight for their foraging when they are busiest feeding the youngsters.

Whippoorwills are insectivores who watch from their perches at the edges of clearings for larger flying insects such as moths and beetles. Because their best hunting time begins a half hour after sunset they are rarely seen. A further reason for this is their camouflage. About the size of a robin and with a tiny beak they have dark grey-brown feathers which are mottled and

when they are sitting on a perch they become almost invisible. Nor can they be located by searching for their nests. They lay their eggs directly on the ground.

The whippoorwill has appeared in the works of Shakespeare, Emily Dickinson, and W. B. Yeats. One of North America's greatest ornithologists, President Theodore Roosevelt, loved the bird and referred to its "boding call". But it is now in trouble. One reliable source estimates that the population has declined since 1970 by 75%. Today it is found only along the southern edge of the Canadian Shield (that's us), Georgian Bay, the Rideau Lakes region (that's us again), and the Oak Ridges Moraine.

What can we do to help in the conservation of this lovely bird? Not a great deal at the moment. The organization Bird Studies Canada is currently focusing on "regions [which] support the largest concentrations in order to direct conservation efforts". The best we can do is to record how many we hear and the approximate location. This information can then be forwarded to the Ministry of Natural Resources. And of course we can enjoy their beautiful evening calls. ■

Peter Peart



2011 FOCA Cottage Succession Seminar



FOCA will be delivering Cottage Succession seminars again this summer, carrying on from their successful seminars in 2010.

These seminars offer information and guidance to waterfront landowners who are planning on passing their cottage down to their children or family members.

The 2011 series will again feature a presentation by Peter Lilloco, Estate Lawyer, author and Cottage Life writer, along with information about financial planning from the event sponsor Tranter & Associates.

The nearest seminar location for those of you interested in keeping the 'Family' in the family cottage will be at Perth on August 28th from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Check for further details at: <http://www.foca.on.ca/Cottage-Succession> ■

FIMLA Membership Campaign

Mailed with this newsletter is a reminder to renew your annual subscription to FIMLA, or join us if you are not already a member. Look out for the form sent with this newsletter or download a membership application or renewal form at: fimla.org/membership.html

Who can join?

Membership of the Association is open to all owners or lessees of properties bordering on Fourteen Island and Mink Lakes, and Buffy, Little John and Little John's Sister feeder Lakes.

What do we do?

The Association:

- Takes an active role in maintaining and enhancing the well-being of our local environment and the quality of life on all five lakes for both seasonal and permanent residents; and
- Represents the interests and welfare of its members to the township of South Frontenac and other authorities.

Why join?

FIMLA is a volunteer association of property owners which relies on your support.

Dedicated volunteers are now engaged in implementing our lake stewardship plan, including programs to improve fisheries and monitor water quality. Further goals have been set for planning, education and other initiatives to reconcile sustainable development of the lake community with protecting and enhancing the natural environment for generations to come.

Help us to continue the work of the Association to preserve and enhance the special character and scenic beauty of this part of the Land O'Lakes.

Annual Membership is just \$25.00

Please make cheques out to 'FIMLA'

Please feel free to contact your executive:

President:

Gord Rodgers
gordrodgers@xplornet.com
613-374-3521

Vice President:

Brett Dark
brettandlory.dark@sympatico.ca
613-374-1789

Past President:

Anne Tucker
ethela@sympatico.ca
613-966-7153

Secretary:

Elaine St. John
elaine3037@gmail.com
613-374-1276

Treasurer:

Elaine St. John
elaine3037@gmail.com
613-374-1276

Lake Steward:

Peter Peart
peter_peart@hotmail.com
613-374-1175

Communications Director:

Robert Powell
rob_powell@msn.com
613-374-3800



▲ Together, we can do this.

Frontenac Stewardship Council Lake Association Project

As the “County of a Thousand Lakes”, the value of, and need for, lake plans and reports is continually addressed by Frontenac in its planning documents.

Accordingly, as part of planning for the future sustainability of Frontenac County, an initiative has been launched to collate, evaluate and disseminate information about lake plans and reports produced by community groups and lake associations in the county.

FIMLA has responded to a request for information for this study being coordinated by the Frontenac Stewardship Council. Our submission included a copy of our lake plan for evaluation as part of the project.

The growing need for lake plans and reports across the region has been recognized by many community and lake associations with a number of plans and reports completed over the last number of years.

The objectives of this study are to:

- Produce inventories of these plans and reports;
- Assess these plans and reports;
- Provide easy access to the plans and reports; and
- Acknowledge best practices and/or common standard actions to assist community and lake associations interested in completing future plans.

The aim is for this information to be kept current and in the public domain so that lake associations can consider different approaches used by others to develop lake plans and reports. It is also planned to incorporate information into the geographical information system layers used by the County of Frontenac’s www.frontenacmaps.ca initiative.

Further information on the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP) adopted in Frontenac County is available at:

www.directionsforourfuture.ca ■

For Sale

1999 Yamaha 6 HP boat motor

Less than 50 hours of use (as it was a backup motor). Recently serviced locally. Price \$950 (o.b.o).

Call Stuart St John at 613-374-1276 or email: sinjun43@gmail.com

Do you have items for sale or wanted, lost or found?

Please send details to: fimla@live.ca

FIMLA AGM

2011 Annual General Meeting

To be held on:

Sunday, July 31st, 2011
from 1:30 - 4:00 pm

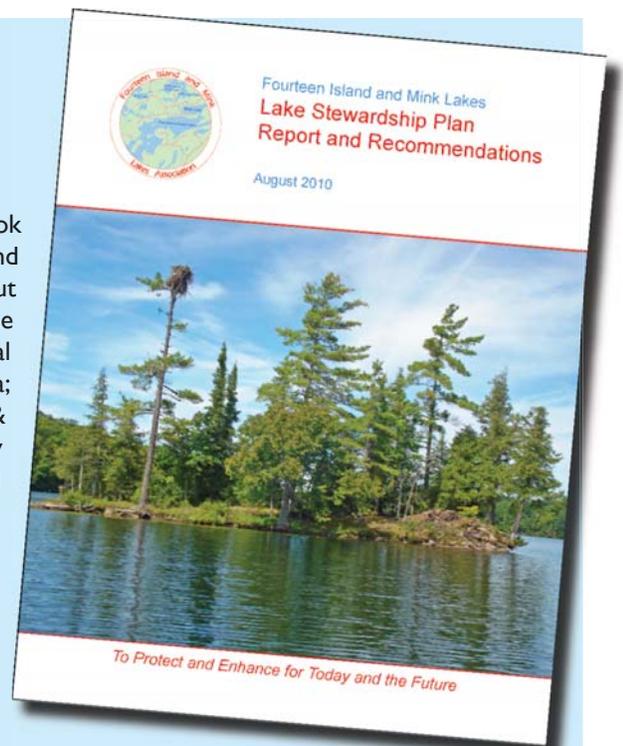
Venue: **Verona Lion’s Hall**

Fourteen Island and Mink Lakes

Lake Stewardship Plan

The plan is a 94 page, full colour, book comprising photos, charts, tables and maps. It includes information about our lakes, a short history of the area and chapters on the natural environment; local flora and fauna; water quality; fisheries; boating & recreational activities; emergency and municipal services; and, land use & development. Available to FIMLA members at the subsidized price of just \$10. Order it today.

Get your copy today using the order form below.



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 _____	