



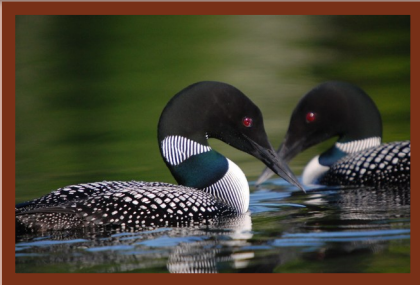
FIMLA Newsletter

Fourteen Island and Mink Lakes Watershed Association

www.fimla.ca

In This Issue:

- Membership Appeal
- President's Message
- Community Events & Call for Volunteers
- Financial Report
- Lake Health Report: Part 1
- Thank you from FOCA



Join the FIMLA Lake Association – Protect What You Love!

If you enjoy the peace, beauty, and community of the lake, becoming a FIMLA member is one of the best ways to help protect it. Your annual membership supports important initiatives that keep our lake healthy, safe, and enjoyable for everyone.

Membership is only \$50 per year, per owner/family. A small investment that provides meaningful benefits:

♦ Lake Liability Insurance

Members benefit from lake-related insurance coverage that supports responsible shared use of our waterfront environment

♦ FOCA Membership Perks

As members of the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA), you gain access to:

- Provincial advocacy that protects cottage country

- Exclusive discounts on cottage services and safety products
- Educational webinars and resources for waterfront living

♦ Community Connection

Stay informed with regular updates, meet neighbours at events, and have a voice in decisions that impact our lake.

Together, we make a difference.

Support the lake you love and keep it thriving for years to come.

- ♦ **Join or renew today** — only \$50 per year per property!

Thank you for helping protect the heart of our community — FIMLA Lakes.

President's Message:

Happy Fall, everyone! I hope you are all well on your way to preparing for the arrival of winter. While the weather has certainly kept us guessing this year, there are some positives: we're seeing higher water levels returning to the land, the Level 1 fire ban has finally been lifted, and the lake level—although still low—has begun to rise again.

I'd like to update you on a few key items the Executive has been working on since the AGM.

Dam Opening Celebration: On September 6th, we held an official celebration marking the opening of the newly repaired dam. We were pleased to welcome Mayor Ron Vandewal; Councillors Ray Leonard, and Steve Pegrum; Josh Doornekamp of AARDE Construction; Kyle Sangers of Sangers Inc.; and Lucas Maines of DM Wills Engineering, along with your FIMLA Executive team. The Mayor expressed his appreciation for how professionally the project was undertaken and for the smooth coordination with the Township, ensuring the effective and efficient expenditure of Township contributed funds. The hard work and financial contributions from FIMLA members played a significant role in this successful outcome, and the Township is very satisfied with the results.

Willy's Lane East Repairs: As discussed during the AGM, the condition of Willy's Lane East had deteriorated due to construction traffic during the dam repairs. We are pleased to report that the repairs have now been completed and payment issued. With that, this matter is officially closed.

Trousedale Boat Launch We also continue to monitor the future availability of the Trousedale boat launch. We have confirmed that the property, including the launch, is expected to be sold next spring, pending the completion of required surveys and approvals. Before the sale, we approached the property owner to explore the possibility of granting FIMLA a permanent, registered right-of-way to ensure ongoing access to the property. Unfortunately, she was not in agreement due to concerns about its potential impact on property value. We will continue to review our options and provide an update in the spring.

Membership Fees Last year, only 39 of over 140+ property owners contributed FIMLA membership fees. Unfortunately, this level of participation barely covers our basic operating expenses, including insurance, FOCA membership fees, and banking costs. You will find a membership appeal at the beginning of this newsletter. We sincerely hope you will continue to support — or begin to support as new members — FIMLA. Your contribution enables us to protect our lakes, maintain important relationships, and strengthen our community connection.

Thank you for your continued involvement and support.

Richard Nageleisen

FIMLA Lake Association: Let's Plan Our Next Community Event!

Thanks to everyone who supported last year's **FIMLA Lake Golf Tournament** — it was a huge success! The event raised **\$3,500**, and now we'd love to use those funds to host another fun community gathering for everyone around the lake.

A few exciting ideas have already been mentioned, such as a **FIMLA Lake BBQ**, a **Boat Poker Run**, a **music night**, a **fishing derby**, or even a **lakeside picnic**. All of these are great ways to bring our neighbours together and celebrate our wonderful community.

📌 What's a Boat Poker Run?

A Boat Poker Run is a friendly, social event where participants travel by boat to several checkpoints around the lake. At each stop, they collect a playing card, and at the end of the run, the best poker hand wins a prize! It's all about fun, camaraderie, and enjoying time on the water — not speed or competition.

To bring one (or more!) of these ideas to life, we're seeking a **small group of volunteers** to help plan and organize the event. No experience needed — just enthusiasm, a few creative ideas, and a love for our lake community.

Whether you'd like to help with **food, entertainment, decorations, promotions**, or lend a hand on event day, we'd love to have you join in!

📌 **If you're interested in helping out or learning more, please contact:**

📌 Karen (treasurer) at treasure@fimla.ca

2025 Financials / 2026 Budget

<u>2025 Financials</u>		<u>2026 Budget</u>	
January 1st opening balance	\$133,610.77		
REVENUE			
Membership fees 39 members @\$50	\$1,950.00	39 members @\$50	\$1,950.00
Donations	\$1,733.32		
Fire blankets	\$360.00		
Golf profit	\$3,496.53		
Total Revenue	\$7,539.85		\$1,950.00
EXPENSES			
Aarde Construction	\$88,652.76		
Cade Insurance	\$1,406.16		\$1,406.16
FOCA	\$310.75		\$310.75
Website Domain	\$202.79		\$202.79
Willy's Lane East road improvement	\$5,994.65		
Bank Fees	\$22.50		\$8.00
DM Wills (Est as of 17 Nov 2025)	\$1,000.00	Social Activities	\$3,500.00
Total Expenses	\$97,589.61		\$5,427.70
November 1st bank balance	\$44,561.01		

Note: A strategic reserve of \$40,000 will be maintained for future inspection, maintenance and insurance of the dam and boat launch.

Lake Health Report – Part 1

“When FIMLA members were asked about what concerned them the most, the item that topped the list was: “keeping our water quality healthy”. Whether boating, swimming, fishing or gazing at a sunset, water quality affects the experience.”

Fourteen Island and Mink Lakes Lake Stewardship Plan, August 2010, P 27

The FIMLA Lake Stewardship Plan was a meticulously researched document detailing the natural, historical and human environment of our area. The document is available on the FIMLA.ca website and is still relevant today. Chapter 2 of this report was dedicated to water quality and water levels. An analysis of all available data identified parameters critical to monitoring the health of our lakes. The two most significant ones were water clarity (Secchi Depth), and total phosphorus, which is an indicator for algal growth. This led to the following recommendations:

Conduct monthly sampling for Secchi and phosphorous in 2009;

Establish long term annual water sampling for Secchi depth and phosphorous.

FIMLA achieved both goals through participating in the Lake Partner Program (LPP).

Lake Partner Program

This program is citizen science at its finest. The Lake Partner Program of the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP), samples over 800 lakes across the province through the efforts of volunteer water samplers. Monthly from May to October, these volunteers measure water transparency, and collect water samples that are sent to the MECP Dorset Research Centre for analysis.

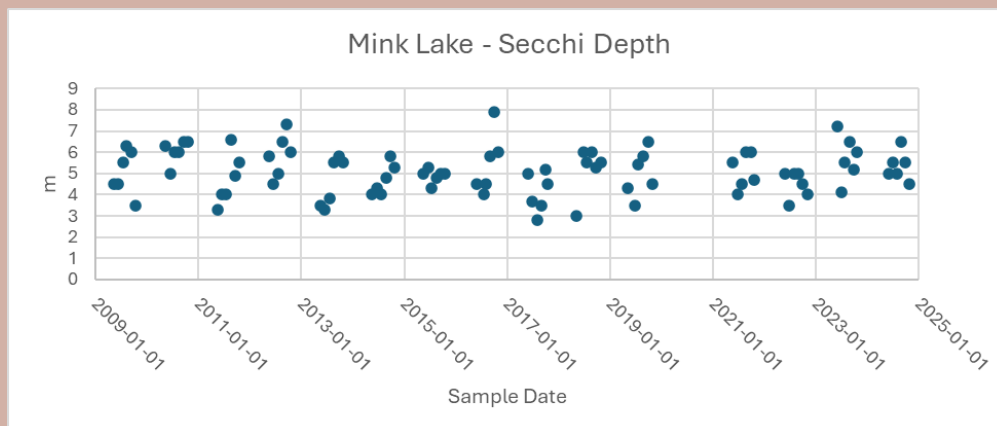
FIMLA applied to participants in 2009. Seven sites were established, three in each in the deepest parts of the three basins of Fourteen Island Lake, and one each in Mink, Little John, Little John’s Sister and Buffy Lakes. Monthly sampling commenced in May 2009, and continues to this day. Records are relatively complete for two of the sites in Fourteen Island Lake and Mink Lake, but are sporadic in the other four sites. No data have been collected in these latter sites since the onset of COVID-19.

At each site, water transparency is estimated by lowering a black and white weighted disc (Secchi Disc) on a calibrated rope until it is no longer visible from the surface, and recording the length of rope used. A water sample is also collected in a small bottle lowered to the Secchi depth. The water collected is filtered, saved in three sample vials and sent to the Dorset lab for analysis. They determine Total Phosphorus, Calcium, Sulphate and Chloride from these samples. All the data from all the lakes for every sample are publicly available through the Province of Ontario website noted at the end of this article.

Preliminary Results

The Lake Stewardship Plan recommended collection of Secchi depth and Phosphate Concentration. Here are results for

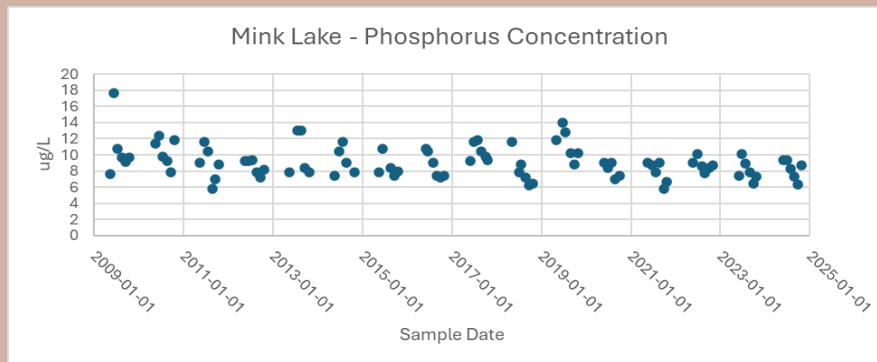
Mink Lake.



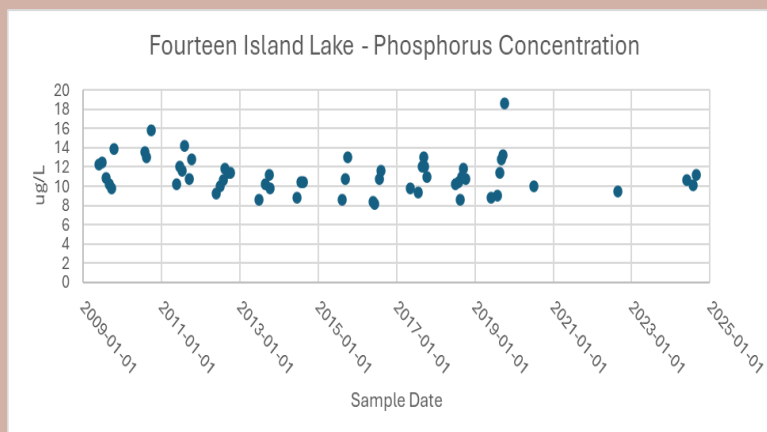
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At first, this graph of Secchi depth looks random, however, there are several interesting takeaways. First is that there is no long-term trend in the data. Over the course of fifteen years the surface waters of Mink Lake maintain a constant annual average clarity. Within each year, in general the transparency is lowest in the spring, and highest in the fall. The annual range is between 3 and 7 metres. This is good. Even at the minimum Secchi depth you will still be able to see your toes when you are swimming.



Here is the time series of phosphorus concentration in Mink Lake. Over the fifteen year span the annual mean values decrease slightly. There is a slight negative trend to the data, showing that the phosphorus level in the lake is relatively stable around 10 $\mu\text{g/L}$. At this level, no significant growth of algae is likely. This lake continues to be ideal for on- and in-water activities.



A similar graph for Fourteen Island Lake shows slightly higher concentrations, but still under 15 $\mu\text{g/L}$, which is low enough that algae growth is unlikely.

Conclusion

The FIMLA Lake Stewardship Report of 2010 recommended that we collect water transparency and phosphorous concentration time series data in our lakes. We have done that, and the process continues.

We need volunteers to restart sampling in Little John, Little John's Sister and Buffy Lakes. If you are potentially interested, please contact me through the **Contact Us** link on the FIMLA website.

A much more detailed analysis is still to come, expanding to all parameters, and all lakes. Stay tuned for Part 2 in the Spring Newsletter.

Submitted by Joe Buckley, Mink Lake Permanent Resident, FIMLA Board member and retired physical oceanographer.

Data Source: Government of Ontario, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP). 2025. "Ontario Lake Partner Program (LPP)" (dataset). 11.0.0. DataStream. <https://doi.org/10.25976/fxsw-ym39>

Thank you from FOCA

Dear **FOURTEEN ISLAND AND MINK LAKES WATERSHED ASSOCIATION** Members only,
Thank you for your association's support of FOCA! We've received your annual renewal payment and have updated your association's status within FOCA's MemberPress web login system. Please find below an overview of your FOCA member benefits, including how to log in to access members-only materials on the FOCA website. If you are no longer on your association's executive, please get in touch with us so we can update our records, and also forward this message to the appropriate person in your association.

MEMBER BENEFITS:

FOCA is the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations, a not-for-profit organization representing volunteer associations and individual property owners all across Ontario. We are your provincial voice.

Each of your member families is considered a member of FOCA, and can access a variety of member benefits, including the FOCA member price on event attendance and cottage succession recordings, exclusive access to the CottageFirst group insurance program, and many other discounts and offers. For an overview, including access codes for **FIMLA paid members only**, please get in touch with an executive member, and they can help you get set up.

Once again, thank you for your support.

Have a great day!

FOCA

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Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations

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