



Spring 2026

FIMLA Newsletter

Fourteen Island and Mink Lakes Watershed Association

www.fimla.ca

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Reminder: Lake Association Membership Dues are Due!!

If you have not yet paid your annual \$50 Lake Association membership dues, we encourage you to do so as soon as possible. Your membership helps support the important work of protecting and preserving our lake and surrounding environment for current and future generations. Membership fees contribute to our affiliation with the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA), which provides valuable advocacy, resources, education, and support on issues affecting waterfront property owners across Ontario.

Your dues also help cover the Lake Association's liability insurance. This insurance provides important coverage related to personal water-related accidents and helps protect the Association and its members from potential liability arising from incidents on or

around the lake. Without adequate insurance coverage, legal and financial costs resulting from an accident or lawsuit could have a significant impact on the Association and its members.

A strong membership also gives our community a stronger voice when addressing environmental concerns, water quality, boating safety, invasive species, shoreline protection, and other issues that affect everyone who enjoys the lake. For just \$50 per year, your membership helps ensure the Association can continue this important work on behalf of all residents.

The preferred method of payment is e-transfer to treasurer@fimla.ca. To renew your membership or learn more about the Association's activities, please visit FIMLA.ca.

Thank you for supporting the future of our lake community.

President's Message:

FIMLA Newsletter - President's Message Spring 2026

The Dam. We are nearing the end of reporting on this subject! The final one-year inspection was completed last November with some very minor deficiencies noted that will be addressed this Summer. The final costs have been determined and are reported in the attached financial report. Members should take note that, in the financial statement, funds collected during an emergency appeal in the Fall of 2024 were not required for the completion of the dam. It was decided by the Board to offer them back to those generous donors who answered the call and gave us the security to proceed with the project. 19 of the 35 donors asked for return of their donations. This is reflected in both the Dam Financial Report and the FIMLA Budget and Financial Report. Our next consideration for the Dam is the ongoing inspection and maintenance. Initial estimates are that these costs could be substantial. I will report more on this at the AGM.

Trousdale boat launch. Members should note that the Trousdale property is now up for sale and as of the writing of this newsletter no sale has been completed. While we still have permission to use of the boat launch, it's future use will be subject to the will/cooperation of the future owners. We will provide an update, including our thoughts on alternatives, at the AGM.

Financial Reporting. At the last AGM, Members voted to forego a formal audit or review engagement of the Association's finances covering the funding and implementation period of the Dam (2024-2025). In lieu, a special report was recommended and agreed to. Members are requested to take special note of the Financials/Budget Report and final report on the dam attached to this newsletter. These speak to this remit to the Board to report to the membership a full accounting of the budget and dam expenditures.

Board Membership. As always, we are looking for members to step up and become members of the Board. This year, we will be looking for a new Treasurer as Karen DeLuca will be stepping down from that position after many years of dedicated service. So if anyone out there has an affinity for numbers please consider helping us out.

New Members. Finally, we will have had some changes in property owners around the lake. I would like to ask everyone to let the Board know so that we may reach out to them, make them aware of FIMLA and get them on our contact list.

I wish you all a great and safe summer on the Lake!

Richard Nageleisen

Boat Launch Update:

The Trousdale property at the south end of the lake which encompasses the boat launch has now been sold, although details of the buyer and the impact on future boat launch use are not yet known. The closing date for the sale of the property is apparently September, so we will keep you posted as information becomes available. FIMLA members are welcome to use the boat launch according to the scheduled times and rules which are posted on the FIMLA website. Thank you to all those who have contributed the \$35 fee for this year's use of the launch. If you have not yet contributed, this is a gentle reminder to please do so. The e-transfer should be sent to Susan Pine, the secretary and treasurer of the Willy's Lane Road Association (willyslane14@gmail.com).



FIMLA Annual General Meeting:

This year's AGM will be held on Saturday, August 1, 2026. Alan Boyce has kindly offered to host this year's meeting. An email will be sent out the first week in July with all the details. In the mean time, we hope that you will mark that date on your calendar and plan to join us!

FIMLA Stories: The Babcock Family's History on 14 Island Lake



Earlier this month I was asked to contribute a small article to our newsletter about my family's history on 14 Island Lake. So, to jump right in, my grandfather Percy Hampton (my mother's father) purchased our cottage in August of 1963. My family has loved this lake since the first visit.

Our property was initially just the main cottage. Over the years my parents purchased connecting properties. It was off the grid when it was purchased, and it remains an off the grid property (although we have the benefit of generators now). Little has changed with respect to our surroundings. The view is the same except for the Osprey nest. We watched them everyday and it was disappointing when the damage to the tree proved too much and they relocated.

My father, Frank Babcock and my brother Dave have always been involved with lake initiatives. My brother is a past president of the lake association. In 1981 the Ministry of Environment assessed the lake and the dam. At that time, my father was chosen to be their representative to control the water level. As years went by, my brother Dave stepped into this role and still cares for the dam today. Over the years this involved making sure boards were left in the dam or added to it when others removed them because they didn't like the water level. They also spent many hours undoing the work of the beavers as they love to block the flow of water. Dave consistently would go over to the dam and be laying on the concrete having to pull the branches out of the water and unblock it. Once this job was complete it was time for road maintenance so we could drive in and out without issue. There was always something to work on. *(Continues on page 5)*



As I am typing this, I am remembering things that I haven't thought of in years. My grandmother and I used to take walks to pick apples so she could make an apple pie. There may have even been one walk where we became lost behind the duck pond. She used to spend the evenings playing solitaire at the kitchen table watching for the beaver to swim by (probably on the way to plug the dam!) and listening for the whippoorwill. I also remember Austin Trousdale's cattle that would come to visit when we weren't there and leave gifts of fertilizer around the cottage. If we were there, the first person who heard or saw the cows coming would holler "cows!" and we would all go towards them to turn them back into the woods. I can remember not long before Willy Trousdale passed away, my

friend and I were at the lake and we had a bonfire. She poked me with her hand and said, "who is that"? I looked back in the direction she pointed, and Willy was standing there in a white collared shirt partially untucked, baggy work pants, white hair, and pale skin. He looked like an apparition. I believe my friend genuinely thought she saw a ghost. He joined our campfire and chatted for a while and then we drove him back to his truck as it was dark and he parked his truck on the road and walked into the cottage. He said he enjoyed walking his property. I can still picture him clearly to this day. There were also fishing tournaments, crazy eights on rainy days, shooting cans with a pellet gun, catching frogs and so much more.

Our lake is a truly special place. We have formed relationships with friends who are now our cottage family. We have gone to weddings and attended funerals. We have watched our children grow up building their own lake friendships and valuing the lake in the same way we do. We have maintained friendships with people who have moved away but come back for a visit each summer. We continue to gather at our annual horseshoe tournament. This summer is officially 32 years for the tournament, but it has been going on unofficially for at least ten years before anyone started counting. Every year the players arrive hoping this will be the year they win the bragging rights.

I wish my grandfather could have enjoyed more than nine years here. I sometimes wonder what he would think if he could see it today. Did he understand what a gift he was giving our family when he made this purchase? I hope he did, but what is more important is that we do. He really couldn't have chosen a better place.

By Julie Barker



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