



May 2010

NEWSLETTER

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www.fairylakeassociation.com

President's Message

Rob Zingel

A loon called out last night, a wonderfully surprising sound given the recent predominance of gulls and crows. The stars, moon and Venus shine so bright in Huntsville, while across the lake, is the ever expanding skyline of Huntsville. This morning I stepped outside to spring sounds of a white throat sparrow, and the sounds of the highway. A trembling aspen rises to the occasion. Deer abound through the region, not knowing any cause for concern.

Remember the past? In Fairy Lake, several indigenous fish species no longer procreate. White Pine forests were completely cut down in Muskoka. Many lakes are contaminated with mercury. This is not a past to celebrate, but hopefully we'll remember errors of past ways. Embrace the future? With a different modus operandi

The beauty of the lake nevertheless remains, and our culture shifts gradually in favor of preserving our Algonquin heritage. Another glorious Fairy Lake summer approaches!

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Welcome Back: Membership Update

Kathy Hunter

Signs of spring at the lake were all around us when we returned from Florida at the beginning of May. Sunny daffodils greeted our arrival; our tiny bit of forest was carpeted with trilliums; boaters were already enjoying sunny days on Fairy Lake and, early the first morning back, the local loon called out to us.

In the Fairy Lake community, spring is also marked by 'Newsletter and Membership' weekend which traditionally coincides with the long weekend of May. Behind the scenes, over 30 volunteers are involved in preparing for this massive communication event, in order that all 290 Fairy Lake property owners receive the newsletter either in person, by postal service or by email.

We have debated long and hard over the need to go 'paperless' in our communication with members. For interim notifications we have done so. However, our spring hard copy, with its newsletter, personalized membership form and helpful environmental flyers, will still need to be continued, at least for spring 2010. A valuable piece of this debate has been how important it is for newcomers to be welcomed into our community, personally. Receiving the spring Fairy Lake package from a friendly 'Neighbourhood Ambassador' can set a positive tone to one's move to the lake.

When the newsletter package arrives, we hope you will take a few minutes to check that all contact information is correct on your membership form, indicate your intention to attend the listed activities, add your name to the growing list of volunteers and return your form with membership dues, as soon as possible.

It is through your financial AND volunteer support that we are able to continue the valuable stewardship initiatives that we have carried out for the past 10 years. This past year saw the greatest increase in membership and volunteerism. What we contribute to the well-being of our lake has immeasurable benefits.

Summary:

- *Those who have requested email copies will get an email copy of the newsletter but a hard copy of the membership form and flyer;*
- *Those who haven't made such a request will receive a hard copy of the newsletter, membership form and any flyer PLUS an electronic copy;*
- *Those who do not have email will receive a complete hard copy package*
- *Starting in the fall, if you have email, you will receive **ONLY** an electronic copy of the 2010 **fall** newsletter.*
- *Indicate on your membership form whether you wish to receive future newsletters by email.*
- *If you are able to help us, in any way, by volunteering for small projects, please indicate this when you return your membership form.*

Fish Habitat and Lake Clean-up

Rob Zingel

MNR (Ministry of Natural Resources) report by Peter Scholten examined possible causes of the extinction and near or complete disappearance of native lake trout spawning as well as whitefish from Fairy Lake. Fairy Lake, in the past has been capable of sustaining these species. It is a deep lake, permitting trout, for example, to find cold waters with sufficient oxygen. The best guess for the disappearance of these species is smelt predation in combination with relatively low water clarity and several other stresses. As smelt populations are much lower now than in the past, there is hope that rehabilitation may occur. It's possible that fish stocking itself is a contributor to the problem, so MNR has recommended discontinuation of lake trout stocking programs in Fairy Lake for ten years while monitoring for natural lake trout and walleye, which has been successfully established in Lake Vernon.

It's worrisome when fish disappear from a lake where they've survived for millennia, since they're an indicator of lake health.

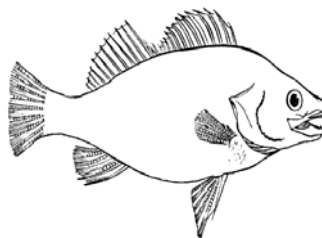
In the context of MNR-DFO (Department of Fisheries and Oceans) responsibilities and advice, we re-examined our lake-clean-up program that removed floating debris, (99% logs) from the lake for several years. DFO suggested that instead of removing natural lake resources, we could use them to create fish habitat. Phil Curtis (DFO) offered to bring their vessel and tour the lake to determine suitable sites for habitat and spawning.

I think we are better off redirecting our energies and funds to creating habitat. We imagine the possibility of FLA funding efforts of individuals who wish to create habitat at approved public locations or private property. There are many methodologies for creating habitat, and this would be a long-term undertaking. Each proposal would be reviewed on its merits, and within the context of our budget.

Let's work together to keep the lake free of navigational obstacles. If you see a log floating near by, or one that has washed up on your shore, please make all efforts to secure it with ropes and chain, or if this is not possible, then cut it into smaller pieces.

Each of us can take personal responsibility for lake safety and contribute through prudent measures and actions.

FLA may also resume removal procedures, however, the unavailability of Centennial Centre launch has made the process problematic this year. So for now, we revert to historical methods whereby conscientious individuals put boats to good use by removing floating debris. The main difference is that the association will not remove these materials to a dumpster.



NAVIGATION

Peter Van Buskirk

There is an article in this newsletter, which outlines the “Lake Clean Up” issues. As we are not going ahead at this time, you should be extra careful to avoid floating debris within the lake. Debris is not only a spring event but can be a hazard all season.

ALL BOATERS MUST:

- Keep a proper lookout
- Drive at a safe speed
- Carry “on board” your Pleasure Craft Operator Card
- Have “on board” the licence if your boat has an engine greater than 10HP (7.5kw)
- Wear your lifejacket or Personal Flotation Device (PFD)

AND REMEMBER ...

You are responsible for your passengers.

Enclosed is a brochure “Wake Up Slow Down” – READ IT!

On March 2nd, 2010, the Integrated Security Unit (ISU) announced that restrictions would be lifted on Fairy Lake during the G8 summit in late June 2010. However, float planes will not be allowed to land or take off from Fairy Lake because temporary flight restrictions will be put into place in the Huntsville area during the summit.

Fair Weather and True Winds in 2010



Huntsville Lake of Bays Lakes Council (HLoBLC)

Rob Zingel

A potential bright spot for the future of lakes in Huntsville is HLoBLC. Two dozen lakes in the Huntsville region are represented to form a united policy and lobby to preserve the lakes and lake life of the Huntsville region. Through this group, Fairy Lake is represented at council on the Environmental Advisory Committee, and much weight is added to our position on planning and development. Scrutiny is brought to town finance. Bright ideas emerge, such as creating and funding a contiguous wetland around Huntsville, to protect lakes and wildlife.

We were successful in having our environmental policy adopted as mission-central of the Council. In this policy we see lakes as central to the economy of Huntsville and the economy as a subset of the environment. Whether ensuring that 18 storey condos are prevented or protecting amphibian friends, the workings of HLoBLC require funding. Funding will be obtained from lake membership dues, government grants, and endorsement of like-minded environmentally friendly business. We see HLoBLC playing an increasing role, but FLA will continue to act for the benefit of its own membership through direct representation to town and other agencies.

Ice-Out Contest and Global Warming

Rob Zingel

The ice-out-date contest held by FLA is for fun, but I also enjoy the scientific aspect.

We had 38 entries ranging from Mar 25 to May 1. Though the winter was fairly moderate we still had a couple days near the usual -35°C and a stretch or two of -20°C 's. With the mass of the earth emanating at 50° degrees, and the extraordinary depth of Fairy Lake, I expected that yearly variations would not be great. Indeed for several recent years, the ice was out almost on the exact date, Apr 16-17th. One year it was around April 10th?

This year's ice-out date was April 1st, no doubt aided by a warm spell in late March nevertheless this result seems unusual. Do we have our own little suggestion of global warming?



Congratulations to our winners! John McCaig and Peter Van Buskirk tied and will receive a copy of the DVD, Life on the Edge: Stories from Muskoka's Past. This is the second year in a row that John has won. Does he have a formula for predicting the weather? If so, the weather network could certainly use him!

Membership Dues- 2010/11 \$35.00

In the 2009/10 fiscal year, the Fairy Lake Association ran a deficit due primarily to the rising costs associated with:

- our lake clean-up initiatives
- water testing program
- insurance costs

Rather than have these activities continue to eat away at our reserve funds, the Board feels that it is necessary to increase the membership dues in order to continue to invest in these important expenditures.

For many years we have been able to maintain the fees at \$25.00. The increase of dues to \$35.00 will allow the



Fairy Lake Association to continue to invest in the improvements necessary to keep and enhance the quality and safety of our lake.

Full details of FLA expenditures will be provided at our upcoming annual meeting on July 3rd at the Algonquin Theatre. Thank you for your continuing support and consideration.

Recreational Water Testing

Kathy Hunter

Muskoka Watershed Council publishes a watershed report card every three years with the first one produced in July 2004. The report card reports on Our Water, Our Air, Our Land and Our Community. An important component of the Water section is the swimmability and drinkability of the water – bacteria level is a key indicator of this section.

When a lake association agrees to share their data with the Muskoka Watershed Council for inclusion in the Watershed Report Card, it is important that the 'Bacteria Sampling Protocol' be strictly adhered to. The Fairy Lake Association began its testing for bacteria – specifically ecoli in swim areas – three years ago following the guidelines provided by the Watershed Council.

New to the lake, Catherine Cumberland took on this responsibility with enthusiasm and professionalism. With the assistance of Don Brandle, also new to the lake, she collected water samples, diligently maintained records and analysed the data. We are indeed indebted to her commitment of time and expertise. It is a great loss to have her move away from the lake. However, we would like to extend our thanks for her many hours of scientific work and wish her well in her new home.

Ingrid Sinclair and Julia Bertelsen have volunteered to carry on this valuable water testing programme starting in July. John McCaig has volunteered to drive samples to Orillia. If you wish to be part of any of our programmes, please contact Julia at julbertelsen@gmail.com

Planning

Rob Zingel

Fairy Lake is a relatively busy lake for new development. Several new dwellings and boathouse structures are underway, and also a new condo-apartment complex on the river into town. Our position has been to ensure no adverse effect to the lake, and in the case of the condo development, we opposed on the basis of aesthetic reasons and storm water management. Many people opposed the development, but the project goes forward and it remains to be seen whether aesthetics are addressed.

Additionally, there are at least two larger scale private developments contemplated by individuals who value ecology and preservation of Fairy Lake.

Volunteering

Kathy Hunter

The following jobs require a commitment of only a few hours. Please contact Julia Bertelsen, Volunteer Coordinator, if you are able to lighten our load by volunteering. julbertelsen@gmail.com

1. Drive a sample of lake water to the lab in Orillia for bacterial testing; mileage is paid at \$0.40/km. This is done 4 times during the summer. Four people could each drive once or you could drive all 4 times;
2. Take the temperature of the lake and measure the depth of the clarity at 2 specific sites, every two weeks throughout the summer. Record your findings; return the results in September to the Ministry of the Environment;
3. Assist with the setting up of food for the AGM;
4. Be a greeter at the AGM;
5. Assist with the clean-up at the Pancake Breakfast;
6. Assist in stuffing envelopes for our mailout;
7. Become a Neighbourhood Ambassador – deliver the newsletter on your street; pass along the contact info of new residents to the Membership Committee;
8. Join the board and learn more about the 'behind the scenes' operation of the association; share your expertise and your ideas to help us improve.

TIP: Safe cleaners for boats

- Vinegar** – Cleans, kills mould, disinfects, deodorizes, bleaches, and disperses diesel odours.
- Baking Soda** – Scours, deodorizes, cleans fibreglass.
- Olive Oil** – Polishes bright work – mix three parts oil and one part vinegar; shake well. For toilet bowls, shower sumps and bilges.
- Tea Tree Oil** – Lifts tape adhesives, disinfects, counteracts foul smells in upholstery.



FOWL Play
Kathy Hunter

Many communities are looking for solutions to the impact that bird feces have on our healthy enjoyment of everything from golf courses, to swimming areas, to outdoor restaurants. The following signs, discouraging the feeding of waterfowl, are evidence that the Fairy Lake community is not the only one that has difficulty convincing people that feeding wildlife, particularly waterfowl, can be harmful to both the creature itself and to the area where they are congregating.



Huntsville (Green) Unity Plan

Rob Zingel

Huntsville is nearing completion of the initial draft of its 'green' plan. This future blueprint has evolved from a 'green' plan into a 'sustainability' plan with the objective of balancing three interdependent community pillars: economic, social, and environmental. Public consultation is ongoing and a preliminary draft presentation welcomes the public on June 1st, from 7-9 PM at the Algonquin Theatre. For information please check at: http://www.town.huntsville.on.ca/residents/unity_plan.htm

FLA as a whole promotes a more purely 'green' environmental position. We feel the future economy of Huntsville would be served by using the opportunity of a 'green' plan to re-position Huntsville as an anomaly in a world of wanton material consumption and development. Even a fanatically green 'green plan', would be just a small step in shifting culture, since Huntsville is not independent of broader regional and global socio-y, economic structures. Strategically repositioned as such, Huntsville might be like a seed, a kernel, providing direction and leadership to other communities while establishing itself as an alternative model. We feel differentiation along these lines would be good for the economy.

Mosquitoes



To minimize mosquito populations:

- Encourage habitat for insect-eating predators like dragonflies, bats and birds (like swallows.)
- Get rid of old tires or store them under a shelter. Tires fill up with rainwater and make breeding pools for mosquitoes.
- Change the water in bird baths at least once a week.
- Clean clogged roof gutters and place screening over the top of rain barrels.
- Turn over water-catching items (wheelbarrows, pots, etc.) in your yard and try to eliminate pools of standing water in ditches and gutters.
- To keep mosquitoes away from your deck, try burning citronella candles or placing potted basil, lavender or citronella plants in outside recreational areas.

DID YOU KNOW ...

Bug zappers are ineffective on mosquitoes which are attracted by scent, not light; instead they kill beneficial insects like moths.



TIP: Safe Cleaners for Boats and Mosquitoes are reprinted from On the Living Edge: Your Handbook for Waterfront Living, Ontario Edition, Copyright 2003 The Federation of British Columbia Naturalists, Sarah Kipp, Clive Callaway, the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, and Conservation Ontario

G8 Summit – It's Almost Here!!!!



Yes! They're coming. Increased military and policing are already evident. Benefits to Huntsville include new facilities at the Centennial Centre, as well as various road upgrades. Publicity for the town can't hurt tourism either – Huntsville's main economic driver. The new presence of the University of Waterloo in Huntsville is very exciting! And this may develop into a broader research campus. You can receive more information on the summit at:

http://www.town.huntsville.on.ca/residents/G8_Summit2010.htm

If you'll be near restricted areas in and around Deerhurst Resort, you'll need to be accredited, even if you are an owner staying at your cottage. For information affecting your individual requirements contact the Summit Management Office (SMO) at:

1-888-482-2610 or 1-819-934-6071

E-mail: g82010@international.gc.ca

The SMO is located in the Royal LePage Building near the Independent Grocer.

For latest security updates visit: <http://www.g8-g20isu.ca/g8/latest-recentes-eng.htm>. Boating restrictions have been lifted for Fairy Lake, but flight is not permitted. Mayor Claude Doughty plans to speak at our AGM this year, providing a re-cap of the G8 and town matters.

June 25, 26 & 27, 2010

Questions potential visitors have asked.....

Believe it or not, these questions about Canada were posted on an International Tourism Website. Obviously the answers are a joke; but the questions were really asked!

Q: I have never seen it warm on Canadian TV, so how do the plants grow?

A: We import all plants fully grown and then just sit around and watch them die.

Q: Will I be able to see Polar Bears in the street?

A: Depends on how much you've been drinking.

Q: I want to walk from Vancouver to Toronto-can I follow the Railroad tracks?

A: Sure, it's only four thousand miles, take lots of water.

Q: Are there any ATM's (cash machines) in Canada? Can you send me a list of them in Toronto, Vancouver, Edmonton and Halifax?

A: No, but you'd better bring a few extra furs for trading purposes.

Q: Can you give me some information about hippo racing in Canada?

A: A-fri-ca is the big triangle shaped continent south of Europe. Ca-na-da is that big country to your North ... oh, forget it. Sure, the hippo racing is every Tuesday night in Calgary. Come naked

Q: Which direction is North in Canada?

A: Face south and then turn 180 degrees. Contact us when you get here and we'll send the rest of the directions...

Q: Can I bring cutlery into Canada?

A: Why? Just use your fingers like we do.

Q: Can you send me the Vienna Boys' Choir schedule?

A: Aus-tri-a is that quaint little country bordering Ger-man-y, which is... oh, forget it. Sure, the Vienna Boys Choir plays every Tuesday night in Vancouver and in Calgary, straight after the hippo races. Come naked.

Q: Do you have perfume in Canada?

A: No, WE don't stink.

Q: Can you tell me the regions in British Columbia where the female population is smaller than the male population?

A: Yes, gay nightclubs.

Q: Do you celebrate Thanksgiving in Canada?

A: Only at Thanksgiving.

Q: Are there supermarkets in Toronto and is milk available all year round?

A: No, we are a peaceful civilization of Vegan hunter/gathers. Milk is illegal.

Q: I have a question about a famous animal in Canada, but I forget its name. It's a kind of big horse with horns.

A: It's called a Moose. They are tall and very violent, eating the brains of anyone walking close to them. You can scare them off by spraying yourself with human urine before you go out walking.

Q: Will I be able to speak English most places I go?

A: Yes, but you will have to learn it first.



OH CANADA

Submissions from FLA Residents

Over the years, we have published several wonderfully enjoyable articles in our newsletter. In the following stories, Golden Pheasant Lodge, by the Chapmans, we see a picture of Golden Pheasant history. In, Tomorrow's Towering White Pine Planted Today, Ron Zingel writes on his experience purchasing on Fairy Lake and stewardship activities on his property.

Golden Pheasant Lodge on Fairy Lake

By Harold and Gloria Chapman

Golden Pheasant Lodge was the realization of a lifelong dream of George Chapman, an accountant and internal auditor for the CNR, who took early retirement, and purchased the "Skol" resort in 1946/7. I believe the property was owned by the Goetz family. Although his enthusiasm was not shared by his wife Lila, his daughter Gloria and son Douglas were happy campers. They continued to retain winter residence in Toronto and in later years, London, but were in Huntsville from mid May till after Thanksgiving.

The lodge was located on 90 acres of land, bordered by Fairy Lake on the east, highway 60 on the west, Grandview Inn {owned and managed by Rosie Cookson} on the north and Rickard Cottages {owned and managed by Mr. & Mrs. Frank Rickard and their daughter Myra} on the south. The lakeshore frontage was approximately one mile in length.

George Chapman was an avid pheasant hunter and visited Pelee Island, off the shores of Lake Erie, every fall. His long range goal was to raise pheasants and operate a "release and hunt" venue, thus the reason for naming the lodge the Golden Pheasant Lodge. To prepare himself for the lodge business, he attended Ryerson Institute in Toronto where he took the chefs course, so he would be able to supervise the kitchen well.

It was two or three years into the ownership before pheasants in fact became a part of the lodge. Pens were built alongside the "recreation hall" (barn) and birds were raised, (but no pheasant was ever served).

The number of cabins was increased so that a full house was approximately 100 people. A nine hole golf course was carved out of the hill, the large field abutting the highway and a water hole over a corner of the south bay. A driving range was also built beside the highway.

Water sports were handled by a 22 foot cedar strip boat and a 35 hp Evinrude motor. A concrete shuffle board was built close to the lake front. A wiener roast was held once a week on the big rock in front of the main lodge. A Mr. Mawhinney and members of his family were brought in once a week for a square dance and a sing song.

The Archway Club was the favourite dance hall in town, you could sail on the "Algonquin" for a moonlight cruise on the weekend and the theatre had the newest of movies. MacDonalds [no, not the chain] restaurant was the favourite eating place downtown.

George's marriage to Lila ended in divorce in 1951. Gloria entered nursing at The Toronto General Hospital; Doug attended Ridley College and eventually Osgood for law.

George remarried to Elizabeth Pott and finally got around to holding his pheasant release and hunt camp. It met with moderate success, however it did not add to the atmosphere of the lodge, and George decided to purchase a farm near Campbellville and turn it into a full time pheasant operation.

Unfortunately, dividing his time between the two enterprises began to show at the lodge and deterioration began to show on the property. George suffered a minor heart attack in 1963 and Gloria and her husband Harold {also a Chapman, but no relation} who had originally met at the lodge in 1948, decided they would run the lodge for the 1964 season to see if it could be turned around. Although they enjoyed a profitable season and were successful in refurbishing the accommodations they were already committed to a clothing manufacturing business in Elmira Ont. and they were afraid of over extending themselves. George suffered another heart attack and passed away in July of 1964.

The estate was left to Elizabeth who had neither the desire nor ability to continue to run a lodge and so the lodge was sold, in 1964, to a female German doctor and her husband that had run a nursing home in Kitchener. The lodge sold for \$85,000.00 cash, just short of \$1000.00 an acre. Although we never did revisit the property during their ownership, we were led to believe that they lacked the skills to handle guests and eventually sold out to land developers because of deteriorating business.

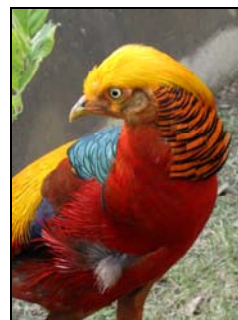
Gloria and Harold both have wonderful memories of Fairy Lake as do some of our children who are old enough to have spent time at GPL. Our only regret is that at some point we did not attempt to sever a lot for ourselves

We do look back with a great deal of pride to the number of trees we helped to plant that now beautify the many private lots on the property. We have three tall Pines in our back yard in Kitchener that were moved from the GPL in 1964.

One of the local people hired, was Norma Grosso as a waitress. She & Gloria became very good friends in their

teen years, but we have lost track of her now.

Also, the original tree on One Tree Island was cut down during the night, one summer. We took the boat out & found sawdust from a chain saw all over the ground. I don't think anyone was ever charged.



We had the stuffed Golden Pheasant for many years, in our rec room, but it got very motley looking & we threw it out.

Tomorrow's Towering White Pine.....Planted Today

By Ronald Zingel

An unscheduled trip up the country road came to an abrupt halt as we saw the 'for sale' sign nailed to the utility post. Owning waterfront property in Muskoka had always been a dream for my wife and me. In the past, every time we got close to a big buying decision we always decided that our money was better off invested elsewhere.

This time was different however. As we surveyed the property we came across numerous magnificent white pines towering above a natural forest loam. Some of the giants had run their course of life and lay rotting and decomposing, feeding the next generation of organic growth. One of the giants, upon surveying the lake, appeared to be the tallest white pine still surviving on the lake. Our curiosity peaked. Why was this small section of mixed forest preserved by the landowner? Why didn't it suffer the same fate as all the other sections of land that were thoroughly logged over the years?

Within one year of acquiring the land, Wild West winds struck. I have always heard about the "one hundred year wind ". At first I thought the term meant that it comes but once every hundred years and wreaks havoc. In this case, I had a new definition...the hundred-year wind can take down giant trees that are 100 or 200 years old. It can bring a tear to your eye. On our property, we lost one of our huge white pines and numerous other deciduous trees. More significantly, the huge towering white pine (the tallest on the lake) that peaked above the forest canopy was sheared off at the very top.....it was almost as if we were sent an important message by mother nature. The top thirty feet of the tree lay on the forest floor, ready to decompose and serve the next generation. This is where my tree story really starts.

These trees, they are not forever. As custodians of the residential / recreational forest we need to be mindful that selective replanting of trees at regular intervals on private property can enhance the experience of Muskoka for generations to come.

We have all seen it – the development process that at times seems too aggressive. It starts with a road into the property. I guess we need to take down those trees. Those trees are too close to those Hydro lines...those have to go. Those trees block my viewthey will have to go. Those trees will have to go, because they block the sun on my deck. That tree must go; it puts pine needles and sap on my car. I need to put my boathouse over there...those trees need to go. Oh...don't forget the cottage or house. Take down every tree that could possibly fall on the roof or fill the rain gutters. Pretty soon what do have?.....a building lot that looks very much like it was transported from a suburban housing development - No trees!!!. I feel this is not the best approach to building in Muskoka.

As you travel the lake, you can see evidence of this aggressive waterfront development. Forest loam and forest are sometimes replaced by manicured green lawns and ornamental rock gardens full of woodchips and plants that are often not indigenous to the region. They do look beautiful and attractive (and expensive?)but beauty is usually in the eye of the beholder. I personally enjoy looking at a vibrant Muskoka forest or a developed lot where the owners have preserved some trees. Development of property by private landowners in Muskoka is inevitable. Property owners have the right to develop their property within the municipal guidelines and laws. As landowners, we can all still take positive proactive steps to minimize damage to the existing forest. We can also take selective steps to reforest areas that are currently open space and do not have a defined human use. As development rules now require greater frontages on waterfront, we can also take some rational steps to improve our lake water, reduce run off pollution, and enhance the ecology of the lake. **WE CAN PLANT A TREE.....OR MAYBE 100 TREES?**

Perhaps you are thinking that this tree planting is a too much work and very expensive. But is it really that expensive? We've planted about 400 bare root seedlings on our 1.8 acre waterfront property over the last three years. We already have so many trees so at

times it seems like an irrational exercise. But we do love our trees. The average expense once you factor in some soil and marking sticks is about \$2.50 per tree. The trees themselves cost between \$1.25 to \$1.75 depending on the type and age. They can be purchased from commercial nurseries in bulk. You do have to order ahead so that your order is ready for the spring planting. They will ask you what region you plan to plant the trees in. You should have some idea of what grows well in your area and what type of trees have thrived in the soils that are on your property. The nursery will provide advice and they also have stacks of government publications that you can read on reforestation. Other than the cost of the bare root seedlings, the rest of your cost is for your soil, marking sticks and some green paint for the sticks. You will want to mark your trees for the first couple years so that you don't step on them or run them over with a lawn mower. It also allows you to clearly see the positive impact of the trees that you have planted. If you don't want to differentiate your planted trees from the existing foliage, you can omit the sticks and paint all together.

Ok ...so now it is time to plant. Get ready to get dirty. You will be enjoying this planting experience between Mid April and the May 24 weekend. Make a day of it and invite some friends or relatives. I have found that there is a high probability that it will rain if we are planting trees. Perhaps you will have better luck with the weather. It is best to plant bare root seedlings (especially coniferous trees during the early spring growth season). These little bare root seedlings will grow fast, and even within two or three years show substantial vertical growth. If you already have good foliage on your property you can be confident that your renewed stewardship of the land will be appreciated by generations to come, as you restore the full forest canopy. If you have very few trees left on your property due to excessive human development and land use, then you can be sure that your neighbours will appreciate your new green thumb and new efforts to reforest. After all, trees can provide natural privacy, clear property demarcation, and sound attenuation for home and cottage owners. In short, they improve our quality of life. They also have significant positive impact on the ecology of the local lake and in a global sense, reduce global greenhouse gases by consuming carbon dioxide and turning it back into oxygen. And the trees sure are beautiful to look at.

The seedling you plant today will not be yours alone to enjoy. You may very well be long-gone before it towers over the landscape. Perhaps it will be your children or grandchildren that truly enjoy the forest canopy that you resurrect.

That is what land stewardship is all about. You get to do a little bit of work in the springtime and leave a lasting legacy for generations to come. It doesn't have to cost a lot, and you must have some patience. If each generation takes logical steps to land reforestation, there will always be a beautiful forest canopy for the next generation to enjoy. The best time to plant a tree is today..... and fifty years ago. Most importantly, the landscape that we view from the lake will be as spectacular for our offspring as it was for the original pioneers who set eyes on this lake.



FLA Upcoming Events

Pancake Breakfast – June 19, 9:00 – 11:00 am

AGM – July 3, 9:30 – 11:30 (socializing begins at 9:00 am)



HUNTSVILLE HOSPITAL AUXILIARY FUNDRAISERS 2010

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Friday, July 2 nd | Tag Day |
| Monday, August 23 rd | Golf Tournament at Deerhurst Highlands
Banquet, Prizes, Auctions |
| Conveners: | Dave James 789-8917, Eric Spinks 789-0512 |
| Sunday, September 26 th | House Tour 12:30 – 5:00 p.m.
Tour Six Beautiful Homes with Refreshment Break |
| Conveners: | Arvina Bennett 789-8145, Beryl Clayson 789-5510 |
| Saturday, October 16 | Theatre Gala Hosted by Roger Abbott (Cdn. Air Farce)
'Music and Laughter – the Best Medicine' |
| Conveners: | Arvina Bennett 789-8145, Diane Litchfield 789-4525 |

Come out and enjoy these special events as you support the Hospital Auxiliary with our pledge of \$250,000 for the Digital Mammography Suite

In Closing

Thoreau woke up to wildflowers on Walden Pond and Whitman expresses beauty of life in Leaves of Grass. Harris, Thompson and company capture the soul of our land. Emily Carr depicts the decimation of a B.C. forest a hundred years ago. Where will our legacy lie? Whether to go gently into that good night, or rage, rage against the dying of the light. The future of Fairy Lake is in our hands. Let's work together to preserve and enhance this gift.