

FIMLA Newsletter

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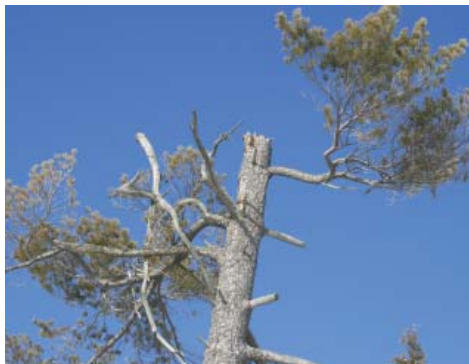
Message from the President

Wow – talk about crazy weather! Last summer was something else. I've never seen so many hard rains – so much so I had to re-landscape the front of my house to re-direct all that drainage. Then, following a beautiful, long fall, winter came with a vengeance in December. Temperatures have been down to -28°C , then up to $+10^{\circ}\text{C}$ around Christmas – snow, rain, hail, wind – you name it, we had it. Peter Peart assures me he's seen some equally strange weather at the lake over many long years he's been on the lake. Despite this, I am still of the opinion we're seeing the results of climate change. We're seeing weather events that typify scientists' descriptions of climate change – unusual patterns, with severe weather. I guess we'll just have to get used to it.

It was really great to see so many of you at the AGM last August. We thought we were taking a bit of a chance moving the meeting to the Lion's Hall in Verona, but the turnout proved that many of you are prepared to "leave the lake" to attend an AGM. The venue let us have some displays, and a PowerPoint presentation which would be impossible otherwise. It also rained a bit, so it was good to be inside and dry.

Ihope those of you who would normally be at Anne's beach for our meetings, but didn't attend, will reconsider for 2009. The Lion's Hall in Verona is no more than a 10 minute drive for most of us, and it gives us much more flexibility in running our meetings.

We've had lots of effort on the lake plan over this past year. See the synopsis of where we are in this newsletter, or go to our website (www.fimla.org) for a copy of the "State of the Lake" presentation.



△ *Who lost their home in a winter storm this year? (see page 8).*

Iwant to highlight two items: First, we are working to get a better picture of our water quality. The results we've pulled together show us that our lakes are in pretty good shape, but these aren't based on a lot of sampling. In 2009 we want to do a more intensive set of sampling, to include Little John, Little John's Sister and Buffy, as well as a specific sampling point in Mink Lake. Second, we're getting more information on the lake fisheries, as detailed in this newsletter, but the picture is still not complete.

We met with MNR biologists on January 14th to plan our fish work for 2009. We hope that that we will have a good understanding, and a set of clear options for managing the fishery at the time of our 2009 AGM.

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Another project undertaken, partly for the lake plan, was a survey of property owners around the lakes, conducted by Brett Dark. He 'phoned a lot of you, handed out the survey at the AGM, and has posted it on our website in case the other methods didn't work. I think you'll find some of the results, highlighted in this newsletter, interesting. And if you haven't filled it out, please take a copy from the website and get it back to Brett before the end of February.

My final news is that Barb and I are having another litter of golden retrievers (actually, Oakley is having them). Due on February 1, they'll be with us for 8 weeks before they head off to their new homes. If you want to come to visit the litter, or are interested in buying one of the puppies, please let me know.

Gord Rodgers

Update on the Lake Stewardship Plan

by Brett Dark

1. Stewardship Plan Status

We are now in the home stretch with the lake stewardship plan. Most of the plan sections have a first draft completed and the vast majority of scientific data has been collected and analyzed. The committee has scheduled the completion of the first draft of the plan for February of 2009. If all goes well we hope to have a completed stewardship plan available for all lake residents at our August annual general meeting.

The printing of the plan will be very expensive so the executive is recommending a \$10.00 charge for each hard copy, to partially cover the cost of printing. We are planning to produce a coffee table like book and binding format. This may help extend the plan's shelf life and hopefully it would then receive more ongoing use by residents and their lake guests.

2. Lake Survey

The majority of the lake survey has been completed and a number of its preliminary findings are included in this newsletter.

3. Lake Oxygen Level Testing

The second round of lake oxygen level testing was undertaken the first week in October. The testing was done in the three deepest basins on the lake. Those being the middle of Mink lake 80ft, the large basin south of Storms island 80ft, and the deepest part of the lake 120ft just past the channel in front of the large bay at the south west end of the lake.

The results were very consistent with all historical oxygen data available for the lake. It would appear that the higher oxygen levels from last summer might have been in error (possibly an equipment malfunction). The results from 2008 put into doubt the potential

for our lake to support a trout fishery. More testing will have to be undertaken again in May of 2009, but it is now likely that our lake will remain a bass, pike, and (possibly) walleye fishery.

4. Our Fishery

As noted in his Lake Steward's Report, Peter Peart worked with the Ministry of Natural Resources again this fall on more fish netting. The work this year consisted of "Fall Walleye Index Netting," to complement the netting that was done in 2007.

The key findings were:

- "walleye abundance in Fourteen Island Lake is low", something that will not be a surprise to the fishermen on our lake;
- "there does appear to be some limited walleye recruitment (i.e., natural reproduction) as witnessed by the two young-of-the-year walleye captured";
- Good numbers of largemouth bass and northern pike were netted; with relatively smaller numbers of crappie and smallmouth bass.

The report goes on to suggest our options for our fishery in the lake as being:

1. "Status quo." This would mean accepting that our lakes provide a good bass and pike fishery, and encourage our fisher-people to fish for these species;
2. Enhance our walleye spawning habitat, do some stocking, and see whether we can establish a natural-reproducing walleye fishery. This option may be limited by the fact that the increased clarity in the lake may not favour walleye;
3. Introduce lake trout and manage

the lake as a "put-grow-take" fishery through regular stocking. Natural recruitment is not likely because of the low levels of oxygen in the deep water.

The next steps we need to take before we make our decisions on our fisheries objectives are:

1. Get MNR to conduct more oxygen readings in 2009 to confirm whether our oxygen levels have any hope of supporting trout;
2. Carry out an assessment of existing and potential spawning areas on the lakes – primarily for walleye;
3. (Possibly) Carry out a creel census to find out what our fisher-people are fishing for and what they are catching. (Note: a creel census is a survey of people fishing on the lake, carried out according to specific protocols so that results are statistically valid);
4. Decide on optional fisheries objectives and associated costs to present to the 2009 AGM.
5. Also – we need to find out the state of the fishery in Little John, Little John's Sister, and Buffy Lakes, and decide whether any actions need to be taken.

5. Water Quality Assessment

Water quality is important to us all and some of our initial findings were presented at the August annual general meeting. As you know we have contracted Mr. Reg Genge of Ontario Lake Assessments to undertake a current and historical water quality analysis of our lake. That work is nearly complete and the results will be included in the draft lake plan.

6. Water Quality Testing

One of the results of our work on the lake plan has been to reconsider ►

how we are doing our water testing on the lakes.

Most of our water quality data over the years has been from samples taken at one location, once per year – part of the provincial “Lake Partners” program, operated by the Ministry of the Environment. This testing has consisted of water clarity (Secchi disk readings) and samples tested for phosphorous levels. Occasionally a more intensive survey takes place, and the last time that happened was in 1985. Therefore we have decided to undertake a multi site and monthly testing program in 2009. The required volunteers have been recruited and the equipment secured to undertake monthly testing from May to October in 2009.

This testing will be done in the two deepest parts of 14 Island Lake and at the deepest site in Mink, Little John, Little John’s Sister, and Buffy Lakes. The testing will include both Secchi disk (water clarity) and water sampling at depth (not surface sampling as is the usual practice). Volunteers will be trained to ensure consistency and accuracy of samples. The lake partners program has agreed to analyze two water samples for each site per month in 2009. This should provide the current base line data we need to validate the water quality results in our stewardship plan. Then we plan to continue the multi-site, once-per-year approach from 2010 onward.

As noted above, we’ll also be asking AMNR to do additional oxygen testing in 2009.

7. State the Lake Presentation

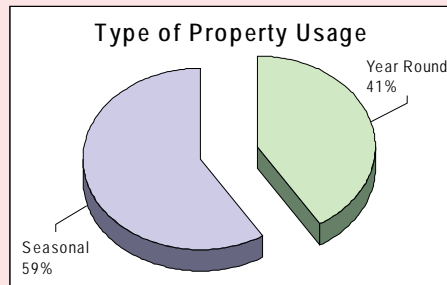
The “State of the Lake” presentation from the August meeting is now up on the FIMLA website. For those who could not attend our annual general meeting you should check out the presentation as it summarizes the current content of the lake plan, and you’ll find it comprises a lot of interesting material.

2008 Survey of Property Owners

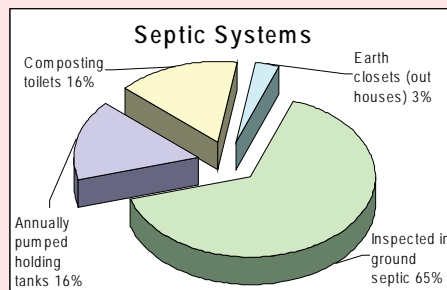
by Brett Dark

Although the lake survey is not fully completed these results represent over 60% of residents and therefore are statistically significant. The final survey results will vary somewhat in the completed lake report as by then the vast majority of property owners will have been surveyed.

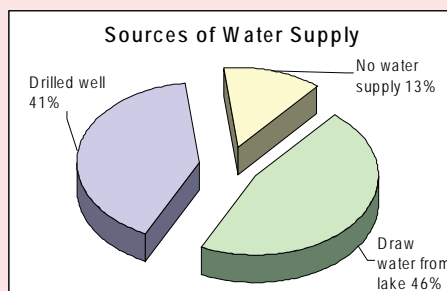
Lake Infrastructure



The average age of cottages or permanent homes on the lake is 28 years but this number is inflated by the fact that 20% of the housing infrastructure is between 40 and 90 years old. Seasonal residents are at the lake approximately 19 weeks per year.

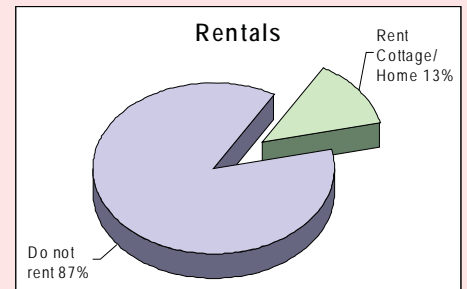


The majority of homes have inspected ground septic systems



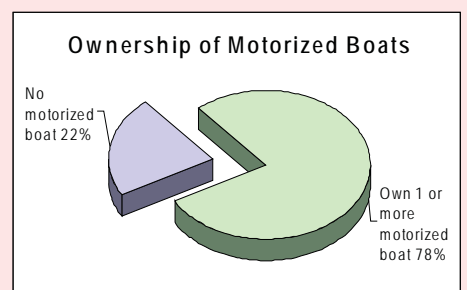
Of the 46% of property owners who draw water from the lake, 81% use it for domestic uses (cooking, bathing,

dishes, toilets etc) and 11% use it for watering their gardens (lawns and flower beds etc). Of the 41% of property owners that have drilled wells, the deepest is 287ft and the shallowest is 60ft.



Of the 13% that are offered to let, properties are rented an average of 4 times per year. This does not include 5 cottages with approximately 100 rentals per year, as this number would artificially inflate the totals.

Lake Water Craft and Usage

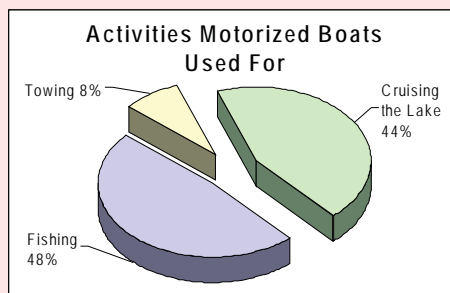


All the 78% that have motorized boats on the lake also have non motorized water craft and 14% have more than one motorized boat. Well over 50% of boat owners use Willy’s lane to launch and remove their boats. The actual ▷

2008 Survey of Property Owners (continued)

percentage is much higher as the boat number includes non trailered boats.

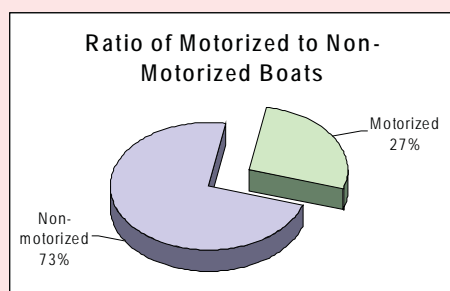
16ft is the average boat size on the lake. 47hp is the average motor size (there were very few 9.9hp motors on the lake with most being over 20hp). 67% of motors are 2 stroke and 33% are 4 stroke.



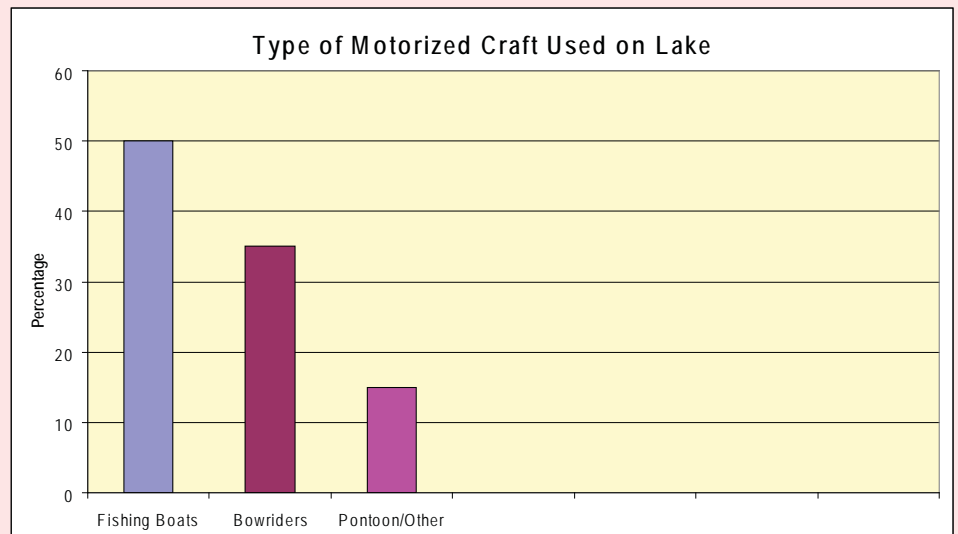
Motorized boat owners use their boats an average of two hours per week when at their property.

Principle uses for motorized boats are fishing and cruising the lake, with under 10% being used for towing activities, such as water skiing and tubing.

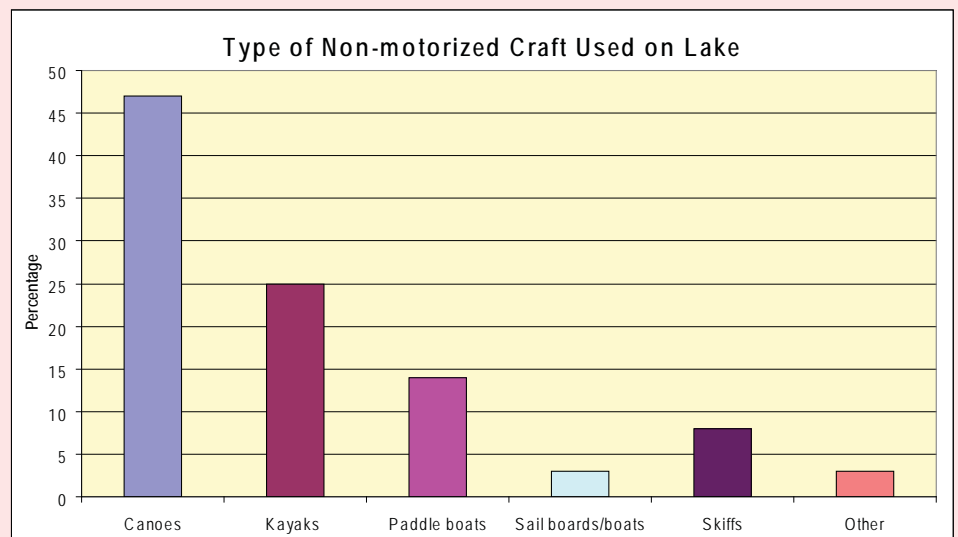
50% of those renting cottages bring in their own power boats, which are primarily used for fishing, with a usage rate greatly exceeding the average two hours per week.



Overall nearly three quarters of the total water craft around the lake are non-motorized compared to just over a quarter that are motorized.



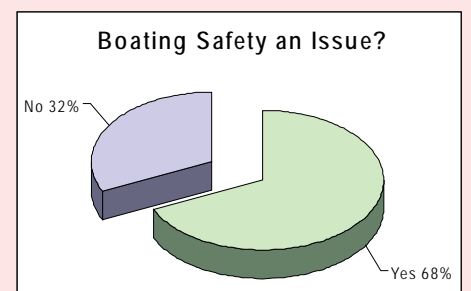
* Others include bass boats, jon boats and seadoos.



Boating Safety

Primary safety concerns are speeding in the narrows, too close to shore, docks and swimmers. All areas were mentioned (ie. excessive boating noise, unsafe boating at night, drinking and boating).

However, only 36% want boating safety signs on the lake. 64% feel that they are not required and would



rather see an aggressive boating safety education program.

Lake Steward's Report

by Peter Peart

Later summer and early autumn were fascinating this year. Never in my life – and I'm older than my island – had I seen a bear in the wild. But during the last week of August a young black bear and I met on our island with him scurrying forty feet up a beech tree to better peer down at me. A week later while waiting in my truck on the mainland for a friend to arrive, I watched for half an hour another larger bear leisurely foraging for grubs. Suddenly it was raining bears.



△ *An Ontario black bear cub.*

Summer ended during the first week of September, dragged away by the loons. I awoke one morning to find that all adult loons had headed south leaving only the three “teenagers” who had been hatched and raised on our lake this summer. Poor little gaffers looked somewhat dismayed.

The most interesting experience, however, was once again the opportunity to work with the Ministry of Natural Resources on the second phase of our analysis of the state of our fishery on 14 Island Lake. This year, using my 14 foot aluminum boat and 9.9hp motor, Ministry official Steve Kilby and I set out

a series of gill nets from October 6th through October 9th. On a map of the lake, Steve had superimposed a grid, the horizontal lines identified by numbers, the vertical ones by letters. Each day he would randomly select four sites for our nets. Two of these nets would be in shallow water, two to five metres of depth, and two in deeper water from three to fifteen metres of depth.

The gill nets themselves differ from the trap nets we used in the summer of 2007. In these, all fish trapped survived. This, for the most part, is not the case with gill nets. Most fish caught will die. The exceptions are bass whose body shape means that they get entwined in the net, but their gills often are not obstructed. Pike and walleye, however, get into the net up to their gills and, sadly, it's the end.

Each gill net is sixty metres long and about 2 metres deep. The diameter of the opening in the mesh varies and gradually increases from one inch to five inches. It is anchored at one end and marked with a buoy and as the boat gradually reverses, the net plays out until it is again set and marked at the far end. The nets were set at twelve arbitrarily selected sites over the four days.



△ *Peter and Steve setting gill nets on Fourteen Island Lake.*

When we caught a bass and it was alive, Steve would take a scale sample and a piece of bone from the dorsal fin and hurriedly return the fish to the lake.

With the others he did the same, but also examined the inside of the fish for sex, maturity and stomach contents. With the larger fish he also removed two bones from the interior of the skull for microscopic analysis. All of the data were recorded, the samples placed into an envelope, and the carcasses delivered to the seagulls on the island towards the north end.

We caught some marvellous fish, including a pike about 90 centimetres long, one walleye weighing seven and a half pounds, a goodly number of four pound walleyes and 16 small mouth bass some of which were four pounds or so. And, like last year, there were very few young walleyes, leading us to believe that they are not naturally reproducing.

We just received a report on this summer's work from the Ministry, and the report's highlights are included in this newsletter under the Lake Stewardship Plan Update.

2008 Annual General Meeting

by Elaine St. John

We had a very good turnout for the Annual General Meeting held at the Verona Lion's Hall on Sunday, August 3, 2008. Refreshments were available, as well as a display table featuring various publications on lake related topics, a table with Cottage Lake Apparel items and order forms, and a table featuring David Gilmore and his Fourteen Island Lake art works.



△ *Members signing in at the AGM.*

Two motions were proposed, voted on and carried. They were :

1. to add a new position to the Executive of the Association, namely a Communications Director, who would be responsible for maintaining the Association's website, preparing newsletters, bulletins and creating presentations.



△ *Gord addresses a full house at the Verona Lion's Hall.*

2. FIMLA to join FOCA (Federation of Ontario Cottages Association) for a cost of approximately \$200 per year. The benefits of being a member are: provides a voice on lake matters, such as, municipal tax rates, development and planning; offers reasonable insurance rates for road associations; lake programs, such as, Dock Talk.

Election of the Executive of the Association was done by a show of hands and the current executive were elected to stand for another two years. Robert Powell was elected as the Communications Director.

Brett Dark reviewed the status of the Trousdale's boat launch on Willy's Lane. The gate will be open for 6 weeks in the spring and 6 weeks in the fall. Outside of these dates a combination lock will be in place.

Gord Rodgers went through a PC based presentation on the current content of the Lake Plan, including sections on History, Use of Land, Environment, Fishing and Emergency Services. This presentation can be viewed on the FIMLA website (www.fimla.org).

Please feel free to contact your executive:

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Finance and Membership Report

by Rod Harris-Lowe

FIMLA's current assets total \$9,598.28, with \$4,387.30 in our bank account, and another \$5,210.98 in a GIC.

However membership is down with only 18 paid up members for 2008/09 to date.

Reminder - Dues are Due

For those of you who haven't paid your dues for 2008/09, this is a reminder that your \$25.00 is now overdue. 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 Association financial year runs from April 1 to March 31 and the membership year runs from September 1 to August 31.

Check to see if your name is on the list of paid up members (below). If your name is **NOT** there you need to renew your membership for 2008/09 right away!

- Curtis Armstrong & Elaine Aronson
- Frank & Jean Babcock
- Sandra Barrie & Robert Powell
- Romy Baur
- Brett & Lory Dark
- David & Marion Gilmore
- Rod & Percy Harris-Lowe
- John & Ann McDougall
- Isabel McLeod
- Walt & Leslie Natynczyk
- Peter & Marjorie Peart
- Megan Peart & Nikos Katinakis
- Tom Place & Grace D'Alo
- Gord and Barb Rodgers
- Stuart & Elaine St. John
- Stace & Carol Trousdale
- Carl & Glenda Turner
- Thomas & Dora Zimmer

Reta Judge

In Memoriam

It is with great sadness we received news that Reta Judge died on Sunday January 18, 2009, having withstood a series of severe medical complications with great courage and dignity.

Grant Shepherd and Reta Judge have been contributing members of the Fourteen Island and Mink Lakes and wider community for many years.

Both are Toronto Legion volunteers who have lent their time and efforts to countless community events.

On the lake they have helped with many lake association efforts, with the boat launch gate and dam maintenance just being a couple of examples.

On behalf of the Fourteen Island and Mink Lakes community we are sending Grant our heart felt condolences on his sad loss.

Grant, we are grateful for Reta's and your many contributions over the years. She will be sorely missed and our thoughts are with you.

Upcoming Events

There are lots of events and workshops that come up over the year and we will post them on www.fimla.org as we learn about them.

Here are a couple that you might want to consider:

1. Reptiles and Amphibians Seminar

The Frontenac Stewardship Council is hosting a seminar dealing with reptiles and amphibians, featuring the Black rat snake and the Snapping turtle. The session is scheduled for March 11, probably in Sydenham. We'll put the specifics on the website when available.

2. Chainsaw Safety Workshop

Frontenac Stewardship Council regularly puts on these workshops, aimed at people who are managing small woodlots. The 2-day course results in a certificate and provides a solid understanding of the safe operation of a chainsaw. Dates are to be announced, and will be posted on the website when available.

Dock Talk

by Gord Rodgers

1. Our Osprey Nest Blew Down

Anyone familiar with Fourteen Island Lake will also be familiar with the long-standing (16 years or so) osprey nest on the small island toward the west end of the lake. In one of the heavy wind storms over New Year's week, the top 1/3 of the tree was snapped off, and the nest fell to the ground.

We've spoken to Monique Charest, a biologist at MNR who has suggested that the birds might re-build in the broken tree, or in the other large pine on the island. We'll be watching carefully this spring to see what happens, and if they don't re-build, we can consider building an artificial nesting platform – something that has been used elsewhere quite successfully for attracting ospreys.

2. A Shoreline Owner's Guide to Healthy Waterfronts

FIMLA (your Lake Association) has purchased a supply of this new booklet, and we will be distributing copies to everyone on our lakes. It provides a great guide for those of us who want to keep our lakes and lakeshores healthy, and I urge everyone to read it cover to cover, and keep it somewhere where your visitors also have a chance to take a look through it.

There's basic information on lake ecology, the importance of natural shorelines, dealing with exotic species, along with suggestions on how you can live and build by the lake in a way that has the least amount of impact on the lake and its inhabitants – all written in an easy to understand style. It also contains contact information for agencies and organizations that can be of help with lake-related matters.

Spot the Difference . . .



△ *Before: Eate's Island August 2008. After: January 2009. The nest has fallen on the island providing the ospreys with plenty of material for rebuilding.*

The booklet was originally produced by a group in the Haliburton and Kawartha Lakes area: the Lakeland Alliance. FOCA has revised the document and made it available at a modest cost.

We felt every property on the lake should have a copy, so we will be distributing them to you free of charge this spring and summer.

Dock Talk (continued)

3. Winter at the Lake

Some of you are able to enjoy your lake all year round, some of you are only able to do so in the summer. The winter brings a whole different feel and experience. When the lake is well frozen (as it is right now in early January), you start to see some of the winter lovers out enjoying it – skiing, skating, walking, and a few ice fishing. When you do get out there, the lake is a very different place than in the summer. You can pick up the animal tracks – deer, coyote, fox. Sometimes you will see the result of a kill in the form of some feathers or fur and associated blood stains. The night skies are brighter and the sounds of the ice on the lake cracking and groaning kind of substitute for those ever-present loon calls in the summer (well, that might be a bit of a stretch, but the ice sounds are really neat).

Do you want to know what is a safe thickness for going onto the lake in winter? What you see below is a guide, and generally speaking, you are OK to walk on the ice if there is a minimum of

3-4 inches of good clear ice. But you need to be cautious around any areas where there might be some water flowing under the ice (in channels, at near-shore seepage areas) or in an area where beaver might be active under the ice; here, you might want to confirm the thickness before you venture out, or avoid these areas entirely.

4. Keep an Eye on Your Trees

When we think of invasive species, we usually think of things like zebra mussels and purple loosestrife, but sometimes don't consider the microscopic or insect invaders that can do a huge amount of harm.

Dutch elm disease has been with us since before the Second World War. However, the current, virulent strain of the fungus was first discovered in Ontario in 1967. The white elms that used to grow to large and stately trees will now get to about 12-18 inches in diameter and then succumb to the Dutch elm fungus, carried by the elm bark beetle. There is a chemical treatment,

but it's very expensive and only worth considering if you are trying to save one or two trees.

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is an insect pest originating from eastern Asia that will infect and kill all species of ash tree. In Ontario, the infestations have been primarily in southwestern Ontario, but in the summer of 2008, the EAB has been discovered in trees in the Ottawa area. We don't have reports here yet, but Ottawa is close to home, and it may be just a matter of time before we see the Emerald Ash Borer in the Ash trees around our lakes. The insect is able to fly up to several kilometres, but the main means of transportation is in infected wood that is moved from one area to another in the way of firewood, nursery stock, logs, or bark/wood chips. There is no known treatment, and once the insect takes hold in an area, it can devastate all ash trees in a woodlot.

5. Boating Speed Restrictions

It's not easy to think about boating in the depths of winter. However, given the fact that the majority of you who were surveyed this year felt we should not have speed signs around the lakes, here is a tidbit from the Lanark/Sharbot Lake OPP detachment that you might want to remember for next summer:

The province of Ontario has adopted a province-wide restriction limiting a boat's speed to 10 km/h within 30 m (98'5") from shore on all waters. The exceptions are:

- Waterskiing, where the boat follows a trajectory perpendicular to the shore;
- In rivers less than 100 m in width, or canals or buoyed channels; ▶

Recommended Minimum Ice Thickness for New Clear Hard Ice.

No ice is without some risk. Be sure to measure clear hard ice in several places.

<p>7 cm (3") or less STAY OFF!!</p> <p>ice fishing, walking, cross country skiing</p>	<p>10 cm (4")</p> <p>one vehicle: snowmobile or ATV</p>	<p>12 cm (5")</p> <p>one vehicle: car or small pick-up</p>	<p>20-30 cm (8 - 12")</p> <p>one vehicle: medium truck</p>	<p>30-38 cm (12 - 15")</p>
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AdventureSmart
www.adventuresmart.ca

LIFESAVING SOCIETY®
The Lifeguarding Experts

Dock Talk (continued)

- In waters where another speed is prescribed under a schedule to the regulations.

It is important to be aware of the shoreline speed restrictions on any lake you happen to be boating on, and if unsure contact your local lake association or police department.

Ultimately safety is paramount. Always operate at a safe speed and when choosing your speed consider the following:

- The visibility conditions (fog, mist, rain and darkness) which could hamper your ability to see ahead;
- The wind, water conditions and currents;
- The maneuverability of your boat;
- The traffic density, types of vessels in the area and their proximity;
- The proximity of any navigational hazards such as rocks or tree stumps;
- The effect your boat's wake will have on other vessels, docks, swimmers, divers, and the shoreline.

For more information on boating rules and regulations, or to order a copy of the Safe Boating Guide please visit www.boatingsafety.gc.ca.

6. Boater Operator Cards – Mandatory as of Sept. 15, 2009

Speaking of boating safety, did you know that all operators of “pleasure craft fitted with a motor and operated for recreational purposes” will need a “boater operator card” by September 15, 2009.

The regulations, which we tried to explain in a previous newsletter, have been rather complicated to date, but as of September, things are far more straightforward – you need a card, and you need to carry it in your boat. If you are not a Canadian resident, the rules are a bit different:

The Regulations apply to non-Canadian residents if:

- They operate their pleasure craft in Canadian waters for more than 44 consecutive days; or
- They operate a pleasure craft that is licensed or registered in Canada (including rented or chartered boats).

The Regulations do not apply to non-residents who operate their pleasure craft (licensed in a country other than Canada) in Canadian waters for less than 45 consecutive days. Please note that a proof of residence will be required on board at all times.

Breaking News on Little John Lake

MNR has selected Little John Lake for “Broad Scale Monitoring” fisheries work, and they will be starting their monitoring in 2009. We will keep you posted.

FIMLA 2009 Annual General Meeting

The FIMLA 2009 AGM meeting is scheduled for:

Sunday, August 2, 2009

1:00 - 4:00 pm

at

**Verona Lion's Hall
4504 Verona Sand Rd,
Verona,
South Frontenac, ON.**

Willy's Lane Boat Launch Arrangements

The arrangements put in place in 2008 were quite successful. Although some problems were experienced in the spring and summer they were minor and represented a natural learning curve associated with any new arrangement. There were no problems or concerns reported for the fall time frame associated with the removal of boats.

A meeting was held with Mr. Trousdale at the end of the season to discuss any concerns from his perspective. He was satisfied with the arrangements and sees no problems with continuing the program in 2009. He was pleased to hear that we have allocated some funds for repairs to the boat launch site, but wished for some time to consider what work might be undertaken.

The only change in 2009 will be that those who are not members of the Lake Association or Road Associations will not be allowed boat launch access, other than during the spring and fall time frames. The tentative “open” dates for 2009 are April 26 to May 25th and September 19th to October 13th.