



FARREN LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION MAY 2011

A message from the President
Eugenia Flett

Spring is upon us again! Bird-song, buds emerging and smells of spring in the air. After a tumultuous year of environmental and natural disasters in different parts of the world, near and far, we are all looking forward to retreating to Farren Lake to enjoy its peacefulness and natural beauty. We are lucky to have a place on a lake that is precious to us, and in the broader community has the reputation of being the “gem of the Rideau”.

What has changed? In May 2010 the provincial government released a document (see Lakeshore Capacity Assessment Handbook), a tool, to assist municipalities and lake associations who have a role in the management of development. The purpose of this tool is to “to help protect the water quality of Ontario’s Precambrian Shield lakes by preventing excessive development along their shores”. Much to our surprise, when Farren Lake was modeled using this tool, the analysis indicated that more development may have adverse effects on the lake.

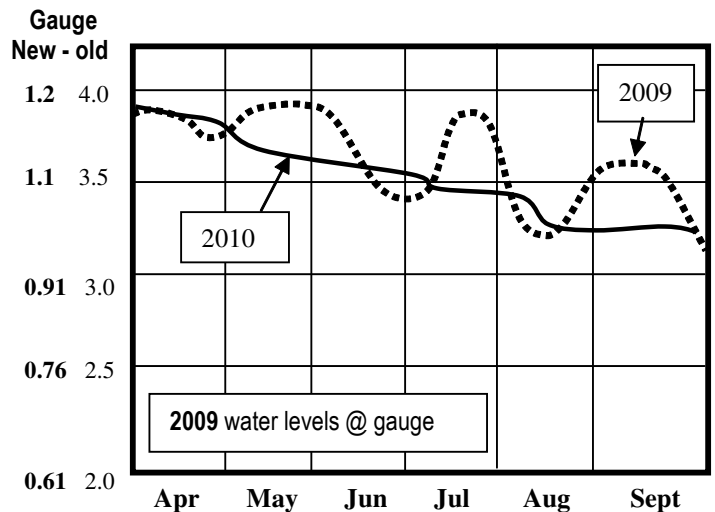
These new circumstances demand that the association obtain a better understanding of the implications for Farren Lake property owners on water quality and new shoreline development. To this end, we have invited Noelle Reeve, TVT Planner, to provide us with the perspective of the municipality. We have also allocated ample time for a full discussion of the results of the 2010 Fall Survey and proposed actions. We look forward to your participation. This is your opportunity to influence priorities and future direction.

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Water levels - 2010

The water levels for 2010 were roughly consistent with what we’ve seen over the last few years, though in this there was a gradual decline in level without the rapid fluctuations of past years. At no time did the level go below the summer standard of 0.9 m. (metric) on the level gauge. Both new (bold typeface) and old gauge scales are shown on the chart below.



**Announcement by the Perth
Classic Theatre Festival**

We are moving to a new, wheelchair accessible venue – the Mason Theatre at 13 Victoria Street. Dedicated to producing hits from the classic era of Broadway and the London Stage, the Classic Theatre Festival's 2011 season will feature productions of John van Druten's "Bell, Book and Candle," a bewitching comedy that was the inspiration for the TV series "Bewitched," running July 8-31.

Our second show of the season is the Tony-Award-winning play "The Fourposter," by Jan de Hartog, running August 5-28.

Produced, directed, and starring alumni of the Shaw and Stratford Festivals, among many other professional stages across Canada, the Festival is very affordably priced and is offering a series of group discounts and reduced rates for folks under age 30. We are also partnering with local restaurants should folks be interested in enjoying lunch or dinner along with a matinee or evening show. Shows will run Wednesday to Saturday at 8 pm, with 2 pm matinees on Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays.

Lake Management Planning

In September 2010, the LMP Committee carried out a qualitative survey of Farren Lake Property Owners as an aid to define the directions the "Action Plans" for the Lake Management Planning process should be taking. This was a direct progression from the initial survey and the creation of the State of the Lake Report and a further step in the dynamic process we hope will guide the property owners and our partners for the future of our lake.

There were five major areas identified in this survey:

- (1) The issue of boat capacity on the lake
 - (2) Backlot development (particularly as it impacts on water quality)
 - (3) Septic standards and their enforcement
 - (4) Monitoring programs particularly as they pertain to both flora and fauna invasive species,
 - (5) Community activities.
- and we received a 33% response providing considerable detail regarding the concerns and aspirations of property owners.

At the same time as interpreting the responses to this survey, the LMP Committee has been very concerned with new developments on the issue of phosphate loadings; how they occur and the impact upon the water quality. To this end, we are examining the implications of the Lakeshore Capacity Assessment Handbook. This work is directly tied to the direction we take in our LMP Action Plan.

Using the State of the Lake Report, we will put forward proposed actions at the May AGM for discussion. In many cases, the FLPOA is only in a position to make recommendations to the three major levels of government as well as our NGO partners. However, there does exist considerable room for direct action by property owners that can have a significant effect upon our water quality as well as maintaining the peace and tranquility of our beautiful lake and its environs and this will entail serious participation by all property owners.

For Sale (by Farren Lake cottager)
14' Flipper Sailboat with sails.

Phone: (613) 273-4436 - cottage
(613) 592-1267 – home in Ottawa

Lake Links workshop - Oct. 30, 2010

The following report is courtesy of Karen Hint:

The Lake Links Workshop has been an annual opportunity since 2002 for representatives of lake associations and other volunteer stewardship groups in Eastern Ontario to come together with government and nongovernment agencies to listen to speakers, share information, and address common lake and river issues that matter most to Eastern Ontario communities.

The focus of the 9th Annual LakeLinks Workshop, held on October 30th, 2010 at the Perth Civitan Hall was on networking and information sharing. The theme 'Celebrating our Advances' was the backdrop for learning more about each other – the projects, successes and challenges facing local lakes – and to celebrate the ongoing efforts in protecting our lakes and rivers.

We were offered updates on topics such as: the emerald ash borer and the damage that it is causing to trees across the province; the Eastern Ontario Algae Partnership Project whose partners are studying the algae blooms on local lakes in recent years and trying to determine what is causing them.

The four discussion themes (Volunteer Recruitment and Engagement, Lake Planning – Benefits of Lake Plan, Working with Government and Municipalities, Stewardship & Monitoring) for the workshop's morning discussions resulted from a survey sent to local lake groups in September/October 2010. The purpose of the survey was to take stock of how lake groups are doing – how groups are organized, what activities have been carried out on lake stewardship and lake planning; what's been working and what still needs more work.

One new attendee summarised the workshop in these terms:

- “the synergy of an environmentally focussed group of lake lovers was astounding as a busy day passed quickly and productively.”
- “the experiences of associations from many lakes and the informed support network of experts resulted in a valuable day of sharing. So much to be gained in a caring but challenging environment of shared learning.”
- “the progress made by dedicated residents of Otty Lake was apparent as the day unfolded. From our LMP, water testing, educational components and team efforts, Otty Lake was repeatedly offered as an example of fine teamwork!”

Fishing survey - Martin Hiltz

Preliminary results of the 2010 Farren lake Fishing census

We are pleased to announce that 39 fishing trips were recorded. Thank you to those who took the time to record their trips.

First and foremost I would like to state that the period roughly covers the open Bass* season. 99% of the forms received were from the June to September period.

Join us at the annual AGM for a more in depth discussion of fishing in Farren Lake and bring your stories! (I'm very interested in your splake stories so send those to martin_hiltz@hotmail.com)

(continued next page)

**As a result we cannot draw any conclusions about the trout fishery ...”*

FARREN LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION MAY 2011

Results

Total Fish caught: 1452

Total fishing hours: 399

3.64 Fish caught per hour**Fish species as a percent of catch**

Largemouth Bass	11.9%
Smallmouth Bass	66.4%
Splake	0.3%
Other	21.4%

Fish Species Caught by size

<u>Fish Species</u>	<u>Number</u>
LM Bass < 10 "	45
LM Bass 10 " - 14"	76
LM Bass > 14"	52
SM Bass < 10 "	121
SM Bass 10 " - 14"	566
SM Bass > 14"	277
Splake < 12 "	0
Splake 12 " - 18"	4
Splake > 18"	0
Sunfish	117
Rock Bass	173
Perch	21

Trips By month

<u>Month</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Trips</u>
June	27	4
July	96.25	17
August	23.5	14
September	7	2

Results of the septic system re-inspection program

During the 2010 septic system re-inspection program, 201 properties were surveyed on Black, Pike, Farren, Little Silver and Otty lakes, and the Mississippi and Tay Rivers. From the information packages mailed out, a 58.4% response rate was achieved.

For Farren Lake, 40 properties were inspected between May and October of 2010.

Full details can be found at:

<http://tayvalleytwp.ca/files/2010/12/2010-TV-re-inspection-Report-Final.pdf>

In summary for Farren Lake, the data show:

No concerns: 24

Remedial work needed: 13

More info needed: 3

According to the report, properties that the Mississippi-Rideau Septic System Office feels are a threat to environmental and public health will be dealt with through the appropriate Ontario Building Code channels.

Since inspections take place on a 3-year rotation, the next inspection of Farren Lake will not take place until year 2013.

Lake Carrying Capacity Handbook (Jim Marshall)
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This May 2010 document, it is a "how to" manual to aid municipalities with lakes on the Precambrian Shield to preserve water quality by preventing excess shoreline development. It incorporates a revised provincial water quality objective (PWQO) for phosphorus and a dissolved oxygen criterion to protect lake trout habitat. . It was prepared by the Ministry of the Environment in cooperation with the Ministries of Natural Resources and Municipal Affairs and Housing. Although most useful for municipalities, it also targets cottagers' associations, residents living on lakes, conservation authorities and proponents of development. The model allows the user to calculate how the quality of water in a lake may be expected to

change with the addition of shoreline development such as cottages, permanent homes and resorts. It predicts total phosphorus concentrations as an indicator of water quality.

The provincial water quality objective (PWQO) allows a 50 percent increase in phosphorus concentration from a modeled baseline.

The **PWQO has been adopted** to maintain diversity among Ontario lakes in perpetuity.

Applying the model to Farren Lake shows a baseline phosphorus reading of slightly more than 4 µg/L, which classifies it as oligotrophic (i.e. < 10 µg/L); but recent readings of 8 µg/L or more indicate that the lake has surpassed the PWQO figure.

When nutrient enrichment takes place, the algae production-decomposition cycle depletes the oxygen in the deep waters of the lake, threatening the survival of cold-water fish like Splake.

You can access the document on line at <http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/publications/7642e.pdf>

Local flora & fauna



Leafy three-square

Scirpus robustus

1ft. to 5 ft.

Brackish marshes

Triangular stem, brown flower cluster part way up.

The American Eel (this from RVCA)

The RVCA and neighbouring Conservation Authorities are on the lookout for American Eels. Once an abundant fish species in the area, the American eel population has declined making them an endangered species. These eels are particularly interesting and unique as they travel over 6,000 kilometres from the Sargasso Sea near the Bermuda Triangle to live in our local freshwater lakes, rivers and streams. Once mature, anywhere from 10 to 25 years old, they return to the Sargasso Sea to spawn and die and the migration cycle for the next generation begins again.

In the summer of 2010, RVCA summer staff conducted surveys for American Eels during their field research activities. The goal was to learn about their distribution and habitat in both the Rideau and Ottawa Rivers. No eels were found but this is not surprising given that the eel population in the Upper St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario has declined by 99 percent since the 1970s. In fact, Ontario cancelled all commercial and recreational fishing of the American Eel in 2004 to protect dwindling numbers.

Anglers and outdoor enthusiast are asked to help. If you see or catch an American Eel while fishing contact the RVCA (613-692-3571 ext. 1176 or michael.yee@rvca.ca) or the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources with details such as the location, bait or lure type, time of day, estimated length and general habitat. A picture would also be helpful. If you accidentally catch an American Eel, please release it immediately unharmed.

For more information on this unusual species in Ontario, visit <http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/SORR/2columnSubPage/EELPAGE.html>.

Or please contact: Michael Yee
Manager, Biology and Water Quality
Rideau Valley Conservation Authority
613-692-3571 or 1-800-267-3504 ext. 1176
michael.yee@rvca.ca

Results of the around-the-lake survey

FARREN LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION

Lake Management Planning Project September 2010 Survey – Overview of Results

Following our discussions with the lake property owners at the last four AGM's and the major survey conducted in 2007, it was decided to conduct another survey to probe further on topics of particular concern. This survey was carried out last September and the results have been examined over the past winter.

There was a 33% response rate this time and the questions covered the following issues:-

1. 1) Boat restrictions
2. 2) (a) Lot development
(b) Restriction on further development/
conversions
- 3) Septic standards
- 4) Monitoring programs
- 5) Community activities
- 6) Other topics (respondents' choice)

(1) The question on boat restrictions asked whether or not there should be some limitations on the size and power of watercraft on the lake and if so, how might the property owners pursue such a policy.

Responses varied with some saying no restrictions and others wishing to have some limits. It was acknowledged by some respondents that water sports are a major feature of cottage life and that the irritants arising over the past few years have had more to do with individual behaviour than the engine capacity of watercraft. The biggest complaint re watercraft was with Personal Water Craft such as SeaDoos, etc. Most people do not like them and find the sound, speed and behaviour of

drivers to be annoying.

The majority of those using the lake are respectful of wild life and other cottagers; the few that create disturbances could be approached with explanations of damage to nesting grounds, spawning grounds, danger to swimmers. If limitations were to be set the issue of enforcement would arise plus the legality of such a move was raised.

Most people favoured some limitations and the encouragement of an eventual move to electric motors. A good suggestion was to develop a 'Boating Code' to distribute to all members to emphasize the importance of good boating practices and the effects of wakes, noise and dangerous behaviour

(2) Lot developments was covered in the first part of the second question and in particular the issue of backlot development. Again the responses varied from banning all future development to those who feel that some development is acceptable providing all aspects of the municipal Official Plan are followed. In addition, the Provincial Lake Carrying Capacity Handbook guidelines are being addressed by the Municipality and further development should be guided by the potential danger to our lake's water quality.

The second part of this question addressed the threat of larger projects such as condos, fractional ownership and resorts and whether or not changes to set-back by-laws should be more stringent. Also, should the FLPOA consider raising the possibility of a complete ban (as has occurred on other lakes) to further development. This could also include a restriction on the conversion of seasonal properties to year-round residences.

While most respondents indicated a concern for water quality and would prefer to see little or no future development, the Association can only make recommendations to the

Municipality and one suggestion is that the Tay Valley Township declare a 5-year moratorium on development until the Provincial and Municipal guidelines and legislation is in place to correctly assess the impact on water quality.

The issue is very important to cottage owners because of the implications for what property owners may be allowed to do with their properties so consequently, this, like the other topics covered by the survey, will need a full discussion at the AGM to finalize a position.

3) The third question addressed septic systems and asked whether property owners would favour more stringent minimum standards. In this case there was general agreement that a formal and compulsory inspection program should be in place and enforced by local legislators. The whole question must be addressed in terms of minimum standards that could be checked, with relevant information provided to property owners. The FLPOA does not have the ability to enforce such standards but can play a major role in the development of readily available information on those standards.

4) The fourth question raised the issue of invasive species (both flora and fauna) and mentioned the province- and nation-wide monitoring programs. All respondents favoured such activities but they would be reliant upon individual participation - always a challenge with limited and valuable 'cottage time'. Frog Watch and Loon Watch are examples and again the question of encouragement arises and in terms of FLPOA activity, the education, advocacy and information role is the suggested approach.

5) The fifth question asked if we need community activities and/or projects. Such things have been effective in community building in the past but in recent years very little interest has been

shown and unless volunteers emerge it is unlikely much will occur in spite of the fact that other lakes are experiencing great success in this area. One respondent stressed the usefulness of the Bioblitz concept and offered to work in this area and one other respondent also offered to help organize some events.

6) The sixth question was asking if there were further areas not explored here and also what were their overall priorities - it also called for volunteers. The area of most concern was definitely water quality. This included concomitant topics of septic tanks, water testing, conversion of seasonal cottages to permanent residences and legislation regarding lake 'capacity' for development.

The Executive of the FLPOA would like to thank all respondents for their valuable participation in this broadening of our knowledge base and we look forward to discussing these items at May's AGM.

Newspaper item Mar.22, 2011

The St. Petersburg Times, Florida:

"One of the world's biggest lawn care companies is announcing today that it will stop making fertilizer with phosphorus, one of two ingredients blamed for pollution problems in Florida's waterways. Officials from Scott's Miracle-Gro Co., which dominates nearly half the fertilizer market in Florida, said they were changing their formula to help clean up pollution from storm runoff..."

This is the result of new rules that target fertilizer. When this new trend might come to Canada is as yet unclear.

FARREN LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION MAY 2011

Your FLPOA Executive group

President: Eugenia Flett
 Secretary: Jackie Stapledon
 Treasurer: Ron Ftizgerald
 Website: John Ficner
 Newsletter: Lea Barker
 Directors-at-large:
 Gail Graser, Jim Marshall, Martin Hiltz,
 Calvin Thompson, Monty Doyle.

Annual General Meeting

Date:
 Time:
 Location: ABC Hall, Bolingbroke
 Event: Afternoon tea including coffe, tea,
 cakes and juice.
 Cost: No charge for FLPOA members
 Topic:

Gypsy moth traps

Ann Johns will take orders for Gypsy Moth traps. The cost is \$35 a set (there are 5 traps per set). Orders must be in by June 9 so that they can be received and put in place by the end of June at the latest, to be most effective. Ann can be reached at 613-273-2405, or by mail at R.R.#4, Almonte, ON, K0A 1A0. Payment is to be made when the traps are delivered.

RSVP by:
 Please use the form accompanying this enwsletter.

The FLPOA Web site

The Farren Lake Property Owners' Association has a Web site dedicated to providing members with information related to the status of the lake, the activities of the Association, and general interest information from the surrounding neighbourhood. Any member is welcome to submit articles and pictures of common interest, including family reunions, wildlife sightings around the lake, winter activities, etc. Please submit your articles to John Ficner, at j.ficner@sympatico.ca . And please visit the Web site at www.FarrenLake.ca .

Membership

If you are not a member, please become one. **This is your lake.** Your interest and participation in the FLPOA is vital to retain and improve the quality of life you presently enjoy on Farren Lake. New property owners are especially encouraged to join and to become involved in the association. New ideas and energy are needed to protect our lake for the future. Please see the membership form with the accompanying details of the Annual General Meeting, or print it from our Web site.

Articles for this newsletter were submitted by: Lea Barker, Jim Marshall, Monty Doyle, Eugenia Flett, Gail Graser, Martin Hiltz, Karen hunt, the Perth Theatre festival and the RVCA.



Farren Lake News is a publication of the Farren lake Property Owners' Association Inc.
 Contirbutions by members are encouraged.
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