



# Farren Lake News



Farren Lake Property Owner's Association

May, 2005

## Notes from the President

My wife Sara and I have been traveling in our RV again this winter to the USA and Mexico. We have seen some fantastic sights – some overwhelmingly beautiful, natural phenomena and others pretty tragic.

In Mexico, we noted that the Mexicans flock to the water whenever they have the time – be it an inland lake or the ocean. For example, Kino Bay on the Sea of Cortez normally has a population of 2,000, but for Easter Week, it mushrooms to 50,000. There are RV's, tents, campers and people everywhere. Unless you are living in a fenced compound, you could wake up the next morning and find people camped right next to your RV door. We were fortunate that this didn't occur when we stayed several days at Laguna de Santa Maria del Oro – on the shores of a lake in the crater of an extinct volcano (are they ever really extinct?). This lake is about the size of Farren Lake and just as beautiful, except there are no islands. It took about two hours to hike around it.

There are cottages, homes, restaurants and hotels surrounding the lake with some farms set back, edging up the walls of the crater. To get to the lake, you take a narrow, 8 km paved road down from the rim. I mention all this just to set the scene. Remember it! Perhaps look up photos on the internet, because it will not last. The lake is becoming polluted more and more each day from uncontrolled development, fertilizer on the beautiful, watered green lawns and poor or non-existent sewage practices.

The lake has been over-fished and what remains is of poor quality. There are signs everywhere to indicate no fishing, no jet-skis and power boats, but they are ignored. The Police and the Wildlife Management Department have few resources to control the situation. There is a volunteer Lake Owners Association which tries to stay on top of the problem, but its goals are ill-defined and it lacks activists and support to stay on top of developments. I don't think we want to see this situation develop at Farren Lake but it can. It will not get this way if we continue to have interested and active volunteers on our lake executive.

Unfortunately, it does take time to stay current with the new regulations, attendance at assorted lake meetings and keeping up-to-date with all the e-mails that come our way. At the Annual General Meeting we will be looking for new

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members for the executive, in particular a new President, for I am not seeking re-election. The new President may come from within our current executive but not necessarily so. I have been President for nearly five years, my wife for two years, so it is time to move on.

With my travels, I really don't have the time or energy to devote myself fully to the tasks of President. I'll even miss the AGM this year as I will be out west. So, sit back, think about the lake and what you can do to contribute to its well-being as an executive member or a cottage owner – take care of the lake or lose it.

David Iley - President FLPOA

## Water Levels

### Water Level Report

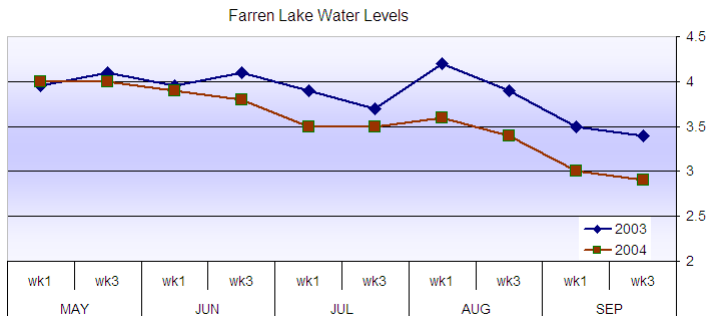
The MNR representative, Mr. Dale McLenaghan, has again professionally managed the water level of Farren Lake. The levels have been kept within the range of 3.0 to 4.0, with our July target being that it shall be no lower than 3.0 on the gauge at the dam.

The culvert was kept quite clean of beaver debris, as well, since Mr. McLenaghan inspects this culvert on most of his visits. He had a suggestion that perhaps the culvert could now be removed, thus eliminating the need for clean-out, but this is a matter between MNR and the owner of the property.

As for the natural lake outlet on the Barker cottage lot, this is often blocked with beaver debris, but the regulation at

the dam seems to be very effective and there has been no need to depend on regular clean-out of the outlet.

Those who have Internet access can see multi-year records on our FLPOA web site, but for the purposes of this report, the chart below shows the Year 2004 levels compared to the year 2003 levels. (The terms "wk.1" and "wk.3" refer to the weeks selected for presenting data.)



For a year that had about the same snow load as 2003, the water levels are quite well controlled.

It should be noted also that the average temperature from April through September in 2003 was about 25.1 C., while in 2004 it was 23.4 C., which is to say that the cooler summer in 2004 contributed to higher lake levels.

Also, according to non-official records of rainfall at Farren Lake, 2004 was slightly wetter than 2003, in particular with a series of rain storms over the summer months. Given these factors, the lake level was still controlled within about 0.5 gauge points compared to 2003.

As of April 16, 2005, the water level was about 3.6; however, this is an estimate as over the winter, the gauge has gone missing except for the top digit, "4.0" and the bottom digit, "2.0".

Mr. Mclenaghan has been asked to replace the gauge with the same calibration as for the old unit.

**FLPOA Needs a Secretary**

For some years, the FLPOA executive group has operated without a formal secretary. The duties of this person are essentially to take minutes of meetings, address the annual general meeting in the secretarial capacity, and to generate correspondence on such matters as the executive might find necessary from time to time.

We therefore encourage some public-spirited FLPOA member to come forward and volunteer for this position on the executive board. Interest can be shown at the AGM in May, or by contacting any of the FLPOA executive members.

**A Note on Boat Wakes**

Cottagers will know that there are good reasons to avoid the production of large boat wakes in the vicinity of the shore (or islands). Large wakes cause erosion and are destructive to natural habitat and disruptive to nesting shore-birds, they stir up sediment and can even cause damage to nearby docked boats.

While it is surprisingly difficult to find anything on the subject of wakes in the Transport Canada Office of Boating safety web site other than general cautionary notes, nevertheless it's clear that many jurisdictions do have speed restrictions and no-wake zones, in recognition of the above factors.

One example of a site that recognizes the effects of wakes is the following:

[http://www.boatclarkcounty.org/watching\\_your\\_wake.htm](http://www.boatclarkcounty.org/watching_your_wake.htm) in Oregon.

There is some indication that many municipalities deem a speed of 5 mph within 100 feet of shore to be a safe criterion for a non-damaging wake, although this clearly is a function of the size and hull displacement of the boat. Still, FLPOA members are encouraged to spread the word about slowing down when close to our shoreline and islands, thus helping to maintain the natural habitat.

**Mining Rights Issue**

The recent article in the Perth Courier (Apr.13, 2005) with the dramatic photo of an exploratory mining dig raises again some qualms about potential claims staking on Farren Lake. A similar article also ran in the Review - Mirror, along with a photo of Marilyn Crawford, a retired teacher, living near BurrIDGE, who became a prospector herself, staking claims for property owners who want to have control of mineral rights on their land. For those who do not have access to the Internet, the following information is provided from the Tay Valley township web-site.

*On December 13, 2001 the Township facilitated an information session for its residents involving a panel of experts from the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines. The purpose of the meeting was to provide property owners, whose lands have been recently staked for potential mining claims, of their rights and responsibilities under provincial legislation. The topic of discussion included:*

- *The Mining Act*
- *Property Owners' surface rights versus Provincial mineral rights*
- *The Mining Process - Claim through to Development and Restoration*

**Ministry Primary Contact Persons**

*Resident Geologist - Tweed Ministry Senior Manager - Sudbury*  
*Pamela Sangster Ron Gashinski*  
 1-613-478-5238 1-705-670-5840

And on the Internet, the following addresses were given:  
[pamsangster@ndm.gov.on.ca](mailto:pamsangster@ndm.gov.on.ca)

Claims Maps [www.claimaps.mndm.gov.on.ca](http://www.claimaps.mndm.gov.on.ca)

From a cursory look at the claims maps that can be accessed on-line, there appear to be no claims to date on the shore properties of Farren Lake. In fact, one reading of the symbology on the map indicates that most of the shoreline is probably NOT open for staking; but more analysis is needed. (Look for the black-filled dots on the map, versus half-filled dots that indicate land open for staking.) FLPOA members who have Internet access are encouraged to visit the claims map and assess the situation.

One assumes that the minutes of the Dec. 13, 2001 public meeting can be had from the Township Office.

**Farren Lake History Project**

It has been decided that a Farren Lake history should be compiled in the form of a booklet that will be of interest to all FLPOA members. It is expected that this task will require up to two years (or more) to complete, given the amount of old data that has to be sorted, photos collected, people interviewed, etc.

The document will be edited by Lea Barker, and will probably be in the form of a hard-cover booklet with spiral binding, though details are to be determined.

Anyone having historical information that they would like to see included should contact Lea Barker or any member of the FLPOA executive.

**Don't Forget**  
 MAPLE - planting day, May 7  
 Christie Lake Nursery

**Fire Safety**

Fire Roads should be kept in a condition capable of transporting the weight of fully laden vehicles, regardless of ground conditions due to rain, snow, or thaw. Roads should be kept cleared of tree branches and rocks to a minimum width of 15 feet and height of 15 feet so that they do not interfere with the movement of fire fighting equipment.

**Before You Burn Grass and Debris...**

Fire Permits are required for any burning, even in special containers and can be obtained from Reg Norris at his home or through the Tay Valley Fire Department.

**Water Testing**

Water testing report - this test was done September 2, 2004 by the Centre for Sustainable Watersheds.

**Secchi Depth**

A secchi depth reading greater than 5 metres indicates an oligotrophic lake, from 3-5 metres indicates a mesotrophic lake, and a reading less then 3 metres indicates a eutrophic lake. The secchi reading at FAR 01 was 5.5 m in early September indicating oligotrophic status or low nutrient conditions. Basing trophic status on secchi depth alone is not completely reliable as readings can be affected by factors such as zebra mussels, pollen and human subjectivity. Comparing secchi depth readings with your Lake Partner Program total phosphorus results would provide a more accurate evaluation of the lake's nutrient condition.

It should also be noted that monitoring on a single date does not provide enough information to accurately assess the conditions at that site.

**Chlorophyll**

Chlorophyll measurements taken with the YSI indicate a total value for all three types of chlorophyll pigment. There are currently no provincial water quality objectives for total chlorophyll, however consistently higher values can be used to identify areas of concern that should perhaps be studied further. The chlorophyll measurement at the surface of FAR 01 on September 2nd was 2.40ug/L, which is considered to be low. However, fluctuations are expected to occur over the course of a season and more sampling dates would be preferred to assess conditions at the site.

**Dissolved Oxygen**

The DO concentration one metre below the surface at FAR 01 was 9.30mg/L, which is sufficient to support warm water fish populations such as smallmouth and largemouth bass, which require a minimum of 4 mg/L dissolved oxygen when surface temperatures are above 20°C.

Data of other testing completed at Farren Lake, and results of other Lake Partner Program may be found at [www.ontariowatersheds.ca](http://www.ontariowatersheds.ca).

**Zebra Mussels**

Zebra mussels, spiny water flea, & other invading species, are spread by boats. Before entering a water body, follow these steps to ensure you do not spread invading species. Inspect your boat, trailer & equipment. Remove visible plants or animals. Drain water from motor, live well, bilge or transom wells on land. Empty bait buckets on land. Never release live bait. Wash/Dry your boat, trailer & equipment. Some species survive out of water, so it is important to:

- \* Rinse with hot tap water (>40 C)
- or \* Spray with high-pressure water (250 psi)
- or \* Dry your boat/equipment for five days before moving to another water body

**Are We Doing Enough To Keep Our Lake Healthy?**

**Do You:**

- Regularly pump your septic tank... the most important step to ensure the health of your lake?
- Avoid introducing pollutants such as shampoos, detergents and other chemicals into the lake and approaching streams?
- Preserve the natural shoreline by:
  - Having a well dressed waterfront full of natural plants?
  - Not building too close to the water and out-of-character with the setting?
- Practice responsible boating by minimizing the harmful effects of wake, gas/oil consumption and spillage?
- Practice fire protection and prevention strategies, for example:
  - Do you have an extinguisher?
  - Do you have your correct address for the 911 call?
  - Do you have a First Aid Kit?

**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 be come involved in the Association. New ideas and energy are needed to ensure the future of the Lake.

Please see the membership form with the accompanying details of the Annual Meeting, or print it from our website.

**Annual Meeting**

**Date:** Saturday, May 21, 2005  
**Time:** 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.  
**Location:** ABC Hall, Bolingbroke  
**Event:** Afternoon Tea – including coffee, cakes and juice  
**Cost:** No charge for FLPOA members  
**Speaker:** Paul Harris, a fellow cottager  
 Estate planning: *“What to do with the family cottage?”*  
**RSVP by:** **Friday, May 13, 2005**  
 Please use the form accompanying this newsletter

**Gypsy Moth Traps**

Ann Johns is taking orders for Gypsy Moth Traps. The cost is \$35 a set. Orders must be in by 10 June so that they can be received and put in place by 24 June to be most effective. Ann can be reached at 613-256-0693 or cottage 613-273-2405 or mail at RR#4, Almonte, KOA 1A0. Payment is to be made when the traps are delivered.

**FLPOA Website**

The website exists to communicate information about the Association to the members. Any member is welcome to submit articles of common interest. This could include stories of family reunions, wildlife sightings around the lake, winter activities, and, of course, those fish stories. We would all like to hear about the one that got away! Oh yes, don't forget to include your pictures for the gallery.

Send your stories and pictures to John Ficner  
 email [j.ficner@sympatico.ca](mailto:j.ficner@sympatico.ca)

Visit the website at: [www.FarrenLake.ca](http://www.FarrenLake.ca)

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Farren Lake News is a publication of The Farren Lake Property Owners Association Inc.  
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