

Fortescue Lake Cottagers' Association

Official Annual Meeting Minutes: August 5th, 2017, 11am

Next Official Meeting: Saturday, August 4th, 2018, 11am

Our Annual Fortescue Cottagers' Meeting was held at George and Dianne Bowser's cottage with great attendance from our cottage membership. (30, representing 25 cottages). This is only surprising because of the tumultuous weather we'd all been experiencing – and that day was almost called, given the on and off weather. Of course, the downpour was substantial (you can see Randy Van Ness' impersonation of a mailman, below). People didn't mind the downpour – which made it kinda fun and definitely 'cottagey'. Perhaps the fact that we supplied cold beer – first time in a long time – helped?

The meeting was chaired by Jim Fairhart with Diane Dawson and Eric Thom, with (wet) notes taken by Eric Thom. Due to the pouring rain, the meeting was on the short side.



While we all signed in, Jim provided a brief intro to the meeting while, rather than read the minutes, Eric directed folks to the website to review last year's details. Agenda-wise, Diane Dawson provided an upbeat financial report that showed, thanks again to the North Shore's Ian Brady and George Bowser's Blue Blaze combined road/dues payment, and we were in a good enough place to afford beer and water!

Jim Fairhart again reminded the group to become familiar with our website – www.fortescue.ca – and to use it to keep up with the latest cottage info, to keep in touch with news and to use it for posting pictures, sharing info, etc. A reminder, too, to check out Tim Millan's Facebook page for the lake:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/LakeFortescue/>



'Treasurer' Dawson reminded individual cottagers to pay their dues (\$25/Cottage on North Shore Road and Blue Blaze Trail or \$20/Cottage on non-insured roads). Eric Thom provided a brief update on the MOE/FOCA's **Self-Help Lakes Program**, in which we take part each spring and summer (and have for 25+ years). Each spring Fortescue water is sampled and sent to the Dorset Environmental Science Centre while 6 month's worth of follow-up Secchi Dish measurements are also supplied to monitor our lake's clarity and general health. Our lake is maintaining its health and quality and those interested in knowing more can check out the details at: <http://www.desc.ca/programs/lpp> . This organization has also requested we – individually – fill out the Algae Survey found here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/algae1> . They also offer interesting online publications of interest: Managing Your Waterfront Property in a Changing Climate (<https://foca.on.ca/managing-your-waterfront-property-in-a-changing-climate/>) and many more subjects of interest. Free with our membership. As more and more people seem to be renting to folks who may not know the lake (or care), a reminder was made to never use **shampoo or soap** on/near the lake – and for those who rent, renters should provide some basic instructions on how to behave in the context of a community. Shouldn't need to be said but...

New Business included a heads up that open fires are not allowed without a Burn Permit from the township. In addition, there were reports of some neighbours carelessly burning their personal garbage on their properties in oil drums, etc. – with the resulting smoke entering the living environments of other’s properties and cottages. Not only illegal, but far from thoughtful. All garbage and recycling goes to the dump – we pay for the service. We will also make permit information available on our website. Calls for **boating safety at all times** was made with a reminder that the OPP visit our lake at least once a summer, launching swiftly and without warning. More and more people seem to pull skiers and tube-riders without using a spotter. This is a federal offence that carries a heavy penalty and with all the cellphone cameras on the lake, do the math... Also, all boaters are to minimize their wakes – which at high water are degrading shorelines and tree growth. This is accomplished by keeping to the middle of the lake and all boaters are encouraged to travel in a counter-clockwise direction around the lake. A Wake Reminder will be sent out shortly with more details on how you can help make this happen. An annual reminder that fireworks should be restricted to once a year was made – usually the July 1st weekend, calling for extreme caution and an awareness of fire safety given the preponderance of trees around our properties. You’ve seen what happens in other provinces...

A call was made to highlight Turtle Trauma – their spring-time trek across rural roads is legendary and to do your part by not hitting them. Some even safely pull over and help them on the way where possible. Not many eggs survive, it seems – so every little bit helps. Pat Casey also asked if others had noted the arrival of cormorants – a potential blight on the lake, given their fishing habits/toilet manners. Others had noted their arrival as well.

We continue to have an issue with excessive backlot usage of the lake involving noise, litter and related problems and this is being repeatedly monitored by Highlands East By-law Officers. As for fishing etiquette, a request was made for fishermen to give cottagers ‘space’ around their docks and swimming areas. Some respect this space. Some don’t.

Jim Fairhart noted the surveyor’s stake smack dab in the middle/top of our beloved Elephant Rock, creating a hazard for kids and swimmers who make the rock a destination. Nobody – officially – has owned up to this unnecessary survey stake, despite calls to the authorities.

Questions as to whether the MNR has stocked Fortescue with young trout was answered this spring with a sign, mounted at the Boat Landing. A general alert was sounded from Peterborough Public Health given that 'local mosquitoes' have tested positive for West Nile Virus with calls to remove standing water around our properties as well as to protect ourselves from mosquito bites in the usual ways. More info is available at: www.peterboroughpublichealth.ca. A call for the election of fresh faces to replace tired, current FLCA officers was requested but finishing the beer seemed to be more important to all in attendance (note: lemonade was provided for kids in attendance).

A request was also made for someone to volunteer their property for *next* year's meeting. This event has been tirelessly held at Gerlinde and Orville Crowder's and George and Dianne Bowser's cottages. Time for a change – and it's a great way to meet your fellow cottagers – we await a volunteer for the 2018 meeting. With this in mind, we are more than sorry to say goodbye to our friends and most generous hosts, Orville and Gerlinde (waving goodbye, below). They have (somewhat sadly) sold their cottage given family commitments and properties closer to their extended family members. There have never been a more caring, more hospitable, more knowledgeable pair who gave a lot to this organization and to the lake. They will be sorely missed and we wish them well!

Valuable phone numbers (post on your fridge):

911 is always the # for emergencies

For **non-emergency**/general inquiries for:

Fire Department: **705-738-3800 ext 230** (Trent Lakes Fire Rescue)

OPP, General Inquiries **705-329-6111**,

OPP, Peterborough Detachment **705-742-0401**

(given the good chance that these numbers have been altered or changed, please confirm with Trent Lakes *prior* to posting)