



The Buck Lake Association Inc.

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"To enhance people's enjoyment of Buck Lake now and for future generations"

Buck Lake News – 2008 March

Principal writer: Roy Mills

President's Message

Long-time members will be familiar with the phrase "Lake Planning", something that has been on the Association's agenda for some time without much headway being made. A few years ago a lot of energy was put into laying the groundwork for the development of a Lake Plan, including an unsuccessful application to the Trillium Foundation for funds to initiate a gap analysis of current data. The process of developing a lake plan has also suffered from our failure as an Association to articulate the positive and on-going value of such a plan. Some Buck Lakers got the impression that our intention was to develop a regulatory document; a kind of "big brother" set of rules setting out what each of us could and could not do on our own property.

Since then, experience in Charleston Lake, Bob's and Crow Lakes (and elsewhere) has shown clearly that lake planning is really a process to find out how best, as our Association's Mission Statement puts it, "to enhance people's enjoyment of Buck Lake now and for future generations". It is not a regulatory device. It is a way to do three things:

- Gather in one place all the information we can about the lake and its watershed (water, shoreline, fish, wildlife, plants, geology, history, etc.),
- Involve everybody in the collective creation of a description of what we want the lake to be and look like in both the near and distant future, and
- Think of ways to enhance the probability that the future we want for our lake will, in fact, come true, and advocate for those ways, primarily with those with the power to make decisions that will impact Buck Lake (Conservation Authorities, Government Ministries, Municipal/Township and Provincial Governments, and the Federal Government).



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Accordingly your Directors have decided to re-initiate lake planning, beginning with an attempt to pull together all the data and information we have and can get through the various Ministries and Departments of Government concerned with the lake (Natural Resources, Environment, Fisheries and Oceans, etc.). Director Wayne Myles, cottager from the North Branch, will be taking the lead as Chair of our Lake Planning Committee. Wayne is exploring the possibility of recruiting students in the School of Urban and Regional Planning at Queen's to help, especially with the accumulation and analysis of water quality and related data. He is also recruiting Committee members; I invite those with particular interests in lake planning to get in touch with the Association by e-mail at info@bucklake.ca. Many hands make the work light, rewarding, and lots of fun to boot!

The BLA has also agreed to be one of six “pioneer” lake associations working with a web-based “living lake planning” program developed by Art Dunham, an experienced computer whiz who was one of the principal sparkplugs in developing a plan for Big Clear Lake. One of the great advantages of Art’s program is that it will make the lake plan available to every member of the Buck Lake Association as it evolves. It will ensure that every Buck Laker can provide his or her input and “feedback” to Wayne’s Committee every step of the way.

How long will lake planning take? We don’t know. Conceivably a Buck Lake Plan might never be completely done – that’s what Art had in mind when he developed his “living” lake planning program. But we do know that now’s the time to start. Stay tuned!

Duncan Sinclair
President, BLA

Board of Director’s Report

The Board met on January 26th and covered a number of items on behalf of the BLA.

- President Duncan Sinclair reported on discussions with Queen’s University Archives regarding the storage of BLA historical information.
- December 31st Financial Statements were presented by Trisha Waldron as well as a draft Budget for 2008. The Budget will be brought forward for discussion and vote at the March Board meeting. The 2007 Financial Statement and the 2008 Budget will be communicated to members in the April edition of the News. The Reserve Fund was also discussed and it was decided

that the Board would review the Constitutional definition of the fund at the next meeting and discuss possible changes which could be brought to the AGM in 2008.

- Wayne Myles led a discussion on lake planning. Draft terms of reference were distributed. Discussion involved the structure of the process, resources available, member involvement and timelines. This item will be an on-going priority of the Board during 2008.
- The Official Plan Review for the Township of South Frontenac continues and we have been monitoring the process. As of this date, the Council will be reviewing the draft document at Committee of the Whole on Tuesday March 25th at 7:00 p.m. in Sydenham. Following this meeting and final adjustments to the Plan, a Public Meeting will be called to present the draft document to electors. The final approval of Official Plan amendments may not take place until well into the spring.
- Angela Barrie, an intern with the Ministry of Natural

Resources, was a guest at the meeting and reported on the role of the MNR and the Frontenac Stewardship Council in supporting the work of lake associations.

Gord McDiarmid
Barrister, Solicitor,
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- President Duncan reported with regret, that the Township Council has terminated the funding for the Community Liaison Officer position with the OPP in the newly negotiated five-year agreement. Three members of the Board attended the Council meeting but were unable to make a presentation on behalf of the program.
- The Board noted that the Township plans to continue the program of septic re-inspection in the lake regions of South Frontenac in 2008. We plan to contact the Regional Health Unit to ask if a representative may be available to meet with the Board at a future meeting to keep us informed on this important issue of lake health.

South Frontenac Natural Environment Committee News

The Environmental Speakers Series – 2008

- March 26th - “Tough Plants for Tough Times” - Jennifer Bennett
- April 30th - “Helping to Save Nature’s Shelled Beauties” - Matt Ellerbeck

Sessions start at 7:00 p.m. and are held at the Sydenham Town Hall.

Pitch-In 2008 is planned for the week of April 21-May 3.

(The BLA will be organizing a program around the lake again...watch for more news.)

Annual Tree Sale - Saturday May 3rd. A variety of bareroot stock (pine, spruce, cedar, birch, willow, dogwood, butternut and cranberry) are available at \$1.50/tree. For pre-orders of 25 or more, call (613) 374- 1311 or email jacq.brown@sympatico.ca More information on these and other activities of the SFNEC will be available in future editions of the News as well as the local press.



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Membership Report

As of 2008 March 3, we have received 71 membership renewals for the 2008 season and we are still awaiting renewals from 87 who were members last year. Membership renewal fee invoices for 2008 were forwarded by email in February and those members who receive communication by post mail will receive their renewal fee invoice with this newsletter. On behalf of the Board, we thank all members who have already sent in their fees and remind others to do so as soon as possible. If members are aware of new lake residents who are not currently members of the BLA, please extend a welcome to the lake and sing the praises of the Association. If they request membership information please suggest they visit the website, send

an email to info@bucklake.ca or contact a Board member. If they have an email address, we would be pleased to forward the Buck Lake News as well.

Groundwater 101

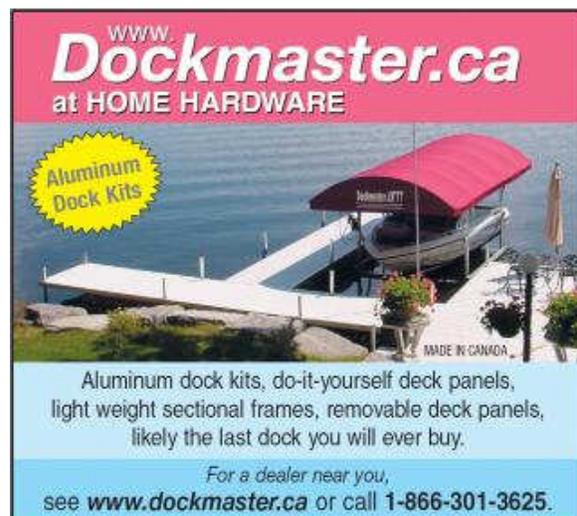
Groundwater - so important, but quite often forgotten. Nearly three million people in Ontario depend on groundwater every day, but some don’t even know it. To keep you “au courant” about the importance of groundwater, we present Groundwater 101.

Groundwater is literally water stored underground. Sound simple right? Well, not quite. Water on earth is constantly being recycled through a process known as the hydrologic cycle. Water from our lakes, rivers and oceans evaporates and forms clouds. Depending on the weather conditions the water vapor within those clouds condenses and falls back to earth in the form of rain or snow. This precipitation runs off into our lakes, rivers and streams or seeps into the ground in formations called aquifers.

An aquifer is the layer underground at which groundwater is found moving through soil particles, cracks and crevices in rock. Groundwater is not confined to only a few channels underground; it's actually found almost everywhere under the earth's surface. Groundwater sometimes discharges into local lakes, rivers and streams or it can remain underground for millions of years.

Groundwater supplies us with drinking water and water for agricultural and industrial uses. We, in Eastern Ontario are fortunate to have vast quantities of groundwater stored in aquifers throughout the region, but it is still important to conserve and protect this source. Contamination of our groundwater occurs from point and non-point pollution. Examples of point source pollution include industrial discharges, septic systems, wells and underground oil and gas storage tanks. Non-point sources include urban and rural runoff that can contain pollutants such as road salt, fertilizers or pesticides.

Municipal drinking water systems can treat some of these pollutants but not all. The cost of cleanup from an environmental and health standpoint can also be astronomical. Keeping our sources of drinking water clean is the best and most economical solution. So how do we protect our groundwater? The Government of Ontario has made protection a priority with the passing of the **Clean Water Act**. The Act is designed to protect our local sources of drinking water from both contamination and depletion.



There are a number of things that you can do to protect our groundwater. Here are a few useful suggestions:

- Use nontoxic, biodegradable soaps and household cleansers, or try environmentally-friendly alternatives
- Recycle, as the less we put into the landfill the less leachate is created that could potentially contaminate our groundwater sources
- Reduce or eliminate fertilizers and pesticides from your lawn care regimen as these chemicals leach into the soil and into our groundwater
- Maintain your septic system

To learn more local groundwater protection efforts, visit your local source protection group: **Cataraqui Source Protection Area** - www.cataraquiregion.on.ca

This article was forwarded from the Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve...

We Get Letters...and Emails

- Lynne Hendry writes that she and her husband are planning to retire to Buck Lake and already have a cabin on Birch Island. They are looking for a mainland lot of at least three acres with four- season access. Contact her at lynne.hendry@googlemail.com

- Trish Crowe writes to ask if anyone has a cottage for rent this summer. Her husband Mike McGrath spent summers on the lake in the 50's and wants to regress to childhood. If you can help out, please contact Trish at trish.crowe@queensu.ca or (613) 542-4202.
- Our local MNR office contacted us last month and asked us to participate in the **Bald Eagle Winter Survey**. We forwarded the information to our email list and hope that some of our year-rounders would be able to report a sighting or two. If you missed the survey click on the link [2008-02 Overwintering Bald Eagles survey](#) while holding down the control key. If you want additional information, contact Kate Maddigan at the Kingston MNR office at (613) 531-5715 or email her at Kate.Maddigan@ontario.ca

Up-Coming Events

- March 14th - Pot Luck Supper and Silent Auction at Perth Road United Church @ 6:00 p.m.
- March 26th - Speaker Series at Sydenham Town Hall @ 7:00 p.m. – Tough Plants for Tough Times
- April 12th - Annual Maple Syrup Festival at Perth Road United Church – Pancakes, Bake Table...
- April 30th - Speaker Series at Sydenham Town Hall @ 7:00 p.m. – Turtle Conservation Programs
- April 21st - May 3rd Pitch-in 2008

And Finally...

We will be publishing the newsletter more frequently over the April-November period and we need your participation. If you have news or comment of interest to the Buck Lake community, we would appreciate your help in making the Buck Lake News current and interesting. Also, please check out the website. Add your pictures to the photo gallery and use the links available to search out information. If you have suggestions to make our communications more useful and effective, please don't be shy. Send your contributions and comment to the Buck Lake News at our email address info@bucklake.ca