



# The Buck Lake Association Inc.

P.O. Box 1753, Stn Main, Kingston, ON K7L 5J6

[www.bucklake.ca](http://www.bucklake.ca)

email: [info@bucklake.ca](mailto:info@bucklake.ca)

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

## Buck Lake News – 2008 September

Principal writer: Roy Mills

### President's Message

I am sorry to have missed the Association's Pork Roast in August. Leona and I were in Stratford where we enjoyed the three plays we saw, ate well and met some interesting people. But from all accounts we didn't have nearly as much fun as those of you who were at the Roast. Many thanks to our Social Committee, Maxine Lemieux, Anna Fummerton and Sandra Rider and a special thanks to the "roaster", Ron Payne.

The Official Plan review saga continues. As it stands now, the "feedback" from the public meetings and communications are being put together into a report that will go to Council at a Committee of the Whole meeting sometime this fall. The Association will ask for permission to make a presentation to that meeting in favour of the Township Planner's recommendations that a) no "back-lot" development on private lanes be allowed (this is likely to pass) and b) there be no "re-setting of the clock" on severances of vacant property (still uncertain).

Barbra Rose Perry  
RMT

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Finally, Ron Mattey, Chairman of the Community Watch, has circulated a warning that a large black bear was sighted recently in a back yard just below the Kismet property on the North Branch. More recently we had a third-hand report of a bear being seen on Narrows Lane on the South Branch. We are told that bears don't like to be surprised so take a whistle and make lots of noise if you are out walking in the woods. Please be careful.

Duncan Sinclair

### Board of Director's Report

The Board of Director's last met on August 16<sup>th</sup> 2008. This marked the inaugural meeting for the 2008-2009 year so the first order of business was the election of the Executive for the new year. Stephen Roughton acted as Interim President and chaired the election process. He reported that Director Randy Cousineau had forwarded a notice of resignation due to business and family pressures. The Board accepted Randy's resignation with regret and thanks for his service to the BLA. The Nominating Committee recommended to the Board that Past Director Nancy Daugulis be appointed to fill the balance of Randy's two year term and that when approached she had agreed to do so. By motion and vote this action was taken to bring our Board to full strength for the new year. The Executive for 2008-2009 is as follow:

- President – Duncan Sinclair
- Vice-President – Crawford McIntyre

- Secretary-Treasurer – Tricia Waldron
- Recording Secretary – Archivist – Stephen Roughton
- Standing Committee Chairs:
  1. Nominating – Stephen Roughton
  2. Communication/Newsletter – Roy Mills
  3. Membership Services – Ralph Wirsig
  4. Community Outreach/Social – Maxine Lemieux
- Ad Hoc Committee Chairs:
  1. Friends of the Lake – Wayne Myles
  2. History – Crawford McIntyre
  3. Government Relations – Duncan Sinclair
  4. Constitution – Stephen Roughton
  5. Web Master – Richard Linley

### Ron's Home & Cottage Services

- Plumbing, electrical, tiling, window replacement
- Bathroom renovations, flooring of all types, general maintenance
- Closing cottages for winter/water supply & drain systems & spring re-opening
- Renovations of all types
- Call Ron at **353-6919** (Buck Lake Resident)

Following the elections of officers and committee chairs, the Board meeting proceeded with reports and new business. Ralph Wirsig reported that membership renewals for 2008 had reached 120 however, there were 49 past-due renewals (see update below). The committee would take action in October to approach these members directly (telephone, email mail etc.). The Outreach Committee made a detailed report of planning for the Summer Pork Roast/BBQ set for August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Wayne Myles reported for the Friends of the Lake Committee regarding on-going planning for a lake study and the need to have a special meeting of the Board to deal with the Lake Study Plan. That meeting was subsequently scheduled for September 16<sup>th</sup>. Wayne also expressed his thanks to Cam McCauley from the MNR and over 40 BLA members and friends who attended the excellent presentation on lake trout populations in our lakes on July 16<sup>th</sup>. Cam's slides used in his presentation will hopefully be soon available for viewing on our website.

Among the remaining agenda items a few are important to note for the members and indicate that the Board will be collecting information and taking action on these issues this year:

- Garbage collection for our island members
- Shoal marker management and maintenance
- Fire Pump/Emergency Response Plans around the lake
- An inventory of Road Associations/Private Lane groups on Buck Lake
- No Wake/Slow Please (12x18) signs are now available and are in some members' hands. The BLA will plan an installation spring blitz with the help of interested members in designated channels of the lake in the spring of 2009.

### Membership Services Report

As of 08 Sept 15, after sending out renewal reminder notices, paid up BLA memberships stand at 130 and past due memberships at 42.



## **South Frontenac Waste Management Plan**

All residents of South Frontenac recently received a new allocation of garbage bag tags and a copy of the Sustainability Committee Report to Council. This report was over two years in the preparation and was presented for community input and comment at public meeting in August and September. There would appear to be a political battle brewing over the implementation impact of the report as it involves one plan for all of South Frontenac and not four separate plans for the historic districts. The plan, as we read it, would appear to recommend roadside pick-up for garbage and blue boxes in Bedford for the first time and that the historic district levy for Portland, Loughborough and Storrington residents which partially paid for pick-up would be removed in favour of a Township-wide bag tag levy of \$2.00/bag. For Bedford residents, this is an increased cost but they would now have pick-up service rather than having to drive to Massassauga or Salem every week. For the other three districts, the bag tag levy would mean some increased cost but that would be partially reduced by the removal of the district levy for garbage pick-up. For the thousands of seasonal residents in the Township, the proposal is really good news...Storrington and Loughborough members would only pay for the service they use and not have to pay a flat rate levy for a service they don't use for over half the year. For Bedford members, the roadside pick-up may mean you aren't taking your garbage back to Ottawa or Philadelphia every Sunday evening. Cost will always be an issue in waste management but there is simply no cheap and environmentally safe way to deal with the garbage we create each day. The Plan recommended will apparently realize about a 60% cost recovery from bag tags and tipping fees at the dumps. As we approach a larger ratio of cost recovery in the future, we all will have the option of reducing our personal costs by reducing the waste we add to the stream. It would seem to us that any plan that places more of that responsibility in the hands of the citizens is a good plan and worthy of support.

### **Action Recommendations :**

- Storrington Councilors want business as usual...just leave it alone. If you are a Storrington resident and especially a seasonal resident, contact the Councilors and the Township office and lend your voice to one solution for everyone. Did you know that garbage from Storrington now ends up in Cornwall each week at significant expense to the residents? Portland Councilors are also opposed to the Plan. They have a dump- site that has over 30 years of capacity based on current usage. They are prepared to vote against the Plan to prevent any garbage from other districts of South Frontenac being dumped in Portland. Be prepared for non-resident tolls on the roads soon if this attitude prevails.
- Bedford residents will see the most significant immediate cost increase but they will have an equivalent service to all other Township residents for the first time. Seasonal residents will only pay for the service they buy. Perhaps they don't mind transporting the garbage home each weekend.
- We have good advice that the vote on this issue at Council will be very close and may result in the Plan being defeated. Apparently, Council has heard a lot of well- organized negative opinion but very little positive support. Please consider your own personal best interests and

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find that information on the Plan and read it again. It may not be perfect but a lot of professional and citizen effort went into the Plan and if approved and implemented it will mark a significant watershed in our progress toward building a real municipality with one agenda not four. Please contact Councilors, the Township Office your neighbours and friends in the Township and ask questions. Watch the local press for up-dates as well. The Plan may come to Council for some action as early as next week so please be ready.

- A footnote for all you Bedford residents...Massassauga Dump is due to close in 2009. We will have to drive to Salem with our garbage each week if the Plan is defeated.

### **Red-crested Debutantes** (The Help-desk for Red-crested Debutantes)

(This article was copied and *slightly* adapted out of THE RAVEN, the Visitors Newsletter of Algonquin Provincial Park, for Buck Lakers many of whom have seen and perhaps wondered about the large holes in mature white pine trees around the lake.)

This is an advice column to Buck Lake inhabitants who may be setting out in life and need pointers on how to proceed. Specifically, it is for young **Pileated Woodpeckers** but we hope those of you who belong to other species will also find it useful and interesting. Okay, so much for the preliminaries; let's get down to business.

**Your First Priority.** As a young Pileated Woodpecker who left the nest just a couple of months ago you have benefited all summer from the example and experience of your parents. They have warned you and your siblings when Northern Goshawks appeared and they have shown you where and how to find food. Soon,



however, you will have to leave your parents' territory and find your own. Not that we want to frighten you unduly, but this will be the most important decision of your life and so it is very important that you choose wisely. In other words, don't mess up.

There are two general ways to proceed. One is to find an area unclaimed by other Pileated Woodpeckers so you can move in and then hope to attract another Pileated of the opposite sex later on. The other is to find an occupied territory but where the previous breeding bird of the same sex as you has recently disappeared (a goshawk maybe?) and where you can therefore move in and fill the vacancy. Either way, you should make sure that the territory covers about 250 hectares (500 acres) and contains lots of dead snags and big living trees as well. Let's see why.

**Roost Trees.** For your own safety you must spend every night in some sort of tree cavity. On cold winter nights you will also benefit considerably from the insulation afforded by such hiding places. If the new territory you will be moving into has one or two suitable trees, this will do to start with but, very soon, you will have to have quite a few more. After all, there is no guarantee that your favourite hollow tree won't be taken over by some more powerful animal or that the tree itself won't fall down some day, forcing you to shift immediately to another roosting place. Besides, if you have young of your own next summer, there will have to be roosting cavities available for them well ahead of time. So, depending on the supply of roosting trees on your new territory, you may have to invest some time making suitable improvements and getting your number of roosting trees up into the eight to ten range. Check out all the large dead trees by tapping on them with your bill and ascertaining if they are hollow inside. If so, dig at least two holes from the outside into the hollow. (The extra holes are for you to escape through if a marten or a raccoon starts to enter the cavity while you are sleeping.)

**How to Eat Ants.** So far, in this, your first summer, you have had a pretty easy time getting enough food. You have watched and imitated your parents as they knocked pieces of bark from logs or the trunks of dying trees and exposed the yummy beetles and other insects underneath. Some of you have already learned—or soon will—how to hang upside down from the tips of branches and pick off berries from a variety of shrubs. Still,

neither of these two feeding methods is going to do you much good in the coming winter. To survive the cold season, you must perfect your ability to find invisible carpenter ant colonies deep inside the trunks of large trees, and to dig big holes through ten or more centimetres of hard, healthy wood to gain access to them. It sounds very daunting but, remember, you aren't just any woodpecker. You are a Pileated, by far the largest and most powerful of the nine woodpecker species found in Ontario. You have the equipment to tap into the carpenter ant resource and succeed where lesser species would fail.

Still, success is far from automatic. One of the reasons we stressed your need to find a very large territory is that it must contain enough carpenter ant colonies to sustain you and your mate through the winter (with the colonies recovering every summer, of course, so as to sustain you through the ensuing winters). But, even assuming that the territory you will be choosing really does have enough carpenter ant colonies, how will you ever find them in such a huge area, especially when there are usually no outwardly visible clues to guide you?



Experience has shown that you should restrict your search to very large trees. They are older and far more likely to have been found and colonized by carpenter ants than smaller trees. Fly over and land at the base of the tree and inspect it carefully. If there are any visible clues to the presence of carpenter ants in the tree, great. If not, proceed to step 2, which requires that you lean over, extend your tongue, and "rattle" it rapidly on the trunk surface. We don't know exactly what this does but experienced Pileated Woodpeckers routinely employ this technique to assess whether or not it is worthwhile to dig into the tree. Perhaps the rattling sound fools the ants inside into moving and betraying their location to the carefully listening woodpecker. At any rate, if the tongue-rattling ploy doesn't provide an answer, you should go to

step 3, which consists of giving a couple of strong taps on the tree trunk with your bill. That may get the ants moving if tongue-rattling has failed or perhaps you can pick up faint echoes that tell you the location of ant galleries inside the tree.

Assuming you have detected an ant colony inside, you now have to use your chisel-like bill to excavate a hole deep and wide enough for your head to reach the start of the galleries. You will have to slam your bill and head many times into the hard wood but the real trick is to use your whole body, not just your neck muscles. Remember to anchor yourself solidly on the tree surface using your two forward-pointing and two backward-pointing toes. Let your leg muscles help your whole body pivot around this point of attachment and impart extra speed and power to each wood-splintering blow of your bill.

Don't get discouraged, and remember, when you finally break into the ant galleries, the hard work is over. All you have to do to reap your reward is to rapidly stick your tongue in and out of your bill, letting it flicker into and through the galleries, all the while sweeping up the outclassed ants trying to defend their home. Your tongue can extend a full nine centimetres (3.5 inches) beyond the tip of your bill and, with its rough, sticky surface, is a marvelous instrument for extracting ants from tunnels much deeper than the hole you have excavated into the tree. Use it well and you should survive quite satisfactorily.

### **Attracting a Mate.**

For Pileated Woodpeckers, having a mate is more important than for many other birds. When you have your head deep in a hole you are excavating to reach an ant colony or to use as a nesting chamber, you can be very vulnerable to a surprise attack by a goshawk, or even by a fox if you are working close to the ground. But, by traveling and working in pairs, each partner can watch out for danger and raise the alarm if a predator should appear while the other has his or her head inside a tree. We therefore recommend acquiring a mate at the earliest opportunity—and replacing him or her as quickly as possible if the anti-predator precautions should ever fail. The tried and true methods for attracting a mate are drumming (rapid pecking of wood so as to produce a loud, far-carrying self-advertising sound) and "high calls" (a dramatic, very loud

vocalization, "kuk-kuk-kuk-kuk-kuk"). If you are a male and need to confront a rival at close quarters, try raising your red crest, waving your bill, or, in extreme cases, opening your wings to expose their dramatic white wing linings. If that doesn't work, you can physically attack but we suggest doing so only when you are sure you can win. Even a weak rival has a powerful bill and could do serious damage to you.

**How to Nest Successfully.** Most bird nests are very vulnerable to predators but, with the power to excavate wood, you have the potential to create a relatively safe environment in which to raise your young. The traditional approach is to take three to six weeks excavating a nest chamber in a large living tree. The wood needs to be hard enough to discourage raccoons or bears from chewing their way into the nest chamber and eating your nestlings. You also need to build a new nest every year so as to escape from any parasites that may be lurking in a previously used nest. Still, you can reduce the amount of work somewhat by choosing a tree with a decayed centre. That way, you can excavate an entrance hole through the hard outer wood and yet have fairly easy digging when you make the actual nest chamber in the centre of the tree.

Four is the number of eggs likely to result in the greatest number of surviving young. (More than that would be hard for two adults to feed and the young would therefore tend to be underweight and not competitive.) As in other woodpecker species, male Pileateds traditionally incubate the eggs at night whereas both sexes share the job during the day. You should get into the routine of calling before you go to the nest to relieve your mate; that way, he or she will know you are coming and not to be alarmed when you land on the nest tree. You will be feeding your young (by regurgitation) for about 23 days and, as with you this year, they will have to be taken care of for another two or three months before they can strike off on their own.

**The Last Word.** Follow these guidelines keep alert and, who knows, some of you may even reach the ripe old age of nine years. Overall, your annual survival rate will average about 65%. Although many of you will die early, we can't stress enough how important it is that, overall at least, you do reasonably well. Not only do we enjoy having you Pileated Woodpeckers around for your own sake but also, it just so happens that you greatly improve conditions for a whole host of other creatures. Wood Ducks, Common Mergansers, Hooded Mergansers, Northern Saw-whet Owls, Northern and Southern Flying Squirrel all nest in tree cavities but cannot make their own.. Only you, the Pileated Woodpecker dependably make cavities large enough to all of these other birds and mammals and without you, therefore, Buck Lake would not have as many of them as residents.

So you can see just how important your work really is. In maximizing your own interest (your personal survival and production of surviving young) you make a real and very welcome contribution to diversity and smooth operation of the Buck Lake community. We are pleased, therefore, to pass on the collected advice contained in this article in the hopes that it will make your work a lot easier and your success a little greater. Feel free to read this out loud to any young Pileated Woodpecker that needs help and please accept our wishes for your own personal success and prosperity in the coming year.

### **Fall Native Plan Workshop**

**Responding to many requests!**

**Fall Native Plant Workshop with Philip Fry  
Saturday, September 27, 2008 from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m.  
Lions Hall, Perth Fairgrounds, Arthur St., Perth**

Shoreline residents are invited to a **Fall Native Plant Workshop with Philip Fry** from the Old Field Garden and Wildflower Nursery in Oxford Station.



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## **Philip's presentation will focus on natural gardening techniques.**

Philip has over twenty years of experience in habitat gardening using native plants. Philip began the Old Field Garden and Nursery in 1984 as a research project in landscape restoration. Philip now offers over 90 species of native plants and on-site consultations and design services to gardeners who would like to install environmentally friendly, water conscious, chemical free gardens.

For more information, visit Philip's website at: [www.oldfieldgarden.on.ca](http://www.oldfieldgarden.on.ca)

Philip's presentation will be approximately an hour and a half with additional time reserved for questions and discussion.

### **Discussion Topics will include:**

- What are native plants? What does natural landscaping mean?
- Shoreline plantings using native species
- Native plants that attract birds and animals
- Native plants that deter animals such as deer
- Native plants for local conditions e.g. rocky conditions with little soil

Cost of the workshop is \$5.00 per person.

**Space is limited**, so please register early to ensure you can join us.

### **Workshop Registration:**

Please contact Jackie Stapledon at 613 273-3723 or [jstapledon@aol.com](mailto:jstapledon@aol.com)

**This workshop has been made possible through the support of the Lake Networking Group, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority and the Lake Management Planning Program**

### **According to Stephen**

My frequent appeal to members for news items brings occasional replies but no one is more dependable than Director Stephen Roughton. Here are three of his latest contributions:

- For three years now Bell Canada have featured two wonderful beavers, Frank and Gordon. Recently Bell announced their retirement and their return to their natural habitat. Shortly after the announcement my daughter Stephanie and I paddled along the west side of Twin Island, around its tip to the east side. Shortly after making the turn I spotted a big beaver swimming away from the shore and then, doing as beavers are programmed to do, splashing its tail to produce a big splash before diving down. Very shortly thereafter Stephanie spotted a second beaver heading out from the shore and doing what the first beaver had done. Based upon our observations, we are both prepared to declare that Frank and Gordon are now Buck Lakers, and we are delighted to have them select our piece of paradise for their new residence. Hopefully their three-year stint in civilization will have altered their eating habits.
- Last Sunday, August 10<sup>th</sup>, our grandson and a chum kayaked to the Slide Lake waterfall. As they approached they sighted a creature having a black tipped tail almost as long as its body and with a grey pointed nose. As they approached the shore the creature scampered up a tree. Books we have at the cottage suggested they saw a long-tailed weasel. Apparently it is unique for its tree climbing ability. When I Googled the long-tailed weasel and saw the picture I asked my grandson to check the site. He confirmed the creature he saw at Slide Lake waterfall was indeed the long-tailed weasel. He was excited and so were we.
- Cottage Owners Tangle With the Taxman...[www.thestar.com/article/482572](http://www.thestar.com/article/482572). An interesting article by Shelly Sanders Greer published August 23, 2008.

## **Fall Waters**

If you have been on the lake in the last three weeks you have noticed that Fortis Power has taken a few logs out of the Massassauga Dam and water levels have dropped from a seasonal high in July to almost minimum levels at 132.48m. This of course means that all those rocks and shoals you didn't have to worry about all summer are at least a foot closer to your propeller now. We have requested that the Township do some upkeep at the Boat Launch this fall. The drop at the edge of the concrete slab is causing some smaller wheeled trailers to get hung up on their axles. The rock outcropping on the north side of the ramp has caused a number of unsuspecting boaters considerable grief over the years. One boater this summer actually rolled a 19' boat off the trailer onto the driveway and demolished a tire and rim besides the damage to a very nice boat.

## **Well Done**

The many folks who worked hard to plan and organize the BLA August BBQ deserve a special thank you for a well organized and pleasant event. It was a good evening for everyone present.

One goal was to move toward zero landfill garbage from the event. Bins were set up with signs to direct the collection of various types of waste so that we could recycle or compost as much as possible. We bought plates and cutlery which were compostable, made from corn. Since our municipality does not yet have a composting program, these along with food scraps went to members' composts afterward. Corn cobs and bones were taken to another member's farm for disposal in a remote site. Aluminum cans were taken to Habitat for Humanity in support of their fundraising. Bottles and plastic containers were put in the blue box for recycling. At the end of the evening we had less than half a garbage bag of waste to go into the landfill. By making a couple of simple changes in planning future events, we can reduce this amount even further.

Some folks asked where they can purchase biodegradable plates, cups and utensils. The only store in our region where I have found them is in Foodsmiths in Perth. However there are several websites of companies which handle online orders which they ship. I Goggled "compostable cutlery" and came up with many online businesses such as Green Shift, Go Green in Stages, BSI Biodegradable Solutions, The Waste Reduction Store, Branch Home, and Shopzilla.

Our municipality is currently developing a waste management plan to guide decisions regarding handling of garbage in South Frontenac. At our BBQ, we can be pleased how well we did in reducing what went into the landfill after such a large gathering. People were very co-operative in sorting their waste into the appropriate bin and many seemed pleased that we were being responsible in dealing with our leftovers.

Well done, Buck Lake  
Margaret Fisher

## **Coming Events/Notices**

- Saturday September 28<sup>th</sup> – Annual Turkey Supper at Perth Road United Church Hall. Sittings at 4:30, 5:45 and 7:00 p.m. Reserve a time by calling Vera at (613) 353-2470. Adults \$12.00/Children \$6.00.
- David Knowles contacted us in August with an inquiry about finding a winterized cottage for rent from September until June. We haven't published a newsletter for six weeks so he may have found a place already however, he may still be looking! He can be reached at Primary Impact – Advertising and Design Studio (613) 353-2154 or at his cell (613) 561-0117.