



The Buck Lake Association Inc.

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

www.bucklake.ca

email: info@bucklake.ca

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

Buck Lake News – 2009 April

President's Message

Hello Spring! It's great to have the ice out, loons back, grackles and redwings wheezing away in the treetops and cat-tails, and all the bulbs and plants bursting forth from their dormancy, ready for another great summer on Buck Lake. I have no complaint about the winter, though. As winters go, it was a pretty good one.

Keep your eyes peeled for notices in the newspaper about a forthcoming public meeting to inform us all about the final amendments proposed to South Frontenac Township's Official Plan. As I have reported before, this has been in the "works" seemingly forever. Your Directors have been keeping close watch on the convoluted process of shuttling back and forth between the Township's planners and Committees. We believe the final result makes sense and protects our lakes and waterways from the kind of unregulated development that would threaten them.

Nevertheless, it's a good idea for everybody to review the proposals at this final public meeting and provide your input before the revised Official Plan goes to Council for approval and then on to the government.

I should also alert you to the fact that the Township Council is finally considering putting an end to "area/district rating", a process held over from the days before amalgamation of Bedford, Loughborough, Portland and Storrington districts. Basically area rating has perpetuated semi-separate budgeting for certain activities (road maintenance, garbage, etc.) in each of the four districts. A report will be brought forward to the next Council advocating consolidation of all budgets, in effect fully implementing amalgamation throughout South Frontenac Township. Buck Lake is affected by three of the four districts, Bedford, Loughborough and Storrington and, presumably, all of us would benefit from greater consistency of policy and practice, particularly in relation to garbage pick-up and disposal. If you have opinions relating to this issue, you can

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)

communicate directly with the Township's Chief Administrative Officer via e-mail at gurns@township.southfrontenac.on.ca.

Duncan G. Sinclair
President, BLA

Board of Director's Report

The Board last met on March 28th with eight members present. Tricia Waldron presented a financial report indicating year- to- date revenue of \$2,750 and expenses of \$1,114.23. Membership renewals for 2009 have been good and more are expected in the next few weeks as people get back to the cottage. The final draft of the 2009 Budget was presented and passed by motion of the Board and will be included in this newsletter. Members will note that we have approved an expenditure of \$5000 for the funding of the first stage of the Lake Plan this year, which can be covered from our reserve funds. It is our plan to access additional funding from outside sources to reduce the impact on reserve funds.



Ralph Wirsig reported that from a base of 146 member families in 2008, we have had renewals for the 2009 year from 83 families with 18 opting to renew for a two-year term. Annual membership dues remain at \$25 and families can choose a one or two- year term. Please visit the website at www.bucklake.ca and follow the links for membership renewal information.

Considerable discussion took place regarding the Lake Plan 2009. The Friends of the Lake Committee under the Chairmanship of Director Wayne Myles reported that Mr. Reg Genge has agreed to undertake the first phase of the project this summer and final details are being negotiated. Reg is a highly regarded biologist and researcher who is well known in Eastern Ontario and has worked a number of recent lake studies. The Friends are planning to circulate a questionnaire to members as well as offer a number of information sessions throughout the summer. A report from the Friends of the Lake is included in this issue.

A number of additional agenda items are addressed in following items in the newsletter.

BLA Budget 2009

INCOME

2009 Membrship Revenue	\$ 4 000.00
Advertising	1 000.00
Lake Planning	5 000.00
Miscellaneous	100.00

Total Income \$10 100.00

EXPENSES

Insurance	\$ 1 100.00
Affiliate Memberships	800.00
Publications	250.00
Administration Fees	600.00
Conference & Seminars	250.00
Social & Outreach	1 000.00
Buck Lake Heritage Project	300.00
Community Project (shoals, markers, Buck Lake sign)	1 000.00
Lake Plan Activities	6 500.00

Total Expenses \$11 800.00

South Frontenac Natural Environment Committee

Pitch-In 2009

The Committee is once again organizing the annual spring clean-up along our roads and lanes and asks for our involvement. Between April 18th and May 2nd we are asked to spend a few hours collecting the winter harvest of paper, bottles and cans and trash along our roads and using special bags to put our harvest out for regular waste collection days. There are yellow bags for garbage and clear bags for recyclable items. Unwanted household items may also be placed at curbside during this two- week period to share with neighbours as long as they are removed by May 3rd.

We need members help to give spring a clean start. Could you and your friends give a hand? Bags are available at Northway Hardware and we also have a supply. If you could do a section of the Perth Road between the Causeway and Hidden Valley Road let us know and we will lend a hand. Please contact Roy Mills at (613) 273-7724 for bags and suggestions or just do it. We have learned from past efforts that we can be most useful supporting others than trying to organize a grand plan!

Barbra Rose Perry
RMT

Humming Bird Studio

1097 Tober Lane
Buck Lake
613 353-6912



- massage • reflexology
- craniosacral therapy
- facial rejuvenation
- somatotherapy
- acupressure

body ♥ mind

P.S. If you discover items that are not appropriate for a garbage bag (tires, metal etc.) place them on the shoulder and give us a call. We will try to have them picked-up.

Annual Tree Sale

On Saturday May 2nd in Verona, Sydenham and Sunbury, seedling tree stock will be available at a cost of \$1.50/tree. White spruce, pine, cedar, ash, red pine, butternut, black willow, sugar maple, high bush cranberry and nanny berry seedlings are available. Advance orders of 10 trees or more may be made by contacting delstowe@yahoo.ca.

Watch the local papers for precise times and locations for the sale or contact Del Stowe at the above email address.

Gord McDiarmid

**Barrister, Solicitor,
Notary Public**

Since 1979

(and a happy year-round resident on Buck Lake since June 2006)

*Real Estate, Mortgages, Family Law
Wills, Estates, Powers of Attorney*

Home: 1097 Tober Lane, Buck Lake
Phone: 613-353-6912

Office: 3 Rideau Street, Kingston
Phone: 613-546-3274

Fax: 613-546-1493

gmcdiarmid@on.aibn.com

Pulpit Island

I'm sure there are not many Buck Lakers who haven't boated past the striking rock structure on Pulpit Island, known as the "Devil's Pulpit". Our cottage is directly across from it and it is common for boaters to slow down and gaze at its unusual shape.



Pulpit Island is a natural gem of the region. The island is Crown property and as long as this is so, it will remain uninhabited with only a modest camping site to indulge the odd overnight visitor. This beautiful island might today be private property and occupied by a number of homes and cottages were it not for an historical twist of fate.

From the west shoreline opposite Pulpit Island and extending west from there, the Roushorn farm existed. When the government granted this land to the Roushorns, the

family believed that Pulpit Island was part of this. They used it as their own. They pastured cattle on the island. The cattle would be swum over in the Spring and brought back in late Fall.

According to the late Doris Payne, Robbie Roushorn's niece who lived on the farm from the age of six or seven, Herb Sears owned the adjacent property to the Roushorn farm, southwards to a floating bridge, where the culvert now exists. One day Herb Sears saw some men on Buck Island. He learned that they were government surveyors and immediately ordered them off the island. Unfortunately, he did not pass on this information to his Roushorn neighbours. Unbeknownst to Robbie Roushorn, the surveyors then went on to Pulpit Island. They surveyed it and then registered it as Crown property.

Sometime time later, when someone approached Robbie to purchase some of Pulpit Island from him, he learned that it was registered to the Crown. Doris Payne relates how Uncle Robbie wrote to the government to state his claim to the island. In his letter Uncle Robbie used some unfortunate wording when he said "...if I own the island,...etc." According to Doris, the use of that "bloody word "if"" ruined his case.

The government took advantage of the doubt and hesitancy in Robbie's plea and refused to entertain his claim. This turn of events remained a sore spot for the Roushorn family, but in fairness to the government's intentions, it told Robbie that it wanted to preserve a place on the lake that people could use without building on it.

Today the Roushorns' loss is our gain, as we and our visitors can continue to enjoy the pristine beauty and isolation of this wonderful island.

Crawford MacIntyre

Friends of the Lake

We are fine-tuning our lake planning survey and plan to distribute it on the weekend of June 27-28 to every household on the lake. The delivery date was changed (from the May long weekend) in the hopes that we will find more seasonal residents at the cottage. Our Friends committee plus Board members as well as anyone who is interested in helping out, will be going from dock to dock and leaving behind the survey. We want your input on what you value most about the lake and what you see as some of the concerns. The survey can be mailed, brought to the AGM on July 4th, deposited in one of several drop boxes in the Buck Lake area, or completed online. If you are interested in helping to deliver the surveys by boat, please contact Wayne Myles at wayne.myles@queensu.ca

We have now contracted with Reg Genge of Ontario Lake Assessments, to complete a water quality analysis of Buck Lake. Reg will be looking at data collected over 30 years from the Ministries of Natural Resources and the Environment as well as from other sources. He will be presenting some preliminary findings at our Friends educational workshop on Thursday, July 16, 2009. Details to follow closer to the event. Reg is a graduate of Queens University in the Bachelor of Science program. He worked for 20

years with the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and was a part-time instructor of Environmental Science at St. Lawrence College in Kingston. He is now involved in environmental consulting on lake water quality, development impacts and environmental study reports. He has worked with numerous cottage associations in Eastern Ontario.

In the next newsletter, we will have further details on the map project and the educational event planned for July 16. We welcome your thoughts and queries about our committee's work. Comments can be sent to info@bucklake.ca or to wayne.myles@queensu.ca

One final note: for those of you who attended last year's educational event in July, you will remember Cam McCauley's fascinating talk and slide presentation on lake trout. If you haven't done so already, you can see Cam's power point slides online by going to www.bucklake.ca and clicking on the "Fish" link. This presentation is a great reminder of how valuable a resource we have in our "lake trout" lake and how important it is to preserve the quality of Buck Lake for all of us and future generations to enjoy.

Facts About Fishers

North Branchers Walter and Donna Johnson have reported on a talk about fishers they attended at the Cataraqui Conservation Area in mid-March. Jeff Bowman, a wildlife biologist with the Ministry of Natural Resources dispelled a number of myths about this much maligned member of the weasel family that roams our woods. Full grown fishers are about three feet long (nose to the tip of the black bushy tail) and weigh from 10 to 15 pounds. Unlike their big cousin, the wolverine, they have small feet and therefore have difficulty getting around in deep snow. The myth that they hunt in packs is just that – a myth. They are solitary hunters that defend fiercely their large territories, particularly against other fishers.

It is commonly believed that the Ministry of Natural Resources re-introduced or stocked fishers in this area. That's not true. Moving north from the Adirondacks, their numbers have grown because of a more hospitable environment due to a decrease in winter snow cover caused by global warming and reforestation of unused agricultural land.



WE DO IT ALL
Docks, Decks, Boathouses
& Crib Repair

Docking Systems

All can be seen on our website
www.crowedock.com
1.800.267.0519

Another myth is that they are death on house cats. Although primarily carnivores, the fisher's favourite foods are rabbits, squirrels, mice, and carrion (such as deer carcasses) but they will also eat insects, nuts, and berries – just about anything they come across that's edible. It is true that they are one of few animals that will kill and eat a porcupine but they will only tackle one "in transit", lumbering along the forest floor; apparently they know better than to go after a porcupine either up a tree or in its den. Mr. Bowman told the audience that while a fisher might go after a cat, post-mortem

examinations of several cats found dead recently in the Cataraqui Woods subdivision of Kingston showed that they were killed by coyotes and not, as many had claimed, by fishers.

Donna said that the lecture had changed her opinion of fishers. It turns out that what many think of as a fearsome, vicious killer out there in the woods looking to attack anything on sight, turns out to be nothing but a lonely wandering creature leading a pretty hard-knock life.

Updates and Reminders

- The currently scheduled date for the **Annual General Meeting** of the BLA is Saturday **July 4th 2009**.
- Planning has begun for our Annual BBQ/Picnic in August...give us your suggestions!
- Speed reminder signs are available for spring installation especially in narrow channels on the lake. If you contacted the BLA last fall and requested a sign, we will be contacting you regarding delivery. If you have a good place to erect a sign, contact Roy Mills at millsras@kingston.net and I will get in touch with you.
- Do you have a Pleasure Craft Operator Card? Proof of competency is required for all operators by September 15th 2009. We expect a number of courses will be offered in the area this summer and we will try to keep members informed. If there is enough interest for the BLA to sponsor a certification course we will try to respond as we have in the past. Let us know if you would support a course offered locally. Contact us at info@bucklake.ca please and give us some feedback as soon as possible.
- We are members of the Federation of Ontario Cottager's Associations and FOCA is a great information resource on a wide range of issues of interest to lake dwellers. There is a link to FOCA on the Buck Lake website or access FOCA directly at www.foca.on.ca.
- What do you know about the Navigable Waters Protection Act (NWPA)? Are you aware that the Federal Government has proposed significant amendments to the Act which could affect public access and navigation on the lakes and rivers of Canada? Check out the issues at www.ispeakforcanadianrivers.ca. Information is available at www.bucklake.ca. Click on "Newsletters".
- Late in 2008, the Township of Tay Valley, to our immediate northeast, received a study of zoning by-law comparisons in area municipalities including South Frontenac. We received a copy through our participation in the Lake Networking Group and for those interested in the fine details of zoning and development especially on residential waterfront lots, it is interesting reading. Our own Official Plan is already under considerable pressure to be more flexible and the recently completed review process indicated that the pressure will be a reality every five



years under the mandated review process. Full text of the document is available at www.bucklake.ca, "Newsletters". Have a look!

- We plan to publish a newsletter monthly until fall and are asking again for content and comment. Many of our faithful advertisers are back and we would welcome more. We offer a minimum of eight (8) issues per year with a distribution to over 200 families at a cost of \$100 annually. We will also post commercial advertisements on the website for a small additional cost. Members are reminded that they may post ads and notices on the website free of charge and we are always glad to receive your photos for the Photo Gallery. You can contact our web master through Ralph Wirsig at krwirsig@xplornet.com or through the BLA email address info@bucklake.ca.
- We are pleased to announce the Algonquin to Adirondacks Conservation Association's Speakers' Forum at the Biosciences Complex, 116 Barrie Street, Queen's University on May 2, 2009 1:00-4:30 p.m. The keynote speakers will be Ontario Environmental Commissioner, Gord Miller and Henry Lickers, Environmental Science Officer of the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne and the theme is **Environmental Equity**. Seating is limited on a first come basis. Contact Lisa Howard (613) 359-5768 or email rjhoward@kos.net for more information.

And Finally...

The BLA is once again attempting to encourage the Township to enact an enabling By-law to implement an enforceable parking plan at the Causeway/Boat Launch. Every summer that passes seems to create an increasing safety concern about the parking demands at the Causeway. It is no small miracle that we have escaped a tragedy to date and we hope to avoid any in the future with the support of the Township.



Green Boat Supply Co.

**Torqeedo outboards are
light, quiet, & powerful---
No Gas!**

- "Travel" foldable motor weighs only 12 kg. including battery.
- Integrated long-life battery recharges like a cell phone.
- No emissions, no oil or gas spills—good for our lakes and rivers.

Visit or call toll-free: www.greenboatsupply.com
1-866-576-0295