



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 – 2009 July

Principal writer: Roy Mills

Annual General Meeting Report

On Saturday July 4th 2009, the AGM was held at Perth Road Public School. The meeting was well attended and was highlighted by a presentation by Mr. Reg Genge of "current status" information about our lake as a platform for possible follow-up in our lake planning. President Duncan Sinclair welcomed Councilor Ron Vandewal and David

Hahn from the Township of South Frontenac as well as representatives from the Ontario Land Conservancy Trust. Our Friends of the Lake Committee offered an excellent new map of the lake to members and reminded members to return the lake surveys by July 19th. Ron Matthey presented a hand-carved Buck Lake sign which will be placed on the Perth Road between Narrows Lane and the Causeway later this summer. President Duncan extended thanks and congratulations to Ron for his work on behalf of the Buck Lake community over many years.

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The business portion of the meeting included approval of the AGM minutes from 2008 and the presentation of financial reports by our Secretary-Treasurer Tricia Waldron. The Nominating Committee presented a slate of nominees for the 2009-10 Board of Directors and no additional nominations were received from the floor. The following members will constitute the

Board of Directors for the next year: Maxine Lemieux, Crawford McIntyre, Stephen Roughton, Roy Mills, Peter Dawe, Cheryl Savery, Nancy Daugulis, Anna Fummerton, Wayne Myles, Sandra Rider and Ralph Wirsig. The inaugural meeting of the Board is called for August 11th when Officers for 2009-10 will be elected.

Official minutes of the AGM will be reviewed at the August meeting and posted at www.bucklake.ca - Documents link.

The President was the Message

For the last two years, Duncan Sinclair has served as our President and his retirement from the Chair and the Board this year marks the end of a very significant period in the life of the BLA. During his five years as a Board member, the BLA went through the transition from a cottager's protective group to a broadly linked lake association reaching out to the community for input and involvement. Duncan was a leader in this process and we must continue this initiative in the future. Many people have stepped forward in the last 25 years to provide leadership for the BLA and Duncan will be remembered as one who exemplified the spirit of our mission statement on the masthead...as a matter of fact, I think he wrote it! Board members will miss Duncan greatly and we wish him and Leona many more years of enjoyment on Buck Lake. The true test of leadership is what happens when it changes. Duncan leaves the BLA in an excellent position to continue the work he was so much a part of in the last five years.

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The Congregation of Perth Road United Church celebrates its 125th Anniversary on Sunday August 9th at 10:00 a.m. followed by lunch in the Hall. This year Duncan Sinclair will be the special guest speaker and musical guests will be Celtic at Heart. The Session extends a warm invitation to all Buck Lake friends to join in this special celebration of our Perth Road community.

Pleasure Craft Operator Card –Certification Courses

The BLA has organized two opportunities for members to obtain certification this summer. On July 20th, 19 people participated in the first course and on **Monday August 17th**, a second course will be offered at **Perth Road United Church Hall from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.** We have 12 people registered for the August session and there is room available for more. The cost is \$50/person and young people as young as 10 years of age are welcome. Please contact Roy Mills at millras@kingston.net or (613) 273-7724

for information and to register.

Big Myth: “Loons mate for life”

Charles Walcott of Cornell University gave an interesting talk on loons at the recent Sharbot Lake Loon Workshop. Much of what he discussed is included in the article below.

Behaviorists discover a code within male loons' yodel



An adult loon with an almost fully grown chick. The picture was taken in the fall just before migration. The adult is losing its breeding plumage to look more and more like the chick.

Imagine if an intruder entered your home, took the place of your spouse and you carried on with life as if nothing had changed. Such is the habit of loons that live on small lakes.

An undiscerning eye may look at two loons on a lake and think the same pair has returned for decades to breed. But according to a Cornell and Chapman University research study, published in the journal *Animal Behavior*, both male and female intruders regularly displace one of the partners, taking up with the resident of the opposite sex. And the reasons for some of this behavior are encoded in the loons' yodeling call.

While resident and intruding females settle their disputes with little bloodshed, male loons fight to the death over territories about 30 percent of the time -- at times diving underwater and spearing their opponents through the heart with their long beaks, according to the study. A pair of loons will establish territories on freshwater lakes, occupying the entire lake. When an intruding male flies over a lake, he sends out a wavering, tremolo call, and the resident male replies with a yodel. This indicates the weight of the resident, which is coded

into the yodel, based on the pitch. That enables an intruder to determine whether he can win a fight before he lands. For reasons unknown, older male loons may be at a disadvantage as they lose weight each year, while females gain weight.



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"The question is, if you're a small [male] loon, why wouldn't you just keep quiet," said Charles Walcott, a Cornell professor of neurobiology and behavior and co-author of the study. "What we find is that in general, small loons yodel less than big loons, but they do still respond, so it must be useful enough to take that risk to respond, though we don't understand very well why."

And the risk can be grave. "When a male comes in, there is a horrendous battle which may go on the whole day," said Walcott. When fatalities occur, it is always the resident

male that dies. The reasons for this trend are unclear, said Walcott.

Also, males determine where nests are placed, usually in swampy areas. If eggs and chicks survive free from such predators as raccoons, the male will return to nest in the same place the next year. But, if predators find the nest, the male finds a new site, Walcott said. Based on this trial-and-error strategy, males rear chicks to adulthood about half the time in their first year as fathers but up to 75 percent after four to five years on the same lake.

When a single female sees a suitable territory, however, she

lands and squabbles with the resident female; eventually, one of them leaves and looks for a new territory. The remaining female loon mates with the male and returns with him the next year.

"The loon society, like any animal society, has these interesting adaptations, and this is a little different than the way most systems work," said Walcott. "You never would have seen these things if you didn't have marked loons so you knew who was who. Now when you go and visit a lake and you see a family of loons you can appreciate a little of what is happening."

While the findings are intriguing, more study is needed to better understand them, Walcott said.

Walter Piper, a professor of biological sciences at Chapman University, was the paper's lead author. Co-authors included biologist John Mager of Ohio Northern University and Frank Spilker, summer crew leader from Washington, N.C.

Source: Cornell University

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Friends of the Lake

An excellent attendance of members and friends attended an evening with Matt Ellerbeck on July 16th in Perth Road Village. "Turtles, snakes and scorpions" were a big hit with everyone and we were pleased to see a large number of our younger friends present. Thanks to everyone who took the time to complete and return a lake survey in

any form. We will report the results in the August News but we hear that returns have been excellent. Buck Lake maps are still available. Please contact Barbara Rose Perry at (613) 353-6912 if you would like more information.

Did you ever wonder what those birds were soaring above?

(Adapted from article by Indiana Department of Natural Resources)

The magnificent *Haliaeetus leucocephalis*, "white-headed sea eagle," or bald eagle is 27 to 35 inches tall with a 71-90- inch wingspan.



Active flight is with slow, powerful wingbeats. They soar and glide usually on flat wings. Bald eagles have a noticeable, unusual flight behavior of banking and flapping their wings vigorously while vertical.

The bald eagle received its name from the distinctive pure white head, neck and tail. Adults also have a brown-black body and a large yellow bill. Adult males and females look the same, however the female is larger.

Juveniles are mostly dark brown, except for blotchy white

underneath and on the wing linings, but gain a little more white at each molt, taking four to five years to reach the full adult plumage.

Bald eagles are usually found near lakes and rivers where they can prey on their favorite food, fish. They also take a variety of other prey including waterfowl, regularly eat carrion, dead animals, and will steal food from other raptors.

Bald eagles have a 35-day incubation period and will leave the nest at about ten weeks old.

Turkey Vulture

The large turkey vulture can be easily confused with the bald eagle. Adults are 24 to 28 inches tall with a wingspan between 63 and 71 inches.

An advertisement for Crowdock Docking Systems. The top part has a green background with white text: "WE DO IT ALL" in large letters, followed by "Docks, Decks, Boathouses & Crib Repair" in smaller letters. Below this is a photograph of a wooden dock system extending into a body of water. At the bottom, there is a green bar with white text: "All can be seen on our website" followed by the website address "www.crowdock.com" and the phone number "1.800.267.0519".

They live primarily in open country, woodlands and near farms. Their primary diet is made up of carrion. There are isolated cases of turkey vultures catching live fish or attacking live animals that are sick or incapacitated.



Turkey vultures are extremely common but can be distinguished easily from other raptors with its distinct flying behavior. In flight, it has long wings and glides with its wings held in a shallow V-shape.

Adult turkey vultures have a featherless red head with whitish warts in front of and below the eyes. Their reddish-neck is wrinkled and the beak is whitish in color. The entire body is brownish or gray-black and the underwing is two-toned silver and black.

Juvenile turkey vultures have a darker head and bill and paler feet than the adult. The eggs are incubated by both parents and takes about 40 days. The young leave the nest at about 11 weeks after hatching. Turkey vultures are named for their resemblance (red head) to the turkey. "Vulture" comes from the Latin word that means tearer, in reference to its manner of eating.



Osprey

[The osprey](#), sometimes called the "fish hawk" or "fish eagle," is found along rivers, lakes and streams. They are usually found near water and leave it only during migration. The osprey population was once threatened by the use of DDT, but since this and other pesticides have been banned, populations nationwide are recovering.

Osprey are anatomically different from other raptors primarily in their superb fish-catching features. Adults are between 21 and 26 inches tall and have a wingspan of 59 to 67 inches.

With bright yellow eyes, gray, black and white under-feathers the osprey can be differentiated from the bald eagle. Young

are downy white and leave the nest around 2 months after hatching. The juvenile has similar coloring to the adult but has white scaling on its back.

The adult bird has long narrow wings, held above horizontal and slightly arched in flight with a distinct bend at the wrist. In flight, their gull-like crooked wings and white head with wide black eye-stripe are distinctive. Active flight is with slow, steady, shallow wing beats. Ospreys will sometimes soar on flat wings and hover frequently while hunting over water.

Osprey will catch prey with their feet after a feet-first dive, usually from a hover but sometimes from a glide. They usually enter the water completely and are able to take off from the surface shake off excess water while in flight. They are almost exclusively fish eaters, but their diet has been reported to include birds, turtles and small mammals.

Compare the Bald Eagle, Turkey Vulture, and Osprey in Flight

The bald eagle flies with its wings stretched out flat.



The turkey vulture flies with its wings arched in a flat V-shape.



To better catch fish, the osprey flies horizontally with its wings bent at the wrist in a flattened M-shape (sorry, couldn't find the osprey image including the flattened M)

Summer Picnic and BBQ

Please mark **Saturday August 22nd** on your calendar and plan to attend the **Annual Buck Lake Summer Picnic at Harris Park in Perth Road Village**. The Social Committee is still finalizing details and a reminder will be circulated to all members in early August outlining menu, costs and entertainment etc. We hope to see you there.

And Finally...

- Congratulations to Ross Trudel and the Community Watch volunteers who raised \$11,800 for Easter Seals summer camp programs at the Annual Buck Lake Boatilla on July 4th
- Thanks to all the BLA members who posted the “No Wake Please” signs around the lake this summer. Our supply of signs is exhausted but let us know if more are needed.
- Belinda Betz asks us to inform members of a new “Community” website which promotes community services and information. Check it out at www.tgsca.ca.
- The Perth Road United Church – Summer Fish Fry is planned for Friday August 14th – 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome.
- What comes after two days of rain at this summer? Monday!

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