



# 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 – 2010 February***

Principal writer: Roy Mills

### **President's Message**

Winter greetings! 2010 is bringing a bit of a different kind of winter. The absence of snow means the surface of Buck Lake is ideal for skating. It also means that the roads



are in excellent condition and the hard working South Frontenac Township Roads Department is having a well deserved quiet season.

Today, I watched as two pairs of skaters came from opposite directions and stop to greet each other in the middle of Christmas Bay on the south basin. While they were chatting, a wolf

wandered across the bay and climbed onto Buck Island. It would appear that this winter is good for wolves and not so good for the local deer population with more than



one taken down by a wolf or coyote. The bald eagles have also been enjoying the proceeds of the work of the wolves.

It also seems to be a good year for ice fishing. I am not a fisher myself but there do seem to be more ice huts on the lake than usual.

I have long been fascinated by the many forms of H<sub>2</sub>O. Very few people are blessed with the opportunity to skate



on the surface of a body of water in which they were swimming a few short months earlier. The ability to 'walk on water' is indeed one of nature's wonders.

Enjoy the season while you can. It will soon be March and the surface of the ice will be mushy. Once the spring melt begins, the lake will be unsafe until after the ice is out.

### Board of Director's Report

The Board met on January 30<sup>th</sup> for the first meeting of 2010. A summary of agenda topics and discussion follows:

- Secretary-Treasurer Cheryl Savery presented December 31<sup>st</sup> 2009 financial reports which are printed in this newsletter. The Board budgeted a small deficit in the 2009 current account due to a major commitment to the Lake Planning. Additional revenue was generated through a very positive increase in membership and the sale of Buck Lake maps. The Board did work on the preparation of a 2010 budget and it will be included in our next newsletter.
- Year 2 of the Lake Plan was discussed as a budget item. Outside funding sources are being explored to supplement member's equity in financing Year 2. It was agreed that the budget for Year 2 would be determined by our level of success in accessing additional funding. We hope to have a clearer picture of our funding status by mid-March and the Friends of the Lake will have the basis for more detailed planning.
- Director Crawford MacIntyre reported that the Government Relations Committee was monitoring a number of issues at the Township level including the Official Plan Review, waste management changes and septic inspection. The Committee is preparing to make a presentation to Council in the spring of 2010 on Buck Lake concerns such as Causeway parking, boat launch safety and waste pickup for private lanes and islands. Crawford also reminded

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the Board that 2010 is municipal election year and we should prepare for a candidate survey in the fall.

- Shoal markers were discussed and it was decided that the 2010 budget would direct up to \$1000 to the placement of markers on unmarked shoals as well and the replacement/refurbishment of exiting markers in consultation with the “Angels” who currently place markers on known hazards.
- Membership for 2009 reached 160 by year-end and renewal invoices have been sent out to those whose membership fees are due for 2010.
- A tentative calendar of dates for BLA activities was discussed and a planned March meeting of the Board was deferred until April 10<sup>th</sup> to facilitate a full attendance of Directors.

## 2009 Financial Reports

### **Buck Lake Association Statement of Income & Expenses For the period ending Dec 31, 2009**

	Budget	Actual	Variance
<b>Income</b>			
Membership Revenue	\$4,000.00	\$4,220.13	\$220.13
Deferred Revenue from 2008		\$125.00	\$125.00
Advertising	\$1,000.00	\$725.00	-\$275.00
Lake Planning	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	-\$5,000.00
Interest Income	\$0.00	\$0.22	\$0.22
Other	\$100.00	\$5,814.03	\$5,714.03
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,100.00</b>	<b>\$10,884.38</b>	<b>\$784.38</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Insurance	\$1,100.00	\$1,096.20	\$3.80
Affiliate Memberships	\$800.00	\$540.21	\$259.79
Publications	\$250.00	\$218.94	\$31.06
Administration Fees	\$600.00	\$197.89	\$402.11
Conference & Seminars	\$250.00	\$1,871.34	-\$1,621.34
Social & Outreach	\$1,000.00	\$886.85	\$113.15
Buck Lake Heritage Project	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
Community Project	\$1,000.00	\$250.00	\$750.00
Lake Plan Activities	\$6,500.00	\$7,255.96	-\$755.96
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$11,800.00</b>	<b>\$12,317.39</b>	<b>-\$517.39</b>
<b>Excess of Revenue over Expenses</b>	<b>-\$1,700.00</b>	<b>-\$1,433.01</b>	<b>-\$266.99</b>

Note: Other income includes Boating Course, Map Sales, BBQ

**Buck Lake Association  
Balance Sheet  
As of December 31, 2009**


<b>Assets</b>	
General Bank Account	\$8,518.81
GIC	\$4,174.02
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$12,692.83</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>	
Deferred Revenue 2010	\$1,500.00
Deferred Revenue 2011	\$125.00
Deferred Revenue 2012	\$25.00
Deferred Revenue 2013	\$25.00
Deferred Revenue 2014	\$25.00
Outstanding Cheques	\$897.30
Lake Study – Balance of Payment	\$3,500.00
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$6,097.30</b>
<b>Members Equity</b>	<b>\$6,595.53</b>

**Doug's Angel**

While some of us go to old-timers to discover Buck Lake lore, others are creating it.

One is Doug Bays, a long-time resident on the North Branch. Doug is a very experienced and talented photographer, now retired, who lives with his constant companion, Blue, the big, black lab who keeps Doug well exercised. The two of them can often be found walking the lanes and woods in and around the north end of the lake. We, his neighbours, will never have a more effective watchman. Nothing escapes Doug's eagle eye!

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## **Gord McDiarmid**

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One day this winter Doug had a really close call. It was a beautiful day, well below zero and perfectly white following an inch or so of new snow overnight—a great day for walking. Doug and Blue were out as usual, this time walking on the ice on the big beaver pond (some call it Rabbit Pond) running south from Norman Lane along Elephant Rock Lane. Quite a few of us walk along the edge of that pond in the summertime but it's pretty isolated this time of year. Wandering along as he had done on that pond for 20 winters or more, Doug went over to the beaver lodge to get a stick to throw for Blue. Suddenly he was through! Who would have thought the pond was that deep? He said later there was no crack, creak or any other warning – all he remembers is thinking “Oh, oh; I'm in trouble” as the ice vanished beneath his feet. Reflexly throwing his arms out, luckily the ice held on each side and stopped his plummet shoulder deep. Doug doesn't remember anything after that. The only thing he recalls is being back up on the ice heading for home, freezing cold, Blue alongside. At home he was able to get his boots off but had to wait until the zippers thawed to shed his coat and other cold, dripping clothes.

Later, when he had warmed up, Doug went back with his camera (see below) to figure out how he got back up on the ice. There was no evidence in the fresh snow of his having pulled himself out prone. The footprints seemed to indicate that he had emerged standing up! It's very clear that Doug's guardian angel was with him that day. Did the angel levitate him out of that hole? Maybe the beavers didn't want to share the pond and pushed him up and out.

Either way, we're all grateful for the intervention and that Doug and Blue are back walking Buck Lake's lanes and woods. And the lesson? Give beaver lodges a wide berth!

Duncan G. Sinclair

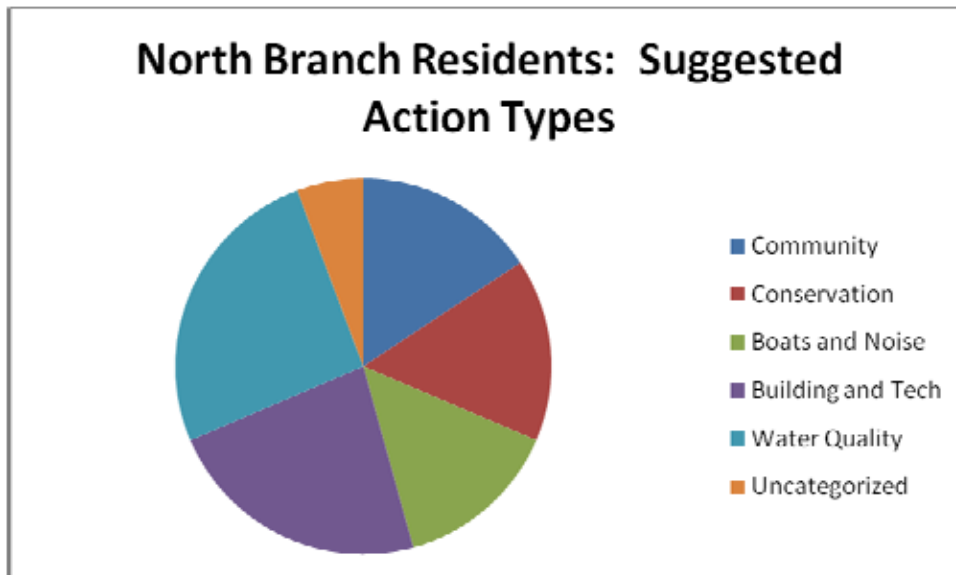


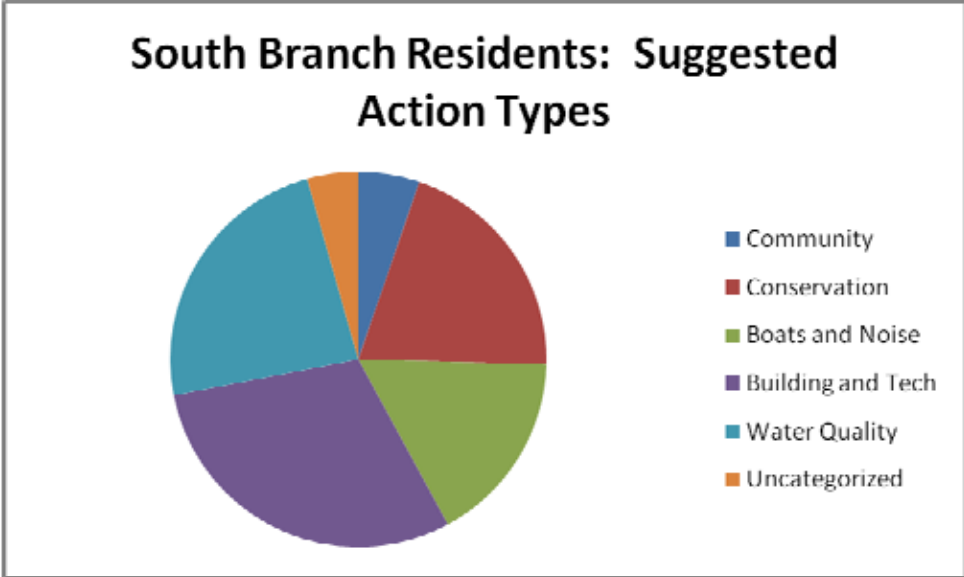
## Friends of the Lake

### More Results from the Buck Lake Planning Survey

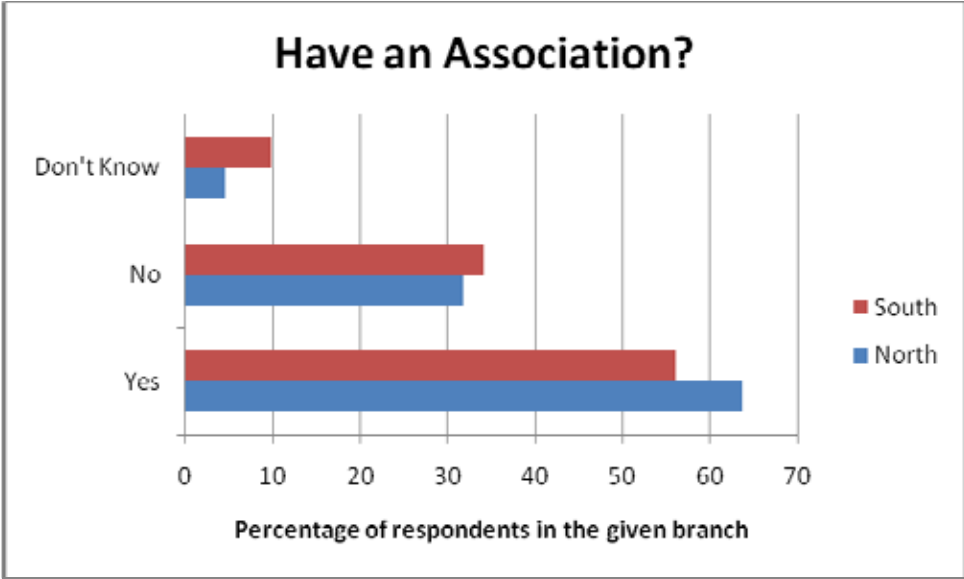
We have continued to analyse the Buck Lake Planning Survey data, and report in this newsletter on some similarities and differences between North Branch and South Branch residents. We were able to classify 76 of our respondents into one branch or the other, and the results below are based on information about these 76 respondents: 51 from the South branch, and 25 from the North branch.

As noted in our last report, people in both branches strongly value water quality. Respondents from each branch also tended to suggest similar types of actions to safeguard the lake into the future. The one difference is that North Branch residents more frequently suggested actions of a community nature (e.g., education, outreach, association strengthening, etc), than South Branch residents, who instead more frequently suggested actions falling into other categories. (As indicated in our previous newsletter, most suggestions fit into one or more of five categories: those dealing with water quality (e.g., algae, pollution, septic tanks, fertilizers, etc.); those dealing with building and technology (e.g., development restrictions, by-laws and regulations regarding building, improvement of culverts/ramps/parking, etc.); those dealing with boats and noise (e.g., power boating limitations, all-terrain vehicle restrictions, etc.); those dealing with conservation-type issues (e.g., preserving landscapes, nesting sites, fish, preventing erosion, etc); and those dealing with community-building issues (e.g., education, outreach, association strengthening, etc). Here are the breakdowns of suggested action types by branch:





In line with these results, North Branch respondents report more knowledge of and presence of road, island, or marina associations, as shown in the following bar chart:



Finally, a few full quotes from our respondents in the More Comments section of the survey, that demonstrate the types of concerns and the heterogeneity of views present in our community:

*“We don't want too much Big Brother - we like activity and enjoy boats and watercraft of all types!”*

*“Note that I'm not opposed to powerboats, just dirty/smelly/loud boats on a small lake were most users/owners value peace and quiet, and many drink the water. The standard rules as to near-shore speed limits are totally ignored as far as I can tell.”*

*Motors that release oil into the water should be prohibited completely: if it's not OK to just pour the oil from the can directly into the lake, why is it OK to have the motor do it?"*  
*"United action should be taken against MPAC raising property values unreasonably. They raised my property value more than 2.3 times without any reason. I suppose others have similar experiences."*

*"Many good education moments have been presented by various experts, but only a few dedicated souls attend. Getting more of this information to all residents would be a good thing to do."*

*"The survey is useful. It's a good way to identify shared concerns around the lake."*

We hope all our readers agree with the lattermost quote! Please keep sending us suggestions about what specific questions you'd like us to pose to our analyst.

### Boatilla Up-date

Ron Matthey reports that if you can tune into CKWS TV in Kingston on March 14<sup>th</sup> at around 11:25 a.m. you will see the annual Easter Seals Telethon on air. He will be presenting a cheque on behalf of all Buck Lakers to an Easter Seals Ambassador. Each year since the Boatilla started, the cheque has been growing and the cheer from the volunteers manning the phones gets louder. Please know that your contributions to this project each summer give special children great joy and they think you are wonderful, even though they may not know your name.

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### Passages

In this winter season we have felt the loss of a number of our Lake family. In December, Alex Bryans and Murray Gill passed away. Both were long time cottagers on the North Branch and brought much love and fellowship to the Lake each summer. In February, we saw the passing of Barry O'Connor. The retired Director of the Limestone Board of Education, Barry and Marilyn made Buck Lake their year round home and Marilyn served a recent term as a Director of the BLA.

On behalf of the Directors and members of the BLA we express our sincere condolences and best wishes to the families and friends of Alex, Murray and Barry. May the peace, beauty and friendships of our Lake support your healing.



## Coming Events

- Saturday February 20<sup>th</sup> @7:00 p.m. – A Night of Music with Jon McClurg and Chris Murphy at Perth Road United Church Hall – Good Will Offering and Refreshments
- Wednesday March 3<sup>rd</sup> from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. – Book Club with Attitude discusses Maude Barlow's **Blue Covenant** at Margaret Fisher's - 1018 Kingfisher Lane. New members are welcome. Call Margaret at (613) 353-7901 or email at [mfisher@kingston.net](mailto:mfisher@kingston.net) for info.
- Friday March 19<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 p.m. – Pot Luck and Silent Auction at Perth Road United Church Hall



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