



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 – 2010 May

Principal Writer: Roy Mills

President's Message

Looking out my window as I write this note, I see green. Many different shades of green but all green – oak leaves, maple leaves, elm leaves, poplar leaves, birch leaves and, of course, pine needles. This and the song of my local whippoorwill welcoming the day at 4am tell me that summer has arrived and it is high season for Buck Lakers.

Over the past month, I have received a number of pieces of information reminding me of the good work being done by the Buck Lake Association. From the Ministry of Natural Resources, I received a report on Water Access Septage Haulage which acknowledged the contribution of members of the BLA. I received the monthly newsletter of the Federation of Cottagers of Ontario which prompted me to go to their website where I learned of the CPR courses we are offering this spring. I reviewed the Water Quality report completed in 2009 by Reg Genge. This report acknowledges the contribution of the Friends of Buck Lake and points out that Buck Lakers have been voluntarily submitting water samples to the Ministry of the Environment for analysis since 1976. Finally, I received, as did you the April issue of this newsletter which is faithfully produced by the dynamic duo of Roy Mills and Ralph Wirsig with contributions from many among you.

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)

Our summer program is ready to go, kicking off with a Pot Luck Picnic at the home of Margaret Fisher on June 10th. The AGM is scheduled for July 10th; the Friends education session will be July 19th; and the BBQ in Perth Road Village will be Aug 21st.

I look forward to seeing you all at these events.

Tricia

Annual General Meeting

Members are hereby given notice that the **Annual General Meeting of the Buck Lake Association Inc. will take place on Saturday 2010 July 10th at Perth Road Public School commencing at 9:00 a.m.** The doors will open at 8:30 a.m. for those early birds who would like to enjoy a cup of coffee, view displays or just catch up with old friends on the lake. More detail and an agenda outline will be included in our next newsletter.

Board of Director's Report

The Board last met on May 7th and many of the agenda items are covered in various reports in the Newsletter to follow. Some brief information is presented below:

- Cheryl Savery our Secretary-Treasurer reported a very healthy income flow from membership renewals and a slow out flow of expenditure to date but we are entering the summer/fall period when most of our budget commitments are implemented. A six- month update will be available at the AGM.
- 115 membership renewals have been received and advertising revenue to date is \$850.
- Reg Genge , the author of our Lake Water Quality Report, will be invited to be our keynote speaker at the AGM. Advertisers will also be invited to present displays.
- The Friends of the Lake Committee is gearing up for a busy summer with a number of initiatives including a summer seminar presentation and some wildlife/marine life studies in cooperation with the MNR.
- The Government Relations Committee is planning to make a presentation to the Township Council on June 1st highlighting concerns such as safety at the Causeway, cell phone and high speed internet access and waste management changes planned for 2010.

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Friends of the Lake Report

Another survey of deep water temperatures and oxygen concentrations (and perhaps other activities) will be conducted by the Ministry of Natural Resources this summer. One or two (one for each branch of the lake) volunteers will be required to ferry the Ministry personnel to the survey sites (over the deepest parts of the lake) and help with taking their measurements. A good sized boat (previously I used my pontoon boat) is needed. Well prior to the date I will call for volunteers.

Reg Genge is going to be the speaker again at the Buck Lake Association's Annual General Meeting on Saturday, 10 July. He will talk about practical issues - things we all need to be aware of - arising out of his analysis of the water quality in Buck Lake. Related to that, the Ministry of the Environment has agreed to our extending our regular sampling of water clarity (Secchi disk readings) to include monthly sampling of

phosphorus (a key indicator of contaminating nutrients). Previously such sampling was only done once in the spring. Monthly phosphorus samples will be taken on both branches (as suggested by Reg Genge at the last AGM).

**BUCK LAKE ASSOCIATION
FRIENDS OF THE LAKE**

PRESENT

"Birds of Prey on Buck Lake"

an evening with

Kristen Keyes

Of the Kingston Field Naturalists



Thursday, July 15, 2010

7:00 to 9:00 pm

United Church Hall, Perth Road Village

Refreshments will be served.

FAMILIES ARE WELCOME

The Committee reviewed the many steps set out in the FOCA (Federation of Ontario Cottage Associations) handbook on lake planning and will decide at its next meeting on an updated plan for its work over this and the next couple of summers. One initiative is to draft a vision statement - the ideal we want to have in mind looking into the future. Another is to accelerate work on the history of Buck Lake. The BLA has had a History Committee for some time now but it has been relatively inactive recently. It is time to get back in gear by interviewing those older members of our community who recall "Buck Lake Lore", the stories that will make the history of our

lake come to life. Some obvious names come to mind (some of whom have already been interviewed) - John McComish, Elmer and Ron Green, George and Bruce Norman, Bruce Cronk - but we are always looking for other sources. Please send your suggestions to info@bucklake.ca and we will pass them on.

Water Quality: The quality of the water in Buck Lake is affected by Alkalinity, (pH). The measurement of pH is in units, not weight per unit volume; pH above 7 indicates alkalinity and below 7 acidity; the greater the deviation from 7 (neutral) the more alkaline (or acid) the solution is. Lakes with high alkalinity have a greater potential to neutralize runoff and precipitation that is high in acids. The average alkalinity for the South is 71.69 mg/L and the North is 35.83 mg/L. Lakes with alkalinity values greater than 25mg/L are not sensitive to acid precipitation. The north basin has a much smaller watershed with more rock outcrop and thinner soil deposits than does the south basin and therefore has a much lower alkalinity. Lakes with high alkalinity values while protected against acidification are prone to colonization by zebra mussels due to the availability of calcium carbonate.

Water clarity is measured using a Secchi disc, a 20 centimeter disc painted black and white on opposite quadrants. It is lowered into the water on a calibrated line to determine the depth of light penetration through the water. There are large ranges in water clarity for natural waters that are unrelated to human influence. For this reason water clarity is a parameter that is not used alone to guide decisions regarding water quality management. Water clarity values are interpreted along with other parameters such as turbidity and suspended solids, nutrient concentrations (phosphorus and nitrogen), algae densities as determined through chlorophyll a analysis and oxygen concentrations when making management decisions with respect to protection of water quality.



The report indicates that there may be a slight improvement in the North Basin clarity but no change in the South Basin.

More information from this report will continue in future newsletters.

Grayden McClurg

Hi speed Internet

There are now two (about 150 ft) towers in the Buck Lake area for providing hi-speed internet through wireless transmission. One tower is located to the south on the Leland Road, coordinates, N44 28.219 W76 28.581, and one to the north at the Pine Haven

Classic Theatre Festival
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by John van Druten
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Camp Ground, coordinates N44 33.798 W76 26.183. By drawing a straight line on a topographical map between the towers coordinates and a point within about 300 ft your cottage/home you can view the line of site (LOS) and get a measure of the obstacles the tower signal must pass over or get past to get a clear path to your receiver and hence get a measure of how high or where laterally your receiver needs to be. You may need to take into account any trees (usually 50 to 70 ft tall) at the receiver end and at any high spots along the LOS. You may be fortunate to have a LOS across the lake or down a tree free road or laneway. One Buck Laker was able to locate their tower at the lakefront

shoreline. The acceptable range for the cat 5e cable used to connect your receiver to your computer is stated to be 100 meters (330 ft).

The service provider is Xplornet at xplornet.com, call 1-866-6001 or contact a local dealer/installer such as Don Gibson of Trans Star Satellite at 1608 Sydenham Rd (near Neil's Flowers) 613-545-3573 or Calligaris Satellite Electronics at 1478 Unity Rd, Glenburnie, 613-542-1661. The arrangement with Gibson is if you sign up when they come to do the survey he waives the survey fee of \$55 plus taxes. I believe Calligaris is now offering a similar arrangement. A new entry since January is Don's Satellite Service, 4249 Stagecoach Rd RR1, Sydenham, ON, (613) 328-6811.

This recently completed wireless service will not be available to all who may wish to have it in the Buck Lake area. It is only by luck that I can get a signal because the LOS from a tall maple at a high point looking down our treeless driveway coincides with the LOS to the Leland tower. I suspect it's probable that because of tall trees and hills in our area the majority of Buck Lakers will not be so lucky and that's the weakness of this wireless system unless they add relay towers (which can be relatively short) at high points along the lake that have good LOS's over the water to waterfronts---there are several high points around the lake that could achieve that.

Probably though, a more cost effective and technically very doable route is to make use of the Westport Telephone Company (WTC) fibre optic cable running along side HWY 10 from Westport to Kingston to provide DSL to the Bell area south of the Buck Lake under pass just as the WTC has for some years provided DSL to WTC area north of the underpass. Whether that is done by Bell (who has been on record as "having no high speed internet plans for our area") through some kind of arrangement with WTC or by requiring Bell to upgrade their system to enable DSL in our area would require a level of political activism and pressure which up to now has not been forthcoming.

If you have any thoughts on this issue that you would like to share with your political leaders please communicate them to any or all listed below. I am told personal contact is the most effective method of getting the attention of your representative and email is the least effective. The best alternative to personal contact is a letter delivered by Canada Post or other carrier.

Mayor Gary Davison

4544 Bedford Road,
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Councilor Allan McPhail

1024 Kennedy Lane,
P.O. Box 77
Sydenham, ON K0H 2T0
Home: (613) 376-3583
e-mail: mcphail@queensu.ca

Councilor Ron Vandewal

2131 Rutledge Rd
RR 1 Sydenham, ON K0H 2T0
Home: (613) 376-6687 Home Fax: (613)
376-9900
email: lakevalley@kos.net

Randy Hillier Ontario MPP

Lanark-Frontenac-Lennox and
Addington,
Rm 207, North Wing, Legislative Building
Toronto ON M7A 1A8
Tel : 416-325-2244
Fax : 416-325-2166
randy.hillier@pc.ola.org

Unit 1, 105 Dufferin St.
Perth ON K7H 3A5
Tel : 613-267-8239
Fax : 613-267-7398
randy.hillierco@pc.ola.org

Scott Reid Federal MP

Lanark-Frontenac-Lennox and Addington
Hill Office House of Commons Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6
Telephone: (613) 947-2277 (613) 947-2277
Fax: (613) 947-2278
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Lodge Brothers Frank and Gordon Found

Last year we reported that retired BCE employees Frank and Gordon had applied their beaver buck teeth to fell two-thirds of our birch clump into the water at our North Branch cottage. We wondered what became of those 2" diameter trees. Now we know. Last Saturday, May 23rd, our daughter Stephanie and I inaugurated the 2010 canoeing season by paddling directly across the lake to Hamilton Bay where Frontanac Provincial Parks starts. That's at compass bearing 310 degrees, in case you are interested. Two bays further south we saw "it". The "it" being a new beaver lodge containing two-thirds of our birch clump.

There is no doubt in our minds that this edifice is home to F & G Marine

Engineers. While there is no sign to verify that allegation we suspect the reason lies with their desire to avoid Revenue Canada's clutches, and an even

greater reason to avoid having any to do with the forthcoming HST. As we silent paddled past the lodge we could hear a whine-like noise from within which was likely beaver talk telling to us "buzz off".



We did exactly that, continuing to paddle toward the Slide Lake waterfall. A scant few minutes later we were a canoe length from the shore when we were startled by a large dark shape which did a back flip into the lake with an almighty splash. It scared us half to death. Obviously we had caught Frank, or was it Gordon, having an afternoon siesta in the sun. The next time we paddle that shore we will have the camera IN hand to confirm that what you have just read was no pipe dream.

Stephen Roughton

Kingston Frontenac Public Library



Information enrichment everyone @ Your Library!

In 1998 the Frontenac County Library and the Kingston Public Library amalgamated to form the seventeen-branch Kingston Frontenac Public Library (KFPL). What you may not know is that if you pay property taxes to any Frontenac County township, you are eligible for a FREE KFPL library card, whether you live here year-round or not. Your KFPL card is your ticket to a vast array of books, movies, CDs, books on CD, downloadable books and magazines for all ages.

You can obtain your free library card by visiting any KFPL branch with ID that shows your name and current address. If you are a seasonal resident, please also bring your current Frontenac township property tax receipt. Children under 16 can get a card when a parent or legal guardian shows ID.

Owners of property on Buck Lake are closest to the Storrington branch in Sunbury, but are welcome at any KFPL branch. The Storrington branch is in Storrington Centre, 3910 Battersea Road. Hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays 1 – 5 and 6 – 8 p.m., and Saturdays 1 – 4 p.m. Phone 353-6333.

If what you want to read, watch, or listen to isn't at your local branch, you can request it be delivered there. In addition, we offer free Internet access and word processing, and children's programmes such as the Summer Reading Club. There truly is something for you @ KFPL, and we look forward to seeing you soon!

Check our website www.kfpl.ca for more details about what your library has to offer!

Pam Harris
Branch Librarian, Rural Branches and Services
Kingston Frontenac Public Library
130 Johnson St.
Kingston, ON
K7L 1X8
613 549-8888, x 1500
pharris@kfpl.ca

The BLA at Work...

Photos of the CPR Course and beginning the Shoal Marking...



The Rest of the Story...Rules Broken, Lessons Learned

We all have rules that we live by. Rules that keep us on the right side of the stupid risk line. Earlier this month I broke some of these rules and paid the price. I was lucky that the price was small and more embarrassing than painful.

We have been looking after our daughter's puppy. It was Thursday afternoon and Janet was returning home that evening for the weekend. I had not seen the dogs for a while and when I called them Tao was no where to be found! I got in the truck and searched the roads around 144 Deer Valley with no luck. The clouds moved in the thunder rumbled and the rain started to fall, and I panicked. Mistake number one. Then I broke my rule. When my family is not home I do not go out in the boat. It is just too risky, if nobody knows you are out, nobody will know if you don't come back. I grew up on Buck Lake spending every summer here since 1952. Being very at home on the lake and in boats I seldom if ever wear a life jacket. (dumb) However for some reason this time I did. With the thunder rumbling and lightening flashing I headed out to look for Tao. (Another broken rule). Never go out on the lake in a storm. I headed out of our bay to the right watching for Tao. When there was no sign of him I started back in the direction of the culvert. Again no sign of him. As I rounded the point and reentered our bay the wind caught the bow of the boat and tossed it sharply to the left causing me to fall back in the seat. Unable to regain my balance I was dumped out of the boat. The boat kept on going and started doing circles, first very large ones then smaller and smaller till it was in the middle of the lake going around and around and around. I was not far from shore so I kicked off my rubber boots, swam in and got out on dry land. Wet and cold, but safe.

It is funny how our brains work and what becomes important to us when we know that we are safe. I sat on shore for a while watching the boat go round and round knowing that, since we had just filled the gas tank, it would continue to do that for a very long time, until it ran out of gas or sank. At this point I thought sinking would not have been a bad thing. I also realized that this was going to be the best thing that happened to Toonie Tuesday in a long time, unless I could get that boat back with out the world hearing about it. So with the rain pouring down and the cold setting in I walked home to make a plan.

When I got there the phone was flashing, I had a message. My neighbour had found Tao and he was having a great time playing with her dogs. Problem one solved I got Tao home safe and sound and headed for the dock to deal with the boat that was still going round and round and round.... As I stood on the dock watching it, thinking of how to get out of this and keep it quiet, I noticed a boat heading from the far shore toward my boat. This was good they could stop it bring it back and it would be our little secret. (not) As I watched them I realized that they were not going to the boat but were looking for the body. I yelled and waved and they saw me and started over toward me. Again, this was good, I could explain, get the boat, still our little secret, right? As they got closer I heard a sound, a sound I have never liked much, the sound of sirens, lots of sirens. Sirens heading in my direction.

Two wonderful men arrived at my dock in spite of the rain, thunder and lightening they had come to save me. They were relived that I was the only one in the boat and that no one was hurt. They headed of across the lake to call off the fire truck and ambulance and I headed up the hill to call off the police who were ready to come out and drag the lake for my body. As Gordon Lightfoot said, "The roomers of my death were greatly exaggerated" My two rescuers headed back out and were able with great skill to stop the boat from going round and round and return it to me.

I still thought there was a chance that I might not be the talk of the lake, and then I heard the words that made me realize I would be very lucky not to make the six o'clock news.

" She's taken on a lot of water, it is raining pretty hard.... ***We better get Duncan's boat back to him!!!!***" The jig was up, every one would know. And you know what? That's OK. Because that is why we love it here on the lake. We are not alone. We may not live side by side like in the city, but when we need a friend or a hand or a rescue our community is there ready willing and able to help.
. And that, as they say, is a good thing.

Thank you to all who came to my rescue and for those who were concern for my welfare. I am safe sound and just a bit wiser for the experience.

Lynne Lesson Learned Hendry.

Boating Safety

If anyone is not aware that the rules of the lake have changed, we can only assume that they have been on another planet for the last few years. Pleasure Craft Operator Cards are now mandatory for all operators of powered watercraft in Canada. We also expect that the compulsory use of PFD's (Personal Floatation Devices) will be made mandatory in the near future. The SAVE unit of the OPP has announced that boaters can expect an increased surveillance this summer and the grace period has expired...fines of over \$300 will be levied on anyone who can't produce an Operators Card. The BLA offered the certification course five times over the past three summers and has no plans to do so again unless there is an indication of interest. FOCA is promoting the BoatSmart! Canada program as a way to obtain the card online. Visit www.BoatSmartExam.com for more information. We are FOCA members and you can receive a \$10 saving when taking the exam online. Insert the code: FOCA219 where required.

An additional footnote regards the consumption of alcohol and the operation of a boat: Drinking and boating triggers the same penalties as does drinking and driving. In both cases, you don't even have to be over the legal limit of .08 to lose your driver's license; you just have to be in the so-called "warning range" of between .05 and .08 for the police to lay a charge. Please don't take the risk!

Up-Coming Events

- Thursday June 10th –Spring Pot Luck at the home of Margaret Fisher 1018 Kingfisher Lane @5:30 p.m. Bring a main dish or dessert, your lawn chairs and your preferred refreshment.
- Saturday July 3rd – Buck Lake Boatilla for Easter Seals. Boats assemble in the South Basin at the Causeway at 2:00 p.m.
- Saturday July 10th – AGM at Perth Road P.S. at 9:00 a.m.
- Saturday July 17th – Giant Pie Sale at Perth Road United Church Hall at 9:00 a.m.
- Annual Buck Lake Summer Picnic/BBQ at Harris Park at 4:00 p.m.

Editor's Note:

If this issue of the News doesn't reach you in May, please consider it an early June edition. We will publish again before Canada Day. Enjoy the warm weather and be careful on the water...we don't have all the shoal markers in place yet but are working to finish phase one in the next week.

Target your advertising to Buck Lakers!

Newsletter ad: \$25/ insertion or \$100/calendar year.

Website ad at <http://www.bucklake.ca> : \$100/calendar year