



BLA Newsletter - October 2005

PO Box 1753, Stn Main, Kingston, ON K7L 5J6

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

President's Message

Another wonderful summer is almost over and your new Board of Directors has a full agenda of matters relevant to the Buck Lake Community.

By our frequent e-mail newsletters we will keep in touch with you throughout the year. Unfortunately, the cost of regular postal service prevents us from such regular contact with non-e-mail users. For this reason, among others, a goal this year will be to increase our membership and thus, our revenue. Apart from the continuing mandate to maintain the health of our lake we are planning some lake activities where we can socialize and have some fun.

We all know what a precious place Buck Lake holds in our hearts and our memories and although it has changed and will change over the years, the task at hand for your Board and all Buck Lake users is described in our mission statement to: "enhance people's enjoyment of Buck Lake now and for future generations". I can assure you that your Board is up to the challenge.

We welcome your suggestions and feedback, and invite you to freely contact me or the other Board members. I am looking forward to meeting many of you over the fall and winter months, and for those who are not fortunate enough to enjoy a Buck Lake winter—see you next spring.

Crawford MacIntyre
President

Your Newsletter

We want to make this newsletter folksy and fun as well as informative, so give us your stories, anecdotes and experiences from Buck Lake. Send them to Bruce Barnes at bdbarnes@rideau.net

Officers and Committees for 2005-2006

At the first regular meeting of the Board of Directors held on August 11, 2005 the Officers and Committees were established for the next year as follows:

President – Crawford MacIntyre

Vice-President – Roy Mills

Secretary/Treasurer – Jan Theoret

Recording Secretary - Amy Rossworm

Standing Committee Chairs -

* Community Outreach - Nancy Daugulis

* Membership Services - Ralph Wirsig

* Communications - Roy Mills

* Nominating/Constitution - Stephen Roughton

Directors:

Bruce Barnes

Jim Manuel

Marilyn O'Connor

Duncan Sinclair

At the September 17, 2005 meeting of the Board, additional organizational steps were taken for the 2005-2006 year. Andy Hills has tendered his resignation as a Director due to a planned move to Kingston. The Board accepted with regret and thanks to Andy for his enthusiastic and innovative participation during the last year. The Board acted by asking Ralph Wirsig to complete Andy's term for the remainder of 2005-2006.

An Ad Hoc Municipal Liaison Committee was established for 2005-2006 chaired by our President, Crawford MacIntyre. All Directors have been given Committee assignments with Committees having the power to add participants from the membership at large.

All Standing Committees have been asked to submit draft Terms of Reference to be discussed by the Board and eventually added to By-Law #1 of our 2005 Constitution.

Septic Re-inspection Project and Other Municipal Issues

* As reported in our August Newsletter, the Township hoped to complete the project this summer and be in a position to prepare a report to Council. With our assistance, Porcupine Island cottages were visited in late August. We have been assured that when the final report is released, the Association will receive a copy which we can use to communicate to members. We were informed that individual reporting letters would not be forwarded to Lake residents.

* Our Lake has the distinction of being part of three of the four municipal districts of South Frontenac, which is particularly confusing when it comes to waste management.

Bag-tag and Bluebox programs have been implemented in Loughborough and Storrington and have caused some confusion and inconvenience for lake residents.

Bedford District has no pick-up program and has made significant changes to tipping fees while increasing summer access schedules. If members have questions or concerns on these issues, please contact your local Councillor or the Township Public Works Department at 376-3900 ext. 331 or call toll free at 1-800-559-5862.

* The Township has cleaned the Culvert twice this summer due to rock falling from the sides of the Causeway. We are told that they will attempt to place some larger rock on the top of the Culvert to reduce the slippage into the water. We certainly support any effort to make safe boating a reality for all lake users.

* The Hinge Lake fire in August 2005 was an excellent reminder of some natural and human realities. Due to a significant reduction in the normal seasonal rainfall in our area, Level 1 and 2 Drought conditions exist throughout the upper levels of both the Rideau and Cataraqui Watersheds. That means our area. Burning bans will probably remain in effect long into the fall and there is also a request to reduce water usage from both surface and ground sources by 20% if possible. Please be alert to fire risks around your property and be proactive in prevention. We

plan to develop a liaison with our own Perth Road Fire Department to better serve our members.

Our local volunteer firefighters must be thanked and recognized for their efforts on behalf of community safety. They are always the first line of support for any emergency in the Buck Lake area. Their selfless dedication to our community must be recognized and supported by all.

* Over the last year, the Association has had a number of inquiries from members regarding interpretations of the Township Official Plan and Building By-Law.

The first and best source of information is our Township staff who we have always found to be knowledgeable and accessible. Lindsay Mills is the Planning Coordinator and can be reached at 376-3027 ext. 221. The Chief Building Official is Alan Revill and he can be contacted at 376-3027 ext.228. Information on Residential Consents and Minor Variances is available in an excellent summary available from the Planning Department on the lower level of the Township Office in Sydenham.

When do I need a building permit in South Frontenac?

- construction of a new building
- demolish all or part of a building
- renovation or repair of an existing building
- additions to a building, including a garage, balcony or deck
- enclosing an existing deck
- construct a detached garage
- building a utility/garden shed greater than 10m sq. or 108 sq. ft.
- renovation projects where plumbing is added or relocated
- building a deck
- adding a wood stove or fireplace
- reconstruction of a chimney
- installing a swimming pool

Municipal Property Assessment - Taxes 2006

Last winter we reported to members that all property owners in Ontario would receive an updated property assessment notice in the fall of 2005. Our 2006 municipal taxes would be based

upon an assessment evaluation date of January 1, 2005. Property values around the lake have certainly appreciated since January 1, 2003 when the last revision of the assessment was made. Our taxes have certainly increased over the last two years, but this was due to municipal increases in mill rate not in assessment. Watch for the arrival of the revised assessment for your property and read it carefully to learn of your rights of appeal to the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC).

On our website bucklake.ca you can find a link to WRAFT (Waterfront Ratepayers After Fair Taxation) which may be of some assistance. The Thousand Islands Area Resident's Association is sponsoring a presentation by Bob Topp, Executive Director of WRAFT on Sunday October 2, 2005 at the Charleston Lake Association Headquarters at 104 County Rd. 40, south of Athens. For more information, call (613) 924-0149.

End of Summer BBQ - August 27th

"What a great way to bring community spirit together at the end of August!" commented a number of Buck Lake residents at our BBQ held at Harris Memorial Park in Perth Road Village. The Outreach Committee of the Association decided to renew an old tradition on Buck Lake and hold a BBQ at summers end. The Association provided the hotdogs, hamburgers, sausages and corn and participants were asked to bring a dish to share. The 55 people attending enjoyed a hearty meal and great fellowship. Retiring Director, Andy Hills entertained us with his guitar and songs - a nice treat. We all felt that we must have this event again next year - hopefully to become annual event. If you were involved, please spread the word and bring your Buck Lake neighbours next year.

Around the Lake

* George Hiles, Community Policing Coordinator for the Frontenac OPP compiles a weekly incident report. Buck Lake is hardly ever mentioned, however over this season a couple of outboard motors and a canoe have been reported missing. Please be aware of security needs around your property and be sure to install adequate locks on all doors, windows, patio doors etc. Arrange with neighbours/friends to leave extra keys to prevent leaving them on the property. Get to know your neighbours and let them know when you are going to be at the cottage. George also recommends that you make an inventory (preferably a video or digital record) of your property and contents and record serial numbers where possible. Store this inventory somewhere away from your cottage/home. Be proactive and ask questions. If things don't seem right they may not be. You can reach George Hiles at the Frontenac Detachment OPP (613) 372-1932



* At the north end of the South Branch an Osprey nest is located in an old pine tree. If you know where the nest is located could you give Mother Nature a helping hand and make some repairs? Apparently, the Osprey will attempt to return to the same nest location every year and an unsafe nest could endanger the success of future offspring.

There is also one located on tiny Popcorn Island in the North Branch which is awesome in size and apparently would need a helicopter to repair it.

* 2005 doesn't seem to have been a good year for loon reproduction. The pair that usually nests on the little island at the top end of the north

branch started off OK. Despite the very high water, they nested, but about two weeks into the process, the male disappeared. He was seen to be acting very strange one day, listing to one side and swimming in circles, and then he was gone. She sat alone for weeks but no chick appeared. Elsewhere on the north branch the usual half-dozen or so pairs of loons appeared also to have struck out. No chicks were seen anywhere when touring by boat during the summer months. Late in the summer, though, a group of about eight juveniles hung around Green Island for weeks. Maybe they will form pairs, return in 2006 and successfully raise their successors.

We would be interested in any reports Lake residents may have of loon reproduction in 2005 on the South Branch.

Speaking of birds, in this case not fondly, one of our members spotted three cormorants by the big rock near the southwest shore of the North Branch about 500 yards north of the entry to the portage to Slide Lake. About a week later one was seen again in the same place. Has anybody else seen cormorants on Buck Lake?

Membership Renewals for 2005-2006

At the risk of nagging, we must remind members who have not renewed for 2005-2006 that we need your participation and cheque for \$25.00. Please take a moment to do so and forward to a Director you may know or mail to our address at P.O. Box 1753 Stn. Main, Kingston, Ont. K7L 5J6. Membership forms are available at our website bucklake.ca but are not necessary. Just enclose a note indicating your name address etc. and include your email address if we do not already have it.

Tales of Yore

The old Buck Lake story goes something like this...An elderly old resident was lying in bed, surrounded by his family, hovering near death. Due to the fact that he had never got around to making a will, the children were particularly interested in any last words he might utter as to his estate. One daughter thought a glass of warm milk might give the old man a little energy to

address this important matter. When she returned with milk he showed no interest and pushed it away. A little frustrated but not defeated, she returned to the kitchen and poured half of the milk out and added a hearty portion of rum. She returned and held the glass under her father's nose begging him to try just a little. After a moment, the old man stirred, took a sip and then another.

Before long the glass was empty and he opened his eyes. Everyone in the room was full of anticipation. He pushed himself up on his elbow and turned to his oldest son beckoning him to come closer. The son moved close to the old man confident his birthright was secure. "Don't ever sell that cow," he gasped and he was gone.

BUCK LAKE HISTORY

Our President, Crawford MacIntyre, has developed an interest in compiling a history of Buck Lake. He would welcome any material that would help him along the way, and if you are interested in joining the project, you may reach him at cmac@rideau.net

Suggestions:

Pass on (or make copies) of this newsletter to any of your friends, neighbours, prospective members who may not have internet access.

Let us know what you would like to see happen on the lake over the fall, winter and spring months.

Tell us what you would like to see in future issues.

Editors: Bruce Barnes
Roy Mills