

Main Identity

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Subject: Buck Lake Association Newsletter 2006 February

BLA Newsletter - 2006 February

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

President's Message

Our New Year is now one & a half months old yet still merits a 'best wishes' to all our members. It is worth reminding you that we enjoy a pretty special lake. Both branches possess a self sustaining natural Lake Trout population. Lake Trout are native only to North America & 90% of this population is right here in the lakes of the Canadian Shield.

Ontario has about 250,000 lakes of which only 1827 (less than 1%,-Buck Lake included) contain Lake Trout. This special class of lake represents 20% to 25% of the entire world supply of Lake Trout.

Evidence given at a recent Ontario Municipal Board hearing involving another Lake Trout sensitive lake, indicated that Lake Trout habitat can be in decline where a reduction of dissolved oxygen in the water exists, contributed to largely by phosphate enriched sewage from septic systems.

Buck Lake is valuable to all of us for many reasons, but as a special & sensitive Lake Trout lake this should serve as a constant & permanent reminder to never take it for granted.

Crawford MacIntyre
President

Director Profiles

Jim Manuel

Jim Manuel and his wife Margaret Fisher are very recent Buck Lakers.

Following Jim's retirement in January 2004 they began looking for a retirement home in the Kingston area where Jim wanted to be able to get involved with Restorative Justice work as a volunteer. They consider themselves to have been extremely fortunate to have been in the right place at the right time when they acquired their new home at 1018 Kingfisher Lane. Their continuing interest in environmental issues fits well with their new location. Jim says "We look forward to many years in this beautiful setting".

Stephen Roughton

Stephen Roughton is in his third year on the board and currently chairs the Nominating Committee. A Kingstonian, his cottage is on Elephant Rock Lane, North Branch, where, since 1979, he and Rosalie have welcomed their 4 children and 7 grandchildren for summer vacations. Manufactured in BC, their solid cedar Panabode cottage was shipped eastward in 1969 on two railway flatcars. In error the cottage was offloaded at the Sydenham rail siding instead of the one at Perth Road Village. For a month the original owners wondered what had become of it. When it was finally located it had to be trucked to

Buck Lake for assembly. The cottage view is westward to Frontenac Provincial Park. The peace, quiet and presence of that Park reminds Stephen of Algonquin Provincial Park where he first began to enjoy canoeing and sailing 64 years ago. He continues to enjoy these sports. Stephen retired in May 1998 following a 44 years career as a Chartered Life Underwriter with Mutual Life of Canada.

Ralph Wirsig

Ralph Wirsig has been on the BLA Board for several years and presently chairs the Membership Services Committee where a critical function is the development and maintenance of a Buck Lakers data base for purposes of communication. So it is with only some exaggeration when it is said that upon meeting a new Buck Laker, Ralph's first question is "What is your email address?"

Ralph and Kathy Wirsig purchased their south branch Buck Lake property over twenty years ago when they noticed it come up for sale on their frequent travels between their then home in Kingston and a waterfront property near Westport. They enjoyed Buck Lake for several years prior to building a new home and moving there in 1994. Ralph's retirement as a mechanical engineer at DuPont and Kathy's retirement as a nurse at KGH occurred about two years later. They enjoy many out door activities including swimming, boating, skating and skiing and are frequent travelers to Pennsylvania and California where their two children and seven grandchildren live.

Membership Up-date

Our membership currently stands at approximately 130 paid members for 2005-2006 with an additional about 45 members from 2004-2005 who have not renewed. One of the sources of confusion in the past has been the July 1- June 30 fiscal/membership year which has been in place for many years. A large number of memberships are paid at the Annual General Meeting each summer, however, when memberships are paid throughout the year people often are unclear of their status as to the when renewal is required. This is an issue the Board will address this year. We will do a better job of record keeping and documentation by issuing membership cards and sending out renewal notifications annually. At the February Board meeting, an extensive review of alternatives was discussed. It was decided that the fiscal year need not determine the term of membership and as such we could move to a calendar year for membership and perhaps remove a source of confusion.

To implement this change would require a minor Constitutional amendment and an interim membership fee for the July1-December31 2006 period. In December of each year, a membership renewal notice would be forwarded to all current members for the next calendar year. New memberships would of course be welcomed at any time throughout the year and if purchased after a specific date in the year could be credited to the next membership year as is currently covered in our Constitution. Your comments are welcome and more details will be available in future newsletters. As a Board, we are committed to growing our organization by our actions on behalf of all lake residents. We want to make membership convenient but meaningful. There are a growing number of issues that will have an impact on the quality of lake life for all residents, both natural and human. A number will be addressed throughout the newsletter.

Support for South Frontenac Fire Services

In December, we announced a fundraising effort on behalf of our local volunteer fire department at Perth Road. Under the leadership of Jan Theoret, our Secretary-Treasurer, \$628 was raised to assist in the purchase of an infrared heat sensor for the use of all fire departments in South Frontenac. Our fire departments are the first response to all emergency calls in the Township and the purchase of this \$8000

device could save lives and protect property for all residents.

On Monday March 6, 2006, the Buck Lake Association will sponsor a public information meeting at the Harris Hall in Perth Road Village. Mr. Carl Young from the Perth Road Fire Department will be present to demonstrate the infrared heat sensor and address fire awareness issues. We will also take the opportunity to make our donation toward the purchase of the device. Mr. Ron Matthey from the Buck Lake Community Watch is assisting with arrangements and promotion. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. and should be over by 8:30 p.m. The hall is located in Harris Park which is through the stone gates just south of Perth Road United Church in the village. Please plan to attend and pass the word to others. We are planning to invite the press to attend to stimulate additional fundraising and awareness in South Frontenac.

Environmental Up-Date:

Dock Talk Program

This is a program sponsored by FOCA, the Federation of Ontario Cottagers Associations. With a grant from the Trillium Foundation, FOCA is receiving applications from lake associations like ours, for funding to establish and deliver summer programs on a wide range of environmental themes. Topics could include shoreline management, water quality and measurement, plant and animal communities, fish populations etc. The Board has decided to make application for funding such a program in our area this summer. We have contacted the lake associations on Loughborough and West Devil lakes and they are interested in participating in the program under our leadership. If successful in our request for funding, this project would be a major commitment for our Association but an opportunity to be proactive and involve many community members in the process. We hope to have positive news to share in the near future. Jim Manuel is directing this initiative and will be looking for much support from those who have expertise and interest to share.

Clean Water Act/Wetlands Protection Regulations

These are two current Provincial initiatives which will have a significant impact on our lake community in the immediate future. Local conservation authorities such as our local Cataraqui Conservation Authority will be mandated to take a lead role in implementing this new legislation and providing public information. The legislation will have an impact on a wide range of issues such as wells, septic systems, shoreline management, wetlands management and watershed management. We have identified a contact person at CRCA and will be providing regular updates in future newsletters. These topics are an obvious fit for the Dock Talk program as well. Stay tuned!

Trees for Peace

This is an annual program which is supported by local schools boards, conservation authorities and Stewardship Councils in Frontenac and Lennox&Addington. In many cases local landowners can have students volunteers assist in a large reforestation project. Over the last eight years over 100,000 seedlings have been planted in the two Counties. A wide range of species are available at a cost of 60 cents each. Normally minimum orders of 500 are required but some flexibility is possible. If smaller quantities are needed, groups of landowners may join together. For more information visit www.alcdsb.on.ca/sites/tfp or contact Bret Colman, Coordinator, Frontenac Stewardship Council at (613) 531-5714 bret.colman@mnr.gov.ca . If there is sufficient interest among members to make a bulk order, please contact us through our email address at info@bucklake.ca.

The South Frontenac Natural Environmental Action Committee is also offering seedlings for sale this spring. The minimum order is for 100 trees and many species are available. Orders can be made by calling 376-1009 for pick-up in early April.

MPAC – Taxes and Municipal Budgets – 2006

Over the last three months, the Association has been active in collecting as much information as possible on the issue of municipal reality taxation. Under the leadership of our President, Crawford MacIntyre, we have been able to collect a considerable file of information from both MPAC and the Township of South Frontenac. We have historical data from the Township outlining the mill rate by district over the last eight years and data from MPAC showing the average increase in market value for all of the lakefront properties on all lakes in South Frontenac. Most properties have increased in market value at least 10% and the average increase of Buck Lake properties is 25%. Only 4% of such properties were sold during the period since the last assessment review in 2003 but this small sample is the prime determinant of the market value. Please review your individual assessment notice to determine the options available should you wish to appeal your own assessment.

We have established a dialogue with other lake associations in the Township on this and other common concerns. We will be monitoring the budget process at the Township level during March and encourage all members to do the same. Our local Council is on record as targeting an overall tax increase of no more than 4% for 2006 over 2005, however, they control only about half of the taxes they collect each year. Educational and County levies are passed down from other levels for the Township to collect. They have no control over the rates of increase for these taxes.

Please be informed and involved in this important process. If you would like to access some of the information we have collected, please contact us through the email box info@bucklake.ca or contact a Board member. At the risk of being too political, there is a fiscal imbalance developing at the local municipality which will soon approach a crisis level. Many of our assumptions about our ability to enjoy the life we know on Buck Lake may change drastically. To finish this item on a more positive note, the Township is planning to have a hazardous waste collection day on June 10th at the Works Department yard on the Keely Rd. Residents will be able to drop off toxic/hazardous materials such as paint, dry cell batteries, used motor oil, etc. and Township staff will arrange for safe disposal. We will update this item in a future newsletter.

Advertising in the Newsletter and Website

You have noticed a couple of advertisements in recent newsletters and perhaps on the website www.bucklake.ca. These ads provide a small income for the Association which is used to cover some of our mailing and publication costs. Please pass the word that we welcome additional ads which would be of interest to our members. Our fees are reasonable and ads could be for selected issues or for a yearly period. Contact us at our email address info@bucklake.ca or Roy Mills at 273-7724.

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
- Treat septic tanks/tile beds for roots
- Call Ron at 353-6919 (Buck Lake Resident)

**This space
is available
for your ad.**

Up-Coming Dates and Events

- March 6th - Fire Services Information Presentation at Harris Hall in Perth Road Village
Sponsored by the BLA 7:00 p.m.
- March 6th - Nature Seminar Series at South Frontenac Township Hall 7:00 p.m.
Bats – Presented by Matt Saunders
- March 10th – Pot Luck Dinner and Concert at Perth Road United Church 6:00 p.m.
Free-will offering only for community projects
- April 8th - GreenUP! A celebration of earth-friendly living @ St Lawrence College
An interactive, hands-on festival and trade show for the environment

South Frontenac Council Meetings @ Sydenham Township Hall 7:00 p.m.
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