

BLA Newsletter – 2006 April

PO Box 1753, Stn Main, Kingston, ON K7L 5J6, info@bucklake.ca

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

President's Message

Greetings Bucklakers. By now you are probably aware of the Ombudsman's "scathing" report on the methods & attitude of MPAC. This year your Association became a member of WRAFT (Waterfront Ratepayers After Fair Taxation), an organization devoted to restore fairness in property taxation. We, as a small lake association, cannot tackle this alone & WRAFT provides the means for us to contribute our voice.

WRAFT's current objective is to compile a large list of property owners who would be willing to have their name & story used, if/when needed, when lobbying the Province for change. If you are willing, WRAFT would like to know;

- your taxes & assessments for the past few years
- a brief history of your cottage –how long owned, family ties etc.
- if you might be contemplating selling because of increased taxes
- the approximate location of your property.

This information can be sent directly to WRAFT at 2566 Addingham Crescent, Oakville Ont. L6J 7K6 or to their web mail at <http://webmail.muskoka.com> to the attention of Liz Denyar.

Our Annual General Meeting will take place on Saturday July 8th 2006 in Perth Road Village. Please make note in your calendars. More details will be included in our June Newsletter.

Director Profiles

Marilyn O'Connor

Marilyn O'Connor joined the BLA Board in July '05. She lives with her husband Barry on Roost Lane, on the west shore of the South Branch of Buck Lake, north of the narrows. (Many will know it as the original Leggett cottage, built in the 1930's. It was bought and renovated by Rick and Marsha Lees, and then changed hands again in 2000, when Marilyn and Barry acquired it. They have made further changes to it since then.)

Marilyn is a Reg. Nurse (retired), who worked her entire career at KGH, the latter 16 years as a hemodialysis nurse. She has been a long time member of the Sweet Adelines, a women's a cappella singing group in Kingston. She enjoys golf, boating, travel, part-winters in Florida, but best of all, summers on Buck Lake! She and Barry have a grown son and daughter, living in Toronto and Kingston respectively, who also love the lake

Jan Theoret

Jan Theoret, Treasurer of the Buck lake Association, with her husband Richard, has been living at Buck Lake since August, 1998. She made her way to Canada via the "love train" when she married Richard, a native Canadian.

Jan's home state of Tennessee is known for its many man-made lakes created by a dam system of the state's major rivers. These man-made lakes help to control floods and produce hydropower to benefit all people in the Tennessee Valley.

After living in Ontario for almost eight years, Jan is still amazed by the multitude of natural lakes in our region. She is happy to be dwelling at Buck Lake, one of Ontario's largest and most beautiful inland lakes. And, she is glad to see the Buck Lake Association is concerned with the continuing beauty of our lake for years to come.

Jan is employed by State Farm agent Bridget Walker-Payne in Kingston and she is also self-employed as an independent consultant with The Pampered Chef

Tricia Waldron

Tricia Waldron lives in a new house on Billy Green Road on the east side of the south basin of Buck Lake. Her house was ably designed by her neighbour, Lib Boston and built by another lake resident, Paul Giles. The construction was completed in June of 2004. Tricia works for Deloitte managing the implementation of large scale systems for both governments and private corporations. This keeps her on the road and away from home more than she would like but also gives her some interesting perspectives and experiences to bring home with her. It also provides her with the opportunity to meet people from a large variety of walks of life who she loves to invite to visit her and our beautiful lake.

Docktalk 2006

The Board of Directors is proceeding to plan and implement the FOCA sponsored Docktalk program for the summer of 2006. We are also working to involve the members of Loughborough and Devil Lake associations in participating with us. We are currently in search of staff for the program. Those members who receive email communications will have seen recent postings. You may also view the postings on our website at www.bucklake.ca If members have knowledge of people who might be interested in these positions, please spread the word. Persons who have a personal knowledge of the lake district of South Frontenac would be a great asset to the program.

The Docktalk program is an educational initiative to inform and challenge lakeside residents on a wide range of issues from waste management to environmental stewardship. Visits would be

arranged with individual property owners, not to find fault, but rather to inform, advise and share best practice. We ask all members to be proactive and participate in the program if approached. An extensive outline of the program is available by visiting the FOCA website at www.foca.on.ca



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MPAC - Market Value Assessment - WRAFT

You will have noted Crawford McIntyre's references to taxation issues in his President's comments. There has been an on-going flurry of comments and initiatives over the

last few months in Ontario. By now, all lake property owners have received their interim tax notice for 2006 and are fully aware of the financial impact of the new assessment model. The

Township of South Frontenac is still in the budget process, although to be fair, they only control about half of the mill rate they use to generate taxes. The education levy and the County of Frontenac levy are handed down to the Township for collection.

The BLA has taken the position that we will try to keep the membership current on the taxation topic and also to communicate with other lake associations in our area. If you wish to access additional information on this topic please refer to the websites of the Federation of Ontario Cottager's Associations (FOCA) www.foca.on.ca or Waterfront Ratepayers After Fair Taxation (WRAFT) . Just go to the Buck Lake website at www.bucklake.ca and follow the links. Just one final thought – if waterfront property values increased over 20% in the last two years what will the impact be on taxation next year and the year after? Is it time to have your voice heard?

Pitch-In / Earth Week 2006 - April 24-30

Again this year, the South Frontenac Natural Environment Committee is coordinating a pitch-in program to do a spring cleanup along our streets and roads. The BLA is organizing to once again participate and we need your help. On Saturday and Sunday, April 29th and 30th, we will do a clean up on the Perth Road between the Causeway and Hidden Valley Road. If members on Norman Lane, Narrows Lane or Frye Lane etc. wish to do a more local clean-up, that would be just great.

Here's the plan! Ralph Wirsig will be setting up a grid along the Perth Road based on civic address numbers. Each zone would be suitable for a couple of people to complete in about three

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hours. Special collection bags will be available which can be left along the road for Township pick-up. The plan is to meet at the Boat Launch/Causeway at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday morning to pick-up the bags and to choose a zone to cover. For more information contact Marilyn O'Conner at 353-1708.

Membership Report

Membership stands at approximately 130, however, the spring often encourages new commitment to the lake and the BLA. As reported in the February newsletter, the Board is recommending that we move to an

annual membership based on a calendar year. To implement this proposal, we will be introducing a minor Constitutional amendment at the AGM in July. The logistics of this change will involve a six month membership renewal for the period July 1 to December 31. For those who wish to do so, we will offer the one time choice of an 18 month renewal to bring us into the new system. A notice of motion and more details on the proposal will be featured in the June Newsletter.

If your membership has lapsed or has been forgotten for 2006, we still would be appreciative of your financial support. Renewals of \$25 can be forwarded to Jan Theoret 6861 Smith Lane, RR#1 Perth Road, ON K0H 2L0. Please include your current mailing address, phone number and email address and cottage location if appropriate. A membership form is available on the website.

Up-Coming Events and Notices

April 24-30 - Pitch-In at Buck Lake (see info above)

May 20 - Giant Yard Sale at Perth Road United Church (donations/pick-up available)

Call Dave Kuhn 353-1690 or Roy Mills 273-7724. A great chance to recycle!

July 8 (morning) - Annual General Meeting of the BLA at the Perth Road United Church Hall

Wanted: Cottage Rental – We are interested in renting a private cottage on Buck Lake this

summer. 2+ bedrooms, accepts children and a dog for two weeks in July or early August. References from current Buck Lake cottagers available.

Contact Andy Willis at (416) 585-5372 or email at awillis@globeandmail.ca

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- Call Ron at 353-6919 (Buck Lake Resident)

Wanted: Property on Buck Lake suitable for building a home. Contact Amey Brooks at Brooks Landing Retirement Home 353-2976 or email at ameyboucher@hotmail.com

Advertisements:

Single issue or annual advertisement space is offered in both the newsletter and website at a cost of \$25/onetime item or \$100/annually. The

newsletter will publish 6 to 8 times per year as required. Notices on behalf of/or to the benefit of members are published at no charge at the discretion of the Communications Committee.