



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 – February 2007

President's Message

Hello at last to skating and cross-country skiing. It's about time!

You will see in the Membership Report that after a few years of declining membership and barely making ends meet, you have responded with your support. Our numbers are up and our finances are more comfortable. There are only about two-hundred and fifty more Buck Lake owners to sign up!

One of our goals for the year ahead is the posting of "**Loon Alert**" signs throughout the lake. These are not intended to point out the location of nests, but to make boaters aware of the close presence of loons. We are also exploring the Township's co-operation in placing "**Turtle Crossing**" signs on Perth Rd.

This is an important year for ensuring our voice is heard during South Frontenac's **Official Plan Review**. The decisions made in this plan will have a profound affect on development, lot sizes, variances, set-backs and other influences on the future appearance and culture of Buck Lake. It is expected that public input will be invited in the next three or four months and we will be involved and perhaps asking for your participation in the public forums.

We are continuing our discussions with South Frontenac to improve the dangerous situation at the **culvert/boat ramp** and have also suggested consideration of the installation of a small loading/unloading dock. This latter concept has its detractors and we will not move on this until all perspectives have been canvassed.

We have had two preliminary meetings of the **Buck Lake Heritage Committee**, whose goal is to compile and produce a written history of the lake. This is certainly not a short term project, but if the enthusiasm for it is any indication, it will be well worth the effort.

Finally, I can tell you that, although being a Board member can involve some sacrifice of time, it is a rewarding and fun experience from a volunteer and social perspective. I hope when the

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)

call comes later this year, some of you will wish to join the Board.

Although I'm about a month late, may I wish you a Happy and Prosperous New Year!

DockTalk 2006

A major initiative of the BLA in the summer of 2006 was "DockTalk", a program, sponsored by Ontario's Trillium Foundation, in which we collaborated with the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Association (FOCA). Its purpose was to educate lake-front residents and cottagers about how to maintain and protect the natural environment of their properties and the lake generally. The final report by our coordinator, Jana Johnson, has been submitted to FOCA. She and her two colleagues, Rita Young and Cess Marchand, were invited to and visited a total of 71 individual properties (16 more would have been visited had the scheduling worked out) on Buck (55), Loughborough (9), Devil (6), and Dog (1) Lakes. They made six presentations (to each Association's AGM, for example), mounted several displays, and distributed 500 brochures and other information throughout the summer. Jana reported that the topics of greatest concern to property owners were excessive growth of water weeds, shoreline protection and erosion, and the prevention of pollution; next in priority were septic systems, enhancing habitat for frogs, turtles, ducks and wildlife generally, and keeping invasive species out of the lake. The most welcomed tips related to septic system maintenance such as using non-chlorinated detergent and avoiding anti-bacterial hand soap.

With the possible reservation that this program may have reached more of the previously "converted" than those either unaware of or indifferent to threats to the natural environment of our lake-front properties, DockTalk 2006 was a great success.

We are grateful to the following local businesses and organizations for their support of the DockTalk program: North Country Marine, The Pampered Chef, The Cove Country Inn, Thake Home Comfort Centre, Kudrinko's Fresh Mart, FoodGifts, Westport Pro Hardware, Garrett's Meat Shop, Glenburnie Country Market, Pierre Amelotte International, Tango del Sol and The Cataraqui Conservation Authority.

Thanks also to Jana, Rita and Cess, to Jim Manual who took primary responsibility for this program on behalf of the Board, and to all the property owners who participated. Keep up the good work!

Membership Report

In a word...fantastic! Due to the efforts of our Membership Services Committee, our December membership renewal drive generated a number of responses bringing our paid memberships for 2007 to 146. This leaves only 11 lapsed memberships from 2005-2006 and we're working on those as well. Thanks to all those who responded to our call. We plan an exciting year of initiatives and will work hard to provide service and enjoyment to all our loyal members. A special thank-you to Ralph Wirsig, Stephen Roughton, Nancy Daugulis, Maxine Lemieux and others who worked on this project and on the up-date of the Buck Lake database.

Please notify us if you have changed your email /mailing address or if you would like to renew or join the BLA for 2007. Our various contact points are on our letterhead and on our website at www.bucklake.ca.

Board of Directors

Our Board of 12 Directors has been reduced to 10 due to Bruce Barnes leaving the lake and the resignation of Jan Theoret effective January 31, 2007. Both made a significant contribution to the BLA and we thank them for their commitment to our lake. We will have a number of Board vacancies to fill at our July AGM so we are starting early to encourage all BLA members to consider a two-year term on the Board. Stephen Roughton is Chair of the Nominations Committee and would be most pleased to answer questions about the role and our goal in attempting to represent all ages, interests and areas of the lake. You can reach him at sroughton@sympatico.ca or 613 542-7602.

Fire Underwriters' Accreditation for South Frontenac Fire Department

In November 2006, the Fire Underwriters' accredited the South Frontenac Fire Department as meeting the requirements for Superior Shuttle Tanker Service within 8 km. by all-season road from any fire station in the Township. If you own property within these distance conditions you may be able to reduce your risk category with your insurance carrier. The letter from the Fire Underwriters' Survey is posted on our website at www.bucklake.ca where you can access a copy and contact your insurer. You may wish to contact Fire Chief Rick Chesebrough at (613)376-3027 ext. 2234 for more information. Check it out; it may save you some money.

Buck Lake Water Survey – 2006

In the August Up-date Newsletter, we reported a water survey being initiated by the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority and asked members to participate. In late October 2006, we

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received the summary of responses from Buck Lake. Forty-four members participated in the survey. We will post the survey summary on our website, but here are a few highlights:

- One-third of respondents rely on lake water for washing and cooking
- Water treatment systems are used by only half of the respondents
- 40% of respondents reported the use of an inland well
- 68% of the respondents were seasonal

- 79% of respondents reported the use of a septic tank and tile bed
- 68% of respondents felt the water quality of the lake had not changed in the last ten years

The Ontario Clean Water Act has been proclaimed in the fall of 2006 and implementation is underway. Drinking water wells are a particular concern for all rural residents. Just how safe is your well? Have you tested your water for bacteria in the last year? Have you inspected the well head for cracks or debris and drainage problems? We have a website you may wish to visit to learn more about the care and maintenance of your drinking well. Try www.wellwise.ca.

FOCA/WRAFT Report

The BLA has been a member of the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations for many years. Through FOCA, we are able to communicate with lake associations across Ontario as well as obtain our liability insurance coverage. We participated in the FOCA AGM in November 2006 and were impressed with how similar issues are across Ontario. Here is the top ten list:

1. Property taxation
2. Water quality
3. Membership retention
4. Land development/building codes
5. Shoreline deterioration/restoration
6. Land use conflicts (water craft, public access, light and noise pollution)
7. Municipal services (police, fire, waste management etc.)
8. Invasive species
9. Road access and maintenance
10. Fluctuating water levels

For those members who are following the property taxation issue, Waterfront Ratepayers after Fair Taxation (WRAFT) has merged with a number of other organizations such as the Ontario Seniors' Coalition and the Retired Teachers' of Ontario to form CAPTR, the Coalition after Property Tax Reform. WRAFT was a cottage-owner based group and felt that they didn't have much influence because of the stereotype Muskoka "million dollar" cottage owner. Of course there are hundreds of thousands of Ontario cottage owners who are not in that category and are concerned about "current value assessment" and the impact on cottage taxation. The freeze on reassessment will come off in 2008 so we should get ready for a shock. The WRAFT link on our website will now connect you to CAPTR. We would be pleased to receive your comments for inclusion in future newsletters. This issue will be around for a while. Remember, the average lakefront property in South Frontenac had a current value increase of 26% when the last reassessment was completed in 2005.

Ontario's Lake Partner Program

For many years, dedicated Buck Lakers have volunteered as Lake Partners. They take samples of lake water and send them to the Dorset Environmental Science Centre to be tested for total phosphorus levels, and drop Secchi disks and record the results to monitor water clarity. We need to renew our pool of Lake Partners and are asking our members for their support. Readings are taken monthly so you don't need to be on the lake every day or week to be a

Partner. Please check out the website www.ene.gov.on.ca/envision/water/lakepartner/index.htm or email Pam Griffiths at pam.griffiths@ene.gov.on.ca.

Community News and Events

- Saturday Feb. 3rd - Roast Beef Dinner @ Perth Road United Church – 4:30-6:30
Adults...\$12 Children (under 12)...\$5
- Saturday Feb. 10th - Alternative Energy Trade Fair – Kemptville College/W.B. George Centre 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Go to www.ontariostewardship.org/grenville/ for more information or email jack.henry@mnr.gov.on.ca.
- We all appreciate the loons that make Buck Lake a special place in the summer months. There is concern that the loon population on and around the Great Lakes is at risk from botulism. In upstate New York, a massive kill of over 300 loons was recorded in late 2006. The botulism is linked to non-native invasive species such as zebra mussels, quagga mussels and round goby fish. These species produce toxins which sink to the lake bottom. Bottom-dwelling round gobies ingest the toxin when they feed on aquatic life. Fish-eating loons eat the round gobies and other small fish carrying the lethal toxin and the cycle is complete. Visit www.birderblog.com for more information.
- This has been an unusual winter with a very mild December and cold January. The lake ice is still not welcoming many ice fishermen or snowmobiles. The skaters have also been discouraged by inconsistent ice conditions. There have been two reports of eagle sightings on the lake. One report was a group of 5 or 6 were seen on the ice near Pulpit Rock in the South Branch. Send us your news and wildlife reports for future issues. We would be glad to publish wherever possible. Contact us at our email address, info@bucklake.ca.



Financial Report

At the AGM in July, the BLA presented a financial report for the period July 2005-June 2006. Due to the fact that we have revised our membership term to a calendar year, it was our decision to extend our financial year to December 31, 2006 so membership and financial data would be aligned in 2007 and beyond. We therefore present a December 31st Financial Statement (unaudited) for both the General and Reserve Accounts as well as a draft budget for 2007. These reports will be brought to the 2007 AGM for approval.

General Account Statement (July 1 – December 31, 2006)

• Opening Balance		\$ 2153.42
• Income:		
Membership Dues -	\$4299.16	
Social & Outreach -	512.00	
Advertisements -	200.00	
Docktalk/Reserve -	105.00	
Total Revenue:		\$ 5116.16
• Expenses:		
Administration	- \$ 313.10	
Conferences	- 40.00	
Social/Outreach	- 271.84	
Reserve Transfer	- 119.16	
Misc.	- 444.00	
Total Expenses:		\$ 1188.10
• Balance (December 31, 2006)		
Deferred Revenue (2007 Dues) -	3650.00	
Surplus Balance (2006) -	2431.48	
Closing Balance		\$ 6081.48

Reserve Account Statement (July 1 – December 31, 2006)

• Opening Balance		\$ 1486.85
• Income:		
Docktalk Donations -	\$371.00	
Misc. Donations -	211.66	
Administration Fees -	2.85	
Total Revenue:		\$ 585.51
• Expenses		
Administration Fees -	\$ 3.80	
• Balance (December 31, 2006)		\$ 2068.56

Draft Budget – Fiscal 2007

• Opening Balance:		\$ 2431.48
• Projected Income:		
Deferred Revenue (146 memberships paid for 2007)	\$ 3650.00	
At least 4 additional memberships in 2007	100.00	
Advertising Revenue	700.00	
Total Revenue:		\$ 4450.00
• Projected Expenses:		
Insurance	\$ 700.00	
Affiliate Memberships	800.00	
Publications	750.00	
Administration Fees	600.00	
Conferences/Seminars	200.00	
Social & Outreach	500.00	
Buck Lake Heritage Project	300.00	
Community Projects	500.00	
Total Projected Expenses (2007)		\$ 4350.00
• Projected Balance (December 31, 2007)		\$ 2531.48