



# The Buck Lake Association Inc.

P.O. Box 1753, Stn Main, Kingston, ON K7L 5J6

[www.bucklake.ca](http://www.bucklake.ca)

email: [info@bucklake.ca](mailto:info@bucklake.ca)

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

## Buck Lake News – Fall 2007

### President's Message

Fall is upon us. Out in the kayak the other evening, I was awed by how fast the leaves are turning and even more by three flocks of geese, flying low over the lake, headed south. Our neighbours are still swimming regularly but it won't be long until they'll qualify for the Polar Bear Club.

When I did my water sampling under Ontario's Lake Partner Program the other day, the water temperature was down to 19°C; too cold for me! But with the cooler weather come the majestic fall colours and wispy mystery of the morning mists rising from the water, waiting for the sun to burn them off, compensation enough for putting the bathing suit away. Those of us who live here permanently are truly privileged to live on a lake for all seasons.

In this first message from your new President, I extend to Crawford MacIntyre, President for the past two years, a heartfelt thank you from all Buck Lakers for his outstanding leadership of the Buck Lake Association. His are very big shoes to fill. Happily Crawford is continuing to serve as Vice-President this year so we will continue to benefit from his work on our behalf.

The Buck Lake Association's priorities for the forthcoming year include:

- Events (like this summer's pig roast) to reinforce our community spirit
- Starting in earnest an on-going process of lake planning – documenting what shape the lake is in and figuring out how to maintain and improve it for the enjoyment of all Buck Lakers and their children
- Providing input to the update of South Frontenac Township's Official Plan

Your "feedback" would be welcome.

Duncan Sinclair  
President

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## Summer Pork Roast

On August 18<sup>th</sup>, the BLA in co-operation with the Perth Road Crafters and the Heritage Sign Committee held our third annual summer social with a successful Pork Roast at Harris Park in

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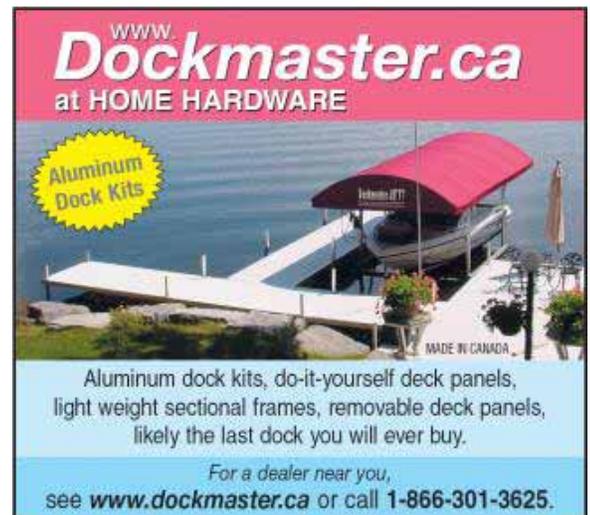
the Village. Attendance was in the 140 range and the crowd enjoyed live music, conversation and a roast pork dinner for the outrageous sum of \$5.00/person. The Heritage Sign Committee held their raffle draw for prizes in aid of phase two of their efforts to provide new signage around the Perth Road community. The BLA has approved a donation of \$500 toward signage for Buck Lake and we hope to see action on the project in the spring of 2008. Special thanks to Directors Maxine Lemieux and Sandra Rider who coordinated planning for the event and to those many volunteers who helped make the project a fun evening. Please note that the BLA budgeted to partially subsidize the cost of the summer social but due to good management, we

actually showed a small profit. Please share your thoughts about future summer gatherings so that we may better serve our members and the Buck Lake community.

## Board News

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held on September 15<sup>th</sup>. Due to the fact that we have five first time Directors, a major effort is being made to provide background information on the mission and priorities of the BLA as well as getting these new Directors directly involve in the committee work of the Association. This is a short list of current issues on our monthly agenda:

- Planning and construction of a small landing/loading dock at the Causeway boat launch. This project must be coordinated with the Township and the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority and will probably be a spring 2008 project.
- Monitoring and participating in the Official Plan Review for the Township of South Frontenac currently underway as well as coordinating input with other lake associations in our municipality.
- Participation in the pilot of a new software project called "livinglakeplans.com" which will offer a computer based platform for lake data management and planning. This is a locally based initiative and the cost to the BLA is very manageable. We will have more details in an up-coming newsletter.
- Membership is over 160 strong which is at a five year high. Our challenge is to provide services that members need and to meet that challenge we need feedback. Please take the time to contact us through our email address [info@bucklake.ca](mailto:info@bucklake.ca) or directly to any member of the Board.



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- Our Buck Lake History and Archive Project is a priority for this coming year. We really want to give this initiative a push in 2008 and need to assemble a group of interested people to help. If you have history to share or are interested in getting involved please contact Crawford McIntyre at (613) 273-8056 or email at [cmac@rideau.net](mailto:cmac@rideau.net).

### **Provincial Election Issues**

As most year-round residents are aware, Buck Lake and area is part of a new Provincial riding which really has no economic or urban center. It runs from Napanee in the south through Lennox and Addington, South, Central and North Frontenac and ends up in Carleton Place outside Ottawa including most of Lanark County (Smith Falls, Perth and Almonte). What a riding! We of course encourage all members to participate in the election process but also want to remind lake residents that the “Market Value Assessment “ issue has not been settled, just deferred. We are all aware that our local municipality is not the problem. Over the last ten years millions, if not billions of dollars worth of historically provincial costs/services have been downloaded to local municipalities, e.g., highway infrastructure, social services, health units etc. As a result, Ontarians pay social costs through their property taxes which are 31% higher per capita than any other province in Canada. The reality tax base in Ontario is being asked to generate ever increasing revenues to pay for programs and services which have never been funded by property assessment in the past. Over half of the revenue that our Township collects in reality tax is passed on to some other level of government. As you all know, lakefront property has seen the most rapid increase in market value assessment over the last five years and based on anecdotal information over the last year on Buck Lake, the sale price of property has been going straight up and is still climbing. The issue is obvious, that if there is no reasonable resolution to the current or market value assessment question early in the next term of the Legislature, we could be faced with another wave of outrageous assessment increases when the current freeze is lifted. For an excellent review of the topic go to [www.captr.org](http://www.captr.org).

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A second important election issue involves the Ontario Clean Water Act. As part of the Act, Source Water Protection Committees are to be established at the local level. FOCA, the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Association, is asking all lake associations and rural interests to make sure they have appropriate representation on these local committees. To learn more about this very important issue there are a number of sources. Conservation Ontario, Ontario Ministry of Environment, Waterhole and the FOCA websites all have information and links to other sites. Just Google one of these sources and follow the links. These local committees will have a major

role in the implementation of the most important environmental legislation in Ontario for a generation. Make sure your voice is heard!

### **Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve Grows**

In early summer 2007, the Frontenac Arch Biosphere was designated as a “World Heritage Site” by UNESCO. At the time there were on-going discussions with Parks Ontario and the Township of South Frontenac about the inclusion of Frontenac Park and the Township in the designated reserve. The successful completion of the process adds our area to the reserve. These additions will increase the area covered by the designation to over 1,100 square kilometers, an increase of 35%. Bucklakers can now boast that they not only live in one of the most interesting parts of the world but that UNESCO agrees.

### **Around the Lake**

- First Solar Boat on Buck Lake – Residents of South Bay near the Narrows will be familiar with a yellow peddle boat with a roof. The roof is actually two photovoltaic solar cells. The boat is also equipped with a 100 Amp hour battery and a small electric trolling motor. The boat was created by Don Young as a technology demonstration. Don is Dean of Applied Science at St. Lawrence College and is also the chairperson of SWITCH, the Alternative Energy Cluster. Don reports that the boat runs well, going farther and faster than it ever did under human power. If anyone is interested in more information, they can contact Don through SWITCH at [info@switchkingston.ca](mailto:info@switchkingston.ca).
- The Annual Buck Lake /Rider Cup Golf Tournament was held on September 16<sup>th</sup> and all reports are that the Rideau Golf Club in Westport will make a speedy recovery. An

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- excellent turnout and great fun resulted in donations to Camp Merriwood and the Boys and Girls Club of Kingston. Thanks to Barry O'Connor for being the spirit and drive behind this annual event in memory of a great Bucklaker, Bob Rider.
- The faces on Buck Lake continue to change with Pat and Connie Byrons leaving Neva Lane for Kingston after 21 years on the lake. Farewell and best wishes for your future in the city...your lake and community friends will miss you. If you are aware of recent comings and goings, please send an email with details to [info@bucklake.ca](mailto:info@bucklake.ca) and we will include greeting or goodbyes in the newsletter.
- If you happened to notice some seagulls sitting on rocks in some new places lately, those are not new rocks. They're probably 4 million years old. The dry weather over the last two months and the normal out-flow of water at the Massassuaga Dam has resulted in a significant drop in water levels. Navigation challenges are real so please be careful on the lake. On the bright

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side, September weather has been nothing short of spectacular for life on the lake. We look forward to a quick solid freeze on precisely December 15<sup>th</sup> in time for Rick Smith to test the ice before Christmas.

- The Frontenac Stewardship Council has offered lake associations in our area some trees and shrubs that were surplus to their summer forestation projects. We have requested an allocation of 200 and will make them available to members on a first come basis. We are not sure of the varieties available but the price can't be beaten...free. Contact Crawford McIntyre at (613) 273-8056 or email at [cmac@rideau.net](mailto:cmac@rideau.net).

### **Up-Coming Events**

- Penny Patterson from the South Frontenac Natural Environment Committee reports that on Thursday October 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Township Hall in Sydenham a public seminar will be presented on the topics of Official Plan Review as it may affect lake residents and Lake Stewardship Planning. The presenters will be Lindsay Mills, from South Frontenac Planning Department and Gord Rodgers from Fourteen Island Lake Association.