



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 – 2007 December

Principal writer: Roy Mills

President's Message

The first snow is on the ground and is staying there, probably for the rest of the winter! I suspect most of you are either fondly remembering the summer or looking forward to the next but a few of us would like some good skating and cross country skiing before then. The chances for good skating are not looking good but keep checking your e-mail. We'll let you know if, when and where there is skating on the lake.

I met the other day with representatives of other lake associations in the area. The Township Council is in the final stages of a government-mandated review of its Official Plan. We met to share views and develop a strategy to support amendments to the Plan that increase its protection of the lakes, environment, and the value of our properties. Grossly simplified, South Frontenac's Official Plan is considered to be quite "environmentally friendly" now and the proposed amendments make it more so (by recognizing lake plans as important, prohibiting new lots without water access on private



Buck Laker Ryan—see last page

lanes, and requiring hydro geological studies if there is any question of the supply of potable water to new lots anywhere). Although at its last meeting Council approved the amendments to be sent forward for public scrutiny and commentary, not all councilors were in favour. It is likely that a number of people will come to a public meeting (likely to be held in January) to voice strong opposition to those aspects of the Official Plan that they believe overly restricts or constrains development. We who represent area lake associations believe strongly that the Official Plan, as amended, accords strongly with the best interests of our members, including us Buck Lakers, and warrants our strong support. We agreed to urge our members to come to the public meeting, review for themselves the Official Plan and its proposed amendments, and make their views known to the Councilors who will be voting for or against their adoption.

The date and time of the public meeting to consider all this will be announced in the newspapers; the BLA will notify you by e-mail as well. Please come if you can, swell the crowd, and let your Councilors know your opinion of the latest version of the Official Plan!

This is our last Newsletter of 2007. On behalf of the Association I wish you a happy and healthy holiday season and the best of years in 2008.

Duncan G. Sinclair, President

Board of Director's Report

Since our last newsletter, the Board met on October 27th and December 1st. Here is a brief summary of agenda items:

- We have been monitoring the review of the Official Plan for the Township of South Frontenac as highlighted in Duncan's message. We have attended a number of informational meetings, consulted with other lake associations in the area and maintained on-going contacts with councilors and administration staff.
- We have completed the first construction phase for a small dock to be located near the boat launch area at the Causeway. The Township has agreed to accept ownership and responsibility for the improvements after completion to their specifications. The dock will provide a safe place for those entering or leaving the boat launch area to secure their boat for loading and unloading and not unnecessarily block the ramp. We hope to complete the project in the early spring.
- The on-going issue of nocturnal fishing in the lakes of Eastern Ontario has hit the news as there have been incidents which have been reported as incidents of "racially motivated harassment and violence". Due to the fact that most of the reported sightings of night fishers have involved Asian-Canadian anglers, the press and the Ontario Human Rights Commission have assumed

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that anyone who has challenged these questionable fishing practices must be making a racist statement. The question of motivation for these incidents across eastern Ontario is unclear and we are not aware of any incidents on our lake although we have had an on-going night fishery at the Causeway for over two years. The fishermen arrive just before dusk and fish with lights well into the night three or four times a week primarily during the fall months. We have contacted the Ministry of Natural Resources in the past and learned that many of the fishermen are not local and travel considerable distances to enjoy an evening of fishing in the rain and cold of late

October. We have expressed our frustration to the MNR but they do not apparently have sufficient resources to monitor the situation. Similar frustration at other lakes may have caused the incidents reported in the press. We will keep members posted on further developments.

- Members of long standing are aware that the BLA has been discussing the merits of “lake planning” for a number of years. Three lake associations in our immediate area have completed lake plans in the last five years and many others are looking at the possibilities. As everyone is aware, higher levels of government are not prepared to work in a direct “hands-on” relationship with community groups or associations on many such issues, but prefer to download involvement through local entities such as Stewardship Councils and Conservation Authorities. We are further encouraged by the fact that an increasing number of municipalities are incorporating lake planning into Official Plans. For 2008, the Board of the BLA is committed to re-visit the lake plan issue and determine the feasibility of restarting the process. Our preliminary research has determined that our local MNR staff will be a very supportive resource and that there is an increasing pool of expertise and support available from other lake associations, FOCA and the universities. With the implementation of the Clean Water Act and the establishment of a local Source Water Protection Committee through the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority, the need for planning and education has never been more important. Director Wayne Myles has taken on leadership in this investigative stage and later in the newsletter you will find a request for your involvement.



- Over the last thirty odd years the residents of Buck Lake have maintained an association of members. The current BLA Inc. owes its success and credibility to the efforts of countless volunteers over many years. Our legacy as an association is stored in boxes and filing cabinets all over North America and we have taken steps to attempt to collect as much of this information as possible. We have entered discussions with Queen’s University regarding the storage of our historical records in their Archives. We are very interested in collecting AGM minutes, Board minutes, newsletters, press clippings and photos which involve our lake and the work of the Association. We have pretty good official records for the last ten years but very little prior to that. If you can help, please contact us at info@bucklake.ca or through a Director.

Barbra Rose Perry
RMT

Humming Bird Studio

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- The Board received a financial report from our Treasurer at the December meeting indicating a balance of \$8,555.39 total BLA assets. This balance indicates strong membership growth and some budget commitments for 2007 that will not be completed until fiscal 2008. The volunteers who make up your Board of Directors appreciate the tremendous financial and moral support of the Buck Lake community during 2007 and remind members that your 2008 membership renewals will be welcome anytime now. Individual renewal reminders will be forwarded in the new year and a 2007 Financial Report will be included in our first newsletter of 2008.
- The BLA was represented at the AGM of the Federation of Ontario Cottagers’ Associations held in Toronto on November 24th 2007. Our involvement with over 400 other lake associations across Ontario through FOCA gives us access to invaluable expertise, educational programs like Docktalk, group liability insurance coverage for the association and networking links all across the province. The similarity of concerns and issues across the membership of FOCA is amazing...municipal official planning, water quality (septic systems,

watershed/lake level management, lakefront development) and municipal services/property taxes.

Lake Planning Committee

Are you interested in learning more about the health and character of Buck Lake and sharing that information with others? The Lake Planning Committee needs you!

Have you ever wondered why in some years you can see down deep to the rocks at the lake bottom from your favourite overlook, and why in other years you can only see a few meters? Why do some

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parts of the lake develop algae blooms earlier than others? Do you have an idea why the water level drops in the lake toward the end of August every year or where the loons nest and the lake trout spawn?

Getting to know the lake and its many secrets will help us preserve its health into the future. The BLA is initiating a lake planning study. Over the next few years, we will be collecting information about the lake – its cycles, the many species that share its waters with us, and the broader environs. We will then enter the information into a database so we can track the life of the lake and provide information through the newsletter and the website.

We need volunteers to join the Lake Planning Committee to oversee the collection of data ranging from lake depth sounding to bird and wildlife

sightings, and to develop an educational program to share our findings with the broader Buck Lake community. If you are interested in participating, please contact Wayne Myles at (613) 544-9697 wayne.myles@queensu.ca.

Frontenac Sustainability Plan

Bedford District Councilor David Hahn has forwarded a request for us to inform our members that Frontenac County is preparing a “sustainability plan” for all the municipalities of Frontenac County. He notes that lake residents may have some specific concerns regarding development on the lakes. Please take a few minutes to go to the following website and give your input. <http://www.directionsforourfuture.ca/>

What Is A Watershed?

Sarah was eight years old when she first learned about a watershed. She was racing twig boats down ditches near her home. Her boats always beat her brother's down to the little rapids where the ditch joined the creek. She often wondered where her championship boats went.

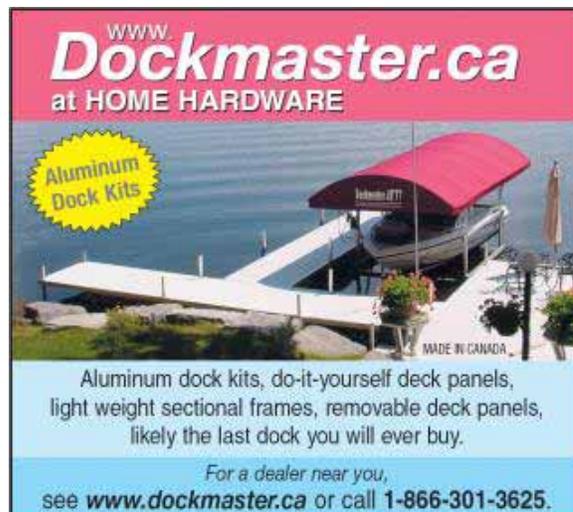
A watershed is the drainage area of a lake. It is like a huge natural basin that collects rain and directs it downhill towards lower elevations. Rain and snow drain through the soil into small streams and end up in a major creek or river. It is the only way liquid water can flow. Creeks and streams generally get bigger and wider as they flow down stream and more and more tributary streams contribute water.

Eastern Ontario has seven big watersheds or basins (Catarauqui, Mississippi, Moira, Napanee, Raison, Rideau and South Nation) and smaller ones each with a height of land between them. The dividing line between watersheds is sometimes hard to see. Where does the Napanee stop and the Catarauqui start? Water knows. It has to flow by gravity into one or another of the tributary streams.

Watersheds are natural. Activities further up stream may affect the quality or quantity of water that passes in front of your place. That's why it is so important that everyone be careful to keep the water as clean as possible. In a day, or a month, or a year, that water could become someone's drinking water.

Watershed boundaries cut across municipal boundaries. In many cases, a municipality lies within more than one watershed. In the amalgamated City of Ottawa for example, the man-made municipal boundary includes three watersheds: the Mississippi on the west, the Rideau in the centre and the South Nation on the east side. The water in the creeks of those three watersheds flows eastward, northward or westward depending on the lay of the land. The steep rocky areas around Kaladar produce splashy and picturesque rivers like the Skootamata, the upper Salmon and the upper Mississippi. In the flat areas of the soft deposits, serene rivers like the lovely Rideau are right at home.

No matter how you get your drinking water – private well, municipal surface water system – you can be sure that it has all been collected, nurtured, filtered and directed downhill during its cleansing passage through a natural watershed. Each one is different. But for managing Eastern Ontario's precious source waters, the watershed unit is unbeatable. Just like Sarah's boats. Learn more about watersheds and source water protection, visit your local source protection group.



Cataraqui Source Protection Area: www.cataraqueiregion.on.ca
Watershed Management Coordinator – Mara Shaw (613) 546-4228 ext. 228

Note: This article was forwarded from the Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve.

Quick Notes

- Check out the Canadian Wildlife Federation website ...good stuff
www.cwf-fcf.org
- For those who may be interested in electric and solar boating options/supplies
www.greenboatsupply.com
- **Youngest water skier on Buck Lake? Ryan Bumbala** (photo on page 1) may be the one. He and his family have a cottage on Buck Island and he is entered in a contest which is selecting "legends in the making". His picture is in the newsletter and we are asking you to take a moment and cast a vote for Ryan before December 31st. Go to this link please!
<http://legendsinthemaking.ca/vote.asp?id=280>
- A Merry Christmas Season to everyone from the newsletter team and Best Wishes for a great 2008.

(To use the direct links in this newsletter: press Ctrl and left click on the address)