



The Buck Lake Association Inc.

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www.bucklake.ca

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

Buck Lake News – 2008 May

Principal writer: Roy Mills

President's Message

Official Plan Review, South Frontenac Township

South Frontenac Township's Official Plan is regarded as one of the most environmentally enlightened of the municipal OPs in Ontario. In accordance with Provincial regulation, it is now under review, a process we have been watching closely since the fall. Prior to Christmas all seemed well when the Councilors came to a consensus on recommendations by the Planning Department that confirmed the thrust of the OP and, in some respects, strengthened those provisions that concern us most, i.e., those related to protection of the environment and especially of the quality of our lakes and groundwater. A public meeting was held to review the proposed revisions and we anticipated the next step would be for Council this spring to approve formally the up-dated OP.

But a few weeks ago, some Councilors appear to have had a change of heart. They proposed two key changes to the previously agreed-upon recommendations of the Planning Department:

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
- Renovations of all types
- Call Ron at **353-6919** (Buck Lake Resident)

- "Re-setting the clock" to 2008 a provision that in 2000 allowed up to three severances from then-vacant lots without the requirement for those severances to go through subdivision planning or comparable scrutiny to safeguard the environment. The previous consensus was that the "clock" should not be re-set.
- Allowing "back-lot" development (lots without water access) on private lanes. The previous consensus was that such development should not be allowed.

Our view, communicated vigorously to the Mayor and Councilors, was that these two proposed changes:

1. Contradict the central thrust of the Official Plan, which is to ensure that the Township's development be done in ways that safeguard the environment, including especially the lakes that constitute one of its principal assets
2. Have the potential to increase substantially risks to the environment, especially to the groundwater and to those lakes and waterways already at or near the limit of their ability to sustain further residential development
3. Should not go forward to Council without providing the opportunity for additional public scrutiny and commentary

The volume and tone of our communications and those of other Lake Associations (one of which took the form of an on-line petition) has had the effect of postponing further discussion by Council, pending analysis of the public feedback by the Planning Department. The issue, of course, is how best to accomplish two desirable and, in our view, completely compatible goals:

- To foster healthy development through the accommodation of people who want to live, vacation, do business, and farm here and
- To preserve and enhance the very environment that is the Township's greatest asset

The present Official Plan is perceived by some to be a primary obstacle to all development. Sadly, so are Lake Associations and their members! Commenting on the feedback he had received, one Councilor put it 'everybody who has e-mailed me seems opposed to anybody else getting access to the same lifestyle they enjoy' – accusing objectors of having a “dog-in-the-manger” attitude. That may be true of some but it certainly does not apply to those of us trying to represent the best interests of Buck Lakers. I think we would all be happy to share with others the pleasures we derive from living and vacationing on Buck Lake provided that in doing so we can ensure that we sustain and enhance the quality of the lake, groundwater and environment that are the very source of those pleasures. The BLA's mission statement (above) says it all!

This is an issue still very much alive. It requires us all to remain vigilant. Stay tuned! We will do our very best to keep you all closely informed.

Duncan G. Sinclair
President

Board of Director's Report

The Board last met on April 19th 2008 and devoted the majority of the meeting to the development of a lake plan “plan”. We have established the re-starting of this process as the top priority for 2008. Under the leadership of Director Wayne Myles, we are establishing a timeline, resource list and organizational model to begin the task. We will be updating members regularly through the newsletter as well as presenting a lake planning component at the Annual General Meeting in July.

As president Duncan noted in his report, there was discussion by the Board on the review of the South Frontenac Official Plan. We are monitoring the process along with other lake associations in the Township but encourage all members and friends of the BLA to voice their opinions through our elected Council. Visit the Township website at www.township.southfrontenac.on.ca for information on the current status of the review and how to contact Council members.



The Board has set the date for the AGM. The Annual Meeting will be held on **Saturday July 5th** from 8:30 a.m. until noon at Perth Road Public School. The school is located on the Perth Road, just south of Perth Road Village and gives a little more space and good parking for members. Please mark the date on

your calendars and watch for a more details in the June News. The 2008 draft budget for the BLA is included in this edition of the newsletter and will be presented for approval at the AGM.

The final item discussed on April 19th involved the Pitch-In Program and our intention to encourage members to participate as able. We have bags provided by the Natural Environment Committee and put out a brief up-date to members regarding their distribution as well as the annual tree sale. Lake levels peaked on April 16th and are slowly returning to seasonal levels. A few docks got wet but that is a small price to pay for the view.

2008 Draft Budget (for approval at AGM)

Income:

Membership Revenue	\$ 4,000.00
Advertising	\$ 900.00
Dock Grant	\$ 1,500.00
Misc	\$ 100.00
Total.....	\$ 6,500.00

Expenses:

Insurance	\$ 1,000.00
Affiliate Memberships	\$ 800.00
Publications	\$ 250.00
Administration Fees	\$ 600.00
Conference & Seminars	\$ 250.00
Social & Outreach	\$ 500.00
Buck Lake Heritage Project	\$ 300.00
Community Project	\$ 500.00
Loading Dock	\$ 1,500.00
Lake Plan Activities	\$ 2,000.00
Total.....	\$ 7,700.00

Excess of income over expenses (\$ 1,200.00) to be covered by existing surplus

Membership Report

This is the first full year where BLA membership coincides with the calendar year. As of 2008 April 30 membership renewals plus new memberships stand at 92. An additional 69 of last year's members have yet to renew or have left the area.

In the past when membership commenced on July 1st most renewals occurred at the AGM in July. Thanks to the renewals to date that flood of renewals will be substantially reduced this year. On behalf of the Board, we thank all members who have already sent in their fees and remind others to do so as soon as possible. If members are aware of new lake residents who are not currently members of the BLA, please extend a welcome to the lake and sing the praises of the Association. If they request membership information please suggest they visit the website, send an email to info@bucklake.ca or contact a Board member. If they have an email address, we would be pleased to forward the Buck Lake News as well. Also please be sure to update with BLA any change in your email or post addresses.

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Lake Planning 2008

Our lake planning project will be introduced to the membership officially at the AGM on July 5th. This will be a great opportunity for everyone who is interested in the health and beauty of Buck Lake to get involved. This year's objective will consist of collecting data on various flora and fauna around the lake: some possibilities include birds, mammals, fish, insects, invasive plants, turtles etc.



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Gordon Rodgers, B.Sc., MES of French Planning Services, who has been involved with environmental planning for over 30 years, will be our keynote speaker. Gord worked on the Bobs and Crow Lake Stewardship Plan and is currently working on plans for Fourteen Island and Mink Lakes. He is a South Frontenac resident as well.

A training workshop for those interested in doing some hands-on data collection over the summer is planned for July 17th. We plan to have a number of

resource people involved to help us get off to a good start. For further information you can contact Director Wayne Myles at myles@queensu.ca or Liz Whelpdale at lizw@hotmail.com.

2008 Great Canadian BioBlitz

The Kingston Field Naturalists are organizing a great event at Elbow Lake on 2008 June 13-14. From 3:00 p.m. Friday until 3:00 p.m. on Saturday it is expected that over 400 species of biodiversity will be inventoried. Specialists and experts from a diverse set of disciplines will be grouped with interested volunteers to explore the areas under investigation.

If you are interested in participating please go to the Buck Lake website at www.bucklake.ca for information on registration or contact the Kingston Field Naturalists at (613) 389-6742 or email them at n8ture@sympatico.ca.

Community Policing

Eight years ago, in the early years of South Frontenac as a new amalgamated municipality, a Community Liaison Program was established within the policing mandate of the OPP. BLA member Ron Matthey was centrally involved in convincing the Township Council to fund the program and in helping establish Community Watch Programs throughout our part of South Frontenac. Tom Varga and George Hiles respectively have fulfilled the role of Community Liaison Officer over these past eight years. With such a large area to police and both seasonal and permanent residents, the program provided a coordinated communications link between the community and the police. Over the years, Buck Lake Community Watch has provided hundreds of information alerts to the Buck Lake community and liaised quickly and efficiently with the OPP through the Community Liaison Officer. George Hiles has been a great resource to the BLA in providing Boater Certification Programs as well as the weekly Incident Reports from the Frontenac OPP.

During February 2008 budget discussions the South Frontenac Police Services Board recommended to Council that the program not be funded for the new five year contract with the OPP commencing May 1st 2008. In spite of the efforts of many to convince Council otherwise, the recommendation was supported at Council and the program was not funded in the new contract. We have lost a critical link between the

community and our police which means we must re-double our participation and support for Ron Matthey and the Buck Lake Community Watch Program. We have extended an invitation to Ron to work more closely with the BLA and rely on our continuing support for the program. Contact Ron at remed@kos.net for information about Community Watch or to offer your support.

Buck Lake Association Archives

For over forty years there has been some form of cottager's association on Buck Lake. We are attempting to compile an archive of information about the history of the BLA. Director Stephen Roughton is leading an effort to locate and collate old newsletters, photos, press clippings etc. about the Buck Lake Association. We have newsletters going back to the late 80's but wonder if there are some from an earlier period in a box in someone's basement. Please contact Stephen at sroughton@sympatico.ca or at (613) 542-7602 if you have information to share. We hope to have a display at the AGM if we are able to assemble enough material. In reading through newsletters from 20 years ago one is reminded that truly, "the more things change the more they stay the same".



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Tax Time Again

Another property tax year has begun and we have all made our interim payment at the end of March. South Frontenac has passed its 2008 Budget in the last two weeks and increases are in a range from a small reduction in Storrington District to a 4.6% increase for Bedford District. We are told that an increasing number of services and levies will be standardized across the Township next year but amalgamation seems to have more chapters than "War and Peace". The March Provincial Budget made some announcements about the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation and the current freeze on reassessment in Ontario. New legislation is promised to place the burden of proof on MPAC rather than the property owner when an assessment is appealed. The Budget also announced an increased property-tax grant for lower income seniors in an attempt to help them keep their homes as long as possible. Government and MPAC officials are working on ways to share more information with taxpayers and make the appeal process more "streamlined and transparent". The new legislation is supposed to be in place for the 2009 taxation year.



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This and That

- For the last few years we have challenged Buck Lakers to announce the earliest swimmer in the lake...well it's that time again. Send the date/place/person details to info@bucklake.ca and include a picture if possible. We'll put it up on the website. If you have some great winter/spring photos for the photo gallery on the website, send them as well.
- The annual Giant Yard Sale at Perth Road United Church takes place on **Saturday May 17th**. If you have items to donate from your Spring cleaning, they would be glad to help recycle your treasures. Contact Dave Kuhn at (613) 353-1690 or drop them

off at the Church Hall Friday evening or Saturday morning. Of course, drop in on Saturday to browse and buy. There will be a bake table as well.

- The water levels in the lake were very high this spring and navigating the lake in the spring presents some seasonal challenges. Dangerous rocks and shoals should be less of a risk but many are already marked by the special lake angels who ask no thanks or recognition. Deadheads...floating debris from a long winter are quite common this time of year so keep a close watch over your bow. The culvert had a hard winter and erosion is very evident on the north side. As the water returns to normal levels there could be problems with the water depth at the mouth of the culvert. Please be careful and report any problems through the email box so we can contact the Township. We know that a few propellers got a rough ride last fall when the water levels were lowered so the channel may need a clean out before the water levels get too low.
- As always, your comments and content are welcome for the newsletter. If there are changes to the makeup of your particular neighborhood on the lake...new owners, the illness or passing of old friends, marriages, births, etc. send them to the email box and we will include them in a future newsletter.

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