



The Buck Lake Association Inc.

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

www.bucklake.ca

email: info@bucklake.ca

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

Buck Lake News – 2009 February

President's Message

Although world wide the scientific evidence of global warming is compelling, you would never know it from the winter we are experiencing here on Buck Lake. The furnace has been working overtime since November and clearing the snow off the deck and driveway seems an almost daily chore. Cold as it has been, sadly the ice in our section of the lake, the north end of the North Bay, got "bumpy" when it re-froze after the thaw and rain in December so we have had little or no skating. Oh well, there's always next year! But walking the back lanes and the ATV/skidoo tracks on the lake in winter's "thundering silence" is exhilarating; bundled up in layers against the cold, the only things you can hear are the squeak of your boots on the snow and the screech of a jay yelling at somebody to put more "SEEEEEED" in the feeder. We have a gang of six hen turkeys who visit our feeders several times a day; I think they have made a deal with the jays to throw seed down to them.

Winter or summer, I can't think of a better place to be!

Duncan G. Sinclair
President

George Nicholas Speal

The Buck Lake Association has lost a longtime member and supporter with the passing of George Speal on December 27, 2008. While practicing law in Kingston for many years, he served as mayor from 1973 to 1976 and spent summers on Narrows Lane/Buck Lake since the late 60's. George was a loyal participant at BLA meetings and events to which he always brought sound legal advice (pro bono, of course), practical suggestions, a friendly face and warm sincere greetings, all wrapped up in his uniquely booming voice. He never failed to make people both "listen up" and smile. His presence and personality will be missed on the Lake.

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)

On behalf of the BLA, we extend out sincere condolences to Marina and the Speal Family and will imagine George sitting in his favourite chair on the dock and wave when we pass.

South Frontenac Official Plan Review

The seemingly interminable process of reviewing South Frontenac Township's Official Plan may finally be coming to an end. The five-year review (a Provincial requirement) initially yielded recommendations from the Township's planning office that we in the



Buck Lake Association's Executive thought entirely sensible. But early last year some Councilors proposed amendments that we thought contrary to the interests of Buck Lakers (and to the best interests of the Township as well), namely to:

- Allow "back lot" development, i.e. to permit severances and allow building on lots with no access to waterfront off the Township's many private lanes.
- "Re-set the clock". When the Official Plan was approved in 2000, three severances were to be allowed on

each then-vacant property (provided, of course, the normal requirements of lot size, road access, etc. of all severances were met). The proposal was to extend this privilege to properties vacant in 2009.

Approval of either amendment would increase the density of relatively unplanned development throughout the Township and could increase the population pressure and potential pollution of its most precious assets, its lakes, streams, and rural character. "Re-setting the clock" raised the spectre of creating essentially unplanned subdivisions detached from the villages and hamlets in which population growth is encouraged by the Official Plan.

Some months ago the proposal to allow "back lot" development was defeated, Recently Councilors, meeting as a Committee of the Whole, decided not to "re-set the clock" but to amend the original provision slightly to allow a total of five (rather than three) severances on those properties that were vacant in 2000. While we would have preferred no increase, we believe that this latter compromise is a reasonable one.

An advertisement for waterless composting toilets. At the top, it says "waterless composting toilets" in green and orange. Below that, "Elegant, Automatic, Odourless, No Drain or Septic" in black. The center features a photograph of a white composting toilet. To the left of the toilet is a circular logo with a maple leaf and the word "EcoLogo". To the right of the toilet, it says "Advanced Swedish Technology Certified by Environment Canada" and "Jenny's Cool™". Below the toilet, it says "also available: biodegradable, phosphate & chlorine free cleaning products". At the bottom, there is a logo for "Countrywide" and the address "1407 John Counter Blvd., Kingston" and "Michelle Hoyle (613) 561-9664".

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The next steps are for the revised Official Plan to be brought to another public meeting and following feedback, to Council for approval. We expect that these steps will be taken in the next few weeks or months.

Board of Director's Report

The Board has been in recess since our last meeting on November 29th but we have continued to work on a number of issues. President Duncan Sinclair has been monitoring the Official Plan Review and his report is included in this Newsletter. We have been participating in the Lake Networking Group which includes lake associations from a wide area in the Rideau, Cataraqui and Napanee watersheds. We are also proceeding with planning for our own Lake Study to commence in 2009 and a report from the Friends of the Lake group is included in this issue. Our next meeting is scheduled for late March. Priorities for 2009 will be established, a budget approved and timelines discussed.

Members who have suggestions or concerns are encouraged to contact a Board member directly or email us at info@bucklake.ca

Membership Report

Membership Services Chair Ralph Wirsig reports that our final membership count for 2008 was 147 families.

Invoices for 2009 renewals have been sent electronically to all of those for whom we have e-mail addresses and hardcopy invoices will be enclosed with all Newsletters sent by post in February. To date, we have received payment for 18 renewals for 2009.

Ralph asks that BLA members note that we are accepting two-year renewals @ \$25/year if desired. A membership application form is available on the website if members wish to encourage a neighbour to join. Please forward new or renewing membership information to our postal address on the masthead of the Buck Lake News.

Thanks to all members, whose continuing moral and financial support makes the BLA an effective and relevant organization for the benefit of our Lake.

Friends of the Lake

The Friends of the Lake Committee has continued to meet over the fall and winter. We now number five, including Wayne Myles (Chair), Barbara Rose Perry, Ron Dickey, Michael Gemmell and Liz Whelpdale. We are continuing to work on our annotated map project by looking at maps from other lakes and towns and adding our own distinctive touches. We are also working on the water quality project which will consist both of a statistical report and a descriptive report intelligible to the layperson. This will be

presented either at the AGM this year or at a separate educational session and will form part of the evolving Lake Plan. We all want to know if our water quality is improving or deteriorating and what we can do to help keep our waters clean.

We plan to compile a questionnaire asking all residents, both seasonal and permanent, what they most value about Buck Lake and what their principal concerns are. A mini-version was presented at the educational session last July and about 20 replies were received. Clean water was definitely at the top of the list for most respondents. This year we would like to hear from as many people as possible and so, on the May long weekend, we will be blitzing the North and South Branches, trying to reach everyone – or at least leave a questionnaire for everyone. Anyone who is willing to help with this task is invited to contact Wayne Myles at wayne.myles@queensu.ca. As there are over 300 properties on the two branches, we look forward to sharing the load!

Gord McDiarmid

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The Johnnie Green Spoon

This summer I was out on the lake helping Cam McCauley, a marine biologist with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, and Steve, a skilled MNR technician, measure the temperature and concentration of oxygen, meter by meter, in three of the deep “holes” or “trenches” in Buck Lake inhabited by lake trout. When we pulled up the anchor from the second of those “holes” on the South Branch, with it came a long length of steel fishing line at the end of which was a famous fishing lure invented and manufactured right here on Buck and Devil Lakes. Cam and Steve recognized it immediately. It was a Johnnie Green spoon!

The Greens were among the earliest families to settle here. According to Archie Green¹ they came as United Empire Loyalists just after the American Revolution to claim Crown Land on Buck Lake. There Archie’s father, Johnnie Green, was born, and raised. He married Laura Whalen and raised a family of 10, six boys (one of whom was Archie²) and four girls. Around 1927 the family moved from Buck to Devil Lake where Johnnie continued to farm, hunt, trap, and do whatever he could to make a living including work in the summers as a guide, primarily for American tourists keen on fishing, especially for lake trout.

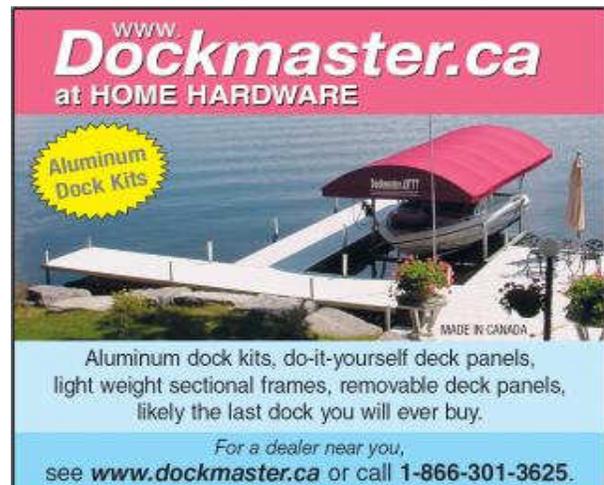
According to Harold Green, another of his sons, in 1933 Johnnie started to make a lure that looked like a herring, a bait fish commonly used by those fishing for lake trout or

¹ As quoted by Gary Peck. 2006. Canadian Fishing Tackle, #5, 1-18, a copy of which was provided to me by Bill Ritchie in 2007.

² Another was Alfie, two of whose sons, Ronald and Elmer Green, still live on Buck Lake

salmon, as they are often called. Apparently he made the first ones out of the chrome plate used in the headlights of old model T Ford cars, a metal that was pliable, reflective, and quite readily available at the time. Later, he adapted his craft to copper and a variety of other metals as well. The Johnnie Green spoon is a “wobbler”; it has a distinctive action given to it by the particular bend or curve put in the body of the lure by its maker. It has a hole drilled in the front for attaching the fishing line and trails either a single hook or a treble gang hook. Most but not all have a punched-out “eye” but all are characterized by being highly polished; the experienced fisherman will polish his or her Johnnie Green spoon with steel wool and carefully check its action at the surface before setting out to troll the deep water in which lake trout are normally found.

By 1945 Johnnie Green’s fame as a guide and lure-maker had grown to the point that he built some cabins on Devil Lake to accommodate the tourists who came to fish with him. One photograph³ shows a total of 24 lake trout, 4 of them huge, caught by a party of Americans, presumably after a routine day of fishing – out by 8 am in a 14 to 19 foot rowing skiff and back by 6 pm interrupted by a “shore dinner” of sandwiches and fried fish at noon. He made his spoons in the wintertime and sold them, according to Harold Green, “for 50 cents at the start and never over \$2”. Apparently the winter’s production would total 10 or 12 boxes of lures, a dozen to a box, separated by tissue paper – not much for a winter’s work even in those days when a dollar was real money. Johnnie also built skiffs out of cedar in the winter months and hollowed out dugouts with an adze from butternut or basswood logs. John McComish claims that his father, Wallace, had said that those dugouts were “so tippy you had better keep your tongue in the middle of your mouth” when paddling one.



Although the Johnnie Green spoon has been made for some years by a number of companies, attempts to patent its design and commercialize it came for naught during Johnnie Green’s lifetime. According to Harold Green, somebody from Kingston once contracted with Johnnie to make lures for a “cut” of the profit on those sold but “Dad lost a pile of money on that deal”. There is also a story about his giving an American entrepreneur a pattern for the spoon to which his name would be attached once patented in return for the payment of \$500. But no commercially manufactured spoons from that period carry the name of Johnnie Green and no American patent of the design has been confirmed. Archie Green reported that his Dad was upset and angry that others did copy and manufacture his spoons.

It remains that this spoon is highly sought after. It can still be bought in outlets up and down The Old Perth Road, an area known by those who fish for lake trout as “Johnnie Green Country”.

Duncan G. Sinclair

³ Provided to me by John McComish in 2009.

2008 Financial Report

**Buck Lake Association
Statement of Income & Expenses
For the period ending Nov 30, 2008**

	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Variance</i>
<u>INCOME</u>			
Membership Revenue	\$4,000.00	\$3,575.00	-\$425.00
Advertising	\$900.00	\$1,000.00	\$100.00
Dock Grant	\$1,500.00	\$1,452.00	-\$48.00
Interest Income	\$0.00	\$45.09	\$45.09
Misc	\$100.00	\$278.90	\$178.90
Total	\$6,500.00	\$6,350.99	-\$149.01
<u>EXPENSES</u>			
Insurance	\$1,000.00	\$1,026.00	-\$26.00
Affiliate Memberships	\$800.00	\$436.80	\$363.20
Publications	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$250.00
Administration Fees	\$600.00	\$296.75	\$303.25
Conference & Seminars	\$250.00	\$270.31	-\$20.31
Social & Outreach	\$500.00	\$452.44	\$47.56
Buck Lake Heritage Project	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
Community Project	\$500.00	\$337.87	\$162.13
Loading Dock	\$1,500.00	1,452.00	\$48.00
Lake Plan Activiites	\$2,000.00	\$484.41	\$1,515.59
Total	\$7,700.00	\$4,756.58	\$2,943.42
Excess of Revenue over Expenses	-	\$1,594.41	-

Notices and Coming Events

- Theresa Vien (theresavien@yahoo.com) is looking for a cottage rental for summer 2009.
- South Frontenac Natural Environment Committee is sponsoring a number of Nature Talks at Sydenham Town Hall from 7-9 p.m. beginning this month:
- February 18th – Reg Genge on “Lake Processes and Human Impact”
- April 22nd – Gary Bell of the Nature Conservancy of Canada on “Plans for the Frontenac Arch and the Hewlett-Packard Property”
- May 20th – Del Stowe on “The Cataraqui Trail”




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- Pitch-In Program 2009 the week of April 18th-25th
- Annual Tree Sale – May 2nd
- February 21st – Roast Beef Dinner at Perth Road United Church Hall - 4:30-6:30 p.m.
- March 14th – Music Night at Perth Road United Church Hall – Celtic at Heart and The Sand Hill Trio
- March 21st – Pot Luck and

Silent Auction at Perth Road United Church Hall – 6:00 p.m.

And Finally...

Thanks to our advertisers for their continuing financial support in publishing our newsletters. We will be soliciting their support again in 2009. We are also once again requesting help from our readers/members in contributing comment and content for the newsletter. News of new residents, natural reflections, municipal concerns and even a few good jokes would be welcome in the interest of the Lake. Please contact us at info@bucklake.ca.