



# 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 – 2009 December**

Principal writer: Roy Mills

### President's Message

#### Holiday Greetings

Wasn't November a glorious month? Sunlight has been streaming in through my sunroom door like I cannot remember. The resulting solar gain is giving my consumption of home heating oil a bit of a break, another bonus. As we approach the holiday season, the end of the unseasonably balmy temperatures has arrived but the sun still seems to be trying to stick around. Personally, I am more than happy with cold weather when it comes with sunshine. I also enjoy the white fluffy stuff that we have not seen yet this season and some ice in the lake where the snow can settle. I have a strong feeling that Mother Nature is just biding her time. Winter will be here soon.

I will be spending Christmas at home this year. I have some special friends, my Godchildren and their parents, coming to spend a few days with me. I was pleased to be able to offer Buck Lake as a gathering point for them as they are living in Ottawa, Montreal and Toronto. It is nice to know that Buck Lake is not only beautiful but also a central location.

Thinking about plans for bringing in 2010 reminds me that it is now 10 years since we were celebrating the turn of the millennium. Do you remember where and how you celebrated that auspicious occasion? I was here at Buck Lake, not in my own home – it was not yet built, but at the home of my next door neighbours. We had a small gathering of friends and family complete with good food and drink. We also set off fireworks to welcome in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We did so, however, on Greenwich Mean Time so we could still get a good night's sleep. We also created a small time capsule which was sealed and given to the youngest person present who is charged with maintaining it and passing it along to someone who will be living at the turn of the 22<sup>nd</sup> century when it is to be opened. We included a number of 20<sup>th</sup> century artefacts that we hope will be of interest to future residents of the lake.



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As it turned out, our guests were all gone but we were still awake when the clock struck 12 Eastern Time so we were listening to CBC Radio along with many other Canadians as it became clear that there would be no disasters caused by the change from 19 to 20.

On behalf of the Board of the Buck Lake Association, I wish you all an enjoyable holiday season and a healthy, happy and prosperous 2010. I will see you on the lake.

Tricia

### Board of Director's Report

The Board met on November 21<sup>st</sup> 2009 for its last meeting of 2009. A point form summary follows:

- Secretary-Treasurer Cheryl Savery reported a current account balance of \$2,719.28 on total revenues to date in 2009 of \$10,594.25. Total member equity based on the current account balance and reserve funds was reported at \$10,724.57.

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- Some budgeted expenditures for 2009 have not been totally invoiced i.e. lake study costs but an increase in memberships and other efficiencies will result in a positive balance sheet at year-end. A 2009 year-end financial statement will be presented in the first newsletter of 2010 along with a budget for the new fiscal year.
- Crawford MacIntyre reported that a

renewal notice for our Liability Insurance has been received noting that we did increase our coverage in 2009 to cover our possible liability from the installation of shoal markers. Our costs for 2010 are invoiced at \$1,128.60. We are insured through a group policy established by FOCA. Participation in this program has saved the BLA and other lake associations across Ontario thousands of dollars over the past five years and provided much more appropriate coverage for liability as well.

- Ralph Wirsig reported that membership stood at 153 as of November 21<sup>st</sup> and that a number of members had pre-paid memberships for 2010 and 2011. A list of past due members was distributed and Directors were asked to make contact where possible. **Membership Update 2009 Dec 20: As of today BLA has a record 158 paid up members; however with 2010 just around the corner, 80**

of those members have their fees due next month while most of the balance are paid up to 2010 Dec 31, some have paid to 2011 and one to 2014.

- Sandra Rider reported that the Outreach Committee was planning a winter event on the Lake weather permitting in the 2010. If members have suggestions and ideas we would love to get you involved. **Editor's note: As I write this on December 20<sup>th</sup> people are skating on the North Basin.**



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- Wayne Myles reported that Reg Genge's Lake Study Report for 2009 was expected in early December and will be released to the members through the newsletter throughout early 2010. Based upon Reg's recommendations the Friends of the Lake will make plans for year two of the project and report to the Board in early 2010 in time for budget discussions. The member survey returned by 157 Buck Lakers last July has been summarized by

member Gigi Foster from the South Branch and is included in this newsletter. An ad hoc committee of the Board was established to search out additional funding to support the work of the Friends Committee in 2010.

- Duncan Sinclair has taken on the job of volunteer coordinator for the Friends of the Lake and Barbra Rose Perry will have the second printing of the Buck Lake Map available for members in time for Christmas shopping. **Editor's Note: Maps are available as of December 14<sup>th</sup> at the Perth Road Village Store at a cost of \$20.**
- Crawford reported that GPS readings were completed on all know shoals in the South Branch in late October and that a similar exercise would be completed on the North Branch in spring 2010. Over the winter months, we would attempt to identify key people around the lake who are already proactive in shoal marking and recruit new people to join the "Lake Angels". The Board is committed to budgeting for material support for this program in 2010 and would be glad to have interested members volunteer to place and maintain markers on shoals near their property. Members who have faithfully maintained markers over the years are encouraged to forward any out of pocket expenses to the BLA in the future. Please consider getting involved in 2010. Contact a Director or our email box at [info@bucklake.ca](mailto:info@bucklake.ca).
- The first meeting of the Board for 2010 in planned for January 30<sup>th</sup>. If members have issues they wish to bring to the attention of the Board please email President Tricia Waldron at [twaldron26@gmail.com](mailto:twaldron26@gmail.com).

## Friends of the Lake

### Preliminary Results of the Buck Lake Planning Survey

Thanks again for all who responded to our Buck Lake Planning Survey. We presented some preliminary frequencies from the data in a previous newsletter, and we have now had the chance to delve more into the information provided. Here are some of our initial findings as prepared by Gigi (Jennifer) Foster who shares a family cottage on Buck Lake and lives and teaches in Australia. Gigi has generously volunteered to interpret some of the data from the survey for the Friends of the Lake committee.

First and most strikingly, everyone values water quality. Of 134 people who responded to the question of how important water quality was to them, none said anything but "Important" (7 respondents) or "Very important" (127 respondents). Using responses to several other questions, we were able to categorize people in terms of whether they fell into the following groups: liking powerboating; liking non-powerboating; being concerned about boating; being concerned about vehicles; liking fishing and/or hunting; being concerned about noise; and being concerned about development. We have found that seasonal and year-round residents are very similar in their preferences, except for the fact that seasonal residents are, on average, more concerned with noise than year-round residents. There is also mild evidence that seasonal residents are slightly more concerned about boating, and slightly less concerned about development, than year-round residents. There were also differences in sentiment across the Lake's branches, with the biggest difference being that North branch residents appear to enjoy fishing and/or hunting more than South branch residents. Although the differences are

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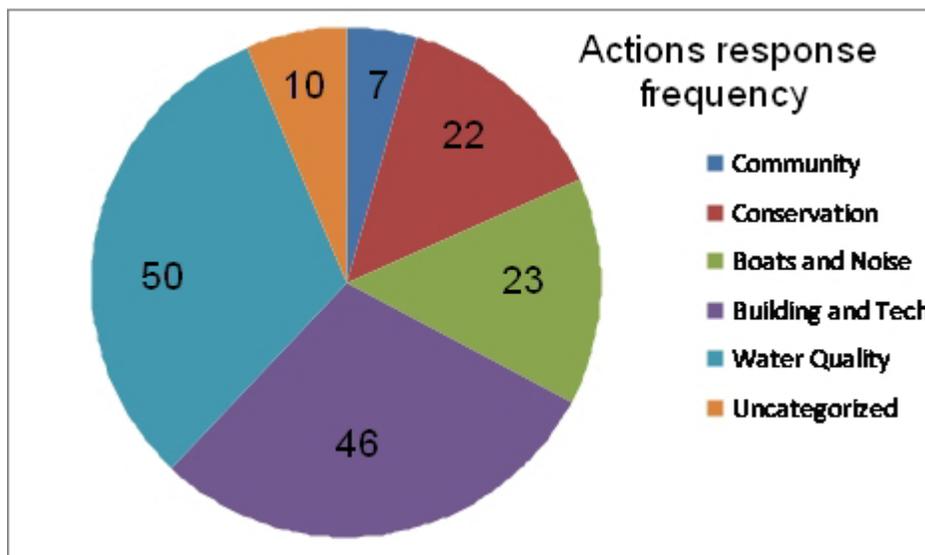
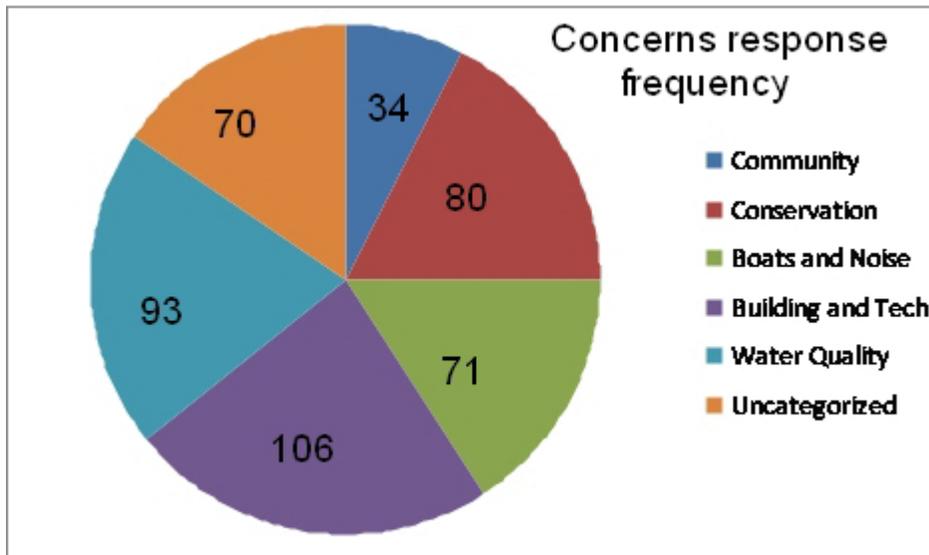
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not statistically significant, on average North branch residents also like powerboating more, are less concerned about boating and noise, and are more concerned about development than South branch residents. Overall, while preferences on many items were split, water quality was unanimously important (as mentioned above), and in addition most respondents were concerned about development (88%) and most enjoyed non-powerboating (87%).

We were also able to categorize many of the actions that survey participants recommended to safeguard the lake into the future. Most suggestions fit into one or more of five categories: those dealing with water quality (e.g., algae, pollution, septic tanks, fertilizers, etc.); those dealing with building and technology

(e.g., development restrictions, by-laws and regulations regarding building, improvement of culverts/ramps/parking, etc.); those dealing with boats and noise (e.g., powerboating limitations, all-terrain vehicle restrictions, etc.); those dealing with conservation-type issues (e.g., preserving landscapes, nesting sites, fish, preventing erosion, etc); and those dealing with community-building issues (e.g., education, outreach, association strengthening, etc). Here's a breakdown of the percentage loading on each of these areas (note that each respondent was asked to list up to three

recommendations, and any given recommendation could be counted in multiple categories):



### **Buck Lake Computer Course**

Grayden McClung is offering to provide to Buck Lakers at no charge a computer course covering the following suggested topics:

1. Start Up, Shut Down & Forced Shut Down
2. My documents – save/save as and retrieving documents, USB, memory key
3. Maintaining your computer - Disk Clean Up and Defragmenting
4. Searching for documents (search \*.xls etc.)
5. My computer and hard disk space

6. Right Click - Managing Pictures, size - Send to
7. Open Office. ORG
8. Email – on line email vs downloaded email
9. Using the web – search, security, passwords
10. Networking, Gateway, DHCP server, Router, IP Address, Mac Number
11. Printer sharing
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13. Back UP types USB or network

11 Spaces are available.

Call 613 – 353 – 7315 (after the new year) to reserve spot.

No tests or exams this is adult learning!

Starts Tuesday 2010 January 12 @ 7:00PM

### Amazing Technology

At our last Board meeting, Ralph Wirsig reported some amazing data about our little website [www.bucklake.ca](http://www.bucklake.ca). For the years 2006 to date, Page Loads were 59,799 – Unique Visitors were 21,367 – First Time Visitors were 17,494 and Returning Visitors were 3,873. Please check out the site on a regular basis and use the services available such as the links to other interesting sites, the trading post and the picture gallery. All BLA records are available on the site including newsletters, AGM minutes and our Constitution and By-laws. Please give us suggestions on how to make the site more useful to you. One suggestion from a recent Board meeting was to establish a “Buck Lake History” page on the site where members could post old pictures, anecdotes and memories. Give us some feedback!

### Book Club with an Attitude

Margaret Fisher reports a good turn out for the November meeting and the discussion of George Monbiot’s book *Heat*. The next meeting is planned for January 13<sup>th</sup> 2010 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. The book for the night will be Maude Barlow’s *Blue Covenant* (2007). Newcomers are always welcome! The location is 1018 Kingfisher Lane (just off the Perth Road near the 7000 Bloc). If the weather is inclement, the Club will meet one week later on January 20<sup>th</sup>.

### Shameless Plug...

Not really! That was the reference John Bryans made to his recent email to the News when he reported that Buck Lake was in the most recent issue of *Cottage Life Magazine*, thanks to him. One of his photos won the “Life at the Cottage” category in this year’s photo contest. The Bryans cottage is on fishing Bay on the North Branch.

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## First prize

### Top dog

Being down at the dock documenting five-month-old Tucker's introduction to the water netted Buck Lake, Ont., cottager John Bryans a charming tableau. "He was just looking at the water, and then he started tapping it with his paw, like, What is that?" A few minutes later, Tucker tried to bat a leaf and fell in. Guess he liked the experience: "He's a big swimmer now."

### Judges' comments

In this contest, we see a lot of dogs, and a lot of dogs lying on docks. This photo is different. The simple, effective composition—a light body against a dark background, plus the dog's delicate gesture and his intense gaze on the perfectly suspended water droplets—is what makes the shot a winner.

[http://www.cottagelife.com/index.cfm/ci\\_id/34670.htm](http://www.cottagelife.com/index.cfm/ci_id/34670.htm)

## Country Living...

I expect that those of us who choose to live in the Buck Lake area year round have many reasons for enjoying our decision but we didn't expect to be so isolated from the technological innovations of the new millennium completely. I am speaking about the access to Broadband and cell phone service. Those folks who live in the 353 area served by Mother Bell have no access to high speed internet service although a fiber optics cable (that connects Westport to the rest of the world for high speed Internet) runs down the Perth Road. These folks must rely on dial-up service or go to the considerable expense of accessing high speed service through various satellite/wireless providers. Many people who have gone this route report much frustration.

On the cell phone issue, it is very frustrating to realize that someone in Plevna, Sharbot Lake or Verona has more reliable access to emergency cell phone service than a community 20 minutes from a city with a metropolitan population of 140,000 people. The cell phone carriers do not appear to be prepared to make any upgrades in local service in the near future.

If you have insights or suggested strategies to be investigated on how to approach these two issues please let us know. We seem to be making ourselves more frustrated the longer we try to get some simple answers to the simple question. How long do we have to wait to join the ranks of “developing countries” in the Third World? Please give us some feedback!

[A look back at 2009 events and activities of Buck Laker's](#)



**Rider Cup Golf Tournament**



**One of ~40 Monday Golfers**



**Boatilla forming**



**Boatilla BBQ**



**Annual BLA BBQ**



Wednesday  
evening Kayakers



Ice Skating on Buck Lake:

*Be sure check ice thickness in several places before wandering out this early in the season.*

## And Finally...

At the year- end we usually take a few moments to look back to the year past and look ahead to the coming year. 2009 has been a year of new initiatives for the BLA with the implementation of the Lake Planning process under the leadership of the Friends of the Lake, the installation of a new President Tricia Waldron and renewed vigor to address housekeeping questions like speed signage and shoal makers. At our next Board meeting in January we will be setting our objectives for a new year. Take a few minutes and give us your thoughts. There are always new issues to challenge and old problems to frustrate but the Lake is in good hands...the many loving hands of people like you and your neighbours.

Best wishes for a joyous and peaceful holiday season and on behalf of the all the elected and volunteer members of the BLA best wishes for a prosperous and fruitful 2010. We hope to see many of you out skating and skiing on beautiful Buck Lake this winter.



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