



# 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 – 2010 April**

Principal writer: Roy Mills

### President's Message

Spring has arrived at Buck Lake and it is as beautiful as ever. It is also very early. I am writing this message on April 23<sup>rd</sup> and the trilliums are beginning to show. My daffodils have been blooming for a couple of weeks. The loons are back. Isn't it great ?

Once again this year I missed ice out. The ice left Christmas Bay on March 30th while I was enjoying a late winter vacation on the Mayan Riviera. The fishing and snorkeling were great and the water was warm but I missed seeing Buck Lake make the transition from winter to spring.

Every year, my immediate neighbours run a small pool on the day the ice will go out. Every year I enter the pool. Every year I do not win. This year my date was April 6<sup>th</sup>. The cost of participation in the pool is a Twoonie so I will not have to declare bankruptcy over this loss but I really would like to be in residence when the ice goes out.

Members of your executive have also been enjoying winter breaks in a number of locations but we are home now and busily planning a summer schedule that I think you will appreciate. Our Annual General Meeting is not far away and I will look forward to seeing you all there. Details are provided in this newsletter

### Board of Director's Report

The Board met on Saturday May 10<sup>th</sup> and a summary of agenda items and discussion follows:

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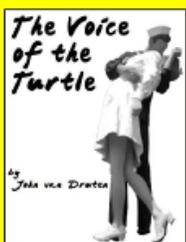
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- Crawford MacIntyre reported on the plan to present a CPR Training Course in May of 2010. Mark Halliday is prepared to offer a four hour course at a cost of \$35/person. Final details will be determined and an announcement will be made in the April Newsletter and by separate email notice as needed.
- Ralph Wirsig reported that membership renewals for 2010 have reached 111 with more expected as seasonal members get back into the Lake routine. Newsletter advertising revenue has shown a positive increase for the new fiscal year and may exceed \$700 (update: we are at \$825).
- Sandra Rider reported on behalf of the Community Outreach/Social Committee and proposed dates for a number of upcoming events ...Spring Pot Luck at Margaret Fisher's will be June 10<sup>th</sup>, Boatilla 2010 is planned for July 3<sup>rd</sup> to not conflict with the AGM on July 10<sup>th</sup> this year. The tentative date for the Annual BBQ/Picnic is Saturday August 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Wayne Myles reported on behalf of Friends of the Lake/Lake Planning. Wayne shared a copy of Reg Genge's report "A Summary and Critical Review of the Water Quality of Buck Lake". This report prepared for the BLA will provide the benchmark for our future information gathering and action. A communication plan for sharing this report with our members will be a primary focus of Year Two activities. The Friends of the Lake are investigating partnerships with other lake associations who are currently in a planning process or have completed the planning process and are in the implementation and maintenance stages. The Friends are planning to present an update at the AGM as well as holding an information seminar for members on July 15<sup>th</sup>. Wayne also reported that the sale of the second printing of the Buck Lake Map has covered costs and about 100 copies remain for sale this summer. He also noted that the FOCA Lake Planning Handbook has been an excellent resource to the Committee.
- Crawford MacIntyre reported that the Government Relations Committee is planning to make a presentation to Township Council in May to highlight our concerns regarding parking, maintenance and traffic speed at the Causeway as well as the impact of the new Waste Management Plan and its impact on our members.
- A number of additional items discussed at the Board are included as information in this issue of the News.

  
**Classic Theatre Festival**  
*Ottawa Valley's Professional Summer Theatre*

  
**Blithe Spirit**  
*by Noel Coward*  
**July 9-Aug. 1**

  
**The Voice of the Turtle**  
*by John van Druten*  
**Aug. 6-29**

Studio Theatre, Perth, ON  
 Tickets: 1-877-283-1283  
[www.classictheatre.ca](http://www.classictheatre.ca)

Owl with lunch----courtesy Doug Bays



Friends of the Lake

The Friends of the Lake Committee had a meeting recently, the highlights of which are as follows:

1. An application has been made to the Frontenac Stewardship Council for money to fund some survey work (water oxygen and temperatures) this summer to be conducted by the Ministry of Natural Resources with the assistance of volunteers from around the lake - stay tuned!
2. The water quality report by Reg Genge (who spoke at the Buck Lake Annual General Meeting last summer) is now in. It is long and quite technical (at least for those of us without limnological training. The results are now being digested and will be reported in subsequent issues of the BLA Newsletter - again, stay tuned.
3. We have had a second printing of a slightly up-dated Buck Lake Map which is for sale at the Perth Road Convenience Store and the Liquor Store in Inverary (and will be all summer).

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Reporting on other things, it has been a strange winter. We have had very little snow and, apart from a cold snap in January, it has been mild. The skating was good on the south branch, especially down at the south end where a couple of great neighbours have plowed a number of rinks and trails with their ATVs. I'm told the ice-fishing (for crappies) has also been good. The sun is gaining strength and already the lanes get a bit muddy by mid afternoon in exposed stretches. Summer is a-comin'!

The ice is gone and boats, kayaks and canoes have been on the lake but I have yet to see anyone swimming for pleasure!

**Gord McDiarmid**

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The Buck Lake Planning Survey clearly indicates the importance of water quality held the highest priority for respondents. Reg Genge's report addresses water quality in great detail. The following are excerpts from his report. More details will be included in future issues.

The parameters of primary interest with respect to human impacts on water quality are the lake trophic status parameters. These include water clarity (Secchi disc depths), chlorophyll a, total phosphorus (TP), total nitrogen (TN), TN:TP ratios and oxygen concentrations in the hypolimnion (hypolimnion is the dense, bottom layer of water in a thermally-stratified lake. It is the layer that lies below the thermocline). As

such, these parameters received the greatest amount of sample effort over the period of record.

Lake sensitivity to water quality change is a function of flushing, dilution and assimilation capacity. Small lakes have less volume than large lakes and therefore less ability to dilute contaminants or nutrients.

Buck 'Lake' is really two distinct water bodies separated by a small stream. The north and south basins are different sizes and shapes with different watershed sizes and bedrock geology and overburden characteristics and therefore experience different water quality.

Cam McAuley of MNR has indicated that his department will be doing oxygen and temperature readings for Buck Lake during the months of June, July, August and the 1<sup>st</sup> couple of weeks in September this year.

## Building a Floating Loon Nesting Platform

Using the design and instructions found at <http://www.rideau-info.com/local/loon-nest.html> I recently built and launched on 2010 April 2, with help from 4 grand daughters, an artificial loon nesting platform to a location east from the osprey nest at



the south end of the south branch. Note the ice still lingering at the shoreline behind the platform. While I hope a pair of loons will find and use the nest, from what I read it may take a year or more for that to happen. And even then there is no guarantee it will work especially considering the location, while in/beside a water lily patch, is less than ideal with respect to remoteness from boat traffic. To all who now know where this new landmark is you may wish to cautiously join in the



‘watching what happens’ from a respectful distance. The nesting period (including about 4 weeks for gestation) runs between about mid May to end June.

I choose the PVC nest platform design over a cedar log design to avoid water logging and having to pull the heavy log platform out every year. Note the impressive “Nest Diary” of the PVC platform recorded on the web site noted above.

At a loon seminar last summer it was stated that for a lake like Buck Lake the loon’s worst enemy is the

raccoons to whom loon’s eggs are a delicacy and whose population proliferates from food sources they find around humans. The message is take care to avoid raccoon access to all food sources including using effective safeguards around bird feeders. And floating nest platforms can be an effective defense against raccoons.

Ralph Wirsig

### Could it be Frank and Gordon?



Stephen Roughton asks the question...Given the location of this magnificent dam opposite 7476 Perth Road, it is highly unlikely that Frank and Gordon of the North Branch firm of F&G Marine Engineers, was responsible for its construction. They likely sub contracted the job to some their flat tailed colleagues who appear to have done a dandy job of beavering. When we see Frank and Gordon this summer we will ask if they know anything about this impressive structure.

### CPR Training Course

Your Board of Director's has arranged for Mark Halliday to conduct two CPR training courses for members on two evenings in May. As outlined the October 2009 News, the chance of saving a life rises dramatically if appropriate techniques are used quickly...with the emphasis on quickly. Since many of us live year round on the Lake, this is especially relevant as immediate professional help in a cardiac emergency, as an example, is simply not available.

We hope a number of our members will take advantage of this opportunity. Up to 10 places are available for each four hour training sessions. The techniques employed are quite different and better than those we might have learned in the past. Mark will instruct on the following topics:

- CPR for children over one year of age and adults
- Treatment of conscious and unconscious patients
- How to use a defibrillator
- How to use a pocket mask

- Review of heart attacks, strokes and allergic reactions
- A review of the Emergency Medical Services system

The training will take place at **Perth Road United Church Hall on the evenings of Monday May 17<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday May 26<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m.** Choose the evening that is best for you and contact Crawford MacIntyre at (613) 273-8056 or email [cmac@rideau.net](mailto:cmac@rideau.net). The cost is \$35/person. If you are able to attend either date please indicate when you make contact to allow some flexibility in course loading.

### Community Outreach /Social Committee/Coming Events

A number of annual and special events are scheduled over the upcoming months. We will highlight these again as they draw near but perhaps you would like to mark your calendar early.

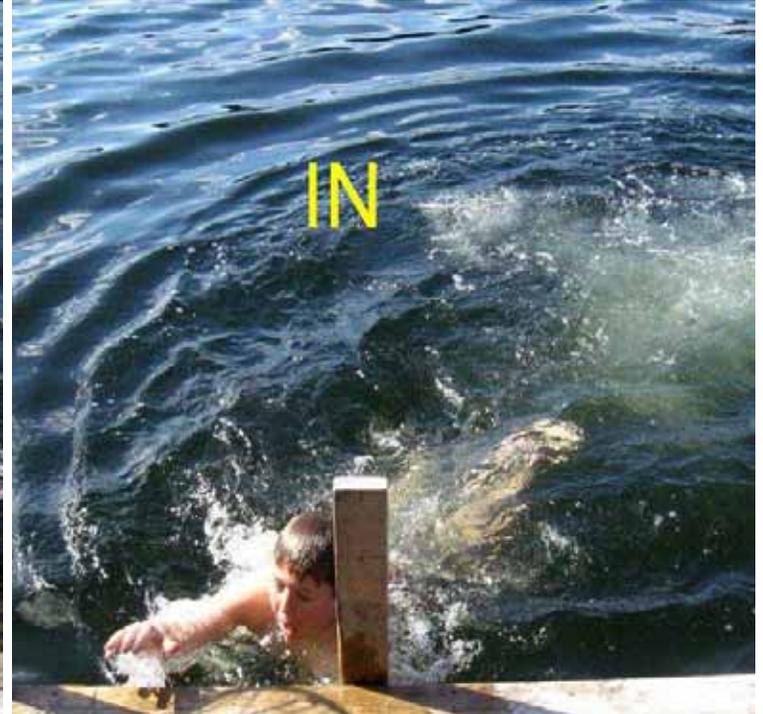
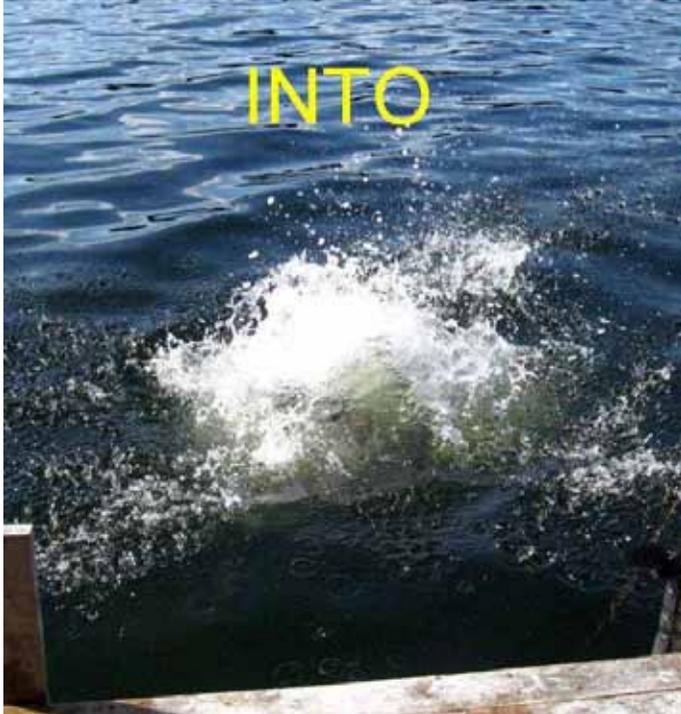
- Book Club With Attitude – April 28<sup>th</sup> 7-9 p.m. at the home of Margaret Fisher, 1018 Kingfisher Lane. The topic will be the 2009 Massey Lectures presentation by author Wade Davis entitled **The Wayfinders**. You can access the text at CBC.CA and go to the Massey Lectures link. Contact Margaret at [mfisher@kingston.net](mailto:mfisher@kingston.net).
- Computer classes and workshops return to Buck Lake on April 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. with a program on Windows Basics and on May 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. for a program on networks and routers. These classes are free of charge for Buck Lakers. If there is enough interest additional sessions could be offered for Excel spreadsheets and Power Point. Sessions are held at 1002 Hidden Valley Road (in the loft). Contact Graydon or Cheryl at (613) 353-7315 to enroll.
- Fish Fry at Perth Road United Church **Friday May 14<sup>th</sup> 5:00-7:00p.m.**
- Giant Spring Yard Sale at Perth Road United Church **Saturday May 22<sup>nd</sup> 8:00-2:00 p.m.** Donations are welcome with something for everyone.
- Buck Lake Association Spring Pot Luck – **Thursday June 10<sup>th</sup>**, at the home of Margaret Fisher, 1018 Kingfisher Lane. We plan to gather between 5:00 and 5:30 p.m. and eat by 6:00. Bring chairs and a main dish or dessert as well as your choice of beverage. Plan to attend and bring your lake friends and of course a lovely evening. We'll remind you again in the May News but mark the date now.
- Buck Lake Boatilla 2010- **Saturday July 3<sup>rd</sup>**. The boats will assemble in the South Basin by the Boat Launch by 2:00 p.m. More details will follow.
- Buck Lake Association **Annual General Meeting –Saturday July 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.** An official notice will be included in the June Newsletter.
- BLA Summer BBQ/Picnic **Saturday August 21<sup>st</sup>**

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## What a Guy...

In past years we challenged Buck Lakers to document and forward their first venture into the lake for the season. We received these photos from Past Director Lisa McAvoy of her son Josh Boston with the note below.



“Josh was officially in Buck Lake on April 2, 2010. The temp was 43 degrees F. We convinced him to jump in again on April 4, 2010 so we could get some pictures. April 4 was a cooler day! He was in and out so fast that the first try didn't produce great shots so it cost us \$10 to get him back in again. They are marginally better. There was no way he was going in again!”  
Lisa



## Pitch-In 2010

In past years the Board has made an effort to encourage/facilitate participation in the annual spring clean up along our roads and lanes. The date this year has caught us somewhat unprepared. April 19-25 is the official program and yellow garbage bags are available from the Home Hardware in Inverary as usual. A little late is not a problem...the Township will pick up the bags if you place them out with your regular trash and the Bedford Dump will accept them as well. We have a small supply of bags remaining from last year and if you wish to contact Roy Mills at (613) 273- 7724 he will gladly share his supply. Please do what you can to help out!

## Passages

In the February 2010 Newsletter, we printed notice of the passing of a number of our Lake friends and neighbours. We neglected to note the passing of Juanita Snelgrove. A longtime resident of the Lake, we send our sincere condolences to Jack and the Snelgrove family. Alex Bryan's passing was noted in our last newsletter, which went to print before we received this note from his son John. We are pleased to print in now.

"Buck Lake lost a great friend last December with the passing of Dr. Alexander Bryans. A cottager on Fishing Bay since the 60's, Alex was constantly focused on insuring the lake and its surroundings were healthy. It was not uncommon to see him in his canoe on the North Branch, drawing water samples that he would deliver to the Ministry of Natural Resources for testing. He also was a champion of the Rideau Trail and volunteering to help maintain the Slide Lake Loop. Alex drew inspiration from the area for many of his artistic creations. So much so that in his later years he was thrilled to host a group of artists for an annual visit to the cottage so they could experience the surrounding for themselves. But above all else, he was thrilled to be spending any time he could at the cottage with his family. Through his tireless efforts in conservation and his art, Alex left a wonderful legacy for future generations to enjoy. He will be missed by us all."

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## And Finally...

It has been a very gentle spring and the water is very inviting. Due to the light snowfall the water levels are very low for this time of year. The Board is still dedicated to addressing shoal markers this season but has been a little slow of the mark. If you are one of the Lake Angels who faithfully maintain and install markers, we are planning to purchase some new markers and chain to replace those that need upgrading and to

mark those areas that remain unmarked. We hope to address this task in the next month so please be extra careful this spring. Please contact us at [info@bucklake](mailto:info@bucklake) if we can help out with materials or if you would like to join the effort.

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