



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 December

Principal writer: Roy Mills

President's Message

Season's Greetings!

Difficult as it is to believe, the holiday season is upon us again. November is one of the drearier months at Buck Lake so I am always glad when the snow flies to change the grey to white. I am also glad to see Christmas lights brightening the homes of year round residents of the lake. The past few years, it has been well into January before the ice comes into the lake. I hope this year it arrives sooner than that.

I was on vacation recently, a fabulous cruise on the eastern Mediterranean with stops in Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, Greece and Turkey, all countries I had not visited before. It was a great trip – good weather, good food, interesting people and fascinating sights to see. This part of the world has more history than we can even imagine. I visited Delphi, the Acropolis and Ephesus, homes to Greek and Roman Gods and Goddesses both BC and early AD. The archeological work being done at Ephesus is particularly memorable. The final stop of the cruise was Istanbul, a city of 15 million people...the place where east meets west and has done so for several millennia. It was fantastic to see the sights and hear the sounds of this strange land with lots of cars trying to negotiate narrow windy cobblestone streets. Traffic jams that seemed like they would never clear up. Crowded markets with people trying to draw the obvious tourists (like me) into their stalls.

It was a terrific trip but I was glad to get home to a place where it is sometimes almost too quiet and where nature surrounds us. Be it ever so humble, there's no place like Buck Lake!

Enjoy the season,
Tricia

Board of Director's Report

The Board of Directors met on November 20th, for the last time in 2010 with a full complement of members. The review of the September 25th minutes indicated that we

Ron's Home & Cottage Services

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had members attend both the FOCA Fall Seminar and the Lake Links Seminar in Perth during November. Reports will follow in the Newsletter. Crawford MacIntyre reported that the next offering of the CPR Course will be delayed until 2011 due to date conflicts and winter weather. Crawford also reported on behalf of the Nominations Committee that the appointment of a 12th Director will be addressed in 2011. To maintain the goal of geographic balance, we are looking for someone from the North Branch who would serve a two- year term.

Secretary-Treasurer Cheryl Savery reported that as of November 18th the 2010 operating budget showed a surplus of \$ 772.31 and the balance in the current account is \$8,584.01. We also have contingency investments in GIC'S of \$4,176.10. Our financial year will end December 31st and a 2010 Financial Report will be published in the first edition of the Newsletter in 2011.

Ralph Wirsig reported for Membership Services. Current 2010 paid membership stands at 147 families with 15 past due for the current year. Our membership year begins in January with 106 current memberships due for renewal for 2011. Multi-year renewals seem to have been well received and we may see more in the coming year, which will cut down on annual renewal notices etc. Some late renewals may still be received in December to bring our membership closer to the record of 161 in 2009. Newsletter and website advertising revenue for 2010 was \$1,150.

Wayne Myles reported for the Friends of the Lake and presented a draft outline of plans for Year 3 (2011) as well as a Table of Contents for an initial report to members. More detail will be available for members in the New Year. The Government Relations Committee reported some frustration in efforts to inform members on candidate platforms prior to the municipal elections. We have done so for a number of years and will review our options before the next elections in four years.

President Tricia Waldron asked the Directors to consider 2011 Initiatives. Although the discussion will continue in January, two consensus items for 2011 were the Lake Plan and communications (newsletter and website). An Ad Hoc committee was established to review and recommend options for communications in 2011.

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One final agenda item involved a report from members who have boat slips at the Causeway Marina. Since mid-summer there have been a number of cases of theft and vandalism on boats docked there. The OPP have been involved and the BLA was asked to assist through informing members of the risks and also contacting the South Frontenac Detachment and asking for increased surveillance during the boating season.

The Board will next meet on January 15th 2011.

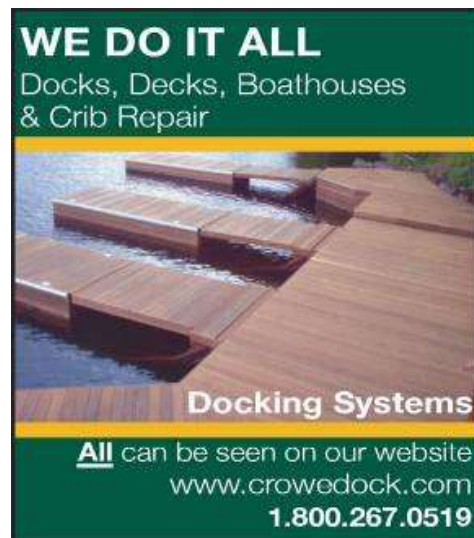
[Friends of the Lake](#)

Fish 101 Workshop

The Frontenac Stewardship Council offered a workshop on Saturday August 14, 2010 from 9:30 am to 3 pm at the Desert Lake Family Resort to help lake associations understand more about the biology of key fish species, how to measure the status of these fish populations and how to carry out fish habitat enhancement. Cam McCauley, the Frontenac Stewardship Coordinator, led the session. Invitations were sent to Lake Associations for one or two representatives per lake association from lakes within Frontenac County to attend. Wayne and Johanne Myles attended the session on behalf of the Buck Lake Association.

The day was partitioned into a morning classroom session followed by afternoon on-the-lake hands-on training exercises. The classroom session included presentations on the biology of key fish species (walleye, lake trout, bass, northern pike and sunfish), techniques utilized to measure the status of these fish populations and spawning habitat identification/enhancement techniques. Participants then jumped on pontoon boats and observed the key components learned during the classroom session. They saw examples of spawning habitats of walleye, lake trout, bass and sunfish, and learned how lake associations can enhance some of these habitats. Cam and some summer student interns demonstrated how to set and lift trap nets and gill nets and how to sample the catches.

In terms of next steps, Cam indicated that while Buck Lake will be involved in a number of surveys and samplings this year, the Buck lake Association could consider improving the lake trout habitat on the lake by identifying shoals that could be enhanced for lake trout spawning. Once the shoals were identified, the Ministry of Natural Resources would view the shoals and select the ones that are best suited for this type of initiative.



The workshop slides are available for viewing at www.bucklake.ca.

Buck Lake Maps

Great for Christmas and for year round enjoyment in your home or cottage !! If you do not have one yet - now is the time. The map has accurate detail of the watershed area, with all the lanes and roads around the lake. A lot of local detail, including the names of bays and a bit of history, is included. Maps can be framed, laminated or plaque-mounted. They make wonderful gifts for friends and family.

Maps are available at the Inverary LCBO and the Perth Rd Store or call Barbra Rose Perry at 613 353 6912.

Lake Links 2010

I travelled to Perth on a cold wet Saturday lately to attend this workshop. This was my first foray into participating in such a session and I didn't have any real idea what would transpire. And I was the only BLA representative. I had no reason to be tentative as it turns out. Everything went very well indeed. The registration was easy, well other than

trying to get the strings into my name tag anyway! That accomplished, I managed to visit most of the displays around the conference room before we started. The workshop started promptly at 0900 with the director keeping an eye on the clock and the agenda to ensure things did not lag. She muttered something about having to attend a Sens game that evening.

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In the next 45 minutes or so we were briefed on the latest monitoring and stewardship protocols, the ravages of the Emerald Ash Borer, a report on Fisheries 101 workshops held this year, information about the septic re-inspection program, and the Eastern Ontario algae partnership project. While quite a lot of material was covered, one came away with a

good bit of basic knowledge. Just before the coffee break we were briefed on the results of a lake group survey that showed that most groups shared common issues and that our Buck Lake Association is ahead of the power curve on many issues, due in large part to the efforts of our "Friends of the Lake" group.

Following the break that featured some pretty good cookies and acceptable coffee, we divided into four groups to discuss the challenging topics of volunteer recruitment and engagement, lake planning and the benefits of a plan, working with governments and municipalities, and stewardship and monitoring. The discussions were free-wheeling, at least that was the case in the group I sat in on, to do with mobilizing our community.

Everyone came away with some new ideas about how to do things. Then the four sessions were recapped for the benefit of everyone.

The afternoon session included an update from FOCA, a presentation to do with lake management planning, partnerships in policy planning and eco-design by a planning consultant, and finally, presentation of a case study of an actual lake planning and municipality partnership.

It was a full day. Were I to do something like this again, I would be certain to attend with other Buck Lakers in order to maximize the experience. I remain convinced that we are very fortunate to live on a lake like ours and I am equally convinced that each and every one of us needs to work to ensure we preserve our lake for our children and their children. I welcome one and all to contact me or anyone else on the BLA board to inquire about becoming a director or to simply assist us in the many endeavours that are undertaken each year to monitor the quality of the lake water and environs.

Finally, I join with Tricia and the entire board in wishing everyone a wonderful holiday season. Let us be grateful for what we have and where we live.

Peter Dawe

[Loon Raft Up-date](#)

While the loons did not take to the raft I put out last spring, snakes were using it through the summer and this fall muskrats have been molesting it. They don't seem to have figured out why their living cavity keeps getting flooded as they build the nest higher. To discourage them for the second time I recently removed their soggy structure and found under it several entrance holes chewed through the polyethylene netting and wooden base of the raft. I may have to change my plan to not take the raft in each year.



Ralph Wirsig

[FOCA Fall Seminar](#)

On November 6th, it was my pleasure to attend FOCA's Fall Seminar in Toronto on behalf of the BLA. Approximately 60 lake associations from across Ontario were represented with input from a range of presenters:

- Ontario Hydro explained "time of use pricing" which is being phased in across the Province over the next two years. Price reductions only apply to energy costs, not transmission costs. Members should have received information in recent mailings from Hydro One.

- Three tax incentive programs currently in effect in Ontario were discussed which could be of interest to members who have parcels of back land or woodlots which they wish to see preserved for future generations and receive tax relief as well. Parcels of 10 acres or more could qualify for up to 75% tax reduction through the *Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP)*. The *Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program (CLTIP)* could result in the removal of property taxes on wetlands administered by the program and the donation of an *Ecologically Sensitive Land* to a Land Conservancy could also result in tax reduction. Information about these three programs is available on the Ministry of Natural Resources website at www.mnr.gov.on.ca.
- The keynote presentation was entitled “Making a Sustainable Waterfront a Reality” and involved presentations from three perspectives including Karen Hunt from the Lanark Lake Networking Group in which the BLA participates. The session was moderated by Randy French, a well-known lake planner and conservationist. One good source of material is the *Muskoka Waterfront Report Card* available at <http://www.muskokaheritage.org/watershed/index.asp>.
- A final note from the seminar was that the next valuation date for property tax assessment through the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) is January 1st 2012
- Please try and visit www.foca.ca on a regular basis. It’s packed with information and has links to many great sources of information.



Roy Mills

[Natureindeed.com](http://www.natureindeed.com)

Karen Hunt from the Lake Networking Group recently sent information regarding a new initiative by the Lanark Stewardship Council. They have established a website as a source of information on a wide range of issues of interest to rural and waterfront residents. On a range of topics from bats in the attic to septic systems the site attempts to provide links to information on a range of subjects of interest to rural residents. Check out <http://www.natureindeed.com>.

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[Around the Lake](#)

- BLA members Bill Wilman and Vera Asanin lost their home to a devastating fire on December 5th. The home was located near the Causeway on the North Branch. If you know Bill and Vera, you no doubt have already extended a hand of support. Notice of a benefit lunch to be held on December 19th, organized by the Boatilla Committee, went out to our membership yesterday. We hope that Bill and Vera take comfort in the support of their community.
- The Edens Family of Rochester NY have made us aware of the passing of their mother, Margaret Edens on December 4th 2010 in Rochester. Edens' Eden Point was her summer home for many years. The BLA wishes to extend sincere sympathy and best wishes to the Edens Family.
- This first week of December has announced the first blast of winter. Due to heavy rainfall in November, the lake levels are very high for this time of year. On December 6th, the level was 132.70m which is just .05m below the recommended maximum level. Fortis Power is drawing down the level as fast as they can but we remain concerned that there could be shoreline damage due to current high levels and the impact of winter snow and spring run-off. We will keep members posted.
- From the newsletter folks, Merry Christmas to all and a most healthy and prosperous New Year. Look for the next Newsletter in early February 2011.