



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 – 2011 June

Principal writer: Roy Mills

President's Message

Summer time, summer time, sum-sum-summer time! At last, Mother Nature seems to have acknowledged that it is time for showers to bring flowers as well as veggies and outdoor BBQ's.

All the rain we had during May, combined with a full dose of black flies, has allowed the weeds in my front garden to get well ahead of me. The dragonflies are out in force so the flies are gone and the mosquitoes are subdued, at least during the day. My last excuse for not working the weeds out of the cracks in my patio stones is writing this note for the Buck Lake Newsletter.

Gord McDiarmid

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I like to wait until I am home on the weekends to write. Here, I can sit at my computer looking out the window and noticing all the shades of green. In my view are a number of trees – the young oak tree that was damaged during construction of the house but has been nursed back to health and is looking quite handsome at the moment, several white pines, a birch tree that is far enough from the water to be unattractive to the beavers, several locusts that were planted by my neighbours when they owned the land, to name a few. Also, some bergamot not yet in bloom, pussy willows already past their best and a variety of wildflowers (known to some as weeds) too numerous to mention.

Hope you are enjoying the season as much as I am. I look forward to seeing you soon.

Tricia Waldron

Board of Director's Report

The Board met on May 14th, 2011 with a full attendance. The agenda moved quickly through a number of reports and updates of coming events. Planning for the AGM on July 9th also was a main discussion. A point form summary of key points follows:

- The Nominations Committee is continuing to contact potential Board members for 2011-2012. As many as 6 new Directors may be needed. A report from the Committee will be published in the July News before the AGM.
- Ralph Wirsig reported that as of May 13th, membership renewals for 2011 and beyond stood at 97. We expect an increased flow of renewals as the weather warms and the AGM approaches. There will be a

membership table at the AGM for those who wish to renew at that time. Our target is 160 memberships for 2011.

- Saundra Rider gave an update of planned summer activities as published in the May News. Later in the newsletter we will remind readers of those dates and events.
- Cheryl Savery reported that three 10'x20' event tents had been purchased for the use of the BLA and its members. If you are planning an outdoor event and want some shelter from sun or rain, contact Cheryl at cheryl.savery@gmail.com.



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Wayne Myles reported that the Friends of the Lake Committee had interviewed and hired a student for 120 hours of work on the Lake Plan Draft for this summer. More details are included in the Friends Report latter in this newsletter.

- Due to the fact that we missed out on the Pitch In Project in South Frontenac, we are planning to do a Perth Road clean up on Saturday May 28th. An email announcement

will be forwarded to members the week of May 23rd.

- AGM planning involved a discussion of the agenda format and how to best serve the interests of members and potential guest speakers. A committee of three Directors is contacting community resource people to extend an invitation and will make recommendations for agenda planning at the June 11th Board meeting.

Break and Enters at Buck Lake

On May 30th, the Frontenac Detachment of the OPP issued a news release that a suspect had been apprehended and charges laid involving a number of break and enter incidents at Buck Lake and other area lakes. After speaking to one of the officers recently, it appears that some of the incidents on Narrows Lane and Elephant Rock Lane are linked to other individuals currently under investigation by the Detachment. Late arriving seasonal residents may still find evidence of entry in their cottages. Please take measures to secure and monitor your cottages and homes and report any suspicious persons to police at once. If you discover a break in, vacate the cottage immediately and call 911. The recent arrest was made possible because a resident was able to take a photograph of an intruder with their cell phone camera...technology at work. To our knowledge, at least a dozen Buck Lake cottages/homes were compromised during the rash of break and enters this spring. Be proactive...meet and work with your immediate neighbours to be on the alert at all times.

We have invited the OPP to attend our AGM to respond to this and other questions from members.



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Friends of the Lake Report

- **Summer Student Hired to Work With Friends Committee**

The Friends of the Lake Committee has hired Anthony Hommik, a second year student at Queen’s School of Urban and Regional Planning, to assist in researching and writing the Buck Lake Plan. He will be working part-time over the June-August period researching and organizing documentation pertaining to Buck Lake held by the Friends Committee, at the Queen’s archives and from various provincial and municipal sources. He will also collect and/or develop maps, write a section on the social history of the lake and frame the body of the plan so that summaries of future studies can be added as they become available. Anthony will also begin to assemble a section on opportunities for lake residents to take action to help sustain the water quality of the lake. Members will be able to get an update on the lake plan activities during the Friend’s Education evening on Thursday July 21st.

- **A Short Lesson in Fish Biology for Buck Lake**

We often take for granted that there are all kinds of fish in the lake, however, there are a number of lakes that do not have fish so we are very fortunate that Buck Lake has a healthy supply of edible fish for our enjoyment. A recent addition to the website on the “Fish” page shows the species of fish in Buck Lake, their reproduction, habitat requirements and potential growth throughout their life. Interesting that this is one of the few lakes in the world that have lake trout and how few lakes have lake trout. A previously

posted presentation on lake trout is also on the website on the “Fish” page.

Grayden McClurg

[Spring Water Levels](#)

As everyone knows, our lake has seen uncommonly high water levels over the last six months. At freeze up, we were almost at maximum recommended level of 132.75m above sea level. Fortis Power controls the levels to standards set by the Cataraqui Regional Conservation Authority. Over the winter months, the Massassauga Dam remained open and was able to draw down the lake to some degree. The dam is only able to handle about 8 cubic metres per second and the elevation downstream is only marginally lower. In simple terms, it takes a long time to draw down Buck Lake on a good day. Add beaver problems and natural dams in the flow and you can see the problem that snowmelt and twice the normal spring rainfall can create. Over the last week, the water levels have shown significant reduction. Some of the expected rocks and shoals are showing their heads. Murray Hall, from Fortis Power has been very good to keep us updated about the lake

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levels and what is happening. The Buck Lake watershed is obviously connected to other watersheds including the Rideau System, where Parks Canada was asking for help in not releasing too much water into the broader system. Murray says that since 2004, there has been a significantly higher need to adjust and re-adjust the system to deal with more storms and the frequency of measureable precipitation in the system. Residents of the lake are asked to be aware that a fluctuating water level may well be an ongoing reality and shoreline

stabilization should be a priority. Docks, shoreline sheds and bunkies may be at increased risk as well. Add rock to the exposed shoreline and plant shrubs and trees that will reduce shoreline erosion.

Help out Ontario's Turtles — Become a Turtle Watcher

(Reprint from FOCA)

Have you ever seen a group of painted turtles sunning themselves on a log, or maybe a dinosaur-like snapping turtle swimming beneath your dock? While you may not think much of these wildlife sightings, seeing turtles in their natural environment is becoming more and more difficult and should be considered a special treat.

At the present time only the painted turtle is considered to be a common species. The wood, spotted turtle, stinkpot, spiny soft-shell, map, Blanding's, and snapping turtles are all considered to be at risk. Development, habitat loss, and road mortality have taken their toll on turtle populations across the province and have made it more and more difficult to catch a glimpse of these interesting and shy creatures. In addition to this, their long life span (snapping turtles can live to be up to 90 years old!) and multitude of predators (e.g., skunks, raccoons, foxes) make for a life filled with challenges.



The poster for the Classic Theatre Festival features a red background. At the top center is the logo 'CTF' in a stylized font. Below it, the text 'Classic Theatre Festival' is written in a large, serif font, followed by 'Ottawa Valley's Professional Summer Theatre' in a smaller, sans-serif font. On the left side, there is an illustration of a black cat with yellow eyes sitting in front of a large, full moon. Below this illustration is the text 'Bell, Book and Candle' and 'July 8 to 31, 2011'. On the right side, there is an illustration of a red, ornate four-poster chair. Below this illustration is the text 'The Fourposter' and 'Aug. 5 to 28, 2011'. In the center, between the two illustrations, the text reads 'New venue!', 'Mason Theatre', '13 Victoria Street, Perth', and 'Wheelchair accessible'. At the bottom center, the text reads '1-877-283-1283 or www.classictheatre.ca' and 'Ask about our Early Bird Discounts!'.

Cottagers are a lucky group; living on the water provides lots of opportunity to see these animals flourishing in their natural environment. While different species of turtle have different favourite places, from spongy bogs, to secluded marshes, to fast moving rivers, all turtles can be found in or around the water. As summer comes closer these animals will find their way out of the deep water ponds where they spend the winter and will begin moving to ideal their summer locations, maybe even to your lake.

If

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you are lucky enough to see a turtle this summer, the Adopt-A-Pond Wetland Conservation Programme wants to hear about it. Through the Ontario Turtle Tally, adults and children can report their turtle sightings on-line and become part of a fun and easy monitoring program. The data reported to Ontario Turtle Tally allows biologists across the province to better understand turtle distributions and identify hotspots of road mortality. By reporting your turtle sightings you are making a significant contribution to the conservation of local species at risk and are ensuring that the turtles in your community are being recognized and represented.

When you see turtles this summer, make note of where you are, what species of turtle it is, what it is doing, and, if possible, take a picture. To submit your sighting simply visit the Adopt-A-Pond Website and click on Ontario Turtle Tally. This program is a great opportunity to take a closer look at the turtles on your lake and to get involved in an exciting summer activity. If you are interested receiving an Ontario Turtle Tally or Frogwatch Ontario package, which includes an identifier guide and poster, sticker, and magnet, just call, email, or write us at the address below and we will get it out to you right away.

For more information, online resources, and children’s activities visit our website at: www.torontozoo.com/adoptapond



News and Upcoming Events

- **Friday June 10th** from **5:00 to 7:00 p.m.** **Fish Fry at Perth Road United Church**...great fish and home made pie for dessert.
- **Thursday June 16th**, **Pot Luck Dinner** at the home of Margaret Fisher, 1018 Kingfisher Lane. **Gather at 5:30 and eat at 6:00**...bring a main dish, salad, dessert or appetizer, your beverage of choice and lawn chairs. Coffee and tea will be available. All Buck Lakers are welcome.
- **Saturday July 2nd** from **8:30 until noon**...**Buck Lake Dock Sale**. All who wish to participate are asked to put their treasures out on the dock and announce their sale by flying some balloons from the dock. We have no idea how much business you may get but give it a try...a good way to meet your lake neighbours and clean out some good stuff.

Handing Down the Cottage

Preserving the cottage for your family requires you to consider your family’s wishes as well as tax, legal and funding issues.

To learn how you can deal with these, register for a no-cost, information seminar in your community at www.geoffreyparker.ca or call 416-346-3806



- **Saturday July 2nd ...Annual Buck Lake Boatilla.** Assemble in the South Basin near the Boat Launch at **2:00 p.m.** and join the procession around the islands and down to the Ruttan Campgrounds for a formalities and a great BBQ. All monies raised go the Easter Seals Camp Fund. Be generous when asked for a donation and come out and have a great afternoon on July 2nd.
- **Saturday July 9th ...Buck Lake Association Annual General Meeting** at **Perth Road Public School.** **Doors open at 8:00 a.m.** and the **meeting begins at 9:00 a.m.** A complete agenda and program outline will appear in the July News. Please plan to attend.
- **Thursday July 21st ...Species on Buck Lake,** presented by **Mark Convoy** of Queen's University. This educational event is sponsored by our Friends of the Lake Committee and will be held at **Perth Road United Church Hall beginning at 6:30 p.m.** Please bring the children as well.

Passages

- Nancy Wainman contacted us in May to let us know that her father, Jim Sutherland, passed away on January 21st, a few weeks short of his 84th birthday. As Nancy writes...Mom and Dad bought their land on the South Branch near the mouth of Massasuga Creek in the early 50's. Our family camped on the point for a number of years and in the 60's Dad built a small cabin in the bay adjacent to the point. The cabin remains today as it was then – without water, electricity or road access – a perfect retreat all our family members have enjoyed for many years. Although Dad wished he could have had one last summer at the cottage, he acknowledged that he was fortunate indeed to have had almost 60 years on this beautiful lake.
- George Norman, one of the major developers of Buck Lake cottage properties over many years, passed away in May. George was a man full of life and humour. Anyone who ever met George had a “George Story”. Our sincere regards and best wishes to his wife and family, many of whom still have strong links to the Buck Lake community.

FRIENDS OF BUCK LAKE

Present an evening with

MARK CONBOY

Queen's University Biological Station Outreach Coordinator

Thursday July 21 @ 7PM
Perth Road United Church Hall

Topic:

IMPORTANT/ENDANGERED SPECIES **FOUND AROUND BUCK LAKE**

Family Event – Children Welcome!

