



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 – 2012 January

President's Message

I trust you are well and surviving 2012. It is already the end of January which means that spring is only around the proverbial corner. But what a month January has been. Like me, you have probably put enough road salt on your driveways and roads to keep that industry viable for years to come! Some say that at least we don't have a lot of snow but, in my humble opinion, I would rather clear some snow than try to cope with continuous icy conditions. So as I grumble about the weather I need to revise my earlier quip about welcoming global warming. Who knew that Mother Nature would actually listen to me! That might be a first for me....that a woman listened to me that is.

Despite the weather we enjoyed a wonderful day on the lake on Saturday, 14 January. The usual suspects (Grayden and Cheryl, Roscoe and Liz, Ralph and Kathy primarily) managed to make a passable rink despite the atrocious melting deep freeze conditions. And was it ever cold; probably made worse because we weren't used to it. Nonetheless, we had a good time playing shinny and golf as well as sharing a cider, hot chocolate, chili or hot dog. It was so cold that the snow on the BBQ's handle never melted! It was great to see some people come out who had never participated in lake activities in the past. It was a good day and kudos to the organizers and thanks to Ross, Liz, Fred, Miriam, Laurie, Anne, Moe, Cheryl, Grayden, Sandra and fill in Chef, Don Hopkins.

Since I last reported at the end of November, the BLA board has met twice and had the occasions to accept the draft report on Buck Lake as prepared under the direction of the Friends of the Lake Committee (Friends) and under the auspices of your BLA. Wayne Miles, chair of the Friends presented the report to the board and asked the members to review the comprehensive document with a view to getting to know it intimately and to be able to promote it in our community.

Well, we have had the chance to read the report and to provide feedback, mostly minor stuff, and the report is nearing the point where it can be widely promulgated. I must tell you that the report is an excellent document and captures the essential issues to do with our community. It touches on the requirement for residents to work on behalf of our lake to preserve water quality as well as everything that affects our quality of life here. It also speaks to the history of the settlement of Buck Lake and it will resonate with everyone who reads it I am certain. There is also a good deal of technical data that is of interest to those of us who wish to understand why our lake is special and therefore what needs to be done to preserve it. It is a wonderful and inclusive document that can be expanded in the future as we are able to undertake activities that will serve to enhance our lake.

I am very hopeful that this report will serve to unite all Buck Lakers and to mobilize us to work together on behalf of our lake and one another, the residents. I am also hopeful that many more residents, full and seasonal, will join the BLA and thus give more weight to the report and the



efforts of those of us who endeavour to pursue initiatives espoused in the report that will ensure the continued good health of Buck Lake and its environs. We are indeed fortunate to have folks like the volunteers who comprise the Friends working on our behalf.

Wrapping up, let me wish you a belated happy and healthy 2012.

Best wishes,
Peter Dawe

Social History of Buck Lake and its Community

We hope you are enjoying a safe and active winter and are finding creative ways to use this strange and unpredictable weather. The BLA and the Friends of the lake are continuing to work on the final editing of the Lake Plan and are pleased to give you the third section from the social history. It is a very interesting account of the first people that came to the area, what brought them here and why they chose to stay in a location that was thought by some to be uninhabitable. As always we hope you enjoy the read and invite your, comments, additions or correction.

Lynne Hendry lynne.hendry@googlemail.com



For easy entry/exit of your kayak at your dock. See videos at www.kayaarm.ca

SPRING SPECIAL for Buck Lakers only: You pay \$210 we pay the tax AND free installation

Wirsig Enterprises Inc.
613-353-2801

The advertisement features a logo for 'KayaArm' with the text 'Kaya' in green and 'Arm' in red, enclosed in a red oval. Below the logo, it promotes a spring special for Buck Lakers, offering a \$210 discount on kayak entry/exit equipment, with the company paying the tax and providing free installation. The contact information for Wirsig Enterprises Inc. is provided at the bottom.

After logging brought settlers into the area, mineral deposits were discovered. Apatite was discovered around Buck Lake in the 1870s, during the height of the lumbering. Mica was also discovered in the area in the 1880s. Muscovite mica was found north of Kingston it is the most common form of mica and can be split into very thin sheets. It was used in the production of isinglass. Transparent isinglass sheets were used for peepholes in boilers, lanterns, and stoves because it was less likely to shatter under extreme heat. Mica was also crushed and used as what is referred to as a dry-lubricant, especially for tank treads in World War I. Some of the mica was shipped to Buffalo; however there was also a mica cobbing operation in Sydenham. Cobbing is a process that cleans the mica crystals from the rock. The mica was then sent to Kingston and

transported on the Kingston-Pembroke Railway back to Sydenham. This changed when the Canadian Northern Railway came through the area in 1912. This section of the Canadian Northern ran from Smith Falls down to Strathcona, north of Napanee and made shipping the mica to Sydenham far less time-consuming and costly. The Canadian National Railway eventually acquired this section of track and today we know it as the Cataraqui Trail. Travellers may have made use of the Canadian Northern to get to Buck Lake, as there was a stop in Perth Road Village. Visitors would have travelled on the Grand Trunk Railway and transferred to Smith Falls on the Canadian Pacific.

British companies funded most of the mining ventures, but the Tetts thanks to revenue from the timber business, financed their own Mica mine. Several commercial mines opened in the area, General Electric's Lacey Mica Mine near Sydenham, Frontenac Lead Mine near Wilmer, and Richardson Feldspar Mine near Thirty Island Lake. The largest single crystal of mica ever found was at the Lacey mine and weighed approximately 330 tonnes and measure 10m x 4.3m x 4.3m¹. Closer to Buck Lake, a mine was established in 1860 on the spine of land between Slide and Buck Lake the miners were searching for gold, iron, silver, and lead. In addition to the larger commercial mines, farmers would supplement their income by selling whatever minerals they came across while working the land. We often hear of Buck Lakers discovering small mine openings on their properties. It is quite likely that this is where a farmer trying to eke out a living once extracted whatever mica or phosphorus he could find. In addition to logging and mining, trapping would have been the next largest source of commerce in the area.

Mining boomed from the 1880s to the 1890s, but in 1893 it was reported that large quantities of phosphates were discovered on the surface in Florida, meaning that it could virtually be scooped up with a shovel and it didn't need to be mined. Almost immediately, the United States imposed an embargo on Canadian phosphorus imports, causing the market to crash, leading to the end of phosphate mining in the area. Cheaper mica was found elsewhere and gold, silver, iron, and lead were never found in quantities worth extracting. The logging industry began to decline around the turn of the twentieth century. The beaver had been trapped to near-extinction and the deer population was dwindling, not to reappear in significant numbers until the 1960s and 1970s. As industry was declining, families began abandoning the marginal farmland in the area as well. Subdividing the land around Buck Lake for cottage lots started to occur in the mid-1920s and the 1930s. A number of American families purchased land around the lake for the purpose of selling cottage lots. One man in particular, Charles Meyer had a significant amount of land that was bequeathed to a local man by the name of George Matthews and eventually was passed to the Norman family who were responsible for the major transformation of Buck Lake from a community of ten families in 1860 to the some 450 of today.

1 Peter Rickwood, "The largest crystals," *American Minerologist* 66: 885-907 (1981).

Mid-Winter Fest January 14, 2012

The 1st Buck Lake Mid-Winter Fest was a huge success in spite of the very cold temperature. 65 to 70 people participated in the snow and ice games. Special thanks to Grayden McClurg and Ross Trudel for the many hours of work spent preparing the ice for the games. Thanks to Ralph Wirsig for grooming the luge run and to Kathy Wirsig who purchased the refreshments which were compliments of the BLA. It was great to see so many families in attendance. A big thank you goes out to the Ratan Family for the use of their campground facility and the firewood for the bon fire. No winners were announced for the hockey game. 8 year old Devon claims he won first place in 2 luge races. Snow golf champions were Miriam Adams (ladies') with a score of 11 and Fred Leavitt (men's) with a score of 10.

With thanks to the committee: Ross, Liz Grayden, Sandra, Kathy L, Kathy W and Ralph. Here's to next year.... Sandra Rider



You can view all the pictures at: <https://picasaweb.google.com/113068383477993245024>
Click on the first picture and the thumbnails open, click any thumbnail to start, and use the arrows on the side of the picture to scroll the other pictures.



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SHOW YOUR SUPPORT IN 2012!

The Easter Seals **FREE**

Family Skate

Sunday, February 26TH, 2012

11 a.m.-5 p.m. at the K-Rock Centre

Bring your family and friends out for a fun-filled day in support of children with physical disabilities. There will be live entertainment throughout the entire day!

Gord McDiarmid

Barrister, Solicitor,

Since 1979

(and a happy year-round resident on
Buck Lake since June 2006)

*Real Estate, Mortgages, Family Law
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Home: 1097 Tober Lane, Buck Lake
Phone: 613-353-6912

Office: 3 Rideau Street, Kingston
Phone: 613-546-3274
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The Buck Lake Boatilla Cheque in the amount of \$16,000.00 will be presented by Duncan Sinclair during this telethon. This will sponsor 8 kids to go to Camp Merrywood in 2012. We are hoping for a great turn out from Buck Lakers.

Overall the community of Buck Lake and friends has contributed \$66,132.00 sponsoring 33 kids for Camp Merrywood.

Well Done!

Buck Lake Association
Statement of Income & Expenses
For the period ending December 31, 2011

	Budget	Actual	Variance
Income			
Membership Revenue	\$4,000.00	\$3,019.35	\$980.65
Deferred Revenue from 2010		\$50.00	-\$50.00
Advertising	\$1,000.00	\$1,050.00	-\$50.00
Lake Planning	\$3,000.00	\$923.39	\$2,076.61
Map Sales	\$200.00	\$602.00	-\$402.00
Social & Outreach	\$500.00	\$472.00	\$28.00
Courses / Events	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Other	\$100.00	\$202.25	-\$102.25
Total	\$9,300.00	\$6,318.99	\$2,981.01
Expenses			
Insurance	\$1,100.00	\$1,155.60	-\$55.60
Affiliate Memberships	\$800.00	\$484.75	\$315.25
Publications	\$400.00	\$98.86	\$301.14
Administration Fees	\$200.00	\$240.78	-\$40.78
Conference & Seminars	\$250.00	\$52.42	\$197.58
Courses / Events	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Social & Outreach	\$1,000.00	\$1,293.62	-\$293.62
Buck Lake Heritage Project	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
Community Project	\$1,000.00	\$1,392.08	-\$392.08
Lake Plan Activities	\$5,000.00	\$3,638.42	\$1,361.58
Total	\$11,050.00	\$8,356.53	\$2,693.47
Excess of Revenue over Expenses	-\$1,750.00	-\$2,037.54	\$287.54

Buck Lake Association
Balance Sheet
As of November 17, 2011

Assets	
General Bank Account	\$7,051.87
Total Assets	\$7,051.87
Liabilities	
Deferred Revenue 2012	\$1,325.00
Deferred Revenue 2013	\$50.00
Deferred Revenue 2014	\$50.00
Outstanding Cheques	\$0.00
Total Liabilities	\$1,425.00
Members' Equity	\$5,626.87