



The Buck Lake Association Inc.

P.O. Box 1753, Stn Main, Kingston, ON K7L 5J6

www.bucklake.ca

email: info@bucklake.ca

"To enhance people's enjoyment of Buck Lake now and for future generations"

Buck Lake News – 2012 March

President's Message

I write this note while hearing the geese returning from making a mess on southern golf courses! A sure sign that spring is here; that, and the fat buds on the trees and the appearance of the leaves I didn't get around to picking up last Fall. The good news is that golf season will start in a month or so. For those who haven't had a chance to participate, the Buck Lake crowd heads to Westport every Monday morning to play one of the two lovely and challenging 9-hole courses there and to work on our self- constraint and humility. Some do better than others but mostly it is true golf – a perfectly good walk in nature spoiled by trying to hit the little white ball. (I paraphrase some wise man who stated this much more eloquently.)

Spring is also the time to participate in the annual sweepstakes to guess when the ice will be off the lake. For a mere \$5 one can hazard a guess as to when Roscoe Trudel can maneuver a boat through open water from the South end of the lake to Narrows Lane launch. There aren't many rules and the rumour that Roscoe has an ice-breaker at his disposal is just that, a rumour. The grand prize is significant, certainly enough for a case of 24.

Fine tuning of the Buck Lake Report is proceeding apace with members of the BLA board going through the draft page by page over the last month or two. Next step is to have the report edited for conciseness, clarity, continuity and flow as well as the production of easy to read charts and tables to enhance its usefulness. The hope is to have a "final" version ready by the end of 2012 for on-line reading and several hard copies. Because the report is actually an evolving document that will incorporate additional studies that could range from annual water quality testing results to future fish counts, and everything else that might be of interest to us or that could impact our lake, it shouldn't be referred to as a final report....ever. I think you will enjoy reading this fine piece of work brought to us by the Friends of the Lake Committee under the capable leadership of its chairman Wayne Myles.

The production of this report cost the BLA a considerable amount of money. We have been most fortunate over the years that residents have joined the BLA at an annual cost of \$25 per family per year. However, membership is not increasing fast enough to allow funding essential projects like this one, nor does a relatively low membership give the lake report the credibility it needs in the eyes of outside agencies that are much needed to assist us with implementation of measures to keep our lake in good shape. I would ask everyone who reads this to join the BLA if not already a member.

In ending this sermon, I think we have a very good thing going here on Buck Lake. The water is super clean, the fish are abundant, and the folks are great. Let's all work together to maintain what we have and to have fun while so doing. I encourage you to participate in the many activities that are presented for our common enjoyment.

Best wishes,

Peter Dawe

Gray Ratsnake



Photo: Michael Oldham

Features: The Gray Ratsnake (*Pantherophis spiloides*), also known as the Eastern Ratsnake, is Ontario's largest snake, attaining a length of 200 centimetres or more. Adults are shiny black, with a white chin and throat, while young snakes are grey with dark blotching on the body and tail. They are constrictors and feed mostly on rodents or birds, although frogs and other snakes are also eaten.

The two Canadian populations of Gray Ratsnake were originally considered to be one species, however based on the fact that the populations are genetically distinct and geographically isolated from one another, the species was split into two subspecies – the Frontenac Axis population and the Carolinian population - in April 2007. The

status for the two populations is different, with the Carolinian population being Endangered Nationally, and the Frontenac Axis population being Threatened Nationally.

The two populations have different habitat preferences. The Frontenac Axis population prefers edge habitats, particularly old fields next to deciduous forest, and can often be found in hollow logs or rock crevices, or basking on bedrock outcrops. The Carolinian population prefers wooded areas, although they may be found in meadows and fields.

These snakes are excellent climbers, and you may encounter one up a tree or bush hunting for prey. From October to April, they overwinter in underground, communal hibernacula. Hibernacula are usually in warmer, south-facing slopes and may contain many snakes belonging to several species.

Status: Endangered Provincially, Threatened Nationally

Gord McDiarmid

Barrister, Solicitor,

Since 1979

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

*Real Estate, Mortgages, Family Law
Wills, Estates, Powers of Attorney*

Home: 1097 Tober Lane, Buck Lake
Phone: 613-353-6912

Office: 3 Rideau Street, Kingston
Phone: 613-546-3274
Fax: 613-546-1493

Range: The Gray Ratsnake ranges across much of eastern North America, from New England south to Georgia, and west to Texas. In Canada, the Frontenac Axis population occurs in a region of eastern Ontario that includes Frontenac, Leeds and Grenville Counties. The Carolinian population occurs in small sections of Carolinian forest along the northern edge of Lake Erie.

[Range Maps](#)

Threats: In the southeastern Ontario, Gray Ratsnake habitat is threatened as land is developed for recreational use and roads are built. Not only has this fragmented the population, but road deaths have contributed to the species' decline. Predation by raccoons (which eat eggs) and hawks (which prey especially on young snakes) are additional pressures on this population. Loss of habitat has been the main threat to the Carolinian population of Gray Ratsnake. The northern shores of Lake Erie are dominated by agriculture and roads, which have severely fragmented this population's habitat. In addition, high incidences of mortality due to road deaths could reduce the number of individuals below what is considered necessary for the population to survive.

Protection: Ontario's *Endangered Species Act* that came into effect in June, 2008 now protects the Gray Ratsnake. The species is also protected by Ontario's *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act*. The federal *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) protects the Gray Ratsnake on the federal lands on which it occurs. One of the key measures identified for this species is identification and protection of the hibernacula, which are used year after year by the snakes.



This page has been produced in partnership between
the
Royal Ontario Museum and the Ontario Ministry of
Natural Resources



Other information including diet can be found here:

<http://www.incredibleworld.ca/index.php/incrediblespecies/grayratsnake>

The following information is from Kathy Wirsig.

Ron's Home & Cottage Services

- Plumbing, electrical, tiling, window replacement
- Bathroom renovations, maintenance
- Closing cottages for winter/water supply & drain systems & spring re-opening
- Renovations of all types
- Call Ron at **353-6919** (Buck Lake Resident)

Looking for something to do in April?

Friends of Frontenac Park will be conducting an interpretive Historical Walk along Big Salmon Road Sunday April 22 @ 10:30 AM, bring your lunch, water and comfortable walking shoes. Call 613 376 3489 and register at the Park Office, the cost is daily entrance fee to Frontenac Park. For information and other park events check this link:

http://www.parkreports.com/events/event_details.php?parkID=26&Submit=View+Events




John Breimer
Sales Representative

Website: www.johnbreimer.com

851 Norwest Rd., Kingston, ON K7P 2N2
 Fax: (613) 389-3156
 Cell: (613) 453-7621
 E-Mail: jbreimer@realtykingston.com

Bus: (613) **389-7777**
 Toll Free: 1-877-924-3689

Are you interested in bird studies? Bird Studies Canada has a web site you can visit:
<http://www.bsc-eoc.org/>

Are you on an island?

Alternative Toilets

What are they? There are many alternatives to the traditional flush toilet. Many of the more well-known alternatives are high-efficiency, low-flow toilets. Other alternatives include low-water use and waterless composting and separating toilets that function with or without electricity. These alternatives are discussed herein.

Why use potable water to flush your toilet?

How do they work? Almost all alternative toilets mimic the same look-and-feel of traditional flush toilets. User acceptance and comfort is of utmost importance to the widespread uptake of these environmentally sustainable technologies. A brief note on operation and maintenance for each alternative is provided below.

Composting

These systems can be waterless and typically handle liquid and solids wastes in a separate, self-contained chamber. Waste is degraded and sanitized. Microorganisms and/or mulching additions may enhance the treatment step and the chamber is vented and/or heated to reduce the moisture content. A mechanical or manual mixing is conducted to again enhance treatment. The chamber containing the compost must be emptied at specific intervals and applied to land in a safe and legal manner.

Separating

These systems can be waterless and composting. Separation of liquid and solid waste occurs below the seat and within the toilet. A unique separator diverts both wastes. The treatment step is enhanced because liquid and solid wastes are best treated separately. Liquid waste is diverted to



WAYNE GORDON
SALES/MARKETING

4201 PERTH ROAD
 INVERARY (Kingston),
 ONTARIO K0H 1X0
 613-353-1577 EXT.22 FAX: 613-353-7230
www.northcountrymarine.ca
 email: wayne@northcountrymarine.ca



a holding tank for reuse as grey water (e.g., gardening). Solid waste can be contained within a compartment in the toilet. The compartment is periodically emptied and when composted it can applied to land in a safe and legal manner.

Alternative Toilets Product Examples



Where can they be used? These alternative toilets can provide waste handling in urban and rural settings. They are well suited to applications with:

- Limited or no water supply
- Restricted or no electricity
- Limited or restricted onsite treatment
- No access to sewer infrastructure
- Low, moderate, and high use

Who provides them? Suppliers and manufacturers of alternative toilets available in Canada that are waterless, separating, and/or composting include:

- [Advanced Composting Systems, LLC](#) - Composting Toilets
- [Clivus Multrum](#) – Composting Toilets
- [Ecojohn](#) – Waterless & Composting Toilets
- [Envirolet](#) – Waterless & Composting Toilets
- [Separett](#) – Separating & Waterless Toilets
- [Sun-Mar](#) – Composting Toilets

This article from: <http://www.watersheds.ca/>

[Colour mountable maps](#) of [Buck Lake](#) are available for purchase at the Perth Road Village Store as well as the LCBO in Inverary. These wonderful maps make a great gift and are mountable. They can be mounted at Costco or other photo and framing shops.

2012 Planned Attractions:

June 30 Boatilla, always a fun time July 7 Annual General Meeting

July 19 Education Evening Presentation August 18 BBQ at Harris Park



Buck Lake Facebook Group

Did you know that the Buck Lake Association has a Facebook group? Members of the group can post pictures and share information with other Buck Lakers. Currently the group has about 30 members. Check it out to see some really great photos. I especially love Carolyn Green's sunrise and Gary Malstrom's misty island (see below). You can add comments and post some of your own pictures from around the lake, when you join.



To get to the Facebook group, go to:

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/132270000194765/> You can also find a link on the main page

of the BLA website. If you are already logged into Facebook, the link will take you right to the Buck Lake Group. If not, you will need to log into Facebook first. Then the link will take you to the Buck Lake Group. (Unfortunately you do need to have a Facebook account to see the group. ☹)



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

You can look at the pictures and comments without joining the Buck Lake Group. But if you join, you can post your own comments and pictures. Joining is easy, just click on "Join" and one of the administrators will add you to the group.

Don't have facebook account? You can create one here: <http://www.facebook.com/r.php>

BLA Plans and Projects

The BLA and the Friends of the Lake (FOTL) are continuing their work on the Lake Plan. The first round of editing has been completed by the Board and it is ready to be sent back to the Friends of the Lake for their input.

The Board and the FOTL have also been going forward with the Buck Lake history project. The first task was to have education on what information to collect how to collect it and where to start. We were very fortunate to have Dr. Brian Osborne, from Queen's University, attend a meeting at Liz Whelpdales's Kingston home in February.

Dr. Osborne shared with us his vast experience and knowledge, in the gathering of data from published resources and through the interview process. Dr. Osborne is the author of several publications about the history of the Kingston area and its inhabitants. He was able to lead us in the right direction and clarified for us the first steps to take.

We have now begun the task of interviewing. We have decided to begin with long standing Buck Lake residents, the Greens, MacComishs, and Normans to name a few.

This is a large project that will involve many volunteers and many hours. It will also require funding which will come in part from the BLA annual membership fee of \$25.00.

The BLA and the Friends of the Lake would like to thank all of the Buck Lake members for their continued support.

Welcome packages for newcomers, the history project, the lake plan, buoy markers, no wake signs, dock talks, Buck Lake Maps, courtesy dock, and boat ramp signs are a few of the projects that would not be possible without you.

EASTER SEALS TELETHON 2012

Just a small invitation to all Buck Lakers to tune into CKWS on April 1 to see Boatilla representatives Jana Johnson, Duncan Sinclair and Ron Matthey present your generous donation of \$16,000.00 to Camp Merrywood. The presentation is scheduled for 1:00 but just to be sure, tune in a little ahead of time. It's a great show!

This year, Easter Seals is showcasing Camp Merrywood and Buck Lake has contributed \$66,132 to date. Check out the kids, many of whom you have seen at Hidden Valley Camp Ground having a great time. They continue that Great time at Merrywood thanks to you! "Buck Lake, as a Community" should be very proud of their participation in bettering other people's lives.

You may receive this message a few times as it will be sent out on behalf of the BLA; we wouldn't want you to miss seeing yourselves or your loved ones on television participating in past Boatillas.

Just to get everyone fired up for 2012, the Boatilla is scheduled for Saturday June 30 (More info to follow).

Roscoe (Chairman, Boatilla Committee)

Public Invited To Provide Comment On Proposed Walleye And Bass Regulation Changes

NEWS

March 9, 2012

The Ministry of Natural Resources and members of the Fisheries Management Zone (FMZ) 18 Advisory Council are inviting Ontario residents to provide comment on proposed regulation changes for bass and walleye as part of the development of the fisheries management plan in FMZ 18, located in eastern Ontario.

Recreational fishing in Ontario contributes an estimated \$2.5 billion to the provincial economy. Fisheries management planning can help provide increased angling opportunities and associated economic benefits.

Public consultation is an integral part of fisheries management planning that helps ensure Ontario's families can enjoy our natural resources today and in the future.

QUICK FACTS

- Fisheries Management Zone Advisory Councils provide a broad range of community members with the chance to share local knowledge about fish stocks, water quality, invasive species and habitat loss.
- With more than 250,000 lakes and countless rivers, Ontario is home to a world-class fishery. ▪ [Fish On-Line](#) is the ministry's new, modern, interactive and user-friendly web tool that helps anglers get the most out of their fishing experience.
- Visit ontario.ca/fishing for information about angling opportunities in Ontario.

To find out more about the proposed regulation changes for bass and walleye in FMZ 18, and to provide your input, please visit ontario.ca/zonecouncils and follow the link to FMZ 18, or attend one of the public open houses which are scheduled for the following locations, from 6:00-9:00 p.m. :

- Northbrook Lions Club, March 19
- Carleton Place Legion, March 21
- Westport Legion, March 23