

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 November

President's Message

As we approach Christmas I thought I would share a few items of common interest with you. No, I haven't completed or even started my shopping but there is still plenty of time and there are great deals the nearer one gets to the big day!!

You will need to know that I underwent a total knee replacement 12 October and have been whining and been a burden to my long suffering better half ever since. What an experience and one I would not recommend unless you have no real choice like in my case. While still in recovery mode, one that can last several months before one is pain free and the joint is as mobile as it will ever be, I think the operation was a success given my progress to date. I can walk fairly well, certainly better than before the procedure, but still have difficulty speaking any better than before! My treatment in KGH pre-op was excellent in every respect but the experience following the operation was something out of Dante's Inferno; Reine and I came home with a severe cold/flu bug and I had rashes in places I didn't know I had! All is well now but I won't be writing a thank you letter to the KGH administration to publish in the Whig!! But, once again, enough about me.

You will notice that there is an article to do with some of the more invasive species that will affect us in the near term if they haven't already. From my perspective, the zebra mussel is at the top of the list judging by the devastation it has wreaked on other bodies of water in the region, most notably Charleston Lake. Just this past weekend a Buck Lake resident reported finding the dreaded pest around his dock. Curiously, I received a report from a Queen's biology student who, only this past summer, undertook a study of our lake to determine if the water is conducive to supporting zebra mussels and, if so, to determine if any are present. She says the water is definitely perfect for these critters but went on to say that, so far, none were present in the lake. She went on to counsel taking serious preventive measures to prevent them from getting into our waters. It would appear that we are too late. We will endeavour to positively identify the sightings of late with the hope they are not zebra mussels. Now, there may be some readers who can offer sage advice as to what to do moving forward. We can post prominent signs asking boaters coming from other waters with their boats to take every precaution to remove any zebras from their equipment but we have no real means of enforcing this. So any good advice would be most welcome please.

My last note of interest is to thank Wayne Myles for attending the annual FOCA (Federation of Ontario Cottagers Association) meeting in Toronto recently. I must say that I am impressed with the work they do advocating on our collective behalf. One issue discussed at length at the meeting was the recent assessments made on our lake- front properties. As individuals, the task of questioning the value at which one's property has been assessed is most daunting given we do

not live in a suburb of like houses on like sized lots. Nor are many properties sold that would give one a chance to make a comparison of the assessed value vis a vis the selling price of similar properties. But FOCA can do a much more extensive and thorough analysis to ensure we are not being gouged. I am guardedly optimistic FOCA will be able to ensure our property value assessments are fair.

Thus ends another opinionated bunch of random comments. It remains only to wish all who read this a great Christmas, or other seasonal holiday, with family and friends. If you are able, please share your good fortune with others. There are numerous good causes including our very own Loughborough Relief Fund that, among other things, provides Christmas relief for the more needy in our neck of the woods.

Best wishes,
Peter Dawe



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

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11th Annual Lake Links Seminar a Report by Terry Demers

The Annual Lake Links Seminar was held on Saturday, October 20, 2012 in Perth. The topic of this year's seminar was Climate Change - How to Build Resiliency in our Lakes

This year, the seminar was attended by BLA board members Terry Demers and Donna Neumann, and by Margaret Fisher of Friends of the Lake committee. In addition, our councilor, Mark Tinlin was in attendance.

The first speaker was Gary Nielsen, Climate Change Project Coordinator, and Ministry of Natural Resources. Climate change is definitely here. We have seen 4 of the warmest years in the past 10 years and should expect this trend to continue to rise. The government has designed a web site that could benefit lake associations:

<http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/ClimateChange/index.html>.

This guide provides a framework for projects we might consider undertaking. Gary suggested that to reduce the effects of climate change we improve our knowledge and engage our members

to participate. We studied 2 subjects from the toolbox, lake trout and hemlock and followed the effects climate change on them.

Next Paul Lehman, General Manager, Mississippi Valley Conservation, discussed lake water levels. We get less snow and more rain. In the summer, water flows from streams decreased 44% and in winter, the flows increased 70%. Streams are flowing earlier causing frazil ice where they meet frozen lakes. The rain is more intense in early summer when fertilizers are being used. The higher temperatures cause higher evaporation rates and higher surface temperatures in the lake. To make certain that enough water is available, where needed in the lower Mississippi water system, they draw from the upper lakes causing more stress.

Dr. Robert McLeman, Wilfred Laurier University discussed the risks of climate change and provided a web site NatureWatch.ca to obtain data. He spoke of a core study taken in winter from the soil of an Eastern Ontario Lake. It showed how certain species have not adapted well. The hemlock was prevalent many years ago but now is scarce. He noted the importance of maintaining plant life around the shoreline to help combat contamination. Dr. McLeman stressed the importance of maintaining data from our lakes and noted this task is up to lake associations and concerned individuals.


Dr. John Casselman, from Queen's University spoke about fish. He started by mentioning that fish are powerful indicators of climate change. Studies of fish gills coincided with major environmental disturbances similar to rings in trees. Water temperatures in the lakes are often higher than air temperatures. The St. Lawrence River is at a 60 year low. Spring flows come 6-7 weeks earlier. Summer flows are longer. Drought causes winter kill and he described how low water levels prevented the hatchlings from reaching the St Lawrence River.

Dr. Casselman described the thermal grouping of fish. There are warm, cooler, and cold fish. Warm fish lay their eggs in the summer, cooler fish in the spring and cold fish in the fall.

Pike are cool water fish and as temperatures increase pike will decrease. Lake trout are cold water fish and a change of water temperature of 12° means zero recruitment. A 3° change results in a 20% fold decrease. Fish spawn on the same day every year. At 30 and 40 years old fish are still able to spawn. Dr. Casselman suggests that there will be an increase in warm water fish +60%. Cold water fish will decline by 60% and if unable to adapt, some species will disappear. If water temperatures increase by 4° Celsius we may have a 24 fold increase in the number of bass. He recommends opening up the fishing season on bass to year round.

Dr. Casselman stressed the need to protect our cold water fish. To reduce our carbon footprint we should buy local. He recommended a book, Storms of my Grandchildren, by James Hansen.

Dr. Casselman's presentation was fascinating. We hope to be able to have him as our guest speaker at one of our annual meetings.






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FOCA 2012 Fall Meeting

A Report by Wayne Myles

The Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA) met on October 26, 2012 at the Cottage Life Show in Toronto. The agenda was essentially about what FOCA had been doing for the various lake residents across Ontario and more specifically about recent property assessments – MPAC – and their impact on cottage properties.

A Word About FOCA

Ted Spence (FOCA President) and Terry Rees (Executive Director) both spoke about the work FOCA is doing on behalf of lake associations and individual cottagers. FOCA's mission is to protect thriving and sustainable waterfronts in Ontario through communication, education and advocacy. When they sit at the Federal and Provincial tables for government negotiations it is on behalf of 50,000 families in 510 lake associations.

“FOCA sits at the table where individuals cannot.”
 (FOCA Lake Stewards Newsletter. Summer 2012)

When FOCA takes an advocacy stance it matters, since cottagers pour \$8 billion annually into the provincial economy, pay \$700 million in taxes and oversee 15,000 km of shoreline and 50,000 hectares of environmentally important lands.

Good News!

The letters we wrote to the Provincial Government about the retention of the Lake Partner Program met with success. The program has been renewed for 3 years. This means that 630 volunteers on 700 lakes – Lake Partners is the largest lake monitoring program in the world – can continue taking water samples and assist in tracking algae blooms.

More on blue-green algae blooms

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/sudbury/story/2012/08/03/sby-blue-green-algae-remedy.html>

The Mining Act has changed. “[Surface Rights Owners’] (SRO) mining rights have finally been addressed in the revised Mining Act, which is currently being implemented in stages. If you do not own the mining rights to your property and if your land was not already staked, the mineral rights have been withdrawn in Southern Ontario, or you can now apply to have them withdrawn in northern Ontario.” (FOCA Lake Stewards Newsletter. Summer 2012)

HOT TOPICS

FOCA has identified several HOT TOPICS that are important to waterfront property owners. Get up-to-date news and information by following these links:

Algonquin Land Claim	http://www.foca.on.ca/Algonquin-Land-Claim
Ontario Waterways (TSW, Rideau Canal...)	http://www.foca.on.ca/Trent-Severn-Waterway
Energy	http://www.foca.on.ca/Energy
Property Taxation	http://www.foca.on.ca/property-tax
Mining	http://www.foca.on.ca/Mining
Septics	http://www.foca.on.ca/Septics
Land Use Planning	http://www.foca.on.ca/Land-Use-Planning
Fire and Carbon Monoxide Safety	http://www.foca.on.ca/Fire-Safety

Other issues

1. Federal Government Legislation implemented 60 acts in 2 bills that have directly affected the environment. Among the acts affected were the Fisheries Act, the Navigable Waterways Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, and the Public Lands Act.
http://www.foca.on.ca/xinha/plugins/ExtendedFileManager/demo_images/Terry_Rees_Committee_notes_May_28_2012_for_web.pdf
2. The Experimental lakes Area (ELA) has been cut by the federal government. This program funded a research program in 3 northern lakes in Ontario which tracked acid rain and phosphorus content in the water. Its future is uncertain.
http://www.foca.on.ca/xinha/plugins/ExtendedFileManager/demo_images/Terry_Rees_Committee_notes_May_28_2012_for_web.pdf
3. The Ministry of Natural Resources eliminated the funding for the Lake Stewardship Program.
http://www.foca.on.ca/xinha/plugins/ExtendedFileManager/demo_images/MNR_discontinues_stewardship_councils_Sep_2012.pdf
4. Property Assessment forms. <http://www.foca.on.ca/property-tax>
What does yours look like? Learn to use “aboutmyproperty.”
<http://www.foca.on.ca/filing-an-rfr>
http://www.mpac.ca/products_services/amp/default.asp

The appeal deadline is April 1, 2013.

'SEASONS OF THE LAKE'

The Buck Lake Legacy

Together, Cynthia MacIntyre, Janet Barr and Katherine Leverette are embarking on a new Buck Lake adventure! It's a book of history, stories, photographs and fabulous tried and true family recipes that represent the finest aspects of our Buck Lake community – and you are invited to contribute.

With extraordinary photographs of the lake, its four seasons of natural beauty, wildlife and citizens, this one-time, hard cover edition will describe in pictures and stories, the unique character of a rural neighbourhood, where its exceptional residents foster “a caring community” and “sustainability.”

Divided into the four distinctly beautiful seasons on Buck Lake – Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter- each section will embody examples of the richness of living on and around the lake.

To contribute to the making of this book, we invite you to send in any of the following:

- Buck Lake's history, lore and characters - then and now.
- Photos of your family enjoying Buck Lake, water craft, special events, weddings, dock parties, winter picnics, skating, skiing, swimming
- A calendar of family and formal events held on the Lake (the Boatilla, Canada Day, annual Buck Lake Summer Picnic, etc.)
- Photos (jpg, E-mail) of wildlife, the view from your home or cottage, marine life, kids, docks, boats, sunrise and sunset....photos chosen for publication will require permission from those in the picture
- Favourite family recipes you serve in different seasons that make it special (make sure they are 'tried and true' and signed by the chef!)
- Seasonal implications... weather on the Buck..... The one (fish) that got away!
- Quotes and funny anecdotes to share
- Special Landmarks, copies of old maps you may have....
- Sign each story or photograph so you receive credit for pictures, stories and recipes. Stories (500 words or less) could be edited for length with consultation from the contributor.

Please send all items - no originals - to the following:

Katherine Leverette – crotherslek@limestone.on.ca

Cynthia MacIntyre – cmacIntyre1@live.com

Janet Barr – janetbarr@gmail.com or, call 1-613-378-2377 for further information.

Careful with that Bubbler

Guest post by [Blair Eveleigh](#), senior associate editor, Cottage Life

Many of you will have set up bubblers to keep ice from forming around your docks or boathouses this winter and causing unwanted and expensive damage. It's a good strategy: big, moving sheets of ice can be very destructive, and who wants to arrive at the cottage in the spring to find their dock in a shambles? Well, lately we've been getting some questions about bubblers, and we have to tell you bubbler folk that there are some sobering potential problems when you use these devices.

First of all, to install your bubbler you may need approval under the federal *Navigable Waters Protection Act*. You should always check with [Transport Canada](#) before you set your system up.

Once your bubbler is installed, you are responsible for making sure no one is harmed because of the opening in the ice that your bubbler will create. From the Transport Canada website:

Note: The action of safeguarding the ice and the hole that is created is a criminal code responsibility. It falls under the Criminal Code under "Duty to safeguard opening in ice". Any questions regarding the marking of the opening in the ice should be directed to your local OPP detachment.

Bubblers and their consequences fall under the part of the Criminal Code that deals with "Offences Against the Person." Here's the [relevant section](#) that applies:

263. (1) Everyone who makes or causes to be made an opening in ice that is open to or frequented by the public is under a legal duty to guard it in a manner that is adequate to prevent persons from falling in by accident and is adequate to warn them that the opening exists. ...

(3) Everyone who fails to perform a duty imposed by subsection (1) ... is guilty of (a) manslaughter, if the death of any person results therefrom; (b) an offence under section 269, if bodily harm to any person results therefrom; or (c) an offence punishable on summary conviction.

[Section 269](#) refers to cases of assault causing bodily harm, and if the injuries are severe, the Crown could decide to try a case as an indictable offence, where a conviction could lead to imprisonment for up to 10 years.

Whoa. Imagine that: All you want to do is stop the ice from damaging your dock, but then someone dies and you end up convicted of manslaughter, or someone is injured and you're convicted of assault causing bodily harm and sentenced to 10 years in prison. Serious stuff to consider.

This article courtesy of Cottage Life : http://cottagelife.com/43297/blogs/careful-with-that-bubbler?utm_source=CottageLifeNewsletter&utm_campaign=cbef14c6eb-Dockside_Feb_212_17_2012&utm_medium=email

Community Announcements

The "**Walk-On Program**" sponsored by the KFL&A is every Tuesday & Thursday afternoon from 5:00 pm-6:00 pm (November through March) at Perth Road Public School. No commitment required, and no exercise programs, it's just a pleasant place to walk for exercise when the weather is nasty outside. Please contact Muriel Kuhn (613) 353-1690 for more.

Christmas Music Concert featuring Jon McLurg & Chris Murphy

Saturday, Nov. 24th, from 7pm to 9pm, in the Perth Road Sunday School Hall.

There will be light refreshments to follow, and a Free Will Offering will be accepted.

All proceeds will go to the Perth Road United Church Benevolent Fund, used to aid those in dire need in our community.

A Christmas Bake & Craft Sale by Perth Road United Church December 8th from 9:00 am to NOON. In the Perth Road Sunday School Hall, Perth Road Village Tables for rent @ \$10.00 - call Muriel @ 613.353.1690 to reserve. All proceeds of this event will go to support the Food Bank.

Perth Road Village Store: Non-Perishable Food Donations

We will be accepting donations for the Perth Road Public School food baskets. If you have items you would like to donate (please check expiry dates), stop by the store and drop items in the donation box. *Donations will be accepted until December 17th, 2012*



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