



# The Buck Lake Association Inc.

Box 36, INVERARY, ON K0H 1X0

[www.bucklake.ca](http://www.bucklake.ca)

email: [info@bucklake.ca](mailto:info@bucklake.ca)

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

## *Buck Lake News – 2014 February*

### Meet the Board:

It is our hope to introduce board members to you, our readers, in the coming months. In this first installment, we introduce Grayden McClurg, Secretary Treasurer, Communications Director and Newsletter Lead.

I was raised in a farming town on the Manitoba Prairies; moved to Winnipeg where I lived for several years. From Winnipeg, I moved to Thompson Manitoba where I worked for a mining company for 30 years. After retiring, I went to a community college for a short time then worked on several contracts for the mining company for 2 years.

Cheryl and I moved to Sudbury in 2001 where Cheryl continued working for the same mining company until her retirement in 2009. We found our current home on Buck Lake in 2007 and took up full time residence in March 2009. We have 4 daughters, 5 granddaughters, and one grandson.

During our time in Sudbury we learned and participated in several water sports on Ramsey Lake at the Sudbury Canoe club. We also participated in the administration of the club where Cheryl taught sail boarding (wind surfing). I spent my time kayaking and participating in club administration functions.

### **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)



WAYNE GORDON  
SALES/MARKETING

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



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

www.gurreathomes.com

**ROYAL LEPAGE**  
 ProAffiliate Realty, Brokerage  
 Independently Owned and Operated

*Tammy & Heath Gurr*  
 Your Total Real Estate Package!

*Heath*  
 (613)985-2414  
[hgurr@rideau.net](mailto:hgurr@rideau.net)

*Tammy*  
 (613)583-0616  
[tammygurr@rideau.net](mailto:tammygurr@rideau.net)

*Buck Lake Residents*

*We specialize in waterfront properties!*

## Buck Lake History (MacComish Family)

The following notes represent a small bit of Buck Lake history. I have had the privilege of learning these facts from John and Debbie MacComish. During a couple of interviews John and Debbie generously shared some of their family history and their remembrances from the Buck Lake area.

George MacComish (John's grandfather) came to this area from Scotland in the late 1800's. He was one of ten children in his family. Wallace MacComish (John's father) was born in Frontenac Provincial Park in 1900. The parkland was private property then and George owned some. Wallace married Mable Green. The Green family was from United States. It was Mable's father John who designed the still famous Johnny Green Lure. In 1907 John's Uncle Alfred was born on the 200 acre property which John and Debbie now own. He was born in the woods back by the lake in the Stoness Mica Mining Camp.

John himself was born on Devil Lake in a still existing log house on the Stethem property in 1938. Debbie (Wilson) was born in Perth Road Village in 1952 and her parents were also from this area. They married in 1970 and still live at 7 MacComish Lane.

So back in the day John's generation was the first to have cars. John's father and grandfather never owned a car. There were two generations of families who lived in this area without vehicles. They used horses for chores on the land and the frozen lake. Perth Road was a one-lane dirt road. If you needed groceries from the store you left a list in your mailbox and the groceries were delivered by the postman who also happened to own one of the general stores. There were two general stores in the village at that time. You could buy flour, sugar and tea (there was no coffee). The mailman also delivered feed for the pigs and cows (ground oats). It cost ten cents for the delivery. The supplies came to the stores by train

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

on the now Cataraqui Trail. There was also a cheese factory in town. It was the last house in town below the road by the Trail. John remembers it was for sale in the early 60's for two thousand dollars.

No one had any money and everything was GREEN. There was no garbage. The chickens and pigs ate all the kitchen scraps and every jar was used over and over for preserves. If you didn't grow it in the summer or fish or hunt you would not have food. Life revolved around preparing for the next season. Every family had a barrel of pork, herring and trout all salted for winter. Debbie remembers old customs and remedies. The wood stove had blackstrap molasses, coal oil and sulphur warming. Mother's mixed a teaspoon of each together and the children and adults had a spoonful every morning for their tonic. Goose fat and camphor were mixed for colds and rubbed on your chest. They put onions on the bottoms of their feet for fever and cough medicine was a mixture of lemon, honey and onion. Every day the lanterns on the coal oil lamps had to be cleaned with newspapers for the next night. Debbie remembers how difficult it was to cut the wick just right or the lantern would smoke. The families did not buy very much. The bush was full of wild leeks, parsnips, turnips and many healing herbs. Cranberries grew naturally in the swamps. The local bamagillia (aka balsam poplar) tree nuts are known to be a tonic for cancer and the yellow blossoms of the goldenrod plant cured infection.

During John's father's time there was no electricity, so no refrigeration. Everyone had an icehouse at their home or cottage even on the islands. So the winter work was cutting ice. The ice cakes were 16 by 16 inches and it was \$35 for 400 cakes. This was the only refrigeration. During the winter the icehouses were all filled and the ice covered with sawdust to prepare for warm weather. The sawdust of course was a by-product of logging and cutting wood for the wood stoves. They had a sleigh with a saw blade which did run from a motor and they would cut a square of ice the size of a house then cut the ice cakes from it. When they were finished they would surround the area with cedar branches to warn other people of the open water.

As recently as the 1940's, families were still able to make a living from the lake. During the summer months it was fishing and the winter was cutting ice. When it was fishing season the men "guided" mostly American cottage families for trout fishing. This actually meant that they ROWED boats while the cottagers fished. The fishing was mostly for lake trout and the limit was 10 fish per person per day. John remembers everyone taking their whole limit (husband and wife) that is 20 trout every day and the smallest would be around 8 pounds. Apparently the pan fish were so plentiful they were taken



from the lake by the bagful. They used steel lines and Johnny Green Spoons for the trout. Most of the boats were hand made. John Green built his own boats and carved his oars. The men cut cedar trees into 14 and 16 foot lengths and split the whole length of the log right down the middle. Then they planed the log to the desired thickness and constructed boats. The cottagers did not own boats or motors. The fishing season was closed at spawning but you could fish all year. John remembers Pike over 20 pounds.

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

He told a story of one year that the eels were bad in the lake. The dead pike were floating everywhere. The eels would spawn by standing on their head. Then you could spear them and they would twist around the spear. They cooked the eel on a rack in the oven to eat and used the skins for arthritis and steering wheel covers on tractors and cars. The famous Vanderbilt family owns an island on Devil Lake and when John was 16 he guided for them every summer day for two years. So every local family at the end of summer would have a barrel of smoked fish, salted fish and canned fish for the winter.

The moms would bake and sell bread and pies to the cottagers.

With respect to hunting – people only shot what they needed for food or hides. The protein portion of their diet came from venison, rabbit, partridge, squirrel, fish and home raised cows or pigs. Trappers were able to catch muskrat, beaver, otter, mink, weasel, coon, skunk, fox, coyote and wolves. The pelts were sold to buyers who came around on the one lane dirt roads. John remembers when Ken Green shot a wolf in the area and it weighed 96 pounds.

As long as John can remember Buck Lake was always controlled by a dam. He remembers that the lake never froze solid in the Narrows or around Pulpit Island. They were never able to take horses onto that area of the lake for logging or hauling ice.

Mica was heavily mined in the area but most was finished by 1910. Apparently the Mica slabs were the size of washtubs.

Most hardwood Logging in the area came out of Hardwood Bay on Devil Lake.



In 1958 John worked on the crew that installed the culvert across our lake. There was a bridge at that location previously. The culvert was delivered in sections and after they took the bridge out they assembled the culvert and pushed it into the lake with a bulldozer. John remembers that the big pipe took a long time to fill with water and sink. After that they constructed the road over the pipe.

The parking area across the road from Pine Haven used to have a school built on it. It was Pine Grove School and later became a store, which burnt down. Most of the old buildings in fact had a fire at one time or another.

John and Debbie remember the trout spawning at night on the shoals. The herring and trout made so much noise jumping that you could hear the splashing out in front of the Greens.

In their memories Christmas Bay was called Billy Green Bay and what we know, as Hidden Valley was Roberts Bay. The oldest families on the lake were Roushorns, Sears, Greens, Fettigens, Varleys,

Leggitts, MacComish, and Munns. There were many families from United States on the lake even long ago.

For John and Debbie this lake has provided a home and livelihood and great adventures. It is a place full of beauty and awe. They have raised two sons and have six grandchildren all of whom love the land and the lake and participate in all the activities it provides.

I would like to thank them for sharing their stories with me. It was a lot of fun and I learned a tremendous amount about this area. John and Debbie are heartwarming and generous people.

Respectfully submitted to the Buck Lake Association History Committee by  
Jo Anne Hopkins.



**Greenshield**  
PEST CONTROL INC.

RESIDENTIAL · COTTAGE · BOATHOUSE · COMMERCIAL

**FOR PROTECTION AGAINST:**

<b>ALL INSECTS:</b> SPIDERS ANTS WASPS BEES HORNETS FLEAS CLUSTER FLIES EARWIGS BEDBUGS COCKROACHES MOSQUITOES AND MORE	<b>BATS:</b> BIG BROWN BATS LITTLE BROWN BATS	<b>BIRDS:</b> PIGEONS SPARROWS STARLINGS SEAGULLS GEESE WOODPECKERS GRACKLES CROWS SWALLOWS
<b>WILDLIFE:</b> RACCOONS SKUNKS SQUIRELS CHIPMONKS	<b>RODENTS:</b> MICE RATS	

Providing you with knowledge and expertise you can trust:

Over 25 Years Experience  
Ministry of Environment Licensed Technicians  
Fully Insured

Proudly Serving Buck Lake  
**TOLL FREE: 1-877-838-7278**  
www.greenshieldpestcontrol.com  
@GreenshieldPest  
facebook.com/GreenshieldPestControl

FREE ESTIMATES  
WRITTEN GUARANTEES  
FULLY INSURED  
SENIORS DISCOUNTS

Locally Owned & Operated



**PURAVIDA**  
ECO PRODUCTS

**Good for you. Good for the earth.**  
Environmentally friendly products for you, your family and your home.

**BODY CARE • CLEANING SUPPLIES  
BABY PRODUCTS • BIODEGRADABLE**

**Why Natural?**  
Healthy, truly eco-friendly, 100% biodegradable, septic tank safe and great for the cottage & camping.

**Why Pura Vida?**  
We have found the safest products so you don't have to. Certified natural & organic. Third party tested for toxic chemicals and health related issues (goodguide, ewg, msds). No more blind faith in manufacturer claims. Our products are truly eco-friendly, made in North America, healthy & affordable!!!

**www.puravida-eco.com**

**PERTH ROAD STORE**  
5504 Perth Road Crescent  
Box 1049 Perth Road, ON K0H 2L0  
**(613)353-6234**  
[perthroadstore@xplornet.ca](mailto:perthroadstore@xplornet.ca)  
Monday-Friday 6:00am-7:00pm  
Saturday 8:00am-6:00pm  
Sunday 9:00am-5:00pm

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

## Lots of snow and not too cold made for a great time at the Mid-Winter Fest

On February 1st, 58 people came to the Ruttan family campground to participate in the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Mid-Winter Fest. Everyone had a great time playing hockey, Frisbee golf, sledding, skating and sluice racing. People came by truck, snowmobile, ATVs, cross-country skis and some walked. A large bonfire kept everyone warm so they could enjoy hot dogs, chili, hot chocolate, and roast marshmallows. Dogsled style toboggans powered by snowmobiles ferried children on snow tours and adults got to rekindle friendships over a hot toddy.

A hearty "Thank You" to the BLA for financing the food and to all the volunteers who set up, scraped the rink, tended the fire, cooked, and cleaned up afterwards. It was a lot of work but well worth the enjoyment of watching a community enjoy themselves in the middle of a difficult winter season.

If anyone has a suggestion for next year, please contact Grayden, Roscoe, or Joanne.



[Click here for more pictures](#)

If you click any picture, you can view the pictures as a slide show.

**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



**Sutton** 1650 BATH ROAD  
KINGSTON, ON K7M 4X6

SUTTON GROUP-MASTERS REALTY INC. BROKERAGE  
Independently Owned and Operated

**John Breimer**  
Sales Representative  
Office: 613.384.5500  
Fax: 613.544.2737  
Email: jhbreimer@gmail.com

Cell: 613.453.7621      WWW.JOHNBREIMER.COM

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

## Pike & Lake Trout Fishing Derby in Memory of Rob Bertrim

Loughborough Lake February 22, 2014 Entry Fee: \$20.00

Weigh In from 12:00pm to 3:00pm at Harris Park Hall located at 5612 Perth Road Crescent, Perth Road

Hotdogs and refreshments will be available at the Hall

Prizes for the Biggest Pike, Biggest Lake Trout, and Door Prizes

Funds raised in support of widow, Wendy and children

Tickets are available at: Perth Road Store, Garrett's Meat Shop, and Mahon's Equipment

For Further Information and/or to donate a Prize Contact: Ian at 613.353.7633

Kayak stabilization for entry/exit  
www.kayaarm.ca

**KayaArm**

\$210  
<http://www.kayaarm.ca/>

**KayaLeg**

\$79  
<http://kayaarm.com/kayaleg/kayaleg-is-going-commercial/>

**For Buck Lakers only:  
we pay the tax**  
Wirsig Enterprises Inc.  
613-353-2801

### A little about insurance

Recently near the lake, the residents left for a holiday and when they returned, a broken water line had run freely for sometime. Coming home to 6 inches of ice in the basement is bad enough. But, when your insurance company denies your \$10,000.00 claim it is a real shock.

Make sure you follow the requirements of your policy regarding absence. Here are 2 articles which may make you take a second look at your policy: <http://cottagelife.com/70694/realestate/is-your-cottage-covered-against-fires>

<http://cottagelife.com/40315/realestate/owning/what-you-need-to-know-about-cottage-insurance>

In order to promote the spirit of Buck Lake People, we invite your comments and suggestions for newsletter articles or announcements. Mail to: [info@bucklake.ca](mailto:info@bucklake.ca)

Lake Plan link: [Click to read the web copy of the Lake Plan](#)

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