



# 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 – 2015 November*

### The Status of Zebra Mussels in Buck Lake

Submitted by Cheryl Savery

In November 2012, Leslie Kirby and Tom Olvet reported seeing what appeared to be a single zebra mussel attached to the thermometer at their dock near Hidden Valley Lane on the South Branch. Kathy Leverette (from Narrows Lane) also reported having seen some zebra mussels attached to the bottom of their boat when they removed it that fall. As far as I am aware, these were the first sightings of adult zebra mussels in Buck Lake. Since then, I have noticed a slow but steady increase in the number of zebra mussels along our waterfront (also on Narrows Lane).

In 2013, I found 3 or 4 mussels. Then in 2014, I found about 40, and alarmingly this past summer I removed several hundred from the water in front of our property. This fall, I decided to take out my kayak and survey the shoreline around the south end of the South Branch to see how far the zebra mussels had spread. Based on my observations, it appears that there are now zebra mussels along almost the entire shoreline in the Narrows and south of the Narrows on the South Branch. So far, I saw no instances of large masses of zebra mussels as are often seen in media pictures. Instead they tended to be spread out with approximately 2 to 3 mussels per square foot. I never saw any signs of zebra mussels north of the Narrows. I would be really interested to know if anyone has seen them in any other areas of the lake.

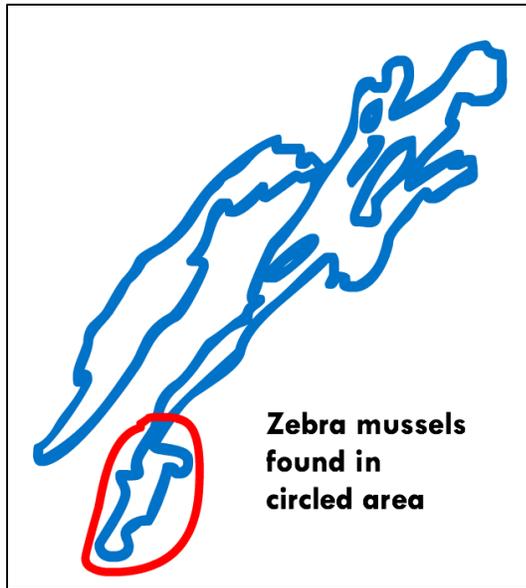


Two zebra mussels attached to rocks

It had been speculated that it was possible that zebra mussels would not be viable in Buck Lake due to the low calcium levels in the water. Water samples collected between 2008 and 2012 indicate that the median calcium concentration in Buck Lake is 22.4 mg/L in the South Branch

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and 10.5 mg/L in the North Branch. To help me understand what these numbers meant, I



searched on the internet and found a paper, "[Zebra Mussel's Calcium Threshold and Implications for its Potential Distribution in North America](#)". In the paper, they begin by referring to an analysis of over 500 European lakes that reported that zebra mussels were found only in waters with at least 28.3 mg/l of calcium. The paper then hypothesized why we are seeing zebra mussels in North American waters with lower calcium concentrations. The paper summarizes a large number of studies on North American lakes and concludes that zebra mussels can survive and reproduce in waters containing less than 25 mg/L calcium, although they may grow and reproduce more slowly. The exact threshold calcium level is not clearly defined and it is likely pH dependent.

It remains to be seen how big a problem the zebra mussels will become in the next few years. Will they become an incredible nuisance attaching to all boats and docks and rocks throughout the entire lake, or will they continue to survive in lower numbers only?

### **Who Done It?**

On the evening of Friday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Bishop suddenly died after eating a mincemeat tart laced with arsenic. But who did it? Everyone seemed to have a motive. Was it the ambitious Gwyneth, the deaconess, whose aspirations have been thwarted by the bishop at every turn? Or was it Reverend Farley who has been leading the campaign to prevent the bishop from building a new hall? Or perhaps it was Ida, the cook, who blamed the Bishop for her husband's death.



The Reverend, The Bishop and the Deaconess



Silent Auction

Such was the dilemma that confronted about 90 Buck Lakers and members of the Westport Legion who attended the Murder Mystery dinner. We were all treated to a great meal and a highly entertaining performance by [Partners in Crime](#), a Kingston based group of writers and actors specializing in Murder Mysteries. The group included Heidi Linley, a summer resident on Buck Lake.

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A packed house watches as the mystery evolves

In addition to the Murder Mystery, there was a silent auction with over 40 items to bid on. The proceeds from the auction were shared between the Legion and Buck Lake, with the Legion's portion being used to build a new handicap entrance. The Buck Lake portion, \$1057, will be donated to Boatilla fund in support of Camp Merriwood.

Thanks go out to Donna Neumann of Buck Lake who conceived the idea and was instrumental in making it happen. Additional thanks goes to Trish Purdon from the Westport Legion and all those who helped before, during and after the murder mystery.

And last, but certainly not least, thanks to all the donors who supported the silent auction.

**Businesses:** Kingston Frontenacs, Cha Cha Tea, Shoppers Drug Mart, Starbucks, Kelsey's, Ramekins, Jack Astor's, Custom Auto, Inverary Home Hardware, Rideau Lakes Golf Course, Evergreen Golf Course, Tangled Gardens, Village Green, Westport Village Pharmacy, Westport Home Hardware, Hidden Garden, Lake Effects, New Beginnings, MDG Painting and Westport Legion.

**Individuals:** LeAnne Curragh, Yolanda Pruner, Nancy Stanford, Cheryl Savery, Chris Murphy Abby Stewart, Brenda and Doug Dundon, Bev and Nick Vanderschoor, Vickie and Terry Gervais, Leslie Inglis, Cherrie Summers and Mike Hogan, Barb Lavoie, Roley and Trish Irwin, Lisa Labrie and Millie Belyea



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Based on the comments heard afterwards, this is sure to become an annual event. Be sure to watch for the announcement next fall for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Buck Lake/Westport Legion Murder Mystery. You won't want to miss it.

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## **Buck Lake Public Boat Launch**

For the users of the Buck Lake public boat launch on Perth Road, there is good news from South Frontenac Town Council. In their 2016 budget submission, the South Frontenac Public Works Department has proposed repairing six public boat launches in the township, including the one at Buck Lake on Perth Road, at a total cost of sixty thousand dollars. As anyone who uses the Buck Lake boat launch is well aware, our launch is in serious need of repair, to the point of being difficult to use.

During the discussion at the South Frontenac Committee of the Whole it was raised that many lake associations would not support the Township fixing the ramps because lake residents would prefer decreased access to the lakes. Although, increased boat traffic on the lake may be a side effect of repairing the launch, we must also realize that many of our cottagers and lake residents depend on the ramp to get their boats in and out of the lake. In addition, we must recognize that all the lakes in the township are considered a common asset and as such everyone should be concerned about protecting the quality of the lakes and preserving this asset. Good, ecologically sensitive use of our lakes should apply equally to cottagers, lake residents, the general public and developers and is also the goal of the current Council.

Several comments posted recently in the Buck Lake Facebook Group raise points on both sides of this issue.

**Stephanie Goncalves-Fischkohl:** (Sept 27) Yesterday, we decided to take our boats out of the water and I must say I was surprised at the state of the boat launch.

I'm sure this comes as nothing new for some, however, I caution you if you have not taken out your own vessels yet. Firstly, the amount of potholes and exposed rocks make for an interesting journey once you actually get the trailer out of the water. Secondly, popping out of the water from the "ledge of death" (as I named it yesterday) is absolutely heart stopping. Be ready on the throttle as your tires may start to spin from the exposed gravel on the incline.

Lastly, I just want to say that I would prefer to be apart of the solution and not the problem, as I'm sure many of you can relate to the state of disrepair that we experienced at the boat launch.

**Dorinda Taylor:** (Nov 5) As one of those cottagers who use the boat ramp, of course we support getting/keeping it in good repair. Just thinking for the greater good, a well used public boat launch would have much less environmental impact on the lake than individual cottagers attempting to 'upgrade' their own launch access.

**David Frid:**(Nov 6) All good points - but to the comment that good ecologically sensitive use of the lake should be an

### **Gord McDiarmid**

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equal concern of all users, I must say that at least some of the visiting occasional users are not as invested in the preservation of Buck Lake as those who see the potential negative changes day to day.

Ideally it would be good to see some responsibility taken by those who visit the lake, even if that were only a voluntary commitment to principals of use during their visits – i.e. speed limits in close proximity to sensitive wildlife habitat areas. Ultimately, I would hope that visitors to the lake could share our concern and knowledge of what is best for the natural state of Buck Lake.

The discussion at the Committee of the Whole ended with general support for the inclusion of the boat launch repairs in the budget. However, the budget has not been finalized. Ross Sutherland, councilor for Loughborough District, has expressed concern that the amount of money that has been budgeted may not be enough. He has requested that the Buck Lake and Knowlton Lake ramps be given priority in case they run out of money.

The budget is scheduled to be finalized on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. If you have any comments on this issue, please pass them along to the town council. Use the “Contact Us” link on the [South Frontenac](#) website or you can email Ross Sutherland at [7846elbe@gmail.com](mailto:7846elbe@gmail.com).

## **Getting a Tick Off of Your Dog**

The following article comes from [The Humane Society of the United States website](#).

If your dog spends much time outdoors, a tick check should be part of your daily routine. Even the best repellents may not prevent these parasites from latching onto your pooch. It can take 24 to 48 hours for an attached tick to transmit an infection to its host, so it's important to promptly and properly remove these parasites.

First, run your fingers slowly over your dog's entire body. If you feel a bump or swollen area, check to see if a tick has burrowed there. Don't limit your search to your dog's torso: check between his toes, under his armpits, the insides of his ears, and around his face and chin. Don't limit tick checks to your canine family members. Dogs can't directly transmit tick-borne illnesses to people, but ticks can move from host to host. A tick may enter your home on your dog's back and move on to another pet or human, or a tick could hitch a ride on you and then move on to one of your pets. A good tick prevention strategy includes checking all family members, especially after outdoor activities in wooded, leafy or grassy areas.

### **Is it a tick?**

Ticks can be black, brown or tan, and they have eight legs. Ticks are arachnids and related to spiders, not insects. They can also be tiny—some species are only as large as the head of a pin—so look carefully.

### **Safe tick removal**

If you find a tick on your dog, don't panic! Follow these quick and easy steps to safely remove the pest.



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**Step 1: Get your gear**

- Pair of gloves
- Clean pair of tweezers or a commercial tick remover
- Antiseptic
- Isopropyl alcohol

**Step 2: Remove the tick**

Wear gloves while removing the tick to avoid contact with your skin (ticks can transmit diseases to people, too).

If you're using tweezers:

- Grasp the tick as close to your dog's skin as possible, but be gentle! Try not to pinch your dog's skin.
- Pull outward in a straight, steady motion, making sure that you've removed the entire tick, since anything left behind could lead to an infection.

If you're using a tick remover:

- Gently press the remover against your dog's skin near the tick.
- Slide the notch of the remover under the tick.
- Continue sliding the remover until the tick is caught in the small end of the notch and is pulled free. (The tick will remain in the bowl of the remover.)

**Step 3: Store the evidence**

Drop the tick into a small container that contains isopropyl alcohol (the alcohol will quickly kill the tick), and mark the date on the container. If your dog begins displaying symptoms of a tick-borne illness, your veterinarian may want to identify or test the tick.

**Step 4: Praise your patient**

Clean your dog's skin with antiseptic and make sure to clean your tweezers with isopropyl alcohol. Wash your hands, too! Then give your pup a treat for being a trooper.

**Follow up**

Keep an eye on the area where the tick was to see if an infection surfaces. If the skin remains irritated or infected, make an appointment with your veterinarian.

Watch your dog for symptoms of tick-borne diseases. Some symptoms include arthritis or lameness that lasts for three to four days, reluctance to move, swollen joints, fever, fatigue, swollen lymph nodes, loss of appetite and neurological problems.

**Buck Lake Community Receives Honour For Outstanding Boatilla Efforts!**

The South Eastern Ontario Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals is presenting The Buck Lake Community with the award of **Outstanding Corporation/Organization with 100 members or more!**

The AFP South Eastern Ontario chapter serves communities from Brockville to Brighton and Bancroft to Picton. The chapter currently comprises nearly 90 members from large institutions, as well as medium and small organizations. The goal of the chapter is to support the highest standard of commitment, ethics, and professionalism within the fundraising profession. The chapter is focused on providing members and friends, in the charitable & not for profit sectors,

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with opportunities to network, learn, and share knowledge and experiences.

In addition to meetings, educational luncheons, an annual conference, and the National Philanthropy Day Awards Gala, APF members are connected to national and international organizations that offer resources and opportunities. There are over 30,000 AFP members around the world!

The Buck Lake Community was nominated by Easter Seals Ontario, and the AFP SEO Selection Committee chose our community to receive this great honour in 2015.

It is the proud honour of Easter Seals Ontario and AFP SEO to be able to thank the Buck Lake Community for continued efforts and outstanding work to Send Kids to Camp Merrywood!



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## Coming Events

**"Christmas Concert"** with Jon McLurg & Chris Murphy  
Sunday Nov. 29, 2015 from 7 - 9 pm  
In the Perth Road Sunday School Hall  
Free Will Offering - Light Lunch to follow  
All proceeds go to the Benevolent Fund  
Aiding those in need in our community

Dec 05 - **"Baking & Crafts Sale"**  
from 9:00 am till NOON, only.  
In the Perth Road Sunday School Hall  
14 vendor tables plus "Bake Table"

January 23, 2016 is the planned date for the Buck Lake Mid Winter Fest. (Weather Depending)



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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: [Lake Plan Web Version](#)

**"New"** Renew your Buck Lake Association membership on line. A receipt will be emailed to you to confirm your payment. A service provided by FOCA: <http://foca.on.ca/product/buck-lake-association/>

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