



# 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 – 2016 February*

### **2016 Mid-Winterfest**

Submitted by Jo Anne Hopkins

The weather is always a challenge when attempting to schedule the Mid-Winterfest. Just when the committee thinks it will work out for skating, Mother Nature plays her hand. This year the challenge was mild weather until the lake finally froze in early January. The conditions for skating were very good for a while but as it got closer to our event the ice was blanketed by about eight inches of snow. Our fearless leader (Ross T) managed to clear a skating rink and he worked diligently to keep the ice cleaned until the event.

Travel to our festival was not consistent with past years. The ice was not safe for a snowmobile through the narrows. A few people were able to travel by 4 wheelers through a minimum of slush and there were some brave souls who came on foot. John and Jesse lead the way. There were at least 60 people who made their way to Hidden Valley for the afternoon.

When January 30<sup>th</sup> arrived it was a beautiful day with nearly perfect conditions for our Mid-Winterfest with the temperature hovering right around 0 °C. Kevin had a substantial bonfire burning to keep us warm. We had great background music to enjoy. There was hot chocolate available and another hot fruity drink that you had to show id for. Liz and Jo made chili. Rose provided her famous Crab Bisque and Don did the BBQ thing with the hot dogs. This was the first year in a long time that the condiments did not freeze. Everyone was very creative combining these various foods to make chilidogs, regular dogs, and crabby dogs. Dessert was fabulous – we had marshmallows of course and the best chocolate muffins ever made by Ellie. Then there was a delicious tray of “slutty brownies” – why they are called that I am not sure because it can't possibly be connected to the baker – Danielle – but these brownies were to die for!!! If you would like to try them, here is a link: <http://whatsgabycooking.com/slutty-brownies/> As you can see it was quite a feast. Outdoor activities and al fresco dining make for hearty appetites.

The highlight of the afternoon was the slooshing races with 8 teams and 32 people participating. The competition was fierce with many close races and tumbles in the snow. The eventual

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winner were the team of Grayden McClurg, Fred Leavitt, John Leverette and Crawford MacIntyre. Congratulations guys!

We really appreciate Randy's generosity for making the campground available to us and we would like to thank Ross and Grayden for gathering all supplies and equipment and not giving up on our Mid-Winterfest. (After all we flew home from Florida for this) Cheryl was a superb slooshing coordinator – I don't remember seeing her with the boards on???? And we couldn't have had so much fun without everyone who attended and brought their skates and their community spirit. See you next year.



Buck Lake Mid-Winter Festival 2016



2016 Slooshing champs: Grayden McClurg, Fred Leavitt, John Leverette and Crawford MacIntyre



One of many exciting races

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## Beware of Thin Ice

The ice was slow to form on the lake this winter and many areas that are usually safe to travel on by mid-February may still be dangerous. The recent tragedy near Inverary is a grim reminder of the hazards of travelling across the ice in winter.

On Saturday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, a man died after falling through the ice on an Inverary lake. A 69-year-old South Frontenac man was on a Kubota when it broke through the ice. More details on the accident can be found at: <http://www.thewhig.com/2016/01/23/rescue-crews-searching-for-missing-man-on-inverary-lake>

Please be careful out there. If you are unsure about the ice conditions, check with your neighbours or the locals before venturing out.

## Cracks and Slush on the Lake

Cracks in the ice and slush hidden under the snow are commonly found on Buck Lake in the winter. The following information taken from <http://lakeice.squarespace.com/stress-cracks/> and <http://blog.timesunion.com/outdoors/when-lake-ice-is-not-what-it-seems/499/> provide good explanations on why cracks and slush form.

### Cracks

Even when the ice on the lake is thick and safe to travel on, cracks form in the ice and can be unnerving especially if they form near you when you are on the lake.

All cracks in ice are caused by stress in the ice. It can be local or broadly distributed across an ice sheet. The stress comes mostly from temperature changes in the ice sheet, wind and waves

The formation of cracks accounts for the sounds ice makes. When a black ice sheet gets to be about 6" thick and warms up for the first time, there can be a LOT of noise. Cracks are

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especially dramatic when one runs between your legs and off to a distant part of the ice sheet. Evenings also tend to be noisy as the ice cools off.

Very new ice generally does not have many of cracks, but by the time it is a few inches thick and the sheet has been through a couple warm-cold cycles they are all over the place. The thermal shock resistance of ice is lower than most other materials. The geometry of the ice sheets and the shore and thermal conductivity are other factors that come into play.

It is instinctive for most people to pay attention to cracks that form as a result of their moving over the ice. Much of the time these cracks form as a result of a combination of preexisting stress and the added stress of your weight. That is why some parts of a uniformly thick ice sheet are noisy and others are quiet. Sometimes it is because you moved onto thin ice. If you hear cracking that appears to be related to your presence, always check the ice promptly to verify that it is thick enough.

## Slush

There's nothing quite so disconcerting as hitting water or slush when travelling across a frozen lake.

What causes such conditions? There are two scenarios that can cause slush to form under the snow. First, in warm weather, the snow on top of the ice can melt, and the water trickles down and collects between the snow and the ice. However, slush can even form in extremely cold weather. When the layer snow is deep enough, the weight of the snow presses down on the ice. This forces the lake water up between the cracks in the ice. The snow above then insulates the water and keeps it from freezing.

Thus, slush between the ice and snow is not necessarily an indication of unsafe conditions. In many cases, the slush is trapped on top of thick ice, and the only risk to skiers might be that their skis freeze over and require scraping.

Still, one must never become complacent about safety on the ice. Ice safety becomes even more of a factor as the weather turns more spring-like. And especially when motorized vehicles are involved.



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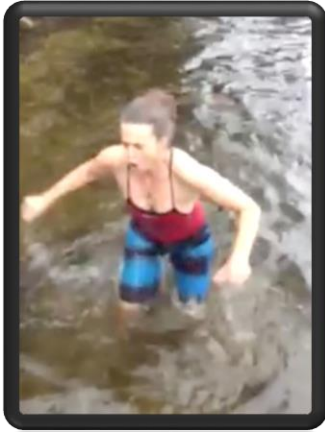
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## Warm Weather Leads to Many Christmas Firsts

What a difference a year makes! In 2014, we were able to get out skating on many parts of the lake in early December, while in 2015, most of the lake was ice-free on Christmas Day. Many Buck Lakers marked the Christmas season by getting out on or in the water. Here are some of their pictures...



Leslie Kirby emerges from the lake, after swimming a full 30 strokes on Dec. 25th



Margaret Fisher sent this photo of her nephew Andrew taken on Christmas Day. He took a second plunge on Boxing Day. Brrrr!!!!



Victoria Creighton and family enjoy a boat ride on Christmas Day



A Christmas Day paddle with family and friends



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## *Update Notes on Outboard motor emissions*

Submitted by David Frid and Wayne Myles

Some good things do come of modern progress and even from our government. As an update to part of the Lake Plan published a few years back, now it should be noted that in regards to outboard motors, modern two strokes of some manufacturers are not the polluters they were in the past. High pressure direct inject technologies used in the Envinrude line and some of the Tohatsu line meet even the most stringent of pollution regulations of the California air quality agency, CARB, (namely the 3 Star ultra low emissions rating). Four stroke engines have been, and continue to be, low emission engines.

The Canadian government passed legislation in 2011 to work in conjunction with the US EPA so that all motors imported or manufactured in Canada meet emission standards that are not unlike what we know of for our automobiles in Ontario - ie regulating the output of Nitrous Oxides, Carbon Monoxides and other emissions. The emissions regulations are evolving and are more stringent for subsequent production years, but the take away is that anyone who is considering the retirement of their "old smoker" can be confident that any outboard purchased in Canada since production year 2012 is the cleanest that is available. For engines under 15 hp it should be noted that the Lehr propane outboards are a very good option with low emissions and represent new forward enviro thinking, and of course there are electric options such as the Elco line of marine engines.

Also, the somewhat obvious should be mentioned, that less is better - the regulations are basically structured to control how much of these pollutants are released per kilowatt of power produced by the motor. Consequently the smaller the engine you can employ to enjoy your boating experience, the better, and as well, the less it is used. I suppose one could say that the more we paddle, row, sail or swim the better for the environment and probably us as well.

Current Canadian legislation governing marine engine emissions

<http://laws-lois.justice.gc2February2016Newsletter.docx>.

The specific NOx and CO emission limits

<https://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/40/1045.103>

USA EPA governing regulations for marine engines

<http://www.epa.gov/otaq/>

California Air Resource Board - CARB marine engine Star rating

(note that the direct inject manufacturers quoted in the three star category are not current representatives of manufacturers in actual production - it should be Envinrude, Tohatsu, and some Mercury)

<http://www.marineenginedigest>.

Dave Frid - Friends of the Lake

[cbdavefrid@gmail.com](mailto:cbdavefrid@gmail.com) for comments or questions

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## Buck Lake Toques

Last year, Rob Sinclair and Cindy Gibson came up with the idea of getting some Buck Lake toques made and selling them to raise money for the Buck Lake Boatilla.

Due to the overwhelming success of last year's Buck Lake Toque, they decided to do a new one this winter. Each toque is \$30, with \$9 of each going to the Buck Lake Boatilla, in support of Camp Merrywood. Last winter, over \$400 was raised for the Boatilla.



Rob says he has had great feedback from Buck Lakers who say that random people stop them to comment on the toques and love to talk about their connection to our lake! It's a great feeling.

To order your own toque, email Rob Sinclair at [robhartsinclair@gmail.com](mailto:robhartsinclair@gmail.com)

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## Climate Change and Waterfront Ontario

For some years now, FOCA has been following the work of the [Ontario Climate Consortium](#) (OCC). The OCC helps end users figure out the key questions about climate change in Ontario, and connect people to the researchers who can deliver the answers. For more information click [here](#) .

## Coming Events:

### Perth Road Winter Olympics

March 5 Noon at Perth Road School (1048 Walsh Road)

### Pot Luck and Silent Auction

March 12 at 6 PM at the Perth Road Sunday School Hall

### Tuesdays Lunch at Perth Road Sunday School Hall

\$5 gets you homemade soup, sandwiches and desert. Not a long drive for a good inexpensive lunch.

### Friends of the Lake walks coming up in 2016:

May 4, 2 pm: Hike at Barb Wilson's acreage  
August 10, 10 am: Cat Trail  
September 14, 10 am: Slide Lake loop



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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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