



# The Buck Lake Association Inc.

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

email: [Buck Lake Information](mailto:Buck Lake Information)

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

## *Buck Lake News – March 2017*

### Tragedy on South Branch

On Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, longtime Buck Lake resident Darrell Green died after the all-terrain vehicle he was riding fell through the ice on Buck Lake. The Buck Lake Association wishes to express our deepest condolences to Darrell's family and friends. The following tribute to Darrell was written by Jana Johnson, a friend and former neighbour on Hidden Valley Lane.

Darrell Green, my friend and my neighbour, died on Saturday; he went through the ice on our Lake. It is so hard to believe. Darrell was larger than life.



Darrell mesmerized me – his stories were wildly entertaining, and although they seemed like they couldn't possibly be true, they were usually only 15% BS. I could, and often did, listen to him for hours on end. Stories that were like no others: "Well, you know how to tree a raccoon...", "What do you mean you don't know how to find a wild honey bee's hive – you just sprinkle flour on it's wings", "Beavers do so bite...". Darrell let me watch as they skinned a deer, he showed me where to find puffball mushrooms, and promised to take me duck hunting one day. We often disagreed about wildlife management and environmental issues, but he'd thoughtfully edit his opinions around me! He not only taught me about the angling and hunting of our region, he taught me about the people and places. He'd drive me to and from work and we'd take the long way –

Darrell would tell me about who lives, or used to live, in the homes, who built them, or who settled the land in the area, who planted that plum tree, how the roads have changed, and where the schools used to be. We'd stop at stores or people's houses to pick something up or drop something off – everyone knew Darrell. He made my life on Buck Lake a better place.

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So, so generous, Darrell was the kind of guy who'd give you the shirt of his back; though you likely wouldn't want it – he hated the heat and was kinda sweaty in the summer. He'd also give you the food off his plate, and you'd totally want that! He was an amazing cook – I can't count the number of meals we shared with Deb and Darrell, laughing and drinking, enjoying their company, spending time with their kids, and their kids... He loved people, and the opportunity to give you a beer and tell you a story.

The Greens have been on and around Buck Lake as long as it's been settled. All of the local roads are named Someone-Green-Road, the famous Johnny Green Spoon fishing lure created here, the Green Family Cemetery on the North-West side of Buck Lake – the Greens have always been hunters, trappers, fisherman and guides. Darrell was all of those things, and so much more. His heritage was important to him, and his connection to this area, but family was the most important. He came from a giant family, had three kids (and kids-in-law) he adored, and five grandchildren who he loved more than you could think possible. He married the love of his life, Deb, while they were still teenagers, and 40+ years later, they were the best team. You didn't have to be a Green to be family; once Darrell claimed you, you were part of his family. I am so grateful that Jay and I were part of that family.

My heart is broken – I can NOT imagine how his wife Deb, his kids Danielle & Mark, Wade & Jen, and Tori & Steve, and his grandkids, Sammy, Cadee, Isaac, Evan and Caleb are dealing with this huge and tragic loss.

He'd be mad as hell that he went through the lake, [and frankly, I'm a mad as hell too], but it somehow seems fitting that his life ended in Buck Lake as it was such an integral part of his existence.

Darrell's love was so big – you could feel it. I know it will last, even with him gone.

A Celebration of Life in honour of Darrell Green will be held on his birthday:

Saturday March 18th  
at the Storrington Lion's Hall  
from 1-3pm and 7-9pm.

The family would welcome donations in Darrell's name to The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters.

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## Phosphorus Levels in Buck Lake Return to Normal Historical Levels

Submitted by Cheryl Savery

Every year a group of volunteers collects water samples from Buck Lake as part of the Lake Partners Program. These samples are then sent away for phosphorus and calcium analysis. For the past several years, the results have been fairly predictable, following a similar pattern each year. However, in 2015, there was a dramatic increase in the amount of phosphorus found in the samples collected from the north end of the North Branch. This increase in phosphorus was especially disturbing as the lake was in danger of becoming **eutrophic** (over 20 µg/L total phosphorus - exhibiting persistent, nuisance algal blooms). The good news from the 2016 sampling program is that these phosphorus levels have returned to around 12 µg/L at the north end of the North Branch. While this is not perfect, this is definitely a move in the right direction.

I will discuss the results in more detail, but first some background information about phosphorus and the Lake Partner water sampling program.

### Lake Partner Program

The Lake Partner Program is a province-wide, volunteer-based, water-quality monitoring program. Volunteers collect water samples and make monthly water clarity observations on their lakes. This information allows for the early detection of changes in the nutrient status and/or the water clarity of the lake due to the impacts of shoreline development, other runoff issues (from pastures, beaver dams, etc.), climate change and other stresses.

Volunteer involvement requires the collection of one sample each month (May-Oct). These samples are then sent to the Dorset Environmental Science Centre for analysis.

For the past several years, three volunteers have been making these monthly measurements:

- Heidi Linley: North Branch, South End
- Duncan Sinclair: North Branch, North End, and
- Ralph Wirsig: South Branch, South End

In 2015, I began collecting an additional sample on the South Branch, just south of the Narrows. Due to concerns about the high phosphorus measurements in 2015, we added 2 more sample locations in 2016.

- Donna Neumann: North Branch, South of the Narrows
- Jo Anne Hopkins: South Branch, North End



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All these sample locations are shown on the map below.



### Total Phosphorus

Total phosphorus concentration measurements are used to interpret nutrient status in Ontario lakes, since phosphorus is the element that controls the growth of algae in most Ontario lakes. Increases in phosphorus will decrease water clarity by stimulating algal growth. In extreme cases, algal blooms will affect the aesthetics of the lake and/or cause taste and odour problems in the water.

Lakes are generally divided into 3 categories based on their phosphorus content.

- **Oligotrophic** (less than 10 µg/L total phosphorus): These are dilute, unproductive (healthy) lakes that rarely experience nuisance algal blooms.
- **Mesotrophic** (between 10 and 20 µg/L total phosphorus): These lakes show a broad range of characteristics and can be clear and unproductive at the bottom end of the scale or susceptible to moderate algal blooms at concentration near 20 µg/L.
- **Eutrophic** (over 20 µg/L total phosphorus): These lakes exhibit persistent, nuisance algal blooms.

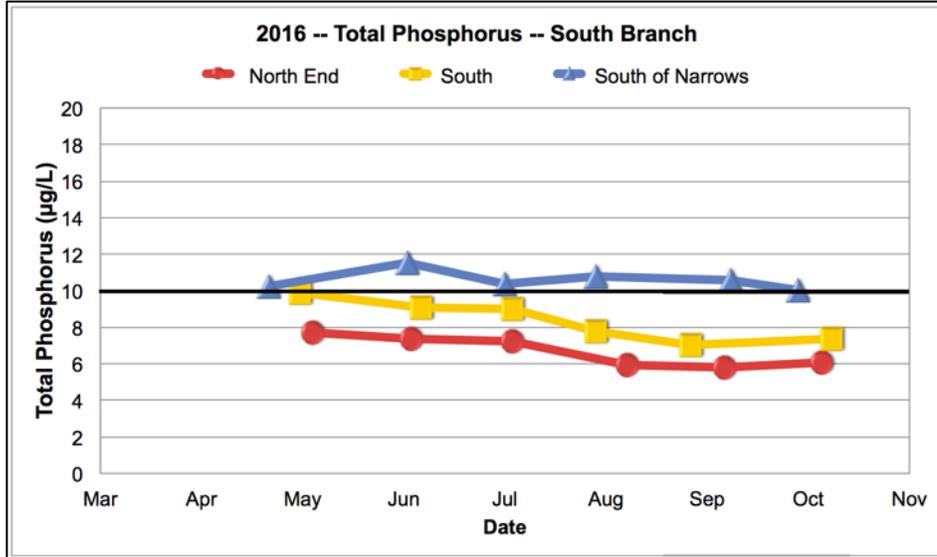
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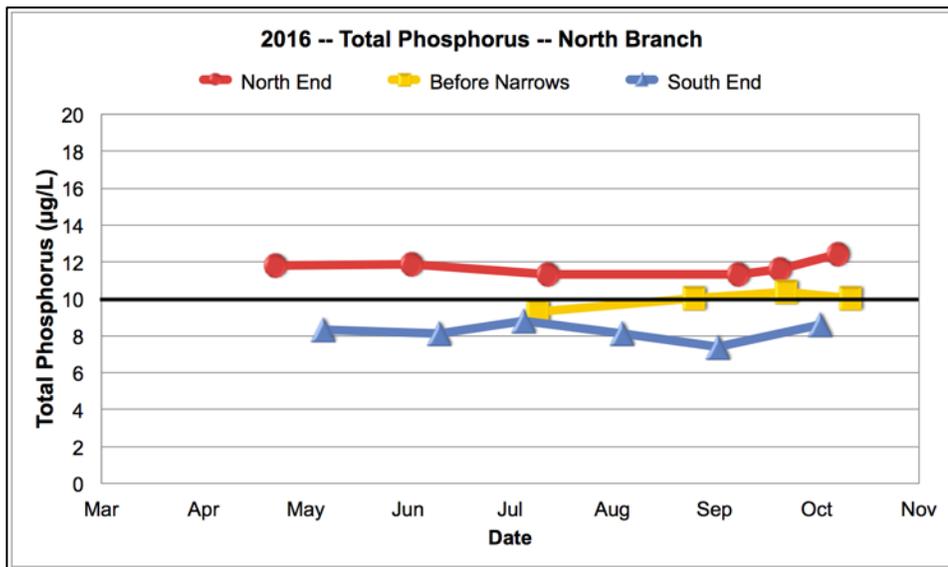
## South Branch

The following two charts show the total phosphorus in Buck Lake at the three sample points on the South Branch. The black line on each chart at 10 µg/L highlights the limit at which our lake water quality is considered good.



While the results are generally good, it should be noted that they are higher south of the Narrows than in the other areas of the South Branch. This is likely the most highly populated area of the South Branch, indicating that human development around the lake is having a real and measureable impact on the phosphorus levels.

## North Branch



The North Branch phosphorus levels were also generally very good, with the results from the north end of the North Branch returning to pre-2014 levels. This supports the hypothesis that the high phosphorus measurements from 2015 were due to a beaver dam breaking and dumping in

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water from Labelle Lake. However, similar to the sample from south of the Narrows on the South Branch, the sample at the north end of the North Branch is quite a bit higher in phosphorus than the other two North Branch samples. Again, this is the area on the North Branch with the highest population density again indicating that we are having an impact on our lake water quality and need to be careful about how our activities affect Buck Lake.

### What Can I Do?

Although one person cannot “fix” the phosphorus problem, many small actions can make a big difference. Some of the most important things that lake front property owners can do to reduce the impact of their property on the lake’s water quality include:

- **Reduce or Eliminate Fertilizer Use**

Remember that what goes on your property goes into the lake! That includes fertilizers applied near the water. Rain and irrigation carry these fertilizers into the water and encourage the rapid growth of aquatic plants and algae. For every pound of phosphorus in the water, 500 pounds of aquatic vegetation are produced!

- **Maintain Your Septic System**

Pumping out your septic tank on a regular basis is critical to reducing nutrient flows into lakes. The frequency of your pump-outs will vary based on the size of your tank, your family size, and the number of appliances you use. As a general rule, pumping your septic tank every 2 to 3 years is a good practice.

- **Leave a Wide Strip of Deep-rooted Plants along the Shoreline**

Instead of planting and mowing grass, plant wildflowers, ornamental grasses, shrubs or trees. These plantings absorb and filter runoff that contains nutrients and soil, as well as provide habitat for wildlife.

- **Use Only Soap or Phosphorus-Free Detergents.**

Good old-fashioned soap is probably best but you can also buy phosphorus free detergent products especially for washing dishes and clothes. It is also a good idea to avoid hand sanitizers and related antibacterial products; they can negatively affect the bacteria working away in your septic system.

All of the data from the Lake Partner Program is available online. To access all the sampling results [click here...](#)

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## Thanks to Wayne and Liz

The Buck Lake Association wishes to thank Wayne Myles and Liz Whelpdale for their many years of service to the association and the Friends of the Lake Committee.



Wayne and his partner Johanne joined the Buck Lake community in 2002. Their cottage is on the North Branch of the lake just off Norman Lane on Chloe Lane. They share their time year-round between the cottage and a condo in Kingston. With 4 grown children and their families spread across the country from St. John's Newfoundland in the east, to Toronto, and to Vancouver in the west, the cottage has become a gathering place during the summer months. Wayne and Johanne enjoy cycling on the trails in the area, hiking in Frontenac Park and canoeing around the lake. Recently Wayne rebuilt and refinished his 16-ft. cedar glass canoe as his first retirement project. Johanne continues to work as a writing consultant and educator at Queen's University.

Liz and her husband, John Thomas have had a cottage on Porcupine Island since 1997, so this will be their 20th year on the lake. Over the years, they have seen changes, but nothing drastic that would spoil their enjoyment of Buck Lake. They enjoy kayaking and exploring all the nooks and crannies around the lake, mostly on the South Branch. Both John and Liz are originally from Toronto and couldn't believe their good fortune in being able to get from their home in Kingston to the cottage in half an hour!

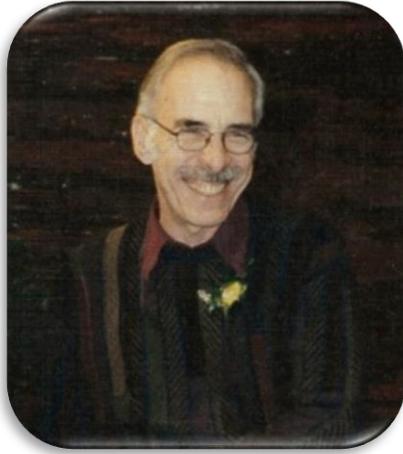


Back in 2006, a group of friends from around the lake began to discuss how they might contribute to maintaining and advancing the health of the lake and its environs. In time the group became known as "The Friends of the Lake". Over the years the group grew in size to about 12 regular members. In 2008, the "Friends" became a Committee of the Buck Lake Association Board. The Friends have carried out a survey of the lake residents regarding their priorities for lake planning (2009), produced a lake plan for the Board (2011), and facilitated annual educational events. Overriding all of these activities has been a strong sense of camaraderie and socializing among the members – which meant that meetings progressed from topic to topic through a maze of stories, anecdotes and laughter.

Both Wayne and Liz have been part of the Friends of the Lake committee since it began and were heavily involved in developing the lake plan and organizing the July educational events each year. According to Liz, anyone who loves the lake would enjoy being a part of this group. Liz has now stepped down from her role on the Friends of the Lake and while Wayne is leaving his role as chair of the Friends committee, he plans to continue to help out on various projects. This will leave a big hole in the Friends of the Lake Committee and we are actively seeking new members who are interested in environmental issues related to the lake. If you are interested in getting involved or would just like more information, please contact us at [bucklakeassoc@gmail.com](mailto:bucklakeassoc@gmail.com).

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## Jim Manuel Volunteer Award -- Call for Nominations



This will be our first year of the giving of the Jim Manuel Volunteer Award to a worthy member of the Buck Lake Community. Please refer to the BLA website for a general description of the criteria for this honour and for a brief bio of the late Jim Manuel. Your BLA Board is inviting you to submit the names of likely candidates for the Board's consideration. These submissions will be held in confidence and unless you specifically request it, your identity as a proposer will not be revealed. Your nomination should be supported by your reasons for naming your candidate. This can be done by contacting Crawford MacIntyre by phone (613 273-8056) or by email ([crawfordmacintyre@gmail.com](mailto:crawfordmacintyre@gmail.com)) or any other of our Directors (see web site).

Directors currently serving on the BLA Board will not be eligible for this award. Any other Buck Laker, whether or not a member of the Buck Lake Association, is eligible.

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## Announcing Another Addition to the Board

The Board of Directors excited to announce the appointment of Martha Scheinman to the board.

Martha and Andre Scheinman are year 'round residents on the South Branch, on Whippoorwill Lane, and also spend time at their condo in the Inner Harbour of downtown Kingston. Martha retired as a principal from the Limestone District School Board and Andre consults in the preservation of historic structures. They have two sons, Noah and Eli, and an active and inquisitive Irish Water Spaniel, Sophie. As a member of the Friends of the Lake she gained a heightened awareness of environmental issues and enjoyed getting to know the Buck Lake Community.



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## Township News – Septic Inspections

Recently, Central Frontenac Council adopted a “Septic System Maintenance and Assessment Program”. We asked Wayne Orr, Chief Administrative Officer for South Frontenac about plans for a similar program for South Frontenac. Here are his comments:

"The issue of a Septic Inspection program is before the Corporate Services Committee now and is being researched and options are being considered.

The timeline is to have the Committee make a recommendation in time to present to Council sometime in June and then seek input from the Lake Associations in August.

Please feel free to forward any suggestions at this time to either myself, our Chief Building Official Ryan Arcand (copied above) or a member of the Committee: Councillors Revill, Sutherland and Barbeau."



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The Buck Lake Association is supporting the concept of septic inspections due to the potential for poorly maintained systems to adversely affect the water quality of Buck Lake. However, we are also concerned about the financial burden on those who may suddenly find that they require a new or substantially renovated system.

The Buck Lake Association will be providing input to council based on the feedback from our members on this important topic. If you have any comments, please send them to [bucklakeassoc@gmail.com](mailto:bucklakeassoc@gmail.com)



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

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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