



# 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 – 2009 August***

Principal writer: Roy Mills

### From the 'new' Pres

Hi everyone,

I am very pleased to be providing my first greeting as your President. Following in the footsteps of Duncan Sinclair is a somewhat daunting task so I hope you will bear with me as I get my 'lake legs'.

I thought I would start by telling you a bit about me and how I came to be a Buck Laker.

In 1989, my then husband was relocated from Toronto to Kingston. We bought a house in Inverary. From there I met Lib & Ralph Boston who live on the east side of the south basin. When my marriage broke down, I moved to Ottawa but maintained contact with Lib & Ralph. Their home on Buck Lake was the place I came for healing. I found the magic of Buck Lake to be priceless during that very difficult time.

In 2002, they decided to sell a 3 acre lot next door to them that I could not resist. Originally, I intended to hold the property for some future undetermined use but Lib cajoled me into building the next year. She and Ralph acted as my agents and Paul Giles of Sea Point was the builder. Feel free to drop by 6920 Billy Green Road if you would like to see the product of their efforts. This is my dream home and Buck Lake is my dream location.

The house was ready for occupancy in June 2004 and I have enjoyed five wonderful years as a year round Buck Lake resident. I am not always able to be here during the week as my career has taken me to Ottawa, Montreal, Philadelphia, Winnipeg, Toronto and Halifax but I will always come home to Buck Lake.

I hope you agree that we are truly blessed to be Buck Lakers

Best regards,  
Tricia Waldron

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## Board of Director's Report

The Board of Directors met on August 11<sup>th</sup> 2009 at the call of Stephen Roughton, the Chair of the Nominating Committee. The first order of business for the new Board was the Election of Officers for 2009-10:

- President – Tricia Waldron
- Vice-President – Crawford McIntyre
- Secretary-Treasurer – Cheryl Savery
- Recording Secretary and Archivist – Stephen Roughton

### Standing Committees

- Nominating – Stephen Roughton (Chair), Crawford McIntyre, Tricia Waldron
- Communications – Roy Mills (Chair), Nancy Daugulis, Ralph Wirsig
- Membership Services – Ralph Wirsig, Nancy Daugulis
- Community Outreach/Social – Sandra Rider (Chair), Anna Fummerton, Maxine Lemieux

### Ad Hoc Committees

- Government Relations – Crawford McIntyre (Chair), Peter Dawe, Roy Mills
- Constitution – Stephen Roughton
- History – Nancy Daugulis (Chair), Crawford McIntyre, Ron Matthey, Duncan Sinclair, Lib Boston
- Friends of the Lake – Wayne Myles (Chair), Ron Dickey, Michael Gemmell, Barbara Rose Perry, Liz Whelpdale, Peter Dawe, Duncan Sinclair
- Web Master – Richard Linley

Barbra Rose Perry  
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The minutes of the July 4<sup>th</sup> AGM were presented and reviewed by the Board and will be presented to the membership for approval at the next AGM. They will be posted on the website immediately for the information of all members. Tricia Waldron presented a financial up-date and recommended that in the process of changing the signing officers on accounts to new officers we consider a change in banking services to BMO. The board approved this request. Ralph Wirsig reported that paid membership stood at 123 and that renewals were still being received. Roy Mills reported that the final PCOC Course of the summer planned for August 20<sup>th</sup> still had room for at least 10 people...response has been disappointing perhaps due to people being so busy with summer projects etc.

Planning for the summer picnic/BBQ on August 22nd took up most of the rest of the agenda time and a report on the event will follow in this issue. The September meeting of the Board will focus on current projects such as the lake plan and setting priorities for the year ahead.

## The Dragon Story

On Sunday August 9<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Duncan Sinclair was the Guest Speaker at the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service at Perth Road United Church and presented this story during Children's Time...enjoy.

Once upon a time some children, just like you, lived in a village, just like Perth Road. It was a great place for girls and boys to grow up. They played in the park, rode the bus to school, went to Sunday School and birthday parties, but what they liked to do best was play in the woods. There they had a tree fort, secret trails, and other neat stuff, but the woods were close to home, close enough to run home fast if they ever saw the Dragon. The Dragon was really scary. Nobody had ever seen it, but everybody knew about it. Sometimes it would wake you up at night, screeching in the trees; howling just like a baby. Other times, usually first thing in the morning, you would see the mess it had made rummaging in the dark through the garbage cans, ripping the bags apart, looking for food. Where you saw the turkey vultures circling over the deep woods, that's likely where the Dragon had killed a deer or something. Yes, the Dragon was scary and that's why it was a good idea not to go too far into the woods.

But one sunny day, when a nice breeze was blowing and the deer flies were not too bad, the children followed a deer trail farther than usual into the woods and made a great discovery – a cave, a really deep hole, right down into the rock. The sides were pretty steep but a tree had fallen and a branch was leaning up against one wall like a ladder. One by one the boys and girls climbed down to explore their discovery. But it was really dark in the cave so they didn't go too far and when they went to climb back out, the old tree branch broke and they were stuck!

They were all standing around wondering what to do when they heard it! A noise. Something like a moan, a low rumble coming out of the darkness at the back of the cave. Somebody whispered, "it's the Dragon" and, sure enough, out of the darkness came not the scariest but the funniest looking big green Dragon you ever saw. He was about 8 feet tall, with red and gold spots, blue eyes, pointy ears, and a pinkish nose, limping along on three feet. "The porkie-pine got me", he whimpered, showing them some big quills in the front foot he was holding up.

This was not a scary Dragon. This was a Dragon who needed help from some friends. The children gathered around. One of the boys got out the Swiss army knife he got for his birthday and, using its folded-up pliers, pulled out the quills. They visited with the Dragon for a while, then he gave them a boost out of the hole (it was an old mica mine just like the ones you find around here) and went home for lunch. But not before they promised to come back in the afternoon with some peanut butter sandwiches and maybe even a piece of pie for desert if they could wangle it. And ever after, the Dragon was a secret member of the gang and the best friend they ever had!



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## Summer Picnic/BBQ

On a beautiful Saturday evening at Harris Park in Perth Road Village about over 125 Buck Lakers enjoyed fellowship, good food and wonderful music. Much thanks to Sandra Rider, Anna Fummerton and Maxine Lemieux for organization and effort. A special thanks to the McIntyre girls, Allison and Andrea for their wonderful activities for the children. We saw many interesting and smiling faces. Our annual picnic seems to have a future and we thank all those who attended and ask for your support and suggestions for future events



## Friends of the Lake Report

To date, 145 surveys have been completed either online or in print form. That's 33% of the properties on the lake, which shows that Buck Lakers really care about their lake and also want a way to express what they most value and are concerned about. We didn't give

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out surveys to day-use people; that could be a project for another time. We hope to give the complete survey results in a future newsletter but in this one, we'll give a snapshot of the responses.

Of the 145 respondents, 79 or 55% were seasonal residents, 51 (36%) were year-round residents, a few owned vacant property, a few were renters and few were "other". Not everyone replied to every question in the survey, so the total is not always 145.

To the question "How do you feel the shoreline has changed over the past five years?", 92 people (72%) said there was more residential development. This item garnered the most votes. Second was "more

shoreline structures" with 71 votes or 57%. About 50% of respondents felt that lawns, commercial development, forest cover, shoreline naturalization and wetlands had all stayed the same over the past five years.

The question on values elicited the most overwhelming response; 94.5% or 120 people said that water quality added most to their enjoyment of Buck Lake. Peace and tranquility came second at 80% (101 people), swimming was third at 77% (97 people). There was a real mix of responses in this section which showed that respondents are not unanimous about what their values are – except for water quality. There are clearly many people who enjoy both power and non-power boating; fishing; wildlife and bird viewing; preserving vacant land; cottage safety and retention of Crown land. Hunting was the one area which scored low, with 13 people rating it either very important or important, while 105 people rated it not important.

Almost 60% (77) of respondents have a road, marina or island association and many contact names and numbers were given. This will help us in future with getting out information about lake planning or upcoming events. A good number of people volunteered to help out with the lake planning project and we will be contacting you in the months to come.

On the question of "Issues and Concerns", personal watercraft scored highest at 33% (42) for significant impact. Water pollution and boat traffic each scored about 20%.

Many, many people commented on the need for testing of septic systems, for enforcing by-laws which already exist and for continuing education re: water quality. Several people

suggested that a package of materials be given to new property-owners via their real estate brokers. A few commented that receiving the survey alerted them to the Buck Lake Association and they were glad to know of it. Several requested that Buck Lake be stocked with lake trout. Some long-time cottagers and year-round residents commented on the increasing build-up of boat traffic and building activity and the accompanying noise of both. In the coming months, the Friends Committee will work with the Board in deciding how to address the issues and concerns which have emerged from the survey and we will hopefully be able to post the survey results and comments in more detail.

### Report on North Branch Osprey Nest

These ospreys nested in 2008 atop a tall pine at the north end of the small island sited



between Steamboat Island and Jim Purvis' cottage on the mainland. The telephoto picture was taken at 07:14 on 09 July 6th. Much of this nest has disintegrated but the birds have rebuilt and this time closer to the tree trunk than literally "out on a limb". I am always amazed by the size of the sticks lifted aloft to create these massive nests. Cheers! Stephen Roughton

### Shoals and Signs

Two current issues the Board is planning to consider in September are shoal marking and speed signage on the lake. Members are aware that this spring the BLA provided "No Wake Please" signs to members who wished to post them on their shoreline. Our supply is exhausted and we need some feedback as to additional need and the format/size of the sign. The particular design we chose was based on a sign the MNR used to provide in the past. What do you think?

The issue of shoal marking is again on the agenda and we need some advice. As many old-timers recall, the BLA used to actually make shoal markers and members would place them as needed on the lake. The Board is prepared to take more leadership on this issue but we need a plan and concerned people to make it work. Many cottage owners have been marking shoals near their property every year and we all know where those familiar markers are and appreciate them. There are places in the less populated parts of the lake where we know there are unmarked shoals and as the fall water levels drop we always hear about problems. One idea would be to define specific zones on the lake and assign a volunteer warden or captain who would organize the local residents to identify the shoals and place and maintain markers. The BLA would support the process financially and organizationally...perhaps an Ad Hoc Committee with a budget and Board representation. Those of you who we refer to as the "Lake Angels" who faithfully mark shoals every year

need some help and we need your suggestions on how we can best do that. Members are asked for in-put. Please contact a Director or email us at [info@bucklake.ca](mailto:info@bucklake.ca).

### A Book Club With a Focus

We Buck Lakers often comment on how fortunate we are to live in this beautiful part of the world. As nature lovers many of us educate ourselves about issues related to preserving the health and beauty of the region. There are many excellent books available today that inform about complex and interconnected aspects of living more thoughtfully on the earth.

I am looking for some folks who would like to meet for an evening every few weeks to discuss some of these books, especially considering implications for living sustainably on Buck Lake. Who knows what interesting directions the discussion could take!?

I suggest we start by reading Chris Turner's *Geography of Hope* which was introduced to me by Jana and Jay of the south branch. It is by a Canadian author and is quite well

researched. Since he spends time on several important aspects of sustainable living (energy, transportation, development, housing, community, economics, food), the book gives a good overview of the range of topics we could move into for future reading. I appreciate his encouraging examples of communities which are moving toward more sustainable living. Turner has found places in the world that have actively confronted many of the challenges facing us and come up with creative solutions. So the book is inspiring and hopeful with practical strategies.

The first gathering will be Wednesday October 7 at 7:00 p.m. beginning with dessert and tea/coffee/juice at my home at 1018 Kingfisher Lane (around the 7000 numbers off Perth Road). I will take responsibility for facilitating the first discussion. At that time we can decide on future

times, titles, and leadership. Feel free to join us even if you're just curious and not sure you want to join. We can make what we want of such a group.

Margaret Fisher [mfisher@kingston.net](mailto:mfisher@kingston.net) 613-353-7901

### Around the Lake

- Several years ago some young people constructed a number of Inuksuks along the Billy Green Road. They welcomed all travelers – cottagers, hikers, residents and Sunday drivers – to the end of the road and Buck Lake. Sometime in the first week of August they were destroyed by persons unknown. They will be missed!



<p><b>Gord McDiarmid</b> <b>Barrister, Solicitor,</b> Since 1979 (and a happy year-round resident on Buck Lake since June 2006)</p> <p><i>Real Estate, Mortgages, Family Law Wills, Estates, Powers of Attorney</i></p> <p>Home: 1097 Tober Lane, Buck Lake Phone: 613-353-6912</p> <p>Office: 3 Rideau Street, Kingston Phone: 613-546-3274 Fax: 613-546-1493</p>
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- The Pleasure Craft Operator Card becomes compulsory on September 15<sup>th</sup> 2009. We offered two courses this summer and trained 34 people from our community. Is there interest in another course sometime this fall? Please contact Roy Mills at [millsras@kingston.net](mailto:millsras@kingston.net) if you are interested.
- If you are a year-rounder or plan to be at the cottage in September, mark Saturday September 26<sup>th</sup> on the calendar. The Annual Turkey supper at Perth Road United Church Hall has sittings at 4:30, 5:45 and 7:00 p.m.
- Regarding weed harvesting Tom Beaubiah of the CRCA sent the following message:

I spoke with MNR and all individuals interested in weed harvesting would be required to obtain a permit under the Public Lands Act. I was not able to contact anybody with Fisheries and Oceans. The CRCA is the first point of contact for projects that involve in-water works (fish habitat). We act as an agent for the Department of Fisheries and Oceans under a formal agreement. I would need to be contacted in order to assess the fish habitat impacts of the removal proposed. Depending upon the level of impact I can issue a letter of advice or I can refer the application to Fisheries and Oceans due to concerns about fish habitat loss.

I have attached a publication issued by Fisheries and Oceans Canada regarding Aquatic Weed Harvesting. *(This publication has been posted at <http://www.bucklake.ca/newsletters/aquaticplants.pdf>)*

For those interested they can contact me at the number below, they are also required to contact Rick Topping at the Kingston MNR office for the related permit application under the Public Lands Act 613-531-5703

Thanks

Tom Beaubiah  
 Biologist  
 Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority  
 P.O. Box #160 - 1641 Perth Road  
 Glenburnie, Ontario  
 K0H 1S0  
 Telephone (613)546-4228 ext.240

### **And Finally...**

The summer has passed too quickly and the weather has been a challenge at times but can you imagine a better place to be than Buck Lake in the summer? September and October have been excellent summer-like months in the last few years and we hope that is the case again in 2009. We plan to publish our next Newsletter in the last week of September and as always request members' assistance in forwarding news and comment of interest to the Lake. Contact us at [info@bucklake.ca](mailto:info@bucklake.ca).

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