



# 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 – 2011 October***

### President's Message

As fall begins I think it is useful to look back on our summer. By all accounts it was a very good one for us, the residents of Buck Lake. Together we shared the Boatilla that raised significant monies for a very worthy cause...the Easter seal campaign which provides the means to send physically challenged kids to summer camp.

Then we enjoyed the annual picnic in Perth Road Village organized by Sandra Rider and her capable crew. You will recall the day started well and we were able to set up for the picnic quite comfortably. However, as soon as we were finished it rained hard for a good four hours and the picnic was very much in jeopardy. But good things usually happen to good people and the weather cleared just in time for the announced start time of about 4:30. In the end, more than 100 people attended and none was dissatisfied with his decision. Roy Mills, Mike Flanagan and I were on top of our game with well-cooked sausages and burgers prepared in time to feed the starving masses. I must say that the corn from Sydenham, an annual staple, was exceptional once again. And the music provided was outstanding. These two guys have real talent and it was wonderful to hear them in this setting. We are indeed fortunate to have such a tight community where everyone makes that extra effort to get along and to contribute. Next year I hope we will have even more residents out to the picnic.

This summer also saw the continued tradition of Monday golf in Westport for the Buck Lake gang. Led by chief organizer Cheryl Savery we experienced excellent turnouts every week. As someone who participated for the first time this summer I must tell you it is a great way to meet and get to know your neighbours. It may cost you a bit, especially if you have to play with Mike Flanagan and Mo Demers! But you may be fortunate enough to golf with Duncan Sinclair and see him outdrive you with his nephew's driver that won't be returned to its rightful owner any time soon. For those who haven't ventured out make plans for next summer; you won't regret it I assure you.

The Rider Cup was held earlier this month and is reported on separately. This year we had great weather but that is really beside the point. Once again, the turnout was great and the Flanagans won more than their fair share of prizes! The MC for the draw was the erstwhile Boyd Barr, the same guy who designed and built Smugglers Glen. This man has real talent and I can say that unequivocally after golfing that beautiful course for the first time recently. The event raised money for the Kingston Boys and Girls Club, a most worthy cause indeed.

Looking forward a bit, we hope to attend a few gatherings that may help us better help our lake and the folks who live here. These meetings usually occur on weekends and require a degree of personal sacrifice but one

always learns something new and useful. This year will be no different I am certain. I will recap them in the next newsletter.

Then you can start with your Christmas shopping!! Best regards, Peter Dawe 613-353-2051

## **Gord McDiarmid**

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### **Camp Merrywood Experiences 2011**

Hi, I'm Chad Lees; many of you know me as an Easter Seals Ambassador for Kingston and the Islands. I'm here to tell you about my first Camp Merrywood experience.

On day one I was both nervous and excited. I began by checking in and going to the health hut for a physical. Then I toured around camp and took a look at the cabins. By day four I pretty much knew the routine and was ready to call Camp Merrywood my "home away from home".

On day two I went fishing during buddy time at the Point; that was when I caught one fish. On day four I got to go fishing on a pontoon boat and I caught four fish. I caught five fish in my ten day trip on the Big Rideau.

I also would like to mention that I was one of 12 campers to get chosen to go white water rafting on the Ottawa River. Some other activities that I got to do were canoeing, Baseball Club and media. These were just some of the amazing things I got to do at camp!

Overall, my trip to Easter Seals Camp Merrywood was the best 10 days of my life. The meals were great, the staff and nurses were great and I met lots of new people. I can't wait to go back because it is truly my "home away from home" and I miss it already. But I only have 345 days to go!



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## Roe-Mance on the Buck By: Alastair Mathers

Fall is the time for romance – at least if you are a lake trout...

Lake trout spawn during the fall on shallow rocky shoals when water temperatures are around 10C. Other than a cursory cleaning of the rock where the eggs will be laid, no nest or other type of parental care is provided – the fertilized eggs fall into crevices between the rocks where they incubate until late winter when they hatch. The young fish emerge from their rocky hiding spot in the spring and head off into deep waters in search of food. The juvenile lake trout will take at least 6 years in the cold, deep waters to mature and make their first fall spawning run.

Although water temperatures of 10C don't do much for a human reproductive urges – for lake trout that is where it is at. Waters containing lake trout are generally recognized as the least fertile and most fragile aquatic ecosystems to maintain. In addition, lake trout lakes are rare! Only about one percent of Ontario's lakes contain lake trout, but this represents 20-25% of all lake trout lakes in the world. The majority of Ontario's lake trout lakes are in the central and northern parts of the province. In fact, Buck Lake is one of the less than 20 lakes that contain lake trout located south of Hwy 7. This makes protection of the water quality of lake trout lakes – such as Buck Lake – of particular importance. If nutrients get too abundant in a trout lake – the oxygen levels in the colder waters become too low for trout to survive the summer heat. In addition, high nutrients can lead to algae grow on the spawning shoals – which can lead to poor egg survival.



**Graham Mathers (my son), Duncan Sinclair and Steve Kilby (MNR)**

### **Ron's Home & Cottage Services**

- Plumbing, electrical, tiling, window replacement
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- Closing cottages for winter/water supply & drain systems & spring re-opening
- Renovations of all types
- Call Ron at **353-6919** (Buck Lake Resident)

## Social Committee: Picnic and Barbeque

Saturday August 20 the B L A held its annual picnic and barbeque. A great time was had by all. Special thanks go to all the volunteers who helped make the picnic a success. We had great food and, super music by The John Torres band from Kingston. If you are looking to book a superb band they can be contacted at:

[torresproject@hotmail.com](mailto:torresproject@hotmail.com) Alison Spratt a Buck Lake cottager organized games and crafts for the children.

The children were well entertained. Hope to see you at next year's picnic.

Special thanks to Rob and Faye owners of the Perth Road Convenience Store who kindly donated the Popsicles



for the children at the picnic. Faye has an e-mail site where she posts community news and events. If you wish just drop by the store and give Faye your e-mail so that she can keep you up to date on happenings in the community.



FOUND: After the BLA BBQ someone left a beige, large size, North End windbreaker. It has a Waste Management logo. Call Crawford to claim (613) 273-8056.



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## BUCK LAKE RIDER CUP

We raised \$800 on the draw. The money raised will be donated to local charities. Last year we donated \$500 to the Buck Lake Boatilla to send a handicapped child to Camp Merrywood. It was a super day. We are all looking forward to next year the 12th annual Buck lake golf tournament was held Sunday September 11. We had some great golf, amazing weather and excellent food. The trophy for the overall winner goes to Art Graves and his team, his wife Grace and sons Ryan and Nick. Special thanks to all who donated prizes for the draw table.

### **Handing Down the Cottage**

Preserving the cottage for your family requires you to consider your family's wishes as well as tax, legal and funding issues.

To learn how you can deal with these, register for a no-cost, information seminar in your community at [www.geoffreyparker.ca](http://www.geoffreyparker.ca) or call 416-346-3806

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## Friends of the Lake: Lake Plan For Buck Lake

The Buck Lake Association and the Friends of the Lake have developed a Lake Plan for our Lake. What is a lake plan and why do we need one? The purpose of lake planning is to engage community members to identify and protect the unique characteristics of a specific shoreline community, to recommend land use policy and approaches to ensure long-term sustainability, maintenance and restoration of natural, social and physical features. Lake plans are intended to identify, reflect and respond to the character and physical capabilities of an individual water body and shoreline community. Over the next year we will be submitting articles from the social history section of the plan in the newsletter. We hope you enjoy reading about the history of our lake and its people. Please feel free to contact the association with additions or correction to this history.

## Social History of Buck Lake and its Community

It is generally agreed that First Nations peoples began to occupy Southern Ontario, including the area north of Kingston, after the retreat of the last ice age (11,000 BCE). Unfortunately, according to Ron Vastokas<sup>1</sup>, the very earliest inhabitants of Frontenac County have left few remains. We know that the first inhabitants came from the Great Plains (the area between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains in the United States) and it is thought that the large game animals that had colonized the area around the Great Lakes attracted them. Around 9,000 years ago, the climate in the area began to warm, bringing more species of plants and animals and the human population increased. A population that was predominantly reliant on hunting now began to trap, fish, and gather seeds, berries, and tubers. The period from seven thousand years ago until three thousand years ago is known as the Archaic period and two cultures existed in Ontario at the time – the Laurentian culture of southern Ontario and the Shield culture, coinciding with the geography of the shield.

By the late Archaic period, “we find evidence of increased population growth, noticeable adaptations to regional resources, widespread trade, and the appearance of several technological innovations – namely the making of clay pots”<sup>2</sup>. The Woodland period of prehistory begins around three thousand years ago. At this time, the Shield cultures were still very much dependent on hunting and fishing, but in the Laurentian cultures we see a “greater variety and richness in material goods and ceremonial life”<sup>3</sup>. Another important arrival made its way from the Mississippi and Ohio Valleys in this period – the growing of maize (corn). By about a thousand years ago, the “hunting and gathering communities of southern Ontario were settling down into villages and were beginning to raise corn, beans, squash, and tobacco”<sup>4</sup>. These communities evolved into the Iroquoian tribes that we read about as described by the French explorers and missionaries. First contact between the First Nations and European explorers occurred in the 1600s and the land north of Kingston was acquired in 1783 through a series of agreements. The lands were under the control of the Haudenosaunee (Six Nations Iroquois Confederacy) and were shared hunting grounds of the Haudenosaunee and the Anishinaabe (Ojibway, Mississauga, and Algonquin) peoples. It must be acknowledged at this point that the legitimacy of these treaties has been questioned in recent years.

Upper Canada was established in 1791 and John Graves Simcoe was appointed the first Lieutenant Governor. He arrived in Kingston in the spring of 1792 and instructed Alexander Aitken to commence surveying Loughborough Township. The initial surveyors all expressed serious doubts about the quality of the land that they were working on and were convinced that the value in timber was the only reason to continue the surveys. Samuel Wilmot, after taking over from Aitken declared that the land “cannot be settle (sic), being either rocks or swamps.”<sup>5</sup> Indeed, the survey of Loughborough took 30 years to finish. The Second Parliament of Canada proclaimed new political boundaries in Upper Canada in 1798 and many of these are still with us today. The establishment of these new political boundaries meant that further survey was required. Samuel Benson was charged with surveying Bedford Township in 1821 and three years into the project he gave up, explaining that the “land is so bad that there can never be settlement affected (sic) on it.”<sup>6</sup> The Bedford survey wasn’t completed until 1876, over 50 years later. The land in the area surrounding Buck Lake was pristine wilderness

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<sup>1</sup>Ron Vastokas, “Before Written History,” in *County of a Thousand Lakes*, ed. Bryan Rollason (Kingston: Frontenac County Council, 1982), 10.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid.



when the original surveyors started their painstaking work. Many have compared the remoteness of their work to surveying the Canadian Arctic today.

Field notes from the original surveyors indicate that people were living in the area at the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, but it is likely that they were squatting on land that was not owned by them. As Fuchs and Barber note, “driven by reasons of their own – desire, poverty, sheer lack of alternatives, curiosity, single-mindedness, antisocial tendencies, wanderlust, ambition – they had followed a mere shadow of a trail”<sup>7</sup> into the wilderness. Rankin’s field notes from 1832 confirm that settlers must have frequented the area before then because he makes reference to the names Buck, Bear, and Draper having already been given to the aforementioned lakes. It is unclear who named the lakes originally or precisely when people started to settle the area. Although the area was still very remote, we do know that Chaffey’s Mill was already established on the Massassauga Creek in 1826 and Benjamin Tett was operating a mill, a store, and a distillery at Bedford Mills as early as 1829, according to his own personal notes.

It wasn’t until the passing of the Baldwin Act (formally known as the Municipal Corporations Act) in 1849 that official communities were formed. For the Buck Lake area, the most important by-product of the Baldwin Act was that road construction began in earnest. In the early 1850s the Kingston Hinterland was virtually without road transport. Thanks to the efforts of the Sir John A. Macdonald and the Mayor of Kingston at the time, John Counter, a company was established in 1850 to build a legitimate road to Perth, Ontario. Progress was slow, but it was reported in the *British Whig* that in 1855 James Campbell had sold some 30 lots on the new Perth Road in what would become New Inverary<sup>8</sup> (Inverary today). Inverary was as far as the stagecoach travelled at the time so people had to either drive by horse or walk to Inverary to get to Kingston. The Perth Road was winterized in 1856 and it is clear that the road improvement was the catalyst in opening up the backcountry. Perth Road Village was first settled in the mid-1800s but grew substantially in 1870 when Christopher Roushorn discovered lead in the area. At the time, the village was known as Stoness Corners, after founders James and Jabez Stoness. The second major factor in the settling of the backcountry was the Great Famine in Ireland. Between 1845 and 1852 a million people emigrated from Ireland, some of whom arrived in Kingston and sought cheap property in the hinterland

<sup>1</sup>Christian Barber and Terry Fuchs, *Their Enduring Spirit: The History of Frontenac Provincial Park 1783-1990* (Kingston: Quarry Press, 1997), 25.

<sup>1</sup>Ibid.

<sup>1</sup>Ibid, 21.

## **News and Upcoming Events**

**Tuesday lunches have started again at Perth Road SSH, see you there.**