



The Buck Lake Association Inc.

P.O. Box 1753, Stn Main, Kingston, ON K7L 5J6

www.bucklake.ca

email: info@bucklake.ca

Buck Lake News – 2013 October

Buck Lake Association -- Origins and Accomplishments

Submitted by Duncan Sinclair, member and past Board Member

I don't know when the Buck Lake Association first began. When we came to the lake in 1966 its predecessor existed but was certainly not distinguished by anything so grand as the name 'Association'. It was a small bunch of civic-minded folk who informally took on the work of organizing and getting the message around to cottagers that there would be an annual get together on a Saturday afternoon and early evening sometime in August. I recall that every year at that event somebody was designated President to take charge of things for the next year but beyond that the organization was very informal. Its unwritten purposes were two:

- To provide an opportunity for Buck Lakers, and especially their children of all ages, to socialize and get to know one another, and
- To share information on the quality of the water as revealed by bacteriological analyses for E. coli and other coliforms in samples taken at various sites on both branches of the lake. At the time such samples were analyzed free of charge by the Public Health Laboratory in Kingston.

The get-together was usually held at Dr. and Mrs. Leggett's, an American family's summer property, where Marilyn O'Connor lives now. Notices of the time and place of the gatherings were distributed by volunteers a week or so in advance, typically by being left under a rock on each dock. The primary beneficiaries were the quite numerous offspring of the cottagers who made up a dominating proportion of the lake's residents at that time; permanent homes and residents were few. Although feeble attempts were made from time to time to organize races for the children and young adults, in general those attending, including the children and young people, just visited with and got to know one another for 3 or 4 hours, ate hot dogs, and drank pop or beer, having brought the latter with them surreptitiously; alcohol, then as now, was illegal at such gatherings.

The only other contribution, whether by the collective of Buck Lakers or, I think more likely, by a few particularly socially conscious individuals, was the regular marking of a few of the worst shoals on the South Branch. Three or four wooden buoys would appear each year, having been taken out in the fall and put on again in the spring by the cottager nearest each shoal. These were supplemented, I think in the early 70s, by a number of very handsome metal cones, painted yellow, a product of the Graves Brothers, plumbing, heating, and metal-work contractors, two of which are still out there helping boaters avoid the rocks, one on the big shoal just out from the culvert and the other just off the point at the entrance to Grave's Bay. I believe Art Graves Jr. and his family continue to be responsible for the maintenance of those markers.

As I recall, the annual informal get-together began to peter out in the early 70s and I think it was around the same time that lake residents who wanted to work collectively became more formally organized under the name of the Buck Lake Protective Association. I don't know when it actually occurred but by this time the Association was incorporated, primarily to protect the newly created Board's officers and directors from legal liability. Its activities gradually shifted from the initial community-building focus to a concern for ecology, primarily the quality of the water and preservation of the natural appearance and character of the lake waterfront. By then ecologists realized that bacteriological sampling the lake water was a far less useful indicator of water quality than were regular measures of its clarity and

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chemistry and in any case the Public Health Laboratory had stopped providing free culture and analyses of lake water samples. A number of members of the Association undertook to take regular Secchi disk readings and occasional samples for chemical analysis by the Ministry of Natural Resources from both branches. Although an Annual General Meeting was held, usually at Perth Road School, no other social events were held. But the Board of Directors met quite frequently, largely to discuss and take action related to a number of perceived challenges to the environment. Often these were in the form of creation of additional building lots through severances, house and cottage construction close to the water, the creation and maintenance of manicured lawns to the water's edge, poor septic tank construction and maintenance, and the like. The Board produced a regular newsletter at first distributed as of old, being left under a rock on each dock, and later by Canada Post.

This style of operation continued throughout the '80s and into the '90s. The Buck Lake Protective Association (BLPA) was successful during this period in bringing to the attention first of the three Township Councils involved (Loughborough, Storrington, and Bedford) and then the amalgamated South Frontenac Township Council a number of potential threats to the quality of the water in Buck Lake, particularly in the North Branch. Buck Lake had by then been declared by the Ministry of Natural Resources to be a lake trout sensitive lake at risk of being unable to sustain a population of these fish if further residential development took place. The BLPA was also moderately successful in influencing the Township to incorporate into its Official Plan provisions far more protective of the environment than had been initially proposed.

There was a downside, however, in that many of the lake's residents, which by then included a substantial and growing number of full-time home owners, came to perceive the BLPA as having become solely concerned with environmental issues and willing, if not eager, to "police" the actions of its residents rather than with representing the full spectrum of its members' interests. Accordingly the membership gradually dwindled to the point of concern that the organization might disappear. In the late '90s the Board of the BLPA, concerned about the shrinking membership, struck a committee to survey the opinions of lake residents, discover the root causes of dissatisfaction, and recommend ways of revitalizing the organization. As a result, a plan was developed and implemented to broaden the focus of the organization, incorporate more numerous and stronger actions to reinforce the sense of community around the lake and to represent the full spectrum of the residents' interests, both full-time and seasonal. The word Protective was dropped and the organization re-named the Buck Lake Association.

What has the Buck Lake Association in its various forms done over the years? It has:

- Created a respected vehicle to canvass and represent the interests of Buck Lakers, permanent and seasonal residents alike.
- Represented those interests to:
 - South Frontenac Township Council
 - Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
 - Ontario Ministry of the Environment
 - Kingston and District Board of Health
- Fostered a sense of community among Buck Lakers through:
 - Producing and distributing regular News Letters, initially by mail to all members and more recently electronically to all Buck Lakers, members or not, with e-mail addresses
 - Holding five community events throughout the year:
 - An Annual General Meeting in July
 - Collaborating with its originators in the Buck Lake Community Watch, conducts a canvass for donations and helps mount the Send-a-Kid-to-Camp Boatilla and BBQ to benefit disabled children in Easter Seals' Camp Merrywood
 - Through its Friends of the Lake Committee, sponsors an annual lake environment information evening in July
 - Puts on a picnic/BBQ in August at Harris Park in Perth Road Village
 - Conducts a winter carnival in Hidden Valley

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- Acted to measure and protect the lake's environment, including the water quality by:
 - Arranging for specified members to regularly sample water quality on both branches through the Ministry of Natural Resources' Lake Partners' Program
 - Collaborating with the Ministry of Natural Resources in measuring the water quality and conducting fish surveys
 - Through the Friends of the Lake Committee, conducting an extensive survey of lake residents and preparing and distributing a formal Lake Plan setting out the collective vision of Buck Lakers for the lake's sustainable future and plans to realize that future
 - Providing input to the Township of South Frontenac during the process of developing and adopting its Official Plan
 - Maintaining contact with Fortis Power to ensure regulation of the water levels in Buck Lake appropriate to the needs of its residents
- Enhanced the safety and enjoyment of Buck Lake by:
 - With financial assistance from the Township of South Frontenac, designing, building and maintaining a courtesy dock at the culvert/boat ramp
 - Facilitating the Township's creation of and enforcement of no-parking zones at the boat ramp and its approaches
 - Identifying, mapping, putting buoys on all unmarked shoals posing a threat to boaters and arranging with adjacent residents to take those buoys in during the winter months and refloat them in the spring
 - Through the Friends of the Lake Committee, creating and making available for sale an accurate, mountable map of Buck Lake

Addendum - Submitted by Crawford MacIntyre, member and past Board Member

Many of the functions performed by the BLA do not necessarily attract the attention of those lake residents whom it serves. Its active and important presence as each lake resident's representative is, unfortunately, not reflected in the numbers who join as BLA members. It is difficult to know what the future holds for the Association but as the years go on it has become clear that fewer resources are available from all levels of government for the management of our lakes. Correspondingly, it places responsibility on us to take on a stewardship role for our wonderful lake through our lake association-- which, by the way, will soon reach its 50th anniversary.

A Challenge to Buck Lakers

Lesley Kirby reports that she was in the lake on October 8th and swam 30 strokes.

Can anyone beat that? You need to swim at least 30 strokes for it to count, just falling in is not good enough. Share your accomplishments by emailing info@bucklake.ca



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2013 Rider Cup – submitted by Marilyn O'Connor

It was another beautiful day for golf, and yet another successful Buck Lake event! It is always fun when we get together. We welcomed some new players this year, and missed a few of our regulars, who were unable to play for various reasons.

Thank you, thank you, thank you to everyone who donated prizes for the raffle table; I'm sure you'll agree there were some wonderful, very generous offerings, as well as beautifully handcrafted items. Thank you to Janie Mason, a Buck Laker who was not part of the tournament but made and donated an afghan and poncho, in the spirit of supporting a Buck Lake event! There are a lot of talented people on Buck Lake!

As always, we would also like to recognize and thank our corporate / business donors:

- Rideau Lakes Golf Club
- Donovan McNichol Ltd
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- Buck Lake Association
- Evergreen Golf Club
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- Buck Lake Guide Service

(I hope I haven't missed anyone!)

We will be able to be even more generous in supporting our charities, thanks to everyone involved. We do try to keep our support fairly local, so if anyone has thoughts on other groups, which we might support, please feel free to offer suggestions for consideration.

And last but not least, thanks to all our 'helpers' for setting up, selling tickets, hats etc., and generally making things run smoothly!

Thanks from your organizing committee:

Sandra Rider, Marilyn O'Connor, Gord McLellan & Wess Garrod



More pictures here:

<https://plus.google.com/photos/113068383477993245024/albums/5932314874256628321?authkey=CLjV-9iNmpj0Uw>

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Yes Virginia, lake plans are a good thing to have

This editorial was written by Craig Backay and appeared in the Frontenac Gazette July 25, 2013

The completion of lake plans for Kennebec and Sharbot Lakes are a good thing, probably not in the way the authors of said plans intended, but nevertheless they are important documents in the sense that they may be very useful in years to come. Useful how, you ask?

While it's true that lake associations, however well meaning, have zero authority when it comes to law-making, the fact that they've undertaken the effort and expense to put something down on paper means that there is a record of concern for the health of our lakes.

Ever since the folks at Bob's and Crow Lakes undertook the exercise several years back, it's become kind of a thing to do for lake association executives. It's also become a lot easier because the Bob's and Crow Lakes plans blazed a trail that the others could follow.

This too is a good thing. Since most of the lakes around here are pretty much the same, big holes in the ground that were filled with water when the glaciers receded, much of the information for one lake is transferable to most of the others. Ironically, Bob's Lake was created mostly with damming and watershed "management" but that's another story.

And this is not to say that each lake, and therefore its plan, is not unique. Of course they are. For example, the Kennebec Lake Plan is a slick 16 pages (which as any real newspaper creature knows is a good length for putting on a press) and the Sharbot Lake plan contains some nifty sections listing the flora and fauna that can be found in the immediate area.

Granted, having a list of the trees, shrubs and wildflowers around a lake may appeal mostly to the locals but, since I live in Sharbot Lake, I think it's a great thing to have.

But all the window-dressing aside, plans or no, these documents are not bylaws, and they're certainly not provincial or federal statutes, so why should we care what the lake association executive at the time thinks is important? The reason we should care is that this establishes a good degree of a community's feelings and priorities as to how things should be. Call it community standards if you like.

These in turn allow politicians to stand up and claim "we care about our lakes" when faced with pressures from outside developers who see stretches of shoreline bereft of condos and starter castles while dollar signs dance in their heads.

Make no mistake about it. There are plenty of people out there who would like to profit from every square inch of lakeshore and are only held at bay by our township Official Plans that require minimum frontage on lakeshores, minimum setbacks and a whole bunch of environmental/archeological checks and balances before allowing construction to proceed.

Years ago, I worked at newspapers in both the Muskokas and Kawarau's and saw first hand what greed can do to previously beautiful places.

Perhaps if lake plans had been invented back then, those messes could have been avoided.

Copies of the Buck Lake lake plan can be purchased here: margaretfisher5@gmail.com

Also, the web version can be found here:

http://www.bucklake.ca/lakeplan/BUCK_LAKE_PLAN_Web_version_%202012_June_26

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THE BUCK LAKE CALENDAR IS BEING PRINTED!

Reserve your calendar before October 14th and the cost is only \$22 – after the 14th they will be \$25.

Calendars will be available for pick up after October 22nd at the Perth Road Store- by cash or cheque payable to the Buck Lake Association

To reserve your calendar, contact:

Donna Neumann at 613-273-8047 or dneumann@kingston.net or

Anna Fummerton at 613-353-1023 or flanfumm@gmail.com

REACHING OUT TO BUCK LAKERS FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE

Submitted by Ross Trudel

Greetings Buck Lakers everywhere. The 2014 Boatilla committee requests your help. Many years ago when the Boatilla was founded, the committee had no idea that it would be such a huge success. That first year we had hopes, but also many doubts, that the necessary \$2000 could be raised but Buck Lake came forward and donated \$3500.00. Every year, the Boatilla brought in a little bit more thanks to you who believe, support and participate. Last year's event total of \$22,120.00 brought the nine year sum to \$108,264.00. Amazing or what!

Next year is a milestone year – Your tenth Boatilla. Since its beginning, the motto and slogan has been

**LET'S SEND A CHILD TO CAMP TO ENJOY FOR 10 DAYS
WHAT WE TAKE FOR GRANTED ALL YEAR LONG.**

We need something to add to it such as:

A DECADE OF DEDICATION or 10 YEARS AND GROWING

Please send us your ideas as well as any other comments or suggestions you may have. After all, it's your Boatilla.

This fall, Crawford MacIntyre will be attending a forum where the Buck Lake Boatilla will be held up as a prime example of a great community coming together for a great cause. It would be fantastic for him to be equipped with our new milestone slogan at that time.

Thanking you in advance for any and all suggestions,

Your 2014 Boatilla Committee – Sandra Rider, Sandy Payne, Liz Graham-Trudel, Krista Marie, Bruce Archibald, Crawford MacIntyre, Duncan Sinclair, Pat Hegarty, and myself Roscoe

HELP! Shoal Marker Guardian Needed

We are looking for someone willing to look after the 3 shoal markers near the boat launch on the South Branch. It is not a big commitment, just take the markers out in the fall, put them back in the spring and report any issues or need for replacement parts. Ideally it should be someone whose property is somewhat close to where the markers are located, so they will notice any missing markers in a timely manner. If you are able and willing to help out, contact Cheryl Savery cheryl.savery@gmail.com

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

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