



# The Buck Lake Association Inc.

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

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

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

## *Buck Lake News – August 2016*

### **Township News**

Submitted by Greg Fisher

Over the past few weeks, two meetings have been held with representatives from South Frontenac Township that may have implications for Buck Lake Residents.

On August 17<sup>th</sup>, an open house was attended by approximately 50 residents, as well as representatives of the Township and their consulting team with the purpose of gathering information on measures to improve safety and operations on Perth Road in the area of the boat ramp.

The Township is currently in the process of making "temporary" repairs to the Buck Lake boat ramp to improve both problems with the ramp and the transition from the ramp to the water. It is anticipated that these repairs will be completed over the next few weeks. However, beyond this the Township indicated that they also realize that more significant concerns need to be addressed over the next 3 to 5 years related to the availability of parking, road safety for both cars and pedestrians and the configuration of the boat ramp. The purpose of the open house was to introduce the project, review the project needs and existing conditions and gather information to help identify the problem areas and proposed solutions.

Residents and Township representatives gathered in small working groups to brainstorm and try to identify potential areas of concern and potential solutions.

Some of the areas of concern included the small unloading and parking area; slope destabilization of the road; culvert design; rehabilitation needed on boat ramp; lack of parking; parking prohibition along roadway; horizontal curve at the ramp and related safety issues; protection of lake quality. Several people expressed concern that nothing be done to increase boat traffic on the lake, especially of large, heavy boats. The Township's representatives made it clear that they are charged with ensuring safe access to the many lakes in the Township, including Buck Lake, an asset increasingly considered very desirable by retirees and other people from Toronto and Ottawa.

The limits of the study the Township will undertake have not yet been fully determined. Over the coming months it is the Township's intention to summarize its understanding of the problem areas and potential solutions and to communicate these with residents to allow for their input.

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The Township will keep residents up to date through their newsletter and public notices. You can sign up to receive automatically the newsletter on the South Frontenac website. Residents are encouraged to contact their Township representatives with comments, questions or concerns related to this issue.

On August 25<sup>th</sup>, South Frontenac Council hosted the annual joint lake association meeting. This meeting provides an opportunity to share information about development services, road construction, by-law enforcement and general municipal updates.

Again this year there were no general updates from the various municipal departments. Instead, questions from representatives of various lake associations were discussed among council members and other lake association members.

Some of the issues that were discussed included the following:

- Concerns surrounding water levels in a number of lakes resulting from this year's drought. Unfortunately, council members indicated they had little control in this area which is managed by other levels of government;
- Concerns were also expressed that Parks Canada had announced that passage on the Rideau Canal will be free in 2017 (Canada's bicentennial) and that this could significantly impact water levels next year;
- There were a number of questions related to roads and the process for having private lanes assumed by the Municipality. There has been some discussion at Council that there should be a policy that would provide clear rules in this area. A policy for this area is still in the development stage. Having said that, the councillors who were present indicated that it was very likely that any policy would require that the respective road association be responsible for bringing the road up to municipal standards before it would be assumed by the Township;
- There were a number of comments/questions related to garbage and recycling. There seemed to be agreement that there had been significant improvements in this area; however, there were still issues that needed to be addressed. The comment was made that the Municipality alone could not resolve all these issues – in order to make this work everyone would be required to work together on these issues.
- There were comments related to improving communication with residents. The Councillors recognized that improvements were needed in this area. They also mentioned that residents could receive more information on a timely basis by signing up for the electronic newsletter on the South Frontenac website.
- Residents raised a number of questions that related to the preservation of water quality. These included invasive species and septic systems among others. While a number of questions were raised, there was no indication how these issues might be addressed.

Residents are urged to bring any questions or concerns to the attention of their council representatives.

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# The Clarkette's Annual Lemonade Stand

Save the Date:  
Saturday,  
September 03, 2016  
Time: 11:00 to 2:00.



Daley and Riley and Aubrey Clarke  
would like to invite you to the Buck  
Lake Narrows .....

Come by boat, canoe, kayak, paddle  
board or swim on over.....

All proceeds will be donated to a  
local charity

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## Conservation Biologist Speaks at Friends of the Lake Education Night

Submitted by David Frid

The BLA's Friends of the Lake committee (FotL) were pleased to host their annual Education Night on the traditional third Thursday, July 21st, at the Perth Rd. United Church Hall. Guest speaker Lesley Rudy, a Kingston area conservation biologist, gave us an illuminating presentation about native plants that can enrich and beautify our lakeside shores and gardens. Lesley gave us valuable insights into native plant species that can provide natural habitat while also protecting our watershed from polluting runoffs. Those in attendance were pleased to learn first hand how we can take direct actions to make a real difference to our lake water quality. As it turns out many of us already realize that the new look is "natural" and Lesley provided us with resources to learn how to establish or reinstate natural water frontage and where to find local sources of indigenous plants. FotL thanks Lesley Rudy for speaking at our Education Night and encourages all to use the resources listed below to improve their own environs and, if professional help is desired, to contact Lesley through her web info.

<https://nativeplants.evergreen.ca/>

<http://watersheds.ca/plant-database/>

<http://crca.ca/conservation-lands/conservation-areas/lemoine-point-conservation-area/>

You can find Lesley at: <http://www.nurturingnaturekingston.com/>



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## Annual Buck Lake Picnic

Submitted by Cheryl Savery

Finally after several years of rain soaked picnics, we had the most amazing weather for this year's annual picnic. With a change of location to the Hidden Valley Campground and a delicious feast of roast pork, corn and salads, it was a great day to get together with fellow Buck Lakers. Thanks go to Donna Neumann and Jo Anne Hopkins who put in an incredible amount of effort to organize this event. Also, thanks to Ron Payne, Dale Payne and Don Hopkins for roasting the pork all day and to Liz Atkinson and Andrea MacIntyre for helping me out with all the kids activities. And finally thanks for Randy Rattan and the campers at Hidden Valley for inviting us to hold the picnic there.



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**SAVE THE DATE**  
**FOR THIS YEAR'S "WHO DUN IT???"**  
**OCTOBER 15<sup>th</sup>**  
**WESTPORT LEGION**



presents

**Candidate for Death**

by

Richard Linley  
© 1996, 2004

Daniel Lowt, MP, has been a naughty boy. It seems the representative of the constituency of Middlebury Centre in Middlesex, England, was caught on the streets of London soliciting the services of a female undercover police constable! Some of his fellow members of the local Moderate Party Association are not at all pleased with Mr. Lowt. Besides, they have ambitions of their own, and since the Prime Minister has called a national election, they see an opportunity to push aside the disgraced incumbent and stand for the Moderates in his place.

A benefit dinner for the party faithful is hastily reconvened as a general meeting, and the rebels openly challenge Daniel Lowt in a contest for the candidacy. Political disagreement quickly degenerates into vindictive squabbling, until finally Death makes a nomination of his own.

Join Inspector Guildhall of the Middlebury Constabulary as he explores the dark world of political intrigue and criminal intent in *Candidate for Death*.

Cocktails 5:00 pm  
Mystery begins at 6:00 pm  
Dinner at 7:00 pm

Proceeds to Legion Kitchen and Buck Lake Boatilla

\$30.00 per person  
Limited tickets available

To reserve your ticket, contact Donna Neumann [dneumann@kingston.net](mailto:dneumann@kingston.net)

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## BUCK LAKE CALENDAR NEEDS YOU!

It is that time of the year.... we are getting ready to plan the 2017 calendar  
Please send your amazing Buck Lake pictures in highest possible resolution (i.e. biggest size) to  
[dneumann@kingston.net](mailto:dneumann@kingston.net)



## From the Buck Lake Facebook Group

With close to 300 members, the Buck Lake Facebook group is becoming the best way to communicate and share pictures and information with others around the lake. Here is a sampling of a few of the posts from the past month...

### John Bryans

August 5 at 4:22pm

Slide Lake runoff is barely a trickle right now. Haven't seen it like this for years.



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**Sarah Hunter**

July 24 at 12:11pm

We LOVE the Buck Lake Minion!!!



**John Bryans**

August 7 at 9:35pm

13 loons hanging around between Twin Island and Fishing Bay this morning on the North Branch. That's quite a crew.



**Comments:**

**John McLeod** We were commenting this summer that we haven't seen a

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raft (<http://www.lyberty.com/encyc/articles/murder.html>) like those we used to see (our max is 17) in a while. Good to see their still gathering for local loon conventions.

**Leslie Fulton** A raft of loons! Love it.

**Kim Thomas** Does the rafting behavior mean they're getting grouped up for the fall exodus?

**George Graves** They hunt in packs. Seen it for years.

### **Dockter Nick**

August 8 at 11:30am

Momma and her twins. North of Buck Island across the bay from us.  
300mm zoom and crop.



### **Comments:**

**Marilyn Auger Albu** What a beautiful site that was on the start of our vacation.

**Peter K. Smith** How can you not like that photo. Nice job!

**Dockter Nick** Thanks Peter. We just got there from a 4 hour drive, sat on the dock and then saw them. I ran for the camera and was lucky they were moving slow.

**Lisa Collins Bumbala** They were on Buck Island on the long weekend and swam across the sand bar last week.

**Dockter Nick** That's cool.

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## A News Release from the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority

*The following are excerpts from the CRCA News Release from August 10<sup>th</sup>. Although we have received considerable rain since then, drought conditions continue to persist.*

August 10, 2016 – CRCA Water Response Team Declares Severe Drought Conditions

The Cataraqui Region Water Response Team met yesterday afternoon, and agreed to move from a Moderate to a Severe drought condition declaration across the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority (CRCA) watershed.

The last four months (April through July) were some of the driest ever recorded in the Kingston area. Only 10 mm of rain fell, on average, across the CRCA in the last 30 days (average is ~70 mm) and there has been essentially no rain yet in August, 1/3 of the way through the month. Stream flows are now exceptionally low, close to the lowest ever recorded, with some streams having dried up entirely.

Lake levels across the CRCA, and eastern Ontario, have been falling due to evaporation (as much as 2.5 cm each day), and are as much as 20 cm below normal for this time of year. These low levels will be potentially exposing hazards that are normally irrelevant. Recreational users (swimmers, boaters, etc.) should exercise caution. These low levels are expected to persist into winter conditions.

The long term forecast appears to predict a continuation of hot and dry conditions through the fall, meaning current conditions may continue for a number of months. Steady, sustained, significant rainfall for a number of days is needed to bring conditions back toward normal. Across the CRCA, watersheds are in a deficit of 110 mm or more over the last 3 months.

With the continued dry conditions, residents using shore wells, or private ground water wells, should be practicing water conservation, as they are likely the most vulnerable users across the jurisdiction, and there is already anecdotal evidence of wells going dry across the region.

The CRCA recommends water conservation for all residents, across the CRCA region and eastern Ontario as good practice, even in normal conditions. Typical residential indoor water use breakdown across the US and Canada is:

Toilet	24%	Leaks	12%
Shower	20%	Other	4%
Faucet	19%	Bath	3%
Clothes Washer	17%	Dishwasher	1%

\* Source: Water Research Foundation,  
<http://www.waterrf.org/PublicReportLibrary/4309A.pdf>



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This certainly leaves room for conservation, with wise water use in the home.

The dry conditions also mean high susceptibility for fire, and each of the municipalities of the CRCA has a fire ban in place. Extreme caution should be exercised with any open flames across the region, including cigarettes.

Low water conditions are determined by the Cataraqui Region Water Response Team (WRT) convened by the CRCA. Membership includes water managers, major water users, public health, agriculture, school boards, marina operators, golf courses, government agencies, dam operators and others.

The Water Response Team recommends water conservation across the jurisdiction, for all water users, residential and commercial, especially those areas that are supplied by a ground water well or shore well. The team is asking residents and businesses of the region to be wary of water usage, and try to conserve water anywhere they can; this includes the outside watering of plants and lawns, and washing driveways, sidewalks, cars, etc. Permit To Take Water holders are also encouraged to reduce water takings during this exceptionally dry time. Those residents relying on wells and shore wells should be concerned that, as the drought continues, their water supply may run dry, and should plan for what to do when their primary source of water runs dry.

Lawns that have turned brown from the drought are not “dead”, the grass has just gone dormant from lack of water. When rainfall returns, the grass will come out of dormancy and perk back up. In addition, it should be noted that lawns only require about 25 mm of water per week, any more than that can weaken the root system, making grass more susceptible to adverse conditions. Similarly, trees need 4 to 5 gallons of water once a week, even in drought conditions.

It should be noted that taking water from streams in barrels or containers for watering gardens can impact other users, and the ecological function of streams. Caution should be exercised with any withdrawals from surface water. It is not recommended to fill dry wells with surface water, or treated water, better to fill cisterns or other storage units, where all the water can be used. Many of our area municipalities offer bulk water purchases from their water treatment plants.

The CRCA will continue to monitor conditions, and will provide updates as conditions change.

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5504 Perth Road Crescent  
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## Upcoming Events:

Clarkette Lemonade Stand: Saturday September 3<sup>rd</sup> 11am to 2pm

Rider Cup Golf Tournament: Sunday September 11<sup>th</sup>

Murder Mystery: Westport Legion – Saturday October 15<sup>th</sup>

For more details on any of these events, see the Events Calendar now available on the Buck Lake web site: <http://www.bucklake.ca>



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](#)

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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