



The Buck Lake Association Inc.

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www.bucklake.ca

email: Buck Lake Information

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

Buck Lake News – May 2017

The Common Loon

Ralph Wirsig reports that as of May 13th or 14th a loon was back nesting on his loon nest platform just north of the Narrows on the South Branch. Last year, for several weeks there was an intense knock-em (with wings), beak-em battle for that nest and territory and as a result no nesting. In mid-June, we hope to see 2 baby loons.



The iconic loon graces our coins with its elegance and our lakes with its haunting calls. About 95% of the world's common loons breed in Canada, and with loons nesting in every province and territory, they are a quintessentially Canadian species!

There are 5 loon species found in Canada and the Common Loon is the most widespread. Both males and females raise their chicks. They are long-lived, sometimes exceeding 20 years of age!

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Data from the Canadian Lakes Loon Survey indicate that the reproductive success of the loon has decreased over time. Loons are negatively affected by mercury pollution and acid rain. Other threats include human disturbance at the nest sites i.e. swamping loon nest site by boat waves, harassing and getting too close to nesting loons sites, entanglement with garbage such as plastics thrown into the lake by boaters, discarded fishing lines entanglement and habitat loss.

Loon nesting success depends on you and the health of Buck Lake.

Four Ways to be Loon-friendly are:

1. Keep the shoreline natural. Vegetation provides shelter for loons and the fish they eat.
2. Dispose of garbage responsibly. Discarded fishing line can harm birds. Food scraps may attract hungry predators.
3. Keep your distance from loons and their nests while boating.
4. Reduce harmful pollutants by lowering consumption of fossil fuels.

Update on OMB Hearing Regarding Changes to 30m Setbacks

After the hearing on May 25th and 26th, the members of the South Frontenac Waterfront Coalition are cautiously optimistic that the appeal will be successful. They are hoping to get a decision by Fall 2017.



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Camp Merrywood Stories

The following story comes to us from Rozlyn, one of the campers supported by your donations to the Buck Lake Boatilla.

Twelve year old Rozlyn can't name what she likes most about camp because all the activities excite her. From fishing and canoeing to swimming and out-tripping, Rozlyn has the time of her life each summer at Camp Merrywood.

She says, "You don't have time to feel sad being away from your parents because you're so busy and you make so many new friends!"

Kathryn and her husband Jeremy adopted Rozlyn when she was two years old with the knowledge that she had spina bifida, a birth defect involving an incomplete closing of the backbone and membranes around the spinal cord.

It didn't take long for Rozlyn to thrive in her new surroundings, and she has since excelled in her academic pursuits. She enjoys soccer, volleyball and horseback riding. As Kathryn explains, "She knows she's slower than the other kids, but she's okay with that. She's happy to be able to participate and do the things that she loves."

Five years ago Rozlyn attended the Discovery session at Easter Seals Camp Merrywood. She enjoyed her experience there so much that she has returned each year since.



"She loves it there and looks forward to going every year," says Kathryn. "Maybe too much! The first time she went for the 10-day session her father and I thought, 'Wow, this is what it was like before Rozlyn.' After seven days, we desperately wanted her back!"

"Easter Seals is such an excellent charity," continues Kathryn. "The staff at Merrywood are so helpful and I'm impressed that such a large portion of the funds go directly into programs and services. Camp is priceless, it really is."

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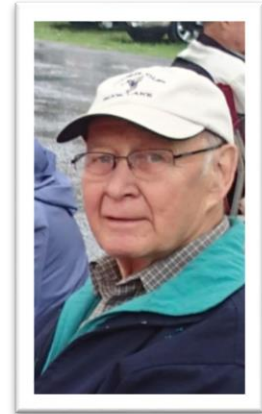
Meet the BLA Board

The Buck Lake Association board of directors consists of 12 volunteers who work on your behalf to make Buck Lake a better community. In recent newsletters, we have included profiles of the newest members of the board. This month, we highlight 2 of our long serving members, Duncan Sinclair and Jo Anne Hopkins. Duncan contributes to the board as part of the Government Relations committee and also helps with editing the newsletter. Jo Anne, along with Donna Neumann, are the key people on the Social and Outreach committee organizing the annual picnic and other events. Jo Anne also looks after the sign at the Perth Road Store, Monday morning golf and helps with production of the Buck Lake calendar.

Duncan Sinclair

Duncan Sinclair is a long-time resident of Buck Lake and member of the BLA, since 1966 as a cottager and since 2000 as a year 'round resident. Elected in 2015, this is his second tour on the Board, having served about 10 years ago, including a term as President.

Long retired from Queen's University, Duncan also serves on the Boatilla Committee and, outside the BLA, on the Board of the Southern Frontenac Community Services Corporation.



Jo Anne Hopkins

Elite Dressage Competitor, representing Canada many times as well as winning Canadian Championships and Sport Canada Fourth Level Dressage Coach. That was Jo Anne's life before Buck Lake. Then, in July 2007, she and her husband Don purchased a cottage at the north end of the south branch. They enjoyed weekends during every season and made great friends at the lake.



With the wonderful clear deep water – swimming, boating and fishing they believed that they had found paradise. So in 2012, they built a permanent home on the cottage footprint. They both have retired from the craziness of Toronto life (Don was in the mobile crane business) and live at the lake full time. Don and Jo love all the activities that the lake and the Buck Lake Association provide in our community and are looking forward to many years of fun with friends and family.

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Garden Netting Is Deadly Hazard For Snakes!!

Posted on the BLA Facebook Group recently by David Frid and Kim Thomas

We just freed a Rat snake from a certain death entanglement in black small weave synthetic garden netting which is commonly available. Lucky we managed to cut it free from the strangulation entanglement that cinched up at many points. The poor snake had the mesh wrapped in his mouth...neck and body as well. It took twenty minutes with the two of us holding the neck and body as the other clipped off the plastic to cut him free. We are hoping he is ok.

We would strongly advise against the use of this type of mesh screening in our wild environs

Zebra Mussel Shocker

Submitted by Cheryl Savery

This past week, I was removing some old boards from our dock and was shocked by the number of zebra mussels attached to the dock floats. It looked like the horror pictures I have seen of the mussels at other lakes. Previously, I had seen a few mussels in the lake (all at the south end of the South Branch) but nothing like this. I suggest other residents at the south end of the South Branch may want to inspect their docks and water intakes etc.



Research indicates that zebra mussels require at least 20 mg/L of calcium in the water in order to reproduce. Unfortunately, the water in the South Branch is just slightly above this at around 23 mg/L. Thus, it is likely only a matter of time before they move further up the lake. The North Branch is very fortunate in that the water there contains only around 11 mg/L of calcium making it unlikely that significant numbers of zebra mussels will show up on that side.

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Ticks and Lyme Disease Alert

With the warmer weather approaching, we all need to be aware of the hazards posed by ticks and Lyme Disease. Although commonly found in wooded areas, ticks can be found pretty much anywhere because they are carried by the birds and other animals they feed on.

It can take three days to one month for symptoms of Lyme Disease to occur. It can be successfully treated with antibiotics. Antibiotic treatment is effective if initiated early on, as soon as possible after experiencing a tick bite/attachment



Symptoms:

1. The disease is a serious illness and symptoms can include fatigue, fever, headaches and skin rash.
2. Due to the minuscule size, bites are mainly painless and can go unnoticed until symptoms set in.
3. Tick bites often resemble a 'bull's eye'; a red bite mark surrounded by rings of red, swollen skin.
4. If left untreated, Lyme disease symptoms could progress to cardiac symptoms such as heart palpitations, arthritic symptoms, extreme fatigue, general weakness and central and peripheral nervous system disorders.

Preventative Measures:

- Wear pants and long-sleeved shirts.
- Pull socks over pant legs when walking through tall grass.
- Use insect repellent containing DEET or Icaridin.
- Wear light colours so ticks are easily visible.
- Conduct "full body" tick check daily on yourself, your children and pets.

Spot a tick?

- Remove tick immediately using fine-tipped tweezers, or tick twisters for pets.
- Do not squeeze the body as this can accidentally let Lyme disease bacteria into the body.
- Do not put anything on the tick or try to burn it as this may also lead to the tick releasing bacteria into the bite area.
- Clean the bite area with soap and water.



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News from the Board

During the past few months, the board has been discussing what we see as key issues for both the board and for the Buck Lake community and working at developing a strategic plan to address some of these issues. We identified the following issues:

- Environmental Health of Lake
- Declining Membership / Lack of apparent participation in the work of the Association
- Succession Planning for Board
- Involvement of committees and activities
- Developing a Supportive Community
- Communication (i.e. with township)

We then prioritized these issues and developed tactics to begin addressing them. Our first priority was to increase the membership in the Buck Lake Association. The number of paid members has been slowly declining over the past several years. The greater our signed and paid-up membership, the greater the BLA's credibility is and the more weight our views have when representing your interests with the Township Council and other organizations. To address this, we sent out targeted emails at the beginning of the year reminding everyone of exactly when their membership expired. This greatly increased our renewals at the beginning of the year. We have also included reminders on the sign at Perth Road Store and added a page to the Buck Lake community directory highlighting the many things the association does for its members. If you are unsure if your membership has expired, please email us at bucklakeassoc@gmail.com and we can let you know.

The next priority was to create more interest in the Buck Lake community. Our actions on this front have included the new Buck Lake Community Directory, which many of you have seen. If you have not added your name and received a copy of the directory, it is not too late to add it. Just send a quick email to bucklakeassoc@gmail.com with your name, lake address, phone number(s) and email address(es) and we will get you included and send you a copy. We are also planning to reactivate the Neighbourhood Watch program. We also discussed the pros and cons of combining the Boatilla and the annual picnic, but have decided to keep them as separate events.

Our third priority relates to the providing information to the community about water quality and protecting the environment. This is currently supported by the annual education night, usually held in July and by articles in our newsletters and on the website. We have discussed other means of spreading information including face to face communication such as the former "Dock Talks".

If you have any comments or suggestions about what the Buck Lake Association can do for you or for the community, please let us know.

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Upcoming Events

Saturday June 24th 9am – **Buck Lake Association Annual General Meeting**

Perth Road Sunday School Hall

Nominations for the BLA Jim Manuel Volunteer Award are still welcomed and can be submitted to crawfordmacintyre@gmail.com or to any Board member. This award will be presented at the BLA Annual Meeting. Nominations will close on Sunday, June 11th.

Copies of the 2017 FAB (Frontenac Arch Biosphere) Experiences Guide booklet will be available (courtesy of Ralph Wirsig)

Sunday July 2nd 2pm – **Buck Lake Boatilla**

Boats meet at the culvert (South Branch)
Kayaks and canoes meet at either Roost Lane or Narrows Lane
BBQ and cheques presentation to follow at Hidden Valley Campground

Tuesday July 25th 7pm – **Education Night**

Perth Road Sunday School Hall
Come out for a fascinating talk by Lou Bumbala (Scuba Lou) and friends. Lou is a Buck Lake cottager and Scuba diver/instructor

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Saturday August 26th – **Buck Lake Picnic/Pork Roast**

Hidden Valley Campground

Last year's picnic was a great event. The pork was delicious and as were all the potluck contributions to the menu. The Hidden Valley site worked well for boating in and had lots of room for food cooking eating games etc. Looking forward to a repeat success!!!!

Watch for more details in upcoming newsletters

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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