



## The Buck Lake Association Inc.

Box 36, INVERARY, ON K0H 1X0

[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 –May 2018*

#### The Buck Lake Community Directory

Submitted by Cheryl Savery

Last year, the Buck Lake Association created a community email and phone directory for cottagers and residents in the hopes of helping create a more connected and caring community. The directory has been circulated to those Buck Lakers who supplied their contact information for inclusion in the directory. It is not to be used for solicitation or commercial purposes. An update was emailed out in early April and we will continue to send out periodic updates as changes come in.



If you have not sent in your information and are interested in getting a copy of the Buck Lake Directory, just email your contact information (name, lake address and up to 2 email addresses and phone numbers) to [bucklakeassoc@gmail.com](mailto:bucklakeassoc@gmail.com)



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## Buck Lake Culvert & Boat Ramp – AGM Topic

In 2016 South Frontenac Township began the process of gathering information on measures to improve safety and operations on Perth Road in the area of the Buck Lake boat ramp. In that regard, on August 17th, 2016 an open house was attended by approximately 50 residents, as well as representatives of the Township and their consulting team, with the purpose of obtaining information from residents which could be incorporated into the report and ultimate recommendations.

In late 2017 the consultant's report was presented to South Frontenac Township. As indicated in the report, there were a number of concerns that needed to be addressed when considering improvements in the area of the Culvert. These included:

- Increased parking availability
- Speed management issues
- Elimination of erosion of granular material sliding into the lake
- Provide pedestrian facilities for increased safety

Mark Segsworth, the Public Works Manager with South Frontenac Township, will be in attendance at our annual meeting on July 7<sup>th</sup> and will discuss the consultant's report and related recommendations.

The attached diagram shows the design layout recommended in the report. The complete report can be viewed on the Townships website at <http://www.southfrontenac.net/en/town-hall/public-works-road-studies---reports.asp>

Please join us at the annual meeting to hear Mark's comments. He will address questions you may have.



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## A Little Bit of Buck Lake History – Beach Island

Submitted by Neil Baker

Beach Island is a small island on the upper south branch of Buck Lake, directly to the north of Buck Island. It was bought by my great-grandparents on my mother's side of the family,



Thelma Hord and Howard Beach, and was of special significance to them. Family lore has it that as young people Thelma and Howard had taken a romantic boat trip to the north end of the south branch of the lake before realizing, in growing darkness and light rain, that they didn't know their way back to wherever it was they came from. They decided to stay overnight on what is now Beach Island, presumably lighting a fire and waiting until daylight returned to get their bearings and row south. Sometime post-WWII they decided to buy a property on the lake. The Canadian government was at that time looking for tourist dollars and therefore was selling land cheaply on the condition that it be built upon. It was a no-brainer. The island on which they had once been stranded, which had protected them overnight from the elements, became theirs. They designed and built (with the crucial assistance of Don Sears) a cottage on the island, and all these years later

Thelma and Howard's descendants – including yours truly – still use the cottage on a regular basis. This is despite the fact that I am half Australian. My mother (Thelma's granddaughter) married an Australian and we all live happily together in Sydney. This April, I visited Beach Island for about a week with my mother.

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of April I took a splash in my wetsuit (see photo attached) in order to position the end of our water pumping system in the water. Since putting on a wetsuit is a strenuous and time-consuming activity, I was highly motivated to make good use of having it on – in short, I also attempted to have a leisurely swim around the island. Now, I may be partially excused for this ridiculous thought because even at the height of winter, the oceans surrounding Australia never get very cold (comparatively). Upon submerging myself, I very quickly came to my senses and hurriedly doggy-paddled back to land before I developed hypothermia or had a heart attack. Fortunately, I survived to accept the prize for first-in-the-lake-2018 which, apparently, is to write this article! I will return to the island in late August, by which time the lake will have warmed up sufficiently. However, until such a time as you, enlightened reader, feel the Canadian sun has warmed the lake enough to exclude the possibility of you turning into a human popsicle, I would not recommend you



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treading in my footsteps. But you probably already know this. I bet you're laughing at a koala-lover's attempts to warn you of the dangers of cold water.

Special thanks to Don and Jo Anne Hopkins, who invited me to write this piece. Happy summer from everyone in the Beach family.



## Buck Lake Monday Morning Golf

Looking for a fun start to the week and an opportunity to meet new people from around the lake? Then consider joining us for Monday morning golf. Each Monday at 9am, we play 9 holes at either Evergreen or Rideau Lakes golf course, and then enjoy socializing over lunch and possibly a beer.

This year, Bruce McDonald has taken over organizing the golf. He is taking over from Jo Anne Hopkins who has been doing it for the past 3 or 4 years. Many thanks go out to Jo for all her work and thanks to Bruce for stepping up to do it this year.



Anyone is welcome to join in. There is no commitment to come every week. Please email [bucklakegolf@gmail.com](mailto:bucklakegolf@gmail.com) for more information.

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## Phosphorus Levels in Buck Lake

Submitted by Cheryl Savery

Every year a group of volunteers collects water samples from Buck Lake as part of the Lake Partners Program. I will discuss the results in more detail, but first some background information about phosphorus and the Lake Partner water sampling program.

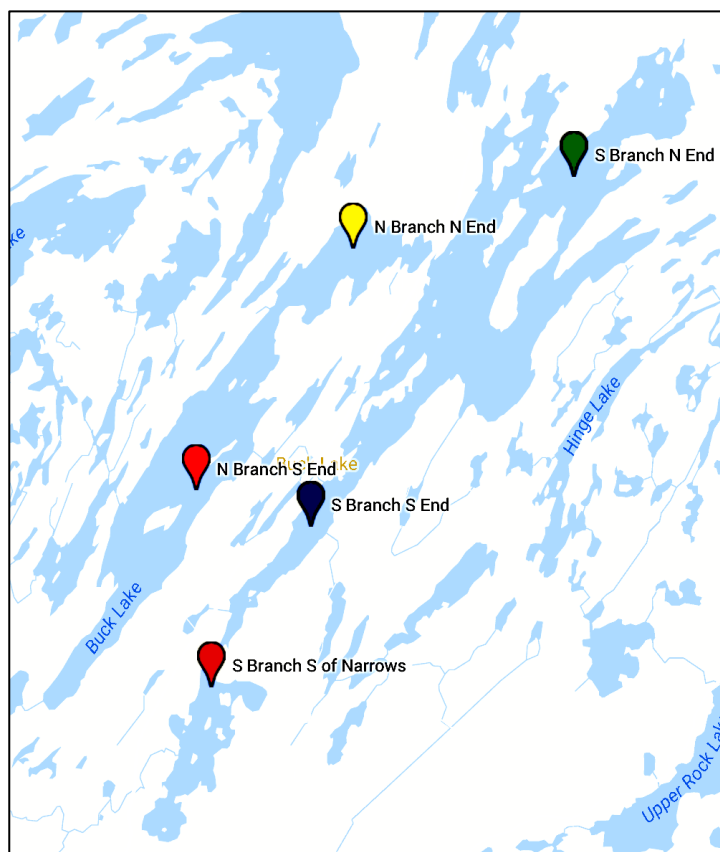
### Lake Partner Program

The Lake Partner Program is a province-wide, volunteer-based, water-quality monitoring program. Volunteers collect water samples and make monthly water clarity observations on their lakes. This information allows for the early detection of changes in the nutrient status and/or the water clarity of the lake due to the impacts of shoreline development, other runoff issues (from pastures, beaver dams, etc.), climate change and other stresses.

Volunteer involvement requires the collection of one sample each month (May-Oct). These samples are then sent to the Dorset Environmental Science Centre for analysis. In addition, volunteers also make water clarity observations using a Secchi disk.

For the past several years, three volunteers have been making these monthly measurements:

- Heidi Linley: North Branch, South End
- Duncan Sinclair: North Branch, North End, and
- Ralph Wirsig: South Branch, South End



In 2015, I began collecting an additional sample on the South Branch, just south of the Narrows, and in 2016, Jo Anne Hopkins began collecting samples at the north end of the South Branch.

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## Total Phosphorus

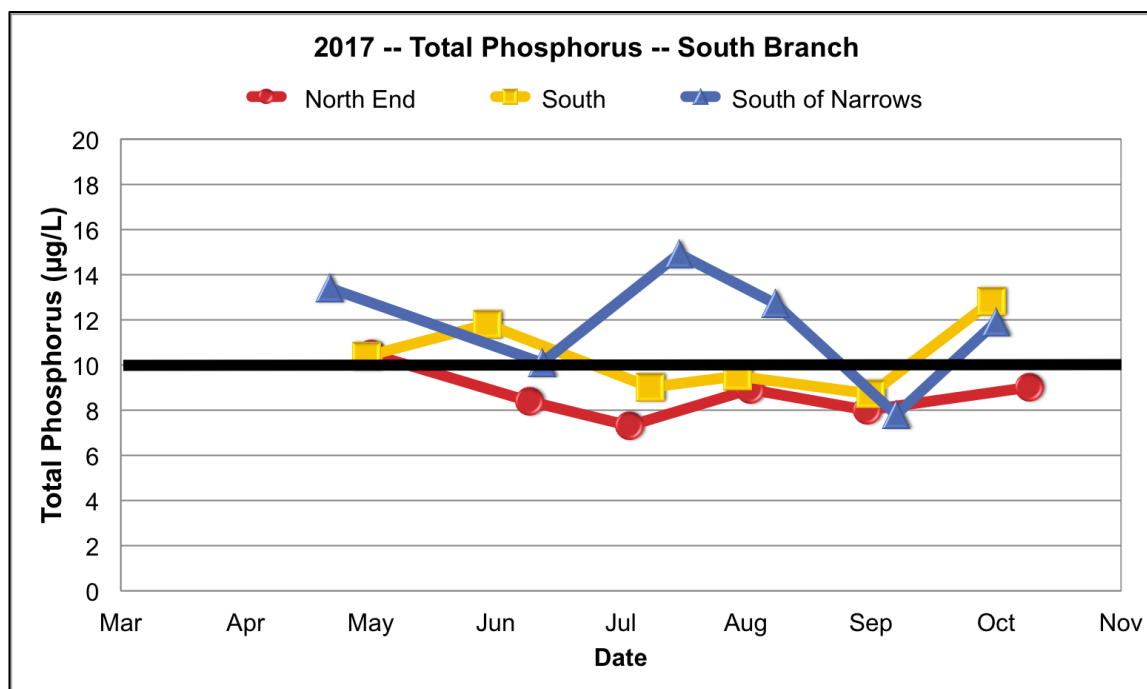
Total phosphorus concentration measurements are used to interpret nutrient status in Ontario lakes, since phosphorus is the element that controls the growth of algae in most Ontario lakes. Increases in phosphorus will decrease water clarity by stimulating algal growth. In extreme cases, algal blooms will affect the aesthetics of the lake and/or cause taste and odour problems in the water.

Lakes are generally divided into 3 categories based on their phosphorus content.

- **Oligotrophic** (less than 10 µg/L total phosphorus): These are dilute, unproductive (healthy) lakes that rarely experience nuisance algal blooms.
- **Mesotrophic** (between 10 and 20 µg/L total phosphorus): These lakes show a broad range of characteristics and can be clear and unproductive at the bottom end of the scale or susceptible to moderate algal blooms at concentration near 20 µg/L.
- **Eutrophic** (over 20 µg/L total phosphorus): These lakes exhibit persistent, nuisance algal blooms.

## South Branch

The following chart shows the total phosphorus in Buck Lake at the three sample points on the South Branch. The black line on each chart at 10 µg/L highlights the limit at which our lake water quality is considered good.



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While the results are generally good, it should be noted that there are some high readings south of the Narrows. This is one of the most highly populated areas of the South Branch, indicating that human development around the lake is having a real and measureable impact on the phosphorus levels. The significant rainfall and high water levels last summer may also have impacted the phosphorus levels in the lake.



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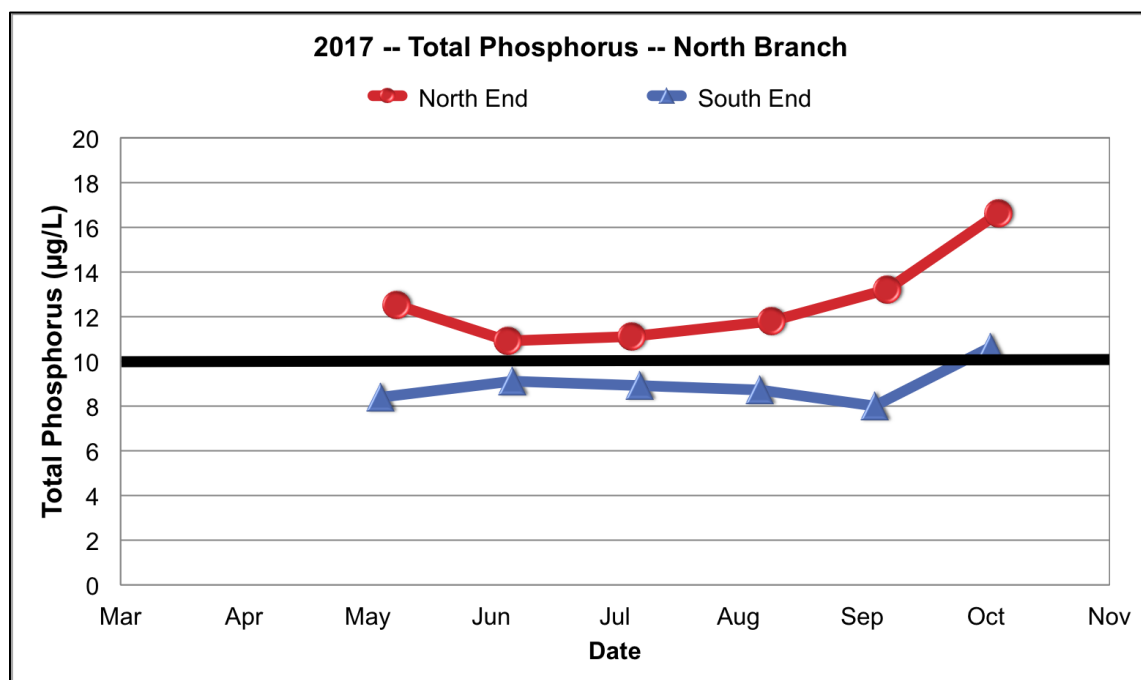


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## North Branch

The North Branch phosphorus levels were also generally good. Similar to the sample from south of the Narrows on the South Branch, the sample at the north end of the North Branch is quite a bit higher in phosphorus than the sample from the south end of the North Branch. The north end is the area of the North Branch with the highest population density again indicating that human development is having an impact on our lake water quality and we need to be careful about how our activities affect Buck Lake.



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## What Can I Do?

Although one person cannot “fix” the phosphorus problem, many small actions can make a big difference. Some of the most important things that lake front property owners can do to reduce the impact of their property on the lake’s water quality include:

- **Reduce or Eliminate Fertilizer Use**

Remember that what goes on your property goes into the lake! That includes fertilizers applied near the water. Rain and irrigation carry these fertilizers into the water and encourage the rapid growth of aquatic plants and algae.

**For every pound of phosphorus in the water, 500 pounds of aquatic vegetation are produced!**

- **Maintain Your Septic System**

Pumping out your septic tank on a regular basis is critical to reducing nutrient flows into lakes. The frequency of your pump-outs will vary based on the size of your tank, your family size, and the number of appliances your use. As a general rule, pumping your septic tank every 2 to 3 years is a good practice.

- **Leave a Wide Strip of Deep-rooted Plants along the Shoreline**

Instead of planting and mowing grass, plant wildflowers, ornamental grasses, shrubs or trees. These plantings absorb and filter runoff that contains nutrients and soil, as well as provide habitat for wildlife.

- **Use Only Soap or Phosphorus-Free Detergents.**

Good old-fashioned soap is probably best but you can also buy phosphorus free detergent products especially for washing dishes and clothes. It is also a good idea to avoid hand sanitizers and related antibacterial products; they can negatively affect the bacteria working away in your septic system.

All of the data from the Lake Partner Program are available online. To access all the sampling results [click here...](#)

## “Don’t Let Your Well or Septic System Keep You Awake at Night!”

The Lennox & Addington Stewardship Council - January 15, 2018, Napanee, Ontario

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

Submitted by Martha Scheinman

As a resident of Buck Lake and member of the Buck Lake Association Board and Friends of the Lake I attended this excellent session for homeowners. More information about the evening as well as the speakers’ presentations are available at [www.lastewardship.ca](http://www.lastewardship.ca). I came away from the event with a greater sense of personal responsibility for the maintenance and monitoring of my well and septic system as a member of a community of lakeside residents.

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Holly Evans and Katrina Furlanetto from the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority spoke about the groundwater and drinking water vulnerability particularly in neighboring regions related to naturally occurring cracks or fractures in the bedrock, thin to absent soil coverage and a relatively high water table. The CRCA is conducting on-going ground water studies that look at groundwater as a resource, contamination sources and vulnerability, collection of data and the development of recommendations for management and land use planning.

Linette Lambert from Quinte Conservation spoke about their program of data collection through monitors installed on about 40 wells (not in use) on public and private land. Information about the amount of precipitation and the water quality is gathered. What can we do to protect our drinking water sources? Here are 10 suggestions (taken from the Quinte Region Drinking Water Source Protection website at [www.quintesourcewater.ca](http://www.quintesourcewater.ca))

<p><b>Gord McDiarmid</b>  Barrister, Solicitor,  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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1. **Maintain your well.** Unmaintained, old or unused wells on your property can become a direct pathway for pollution to contaminate groundwater. Contact a licensed well contractor and have your well inspected and maintained. Have unused wells properly decommissioned.
2. **Maintain your septic system** by having it pumped every three or four years. A failing septic system can contaminate sources of drinking water and cause serious environmental and health problems. Regular, proper maintenance is money well spent; reducing the likelihood of a costly system replacement. It protects the environment too.
3. **Restrict livestock access** to local waterways. Livestock in our streams can result in contaminants and pathogens entering our surface water supplies.
4. **Take care when handling fuel.** Even small amounts of spilled or leaked fuel can contaminate many thousands of litres of groundwater.
5. **Consider replacing your fuel tank with a double walled or double bottomed tank** and installing a drip tray alarm (on indoor tanks) if you heat your home with oil and especially if you live in a vulnerable area. This will help to protect your property *and* drinking water sources.
6. **Be careful and alert when handling, storing or using chemicals, pesticides and fertilizers.** Spills of these substances can make our water supplies unsafe for human or animal consumption.
7. **Participate in your municipality's Household Hazardous Waste program.** Proper disposal of toxic and harmful substances will help to keep water safe.
8. **Keep your shoreline natural.** Maintaining a buffer zone of vegetation along your shoreline will reduce the runoff of pollutants into our waterways; and it keeps the Canada geese off your lawn too!
9. **Practice good water conservation in your home.** Half our water use is in the bathroom. Fix that leaky tap. Install a low flow shower head or dual flush toilet.
10. **Practice good water conservation outside your home.** In summer, half our water is wasted outside. Don't clean your driveway by hosing it down, sweep it with a broom. Plant native plants. They are beautiful and will thrive while requiring little or no maintenance.

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Gord Mitchell, Public Health Inspector, KFL & A Public Health, gave a practical and at times humorous talk about the set-up of a standard septic system, maintenance and alternative technologies. He suggested the slogan “less in, the better” and stressed the importance of limiting the introduction of chlorine to a septic system. He spoke about how to decommission a system that will no longer be used and about the porous nature of limestone as a factor in groundwater contamination. Standards for septic systems are part of the Ontario Building Code (systems older than 20 years are under the Environmental Protection Act). He talked about alternative/Level 4 Treatment Units and described some of their features. His presentation (available on the website) has several excellent photos of these treatment units.



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## Upcoming Events

Saturday July 7 2018 @ 9AM – AGM – Perth Road United Church

Guest: Mark Segsworth – Buck Lake Culvert & Boat Ramp

Saturday June 30 – Boatilla

Donations can be made to Camp Merrywood

at <http://www.easterseals.org/buck-lake-boatilla/>

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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](#)

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