



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 – November 2018

President's Message – Crawford MacIntyre.

Dear Buck Lakers,

As I write this, I have already shoveled snow, my driveway markers are not yet in the now frozen ground, nor are my snow tires on. Neither have I adjusted my mind to accept that winter is already here. A prescient few of us have already departed for warmer climes, but with the magic of Internet they can still get our newsletters and visit our BLA Website and Facebook page.

As you know we have just had a municipal election. Buck Lake is part of Loughborough Township, but also of Bedford Township and a small (unpopulated I think) triangle of Storrington Township. We will be ably represented by returning Loughborough Councillor, Ross Sutherland, and newly elected Randy Ruttan from Buck Lake as Loughborough's second councillor. Alan Revill and Pat Barr were acclaimed as the two Bedford councillors.

Your BLA has historically avoided endorsing any particular person for elected office and that was true for this year as well. Although it is certain that we don't see favouring one candidate over another as part of our role, it is expected and inevitable that matters requiring communication with our South Frontenac Council will arise. This communication could be informational only, but it gets more complicated if situations arise when your Association must consider whether it should endorse or oppose certain matters that come before Council or to challenge or support Council's own actions.

Your directors are now examining the role that your Association plays. Of importance, we are trying to ascertain the degree to which you expect the Association to play in furthering its objectives and yours. Not all of us will agree on the priority that your executive (Directors) should attach to every Objective. Indeed, some of our members may want to substitute other Objectives



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for those currently in the Constitution. As the Township “rolls forward” its Strategic Plan this year, it’s very important that we have good two-way communication with all Buck Lakers.

Our Constitution sets out clear Objectives of the Association, including:

- To keep the waters and shoreline of Buck Lake environmentally sound;
- To be aware of proposed developments in the Buck Lake area, and to ensure that such developments are legal, and environmentally sound;

Although our Objectives might seem clear, what is less than clear is what action and degree of action you expect of your Association in pursuing these Objectives.

In South Frontenac Township we can anticipate increasing pressure on our lakes for development of waterfront property through the building of new homes or cottages or approval of condominiums or fractional ownership projects or trailer parks. Why wouldn’t this be expected? We have a beautiful lake where, understandably, folk would like to be, and similar development is happening on other lakes around. What steps should/can your Association take to fulfill its objectives in trying to establish that any similar changes on the Lake should be environmentally sound ones and in the best interests of the lake?

Downloading of much of the responsibility for oversight of our lakes and environment has landed at the Township level and the townships have inadequate financing and resources to handle much of it. Unfortunately, this in turn puts more onus on citizens to be proactive when central governments and their agencies fall short. In the next while your Board will be sending you a questionnaire to complete. Hopefully your answers will help us to better measure what should be the level or degree of our response when addressing challenges to our waters and shorelines.

On a more social note, we are hoping to organize another Winterfest at the Hidden Valley Campground, if weather permits and we can get enough people to help out. This will likely take place in January or February. We welcome volunteers to contact Melanie Roberts at robinsonmh@limestone.on.ca.

I know it’s a bit early, but I might not have a chance again before Christmas to wish all of you a great Canadian Buck Lake winter and a joyous holiday season.

Crawford.

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Interested in birds? Want to learn more? Join Project FeederWatch!



If you have access to a birdfeeder and the internet, you can help Canada's birds. As little as 15 minutes of your time between November and April will help scientists at Bird Studies Canada and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology learn more about the status of bird populations in North America through the Project FeederWatch Citizen Science program.

"Birds are an important indicator of environmental health and the results of Project FeederWatch each year inform conservation efforts," said Kerrie Wilcox, Project FeederWatch Coordinator for Bird Studies Canada. "Last year, Canadians reported an average of 42 individual birds per count, down from the long term average of 49. A bumper crop of natural food in the forests may have drawn birds away from feeders. Will bird numbers return to normal this year? We need data from backyards across the country!"

Project FeederWatch is not only a great way to support research and conservation, it's also a chance for families and friends to learn more about birds, have fun, and connect with nature. No experience is necessary to take part. Bird Studies Canada provides material to help with bird identification. "FeederWatchers" are asked to select periodic two-day intervals throughout the winter and count birds for at least 15 minutes on those days. They then submit their sightings online.

Anyone can join Project FeederWatch in Canada by making a donation of any amount to Bird Studies Canada. Visit birdscanada.org/feederwatch, call 1-888-448-2473, or email pfw@birdscanada.org. In the United States, call 1-866-989-2473. The 2018-19 Project FeederWatch season runs from 10 November 2018 to 5 April 2019.

FeederWatchers in Canada will receive a poster of common feeder birds, a calendar, last season's results, and access to online data tools. Those making a minimum donation of \$35 will receive a subscription to Bird Studies Canada's magazine, *BirdWatch Canada*.

About Bird Studies Canada

Bird Studies Canada (birdscanada.org) is Canada's leading national charitable organization dedicated to bird science and conservation. Founded in 1960, Bird Studies Canada operates scientific programs in all 13 Canadian provinces and territories as well as international research programs. The work of 79 Bird Studies Canada staff is supported by 49,000 Citizen Science volunteers.

About Project FeederWatch

Project FeederWatch is a joint research and education project of Bird Studies Canada and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Armstrong Bird Food and Wild Birds Unlimited are national sponsors

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of Project FeederWatch in Canada. The conversation continues year-round on [Facebook.com/groups/FeederWatchCanada/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/FeederWatchCanada/)

Photo by Project FeederWatch Participant Janice Carson.

Media Contact

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Bird Studies Canada
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kwilcox@birdscanada.org
birdscanada.org

Yet Another Great Murder Mystery Dinner and Fund Raising Success

On Saturday, October 20th, the Westport Legion was transformed into the Maircroft Hotel in Torquay, a seaside resort in Devonshire. The year is 2003. It is August, the height of the tourist season. Many strange happenings, including suspicious, potentially fatal, accidents have occurred recently.



As always, the audience was treated to an amazing roast beef dinner and were thoroughly entertained as they joined Detective Inspector Walter Langdale as he attempted to unravel *The Maircroft Enigma*.

In addition to the Murder Mystery, there was a silent auction with numerous items to bid on. The proceeds from the auction will be donated to Boatilla fund in support of Camp Merrywood.

We would like to thank all the businesses and individuals that supported us and encourage everyone to support the businesses that so kindly donated their services and products to make our Silent Auction successful



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Looking for that Special Christmas Gift? – Think Buck Lake Sweatshirt

Just in time for Christmas, Rob Sinclair is again ordering in Buck Lake sweatshirts and toques. Rob has had quite a few inquires about more sweatshirts and toques for Christmas. So he has decided to do another run of Hooded Sweatshirts. They will be Navy this year and they have changed the design a little bit. As well, Rob has more toques arriving in a week that are the same as the last run but with the colours changed up a bit.

Hooded sweatshirts are \$50, toques are \$30

Hoodies are size small to XXXL

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If anyone is interested please email Rob at robhartsinclair@gmail.com

There is a bit of a tight deadline so put your order in asap.

As in the past, this is in support of the annual Buck Lake Boatilla. This event raises an amazing amount of money each year for Easter Seals Camp Merrywood. Your purchases of Buck Lake gear have contributed over \$4000 towards the Boatilla fund in the last few years!

Thanks and happy holidays!



On-site Sewage Disposal; a Primer

“All you wanted to know but were afraid to ask about on-site sewage disposal”

Gord Mitchell KFLA Public Health
August 23, 2018

This summer’s BLA and Friends of the Lake Education Night took place on Thursday, August 23 and was well attended by Buck Lake residents looking for more information about the maintenance of existing systems and some recently approved septic systems for new installations.

Gord Mitchell, Public Health Inspector, spoke for about an hour then addressed residents’ questions and concerns for about another 60 minutes.

Key features of his presentation included;

- The process of evaluating and approving on-site sewage disposal systems in Ontario,
- How to maintain a septic system and identify problems with the system, and
- The four classes/levels of both older (but in many cases operational) and newer systems.
 - Level 1 – Outhouses and Composting Toilets
 - Level 2 – Leaching Pits

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- Level 3 – Septic Tanks and Treatment Units
- Level 4 – New Advanced Systems

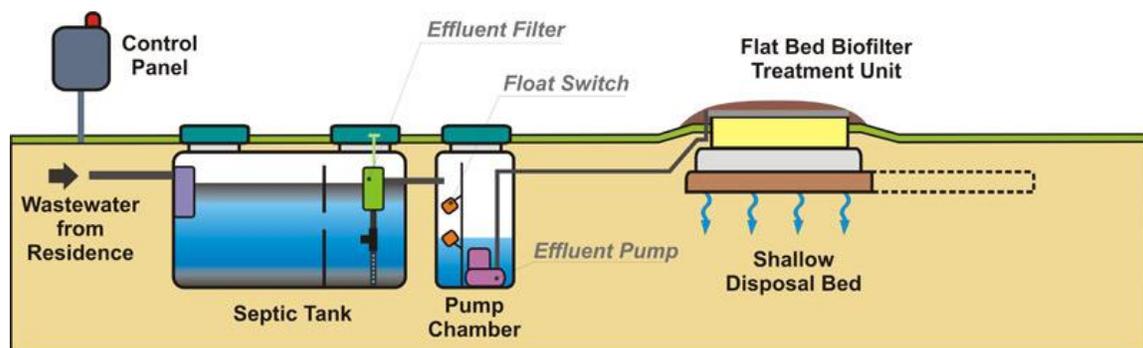
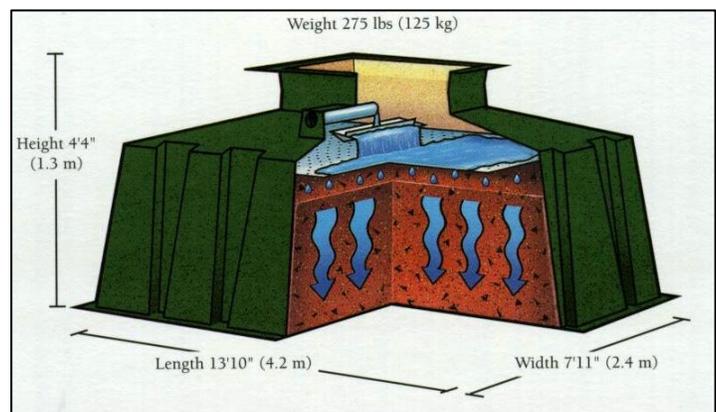
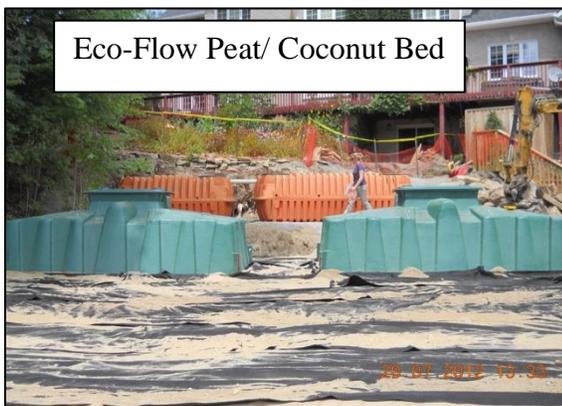
Level 4 systems can be used with a much smaller final disposal bed or a shallow buried trench. New standards introduced into the building code in January 2017 significantly thinned the number of available options, with respect to level 4 treatment [CAN/BNQ 3680-600], the four surviving products [with some alterations] include:

- Ecoflo
- Waterloo Biofilter [cube forms]
- Bio-microbics
- Norweco

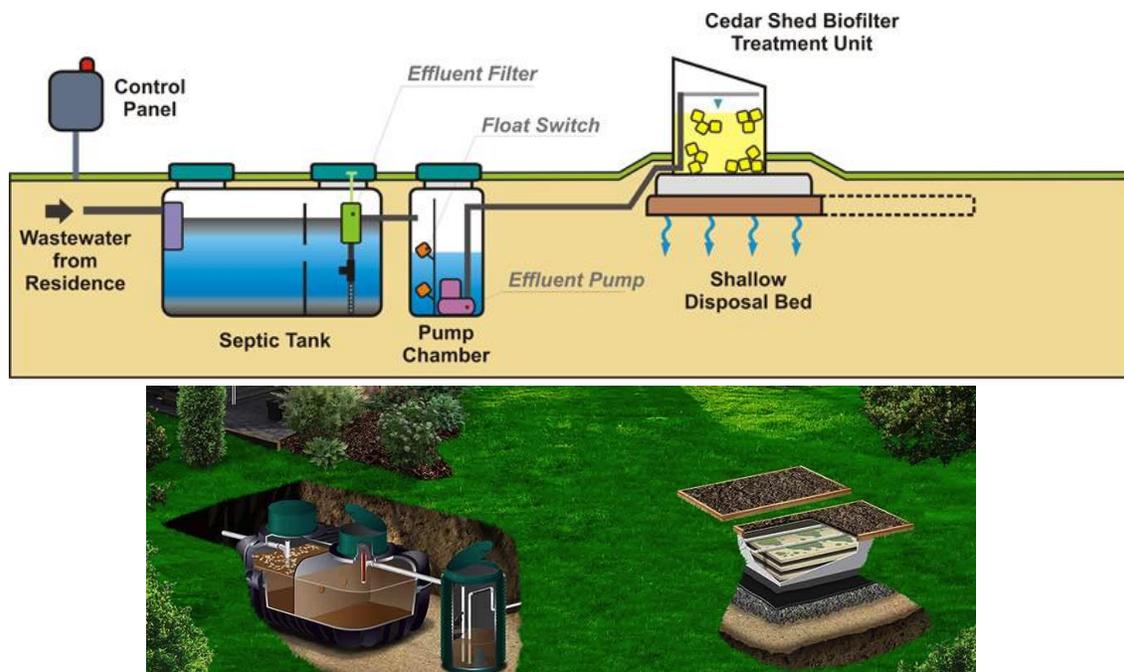
Level 4 systems can produce a higher quality effluent when installed, operated and maintained properly. As a result, final disposal beds for these units are smaller and permitted to be installed closer to ground water. They can be equipped [at a significant cost] with equipment which can reduce contaminants not currently governed by the building code such as phosphorus, and nitrogen.

Level 4 systems have lead to increased development pressure with respect to lot size and setbacks because of their reputation of producing better quality effluent.

Some examples of Level Four Treatment Units are shown below.



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Gord's entire slide show presentation is available at <http://bucklake.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/OnSiteSewageDisposal.pdf>

The evening was informative and our speaker was engaging. The BLA Board and the Friends of the Lake look forward to offering a family oriented Education Night in the summer of 2019. Look for more information in the spring.



Submitted by Martha Scheinman
Co-chair of the Friends of the Lake with Gillian Lash

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Dr. Margaret Fisher (1940-2018)

The Buck Lake community has lost an activist and an educator. Margaret Fisher of Kingfisher Lane passed away on October 28, 2018. Margaret was active on the Friends of the Lake committee for over 10 years. She participated with the Friends in implementing a survey that led to the writing and development of the Buck Lake Plan. She also helped to plan the annual education event for the Buck Lake community that is held each summer. Margaret was a generous host for the Friends meetings and for an annual potluck held in early summer for neighbours and residents from around the lake. She was a strong advocate for monitoring and preserving the environment especially for Buck Lake. She felt education should lead to action, so you would often find her involved in planning information sessions, marching in support of First Nations' concerns, and making her voice heard on issues like the closing of the Prison Farms. True to her life commitments, during the evening of October 27 before her passing, Margaret had participated at Glenburnie United Church in an educational session that she had helped organize for Charlie Angus, MP for the riding of Timmins-James Bay and NDP Critic for Indigenous and Northern Affairs (Youth). Throughout her life she committed herself to increasing social justice in our communities and standing with the disadvantaged. We will miss Margaret's firm and steady voice and her passion for preserving the environment of our lake and of our planet.



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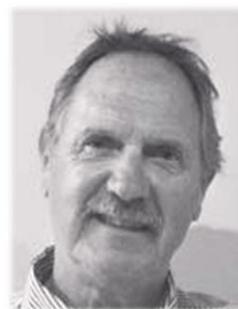
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Meet the BLA Board of Directors

This year the Buck Lake Association has been fortunate to have so many Buck Lakers volunteer to join the board. It has been several years since we have had a full slate of 12 directors. In this newsletter, we introduce Randy who has volunteered and has a long association with Buck Lake.

Randy Ruttan

Randy's roots at Buck Lake run deep. His family has been on the land for over 4 generations, going back to farmers who scratched out a living on the Canadian Shield on land that is now part of Frontenac Park. When it came time for him to settle down and raise a family, it was easy to decide to make his home on Buck Lake.



Randy is a retired principal and still coaches at Sydenham High School where he graduated. Most recently, Randy was elected as a township councillor for Loughborough District in South Frontenac.

Randy currently lives on the South Branch with his wife Suzanne and son Harris.

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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](mailto:perthroadstore@xplornet.ca)

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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