



# The Buck Lake Association Inc.

Box 36, INVERARY, ON K0H 1X0

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

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

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

## *Buck Lake News – Sep 2019*

### From the Buck Lake Association Board of Directors

The Buck Lake Association Board of Directors met on Sunday September 15<sup>th</sup>. The following are some of the highlights from the meeting:

#### Communications

- FB - The feed from the Facebook group is now available on our website for users who are interested, but do not want a Facebook account. The feed had become temporarily unavailable due to changes in Facebook security.
- Email - Gillian Lash has taken over responsibility for monitoring and responding to emails sent to the [bucklakeassoc@gmail.com](mailto:bucklakeassoc@gmail.com) email account.

#### Community Outreach and Social

- Picnic in August went well and pulled pork well received. Likely do the same next year.
- Continued plans for Murder Mystery. Tickets are going quickly.

#### Friends of the Lake

- Received thank you card from Sandy Pines for donation from Education Night in July.
- Will be reviewing the Lake Plan

#### Government Relations

- Gillian and Greg attended the Lake Association meeting with SF Town Council.

#### Treasurer's Report and Member Services

- We are essentially at breakeven for the year.
- **There is some concern about membership.** Many have not renewed their 2019 memberships and thus revenues are down. Email reminders have been sent out. (*Renew or become a new member online at <https://foca.on.ca/product/buck-lake-association/> - or you can download a paper form (with instructions) from our website.*)

**Next BLA Board of Directors meeting:** Sunday November 10<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome to attend. If interested, contact us at [bucklakeassoc@gmail.com](mailto:bucklakeassoc@gmail.com) for details regarding time and location.

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## The Boatilla Committee Update

On Sunday Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>, the remaining Boatilla Committee met with the Buck Lake Association executives to thank them for their support in sending children with physical disabilities to fully accessible Camp Merrywood on The Big Rideau where they can enjoy for 10 days what we take for granted all year long.



Over the past 15 years, this generous caring community has sent 113 kids to camp after raising \$280,000.00. Not only do the children love the camp where they can just be kids but the families receive a much needed respite as well. For some kids, this may be the first time they've ever been away from mom and dad, they may not be able to go to sleepovers with friends, or are excluded from class field trips, but at Camp Merrywood, they can just be kids! At Camp they get to build confidence, independence,

and self- esteem, which helps them build necessary life skills.

The BLA's Murder Mystery is a huge part of this community's involvement and we thank you for the wonderful achievement.

This year, much of the Boatilla Committee is retiring after a wonderfully successful 15 years of dedicated service. Easter Seals would like to continue with the Buck Lake Boatilla by building a new committee. We are seeking volunteers for specific tasks including but not limited to, canvassing the community for support to send kids to camp, managing the execution of the BBQ, set up and coordinating pontoon boats for Easter Seals families and shuttles to the campground.

If you are interested in joining the Boatilla committee or for information on how you can help please contact:

Krista LeClair at [kleclair@easterseals.org](mailto:kleclair@easterseals.org) or 613.547.4126 ext. 221.

The Buck Lake Boatilla is a wonderful community event for a great cause, and we look forward to working with you!

The Boatilla Committee.

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## Do you know the Rules?

### Minimum Safety Equipment Requirements for Canoes and Kayaks

Transport Canada has regulations for the safety equipment required in all types of watercraft and the requirements vary greatly depending on the size and type of craft. Often overlooked is the fact that these regulations also apply to non-motorized craft such as canoes, kayaks and paddleboards.

The following information comes from the [Transport Canada Safe Boating Guide](#). Please refer to the guide for complete details.

The following is the minimum equipment required for canoes or kayaks under 6m in length and where the vertical height that a person must climb to reboard the boat from the water (freeboard) is less than 0.5 m. (i.e. most canoes and/or kayaks used on Buck Lake)

1. One lifejacket or PFD for each person on board
2. One buoyant heaving line at least 15 m long
3. One bailer -- A bailer is not required for a boat that cannot hold enough water to make it capsize or that has watertight compartments that are sealed and not readily accessible.
4. One sound-signalling device -- i.e. a whistle
5. A watertight flashlight if the boat is used after sunset or before sunrise or in periods of restricted visibility

**REMEMBER:** You have to be **wearing** an inflatable PFD for it to be approved for use in a canoe or kayak.

## South Frontenac Lake Association Meeting

On August 22<sup>nd</sup> South Frontenac Council hosted the annual joint meeting with the Lake Associations. This meeting provides an opportunity for the participating Lake Association representatives to highlight any issues that they might have and for the Council to share information about development services, road construction, by-law enforcement and general municipal updates.

This year, while there were no general updates from the various municipal departments, presentations were made with respect to the Strategic Plan initiative and the review of the official plan currently being conducted by the Township. In addition, questions from representatives of various lake associations were discussed among council members and other lake association members.

### Strategic Plan Update

The Township's new Chief Administrative Officer ("CAO"), Neil Carbone, made a presentation on the strategic planning process. Four open house sessions were held during August and the Township is now taking the Public's comments into account in the update of their strategic plan. This will provide strategic direction to the Council and the Township's various departments over the next 3 – 5 years. The Official Plan is an integral part in how the strategic direction will be implemented through various projects and policies related to growth.

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## Lake Sustainability

There were a number of comments from various Lake Associations expressing concerns about the sustainability of our lakes. Individuals thought that Council was not being proactive with initiatives such as mandatory septic inspections. Councilors were reminded that this topic has been discussed during meetings with the Lake Associations for the last number of years yet no action had been taken.

The consensus appeared to be that this was a concern for the majority of Lake Associations. The Mayor indicated that Council was taking preliminary steps, such as looking into mandatory inspections at the time of sale, but they were currently unsure of the enforcement logistics.

There was discussion around the fact that a number of other Townships either had implemented or were considering the implementation of mandatory inspections and that South Frontenac did not appear to consider this a priority. A study has recently been completed by the Federation of Ontario Cottagers Association (“FOCA”). Information related to this study can be found at <https://foca.on.ca/septic-systems/>

Other ideas mentioned were educational promotion of the issues, encouraging residents to take their own steps, voluntary inspections and reminding residents that they should have their water tested three times a year (water testing can be done for free at the KFL&A Public Health unit). Aquatic invasive species continue to be an issue for all, with a number of lakes involved in Asian Milfoil mitigation projects. Information on this issue can be found on the Township website at <https://www.southfrontenac.net/en/town-hall/resources/Algae-Manual-Concise-Final.pdf>

## South Frontenac Official Plan Update

The Official Plan update was introduced and information was presented on the previous plan, steps for updating the plan and opportunities for providing feedback to the Township. The Official Plan was last updated in 2005. The purpose of the Official Plan is to provide a vision, goals, objectives and policies that will guide growth and development for the next 20 years that takes into consideration relevant social, economic and environmental matters. The plan will direct both the public and private sectors with respect to land use and development principles. This process will take 2 ½ years to complete.

The Township recently held the first open house session to receive input from the public for the development of the Official Plan. Two more information sessions will be held. October 3, 2019 (Storrington Lions Club – 7–9 pm) and October 23, 2019 (SF Council Chambers 5-7 pm)

Information related to the development of the new Official Plan and links to the existing Official Plan can be found at

<https://www.southfrontenac.net/en/open-for-business/official-plan.aspx>

## Lake Association Committee

The concept of a formal Lake Association Council committee was introduced at the meeting. This would give the Lake Associations a stronger voice and more opportunities to provide Council with feedback so that they can take actionable decisions. There was discussion around the fact that the current format of annual meetings seemed to result in the same topics being discussed annually but not a lot of follow up taking place. The idea of a formal committee

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was met very favorably by all participants. The Mayor provided direction to the CAO to explore options for the creation of such a Committee.

### **Other Matters Discussed**

Residents were reminded of the Private Lane Upgrade program and Lake Associations were encouraged to take advantage of it.. The objective of the program is to improve access for emergency vehicles. Details of the program can be found at

<https://www.southfrontenac.net/en/living-here/private-lane-upgrade.aspx>

Issues related to waste management and collection were discussed. While everyone agreed that the Township continued to do a good job in this area, problems with illegal dumping still occur throughout the Township. The Township continues to do work in this area and the lack of by-law enforcement continues to be a point of contention.

### **BOB 2019**

It was a beautiful Monday morning and 28 golfers turned out for the annual Battle of the Branches aka "The North-South Challenge", aka "The Golf Thing the South Branch always lets the North Branch win".

And this year, again, the North Branch took home the coveted Mike Rawes trophy, named in honour of Mike Rawes, former Buck Laker and avid member of the Monday morning golf group. There was less than one stroke difference between the 2 branches with the North having an average score of 38.75 and the South 39.6.

Thanks to Bruce McDonald for organizing the tournament and for coordinating the Monday morning golf all summer.



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## 2019 Rider Cup Golf Tournament

The 2019 Rider Cup was held on Sunday September 8<sup>th</sup> at the Rideau Lakes Golf and Country Club. Over 60 golfers from Buck Lake enjoyed 9 holes of golf and a wonderful steak dinner.

### Winning Foresome

This year's overall winners were the team of Kevin Collins Moe Demers Millie Collins Eric Collins with a score of 31. Congratulations!!

Other winners include:

### Longest Drive

Ladies - Miriam Adams  
Men - Liam Rider

### Closest to the pin

Ladies - Heidi Burke  
Men - Art Graves



In addition to the golf, the tournament draw raised over \$1000 which will go to two charities: Buck Lake Boatilla Send a Kid to Camp and the Loughborough Christmas & Emergency Relief Committee which is a registered charity serving the needs of Loughborough and surrounding areas of South Frontenac for families who are in need, or who are experiencing unexpected crises such as fire, sudden death or utility disconnection.

The Rider Cup Golf Tournament began as a community event

originally organized by Bob Rider and Barry O'Connor. Bob and Barry's spouses Sandra and Marilyn and their families have continue this tradition at Buck Lake for 20 years. They have now decided to pass the torch on to a new group of organizers. Thus, as a fitting end to an era, Wess Garrod presented the Rider Cup trophy to the entire Rider family.

Finally a thanks to all the organizers, Sandra Rider, Marilyn O'Connor, Wess and Pat Garrod, Gord and Maureen McLellan for putting on this wonderful community event.

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## **M.A.P. – Master Action Plan Series**

Southern Frontenac Community Services Corporation

Grace Social Activity Centre

Thursday afternoons at 1:00pm to 2:30pm for 7 weeks starting October 3, 2019

This 7 week series is designed to help individuals prepare and explore options to live their best life and make sure their wishes are clear and heard. We have scheduled 7 professionals to come help explain and answer questions regarding seven wonders of aging:

- Understanding & Accessing Healthcare
- Advanced Care Planning
- Financial and Retirement Preparation
- Creating a Medical Profile
- Will and Estate Workshop
- Pre-Planning Made Simple
- Health Insurance

Every individual registered will receive a binder and printed material to help you start creating your plan. There is a fee of \$10.00/person. Registration is open until September 30, 2019.

Seating is limited. Call today! Please feel free to contact Ashley Bates at 613-376-6477 ext. 310, with any questions.

## **Fall Gardening Ideas**

The fall equinox has come and gone (September 23 this year) and in addition to taking out docks and replenishing the wood pile many of us are preparing our lakeside gardens for fall.

Apply autumn leaves around the base of trees and shrubs as an insulator against the cold and rake them into your flower beds.

You can protect any large areas of bare soil from nutrient loss during the winter by using wetted leaves as a mulch or a mixture of leaves, straw and grass clippings. Use newspaper covered with moist grass clippings to keep the mulch in place.

Damp leaves can be collected and stored in plastic bags with holes for air circulation or piled in bins or cages to create leafmould to be added to the soil or to your compost heap. Leafmould can take from six months to a few years to be ready to use. There are lots of resources on line about leafmould.



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Seed heads of many native wildflowers such as coneflowers and black eyed Susans are natural bird feeders for birds during the winter months. Instead of removing fallen tree limbs make a brush pile with branches to create a cozy shelter for wintering birds.

When choosing new plants for your garden consider adding native shrubs and trees in the fall. Visit [guelph.ca/healthylandscapes](http://guelph.ca/healthylandscapes) or [ontarioinvasiveplants.ca](http://ontarioinvasiveplants.ca) for some ideas.

To attract beneficial insects try leaving some piles of leaves or small stacks of logs to help them survive the winter.



Photo: Laura Frazier/Audubon Photography Awards

Remember to resist the temptation to remove leaves, branches and other vegetation from your natural shoreline as they naturally filter the runoff that runs into the lake and prevent erosion.

## Buck Lake Water Level

The water level in Buck Lake is usually lowered in the fall, however, this year the change seems to have come earlier than expected.

The water level in Buck Lake is controlled by a dam on Massassauga Creek located at the north end of the South Branch of Buck Lake. Logs are added or removed from the dam to adjust the water level.

In 2015, Energy Ottawa (a subsidiary of Ottawa Hydro) took over the management of Buck Lake water levels (along with other lakes). In 2015, Energy Ottawa acquired a number of hydroelectric facilities located in Ontario and New York State from Fortis Inc. This included the dam on Buck Lake. As a result of this, Buck Lake water levels are now regulated by Energy Ottawa through the Buck Lake Dam located at the northeast corner where the lake flows into Massassauga Creek.



Water levels are supposed to be maintained within a 0.5-meter fluctuation throughout the year based on rainfall, snowmelt, drought conditions, and rate of evaporation. More information on the following websites:

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<https://www.crca.ca/wp-content/uploads/PDFs/LakeReports/2017-FactSheet-BuckLake.pdf>

<https://crca.ca/watershed-management/dams-and-water-control-structures/water-control-structures-and-owners/>



## Reminders:

### Buck Lake Calendar NEEDS YOU!

Please send your amazing Buck Lake pictures in full resolution to Cheryl Dawson at [dawson.cheryl13@gmail.com](mailto:dawson.cheryl13@gmail.com) by September 30<sup>th</sup>. Please: no people in the photos.

### The Buck Lake Community Directory

To be added to and receive the Buck Lake Community Directory, please email your contact information (name, lake address and up to 2 email addresses and phone numbers) to [bucklakeassoc@gmail.com](mailto:bucklakeassoc@gmail.com)

### Facebook Group

We have a very active group on Facebook with over 566 members. Please feel free to join.



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## Coming Events:

### Monday Golf

- Every Monday 9am until Thanksgiving
- Evergreen or Rideau Lakes Golf Course
- Contact [bucklakegolf@gmail.com](mailto:bucklakegolf@gmail.com) for more info

### Annual Murder Mystery

- Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup>
- Westport Legion
  - 5pm - Cocktails
  - 6pm - Play starts
  - 7pm - Dinner
- Donations for Silent Auction welcome!
- Proceeds to Buck Lake Boatilla/Camp Merriwood.
- **Tickets \$35 per person - Available now - they go fast!**

For tickets and donations please contact Ria Berry 613-353-2699 [ria.berry@sympatico.ca](mailto:ria.berry@sympatico.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](#)

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