



The Buck Lake Association Inc.

Box 36, INVERARY, ON K0H 1X0

www.bucklake.ca

email: Buck Lake Information

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

Buck Lake News – June 2020

Boat Right – Be Polite

Tubing, wake boarding and water skiing are popular summer activities on Buck Lake, and while they can provide immense enjoyment for those participating, they can also be a source of great annoyance for some of your friends and neighbours around the lake. This is especially true on a small lake like Buck Lake, where in many areas it is difficult to get very far from an inhabited shore.



Boat Right – Be Polite is the slogan of a boater education program developed by the Lake of Bays Association after conducting a recreational boating survey, which found that five activities - water skiing, tubing, wakeboarding and operating personal watercraft or noisy boats cause particular problems for other people enjoying the lake. This article is taken from their [pamphlet](#) and outlines some guidelines to help reduce the potentially negative impact of those activities your friends and neighbours.

Boat Right:

- Towboats must have an operator, a spotter and a seat for each person being towed.
- Do not tow before sunrise or one hour after sunset.
- Remember, the speed limit is **10 kilometres per hour within 30 metres of shore**.
- Those towed must wear an approved personal flotation device.
- Know and obey the right-of-way rules.
- You can take off from shore at speed provided you drive **straight** out from shore.

Be Polite:

- Keep well beyond the 30 metre limit to avoid swimmers and boaters near shore.
- Don't swing your riders in front of other people's docks. Drop them outside the 30 metre limit or come in and out perpendicular to your dock.
- Avoid multiple runs in the same area. Vary your route to share the pain.
- Keep a safe distance from other towboats, which stop and turn unpredictably.
- Don't tow around canoes, kayaks, sailboats or small outboards. They may cross your rider's path, and your wake can capsize them.
- Concentrate! Most boating incidents are caused by operators not paying attention.

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

More Considerations for Wake Boarding

- Boats designed for wake boarding can create much bigger wake than other boats on the lake. Guidelines indicate that you should try to keep at least **300 metres** off shore. Your wake can damage docks, moored boats, the shoreline, and wildlife habitat. The 30 metre limit is not enough for your wake to dissipate. Realistically, however, there is almost nowhere on Buck Lake that is **300 metres** from all shorelines – meaning this limit is not really feasible on our lake. Even so, please try to use areas where you can keep as far from shore as possible.
- Repeated runs in front of the same cottages are profoundly annoying because of swells and noise. Vary your route frequently.

The mission of the Buck Lake Association is: To enhance people's enjoyment of Buck Lake now and for future generations. Please try to be considerate so that your enjoyment of Buck Lake is not spoiling it for others.

Buck Lake Monday Morning Golf Group



With all the social distancing measures that have been put in place, many of our usual Buck Lake activities have had to be cancelled or postponed. Fortunately, now that the golf courses have been allowed to open, Bruce McDonald has been able to start up the Buck Lake Monday Morning Golf Group. Here is an update from Bruce on what has changed this year and how you can join in...

Hello Golfers,

Monday morning golf is up and running. If you can swing a club and enjoy interacting with people primarily from the Buck Lake area, think about coming out Monday mornings for 9 holes.

Both courses are in good shape and have adopted modified practices regarding social distancing. Despite the lack of benches, ball washers and limited access to the clubhouse, those who have played have enjoyed the round.

Phase Two of the reopening has allowed the patio at Evergreen to open. This provides a much welcome level of socialization after a round of golf. This has always been the highlight of the Monday morning outing.

If you wish to have your name on the weekly signup email, please email bucklakegolf@gmail.com with your name & phone number and I'll get your name on the weekly email distribution list.

Bruce

PERTH ROAD STORE
 5504 Perth Road Crescent
 Box 1049 Perth Road, ON K0H 2L0
 (613)353-6234
perthroadstore@xplornet.ca
 Monday-Friday 6:00am-7:00pm
 Saturday 8:00am-6:00pm
 Sunday 9:00am-5:00pm

"To enhance people's enjoyment of Buck Lake"

Internet and Cell Service – Current Status and Possible Upcoming Improvements

As anyone who has been to Buck Lake knows, our access to the Internet and to cell service is not like in the city.

Internet

For those in the 273 (Westport) telephone exchange, DSL internet is available from [WTC Communications](#) which by most accounts works quite well.

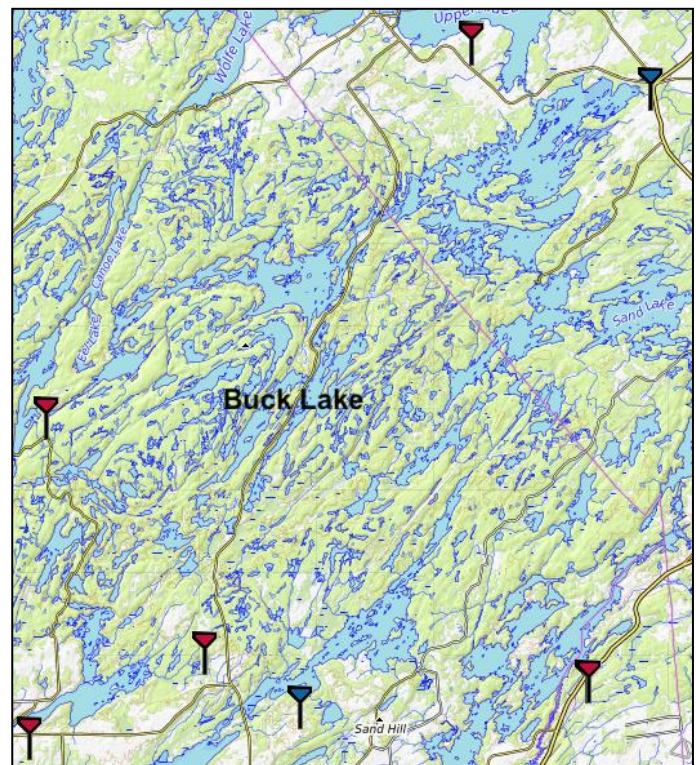
For the remainder of the lake in the 353 (Inverary) telephone exchange, the main option is [Xplornet](#). Xplornet provides internet via broadband towers and satellite. The main internet tower near Buck Lake is located on Leland Road north of Perth Road village. Unfortunately, to use this tower, you must have line-of-site access making it only available to a fraction of the properties around the lake. Xplornet's satellite internet service comes from 2 satellites: EchoStar XIX (97.1 West longitude) and ViaSat-2 (69.9 West longitude). Again, you must have line-of-site to the satellite in order to use it. Due to their height above the earth, approximately 10,000 km, satellite internet will have delays that will affect conversations. Although the service is acceptable for most uses, it certainly does not compare with city internet and the speed can slow to a crawl at times.

One final option is using cellular data with a Bell or Rogers hub.

Cell Service

Cellular service at Buck Lake is patchy at best. The two providers with cell towers in the area are Bell (blue on map) and Rogers (red). As shown on the map these cell towers are all around the area, but there are none within even 10 km of Buck Lake.

Many residents report that they have no cell service at all. However, for others, adding a cell signal booster antennae, has allowed them to get rid of the landline.



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

Possible Upcoming Improvements

There are several exciting changes possibly coming in the next year or so that hopefully will result in improvements to our internet and cell service at the lake. These include:

- EORN Mobile Broadband Project
- Starlink Satellite Internet
- Xplornet/Stonepeak Sale

Each of these is described below.

EORN Mobile Broadband Project

[EORN](#) (Eastern Ontario Regional Network) is currently spearheading a \$213-million public-private partnership to improve cell service across the Eastern Ontario region.

From 2010 to 2015, EORN built the \$175-million network that improved broadband access to about 90% of Eastern Ontario. This innovative public-private partnership was funded by the federal, provincial and municipal governments, and private sector service providers. This is the funding that brought Xplornet internet to Buck Lake. Prior to that most users in the 353 phone exchange could only access the internet via dial-up – Remember those days?

So now, EORN is planning to do the same thing for cellular service. They have currently received funding commitments from all three levels of government.

The federal and provincial governments have committed \$71 million each to the \$213 million project. All members of the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus and most municipalities within the Eastern Ontario Mayors' Caucus are contributing to the \$10 million municipal share. Mobile carriers are expected to provide the balance of the funding.

The goal is to provide 99% of the areas where there are homes, businesses and major roads with cell calling service. It will also further expand cell data coverage and capacity to support the use of typical smartphone apps and streaming video.

On April 20, 2020, EORN issued the Request for Proposal (RFP) to tackle cellular dead zones across eastern Ontario. This is an exciting first step toward seeing better cell service at the lake. The closing date for bids is August 14, 2020. However, the RFP stipulates that all work must be completed by July 2025. Hopefully, we see progress long before then – fingers crossed.

Tammy & Heath Gurr
Broker Sales Rep.

Your Total Real Estate Package!

613.273.9595

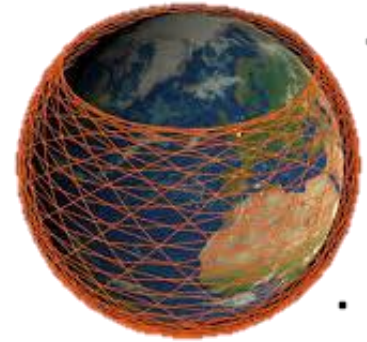
ROYAL LEPAGE
ProAlliance Realty
INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED

info@gurreathomes.com
gurreathomes.com

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

Starlink Satellite Internet

[Starlink](#) is a satellite constellation being constructed by SpaceX. The constellation will consist of thousands of small satellites in low Earth orbit. Currently, they have launched 540 satellites, with plans to continue launching 60 additional satellites every 2 weeks during 2020.



According to their website, Starlink will deliver high speed broadband internet to locations where access has been unreliable, expensive, or completely unavailable. The performance will far surpasses that of traditional satellite internet, and will not be constrained by ground infrastructure limitations. Unlike the stationary satellites used by Xplornet, the Starlink satellites are only 550 km above the earth meaning they will not be subject to the same delay times. Also, because the satellites are moving overhead, line-of-sight should not be as much of an issue.

SpaceX has stated that Starlink “will begin offering commercial service in the northern United States and southern Canada” before the end of 2020, “and then will rapidly expand to near global coverage of the populated world in 2021.” More recently, SpaceX founder Elon Musk has tweeted that “private beta testing begins in ~3 months (August 2020), public beta testing in ~6 months (November 2020), starting with high latitudes”

This is certainly exciting news. However, it remains to be seen how well this will work in practice.

For updates on Starlink and service availability in your area you can sign up at www.starlink.com

Xplornet/Stonepeak

On June 11, 2020, Xplornet announced the completion of its sale to Stonepeak Infrastructure Partners. At this point in time, it is difficult to know if this will be a good thing or a bad thing for internet access at the lake.

Stonepeak is a North American focused infrastructure firm that manages \$24.4 billion USD of assets for its investors (as of May 22, 2020). The firm has a strong track record of investing in mission-critical telecommunication businesses globally. Stonepeak indicate that it is committed to support the existing Xplornet business plan.

The current executive team will continue leading Xplornet and the company will remain headquartered in New Brunswick.

Allison Lenehan, President and CEO of Xplornet has stated, “This deal will enable Xplornet to expand coverage, increase investment, and accelerate improvements to our broadband network. For our customers, this means unprecedented speeds, unlimited data plans, and 5G services at affordable prices. Rural Canadians deserve access to the same quality of broadband as in urban Canada. It is time to go faster”. Hopefully this is a good sign for better things to come.

“To enhance people’s enjoyment of Buck Lake now and for future generations”

Patience and Persistence Prevails

By Duncan Sinclair

For most of the twenty years I have lived on the north end of Buck Lake's North Branch the resident pair of loons have nested on the little island opposite my property. Some three or four years ago, when beavers dammed up the outlet on the South Branch and high water flooded the island, they did nest on a loon platform I built and anchored in Richardson's Bay. Although they did inspect it again this spring, the loons rejected its artificiality and returned to the island where they nested and sat uneventfully for about three weeks (the incubation period is 26 to 29 days) before the eagle came.

My son and I were dock at the dock at the time when we were startled by loud cries of alarm from the island where we saw the two loons rising up in the water, beating their wings, close to the north end of the island where a mature bald eagle had landed; two seagulls, also screaming loudly, took turns 'dive-bombing' it. Getting a pair of binoculars, we could see that the eagle was impassively eating something that we feared was the content of one or another of the nest of the loons or gulls. The commotion continued for a good 15 minutes or so after which the loons and gulls disappeared and about 10 minutes later the eagle flew off.

Feeling sad that there would not be a loon chick in the bay this year, my mood was lifted the next day when I saw one of the loons back on its nest, an observation confirmed by my neighbour whose view of the nest site was less obscured by clumps of grass on the island than mine. Obviously, the loon chick had not become the eagle's lunch.

But worry returned a day or so later when, down on the dock again, I spotted the white head and tail on what I had thought was a turkey vulture circling around. Sure enough, it was not long before the eagle swooped in and landed on the island again, not far from the nest from which the loon rapidly decamped into the water. Shortly thereafter, seemingly out of nowhere a group of 5 loons appeared, congregating in the deep water in a sort of circle around the end of the island on which the eagle was standing, eating something and paying no attention to the silent ring of loons around him. Some 15 minutes later, the loons all dove and presumably swam away, and the eagle flew off. Peace and uncertainty about the loon egg/chick reigned again to be relieved the next morning when Mama or Papa loon was once again seen sitting on the nest.

The same scene was revisited a day or two later without loon reinforcements. The eagle swooped in, the sitting loon left the nest, dove, disappeared, and after standing around for a while the eagle flew away.

This morning, Friday, 19 June, out on the deck cleaning windows, the unmistakeably happy call of the proud parents announced the safe arrival of one baby loon at approximately 9:45. Grabbing the binoculars, I saw the chick swimming in the little gap between the two adults, starting right at the edge of the island and gradually moving out until I lost sight of them in the trees that obscured my view. Later my neighbour called to confirm that she too had seen the three of them. The eagle may have landed, three times no less, but the resident loons and we on the north bay of the North Branch of Buck Lake have a chick! Patience and persistence prevailed.

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

Water Clarity – Secchi Disk Measurements

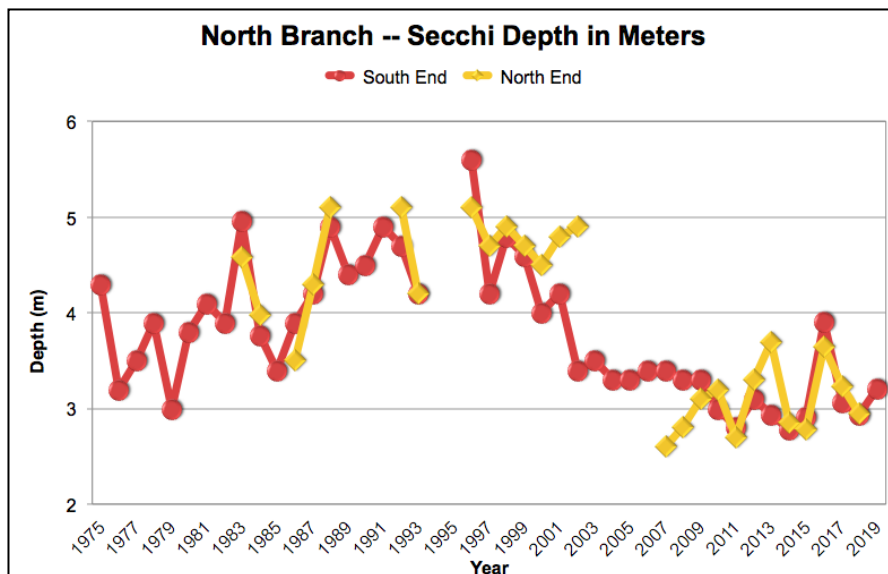
In May's newsletter, we reported on the total phosphorus measurements in the lake. This month, we take a look at the water clarity as measured at various locations in the lake.

While total phosphorus concentrations are the best way to describe the nutrient status of the lake, regular Secchi depths can help to identify changes in water clarity that are not linked to nutrient status (zebra mussels, climate change, etc.).



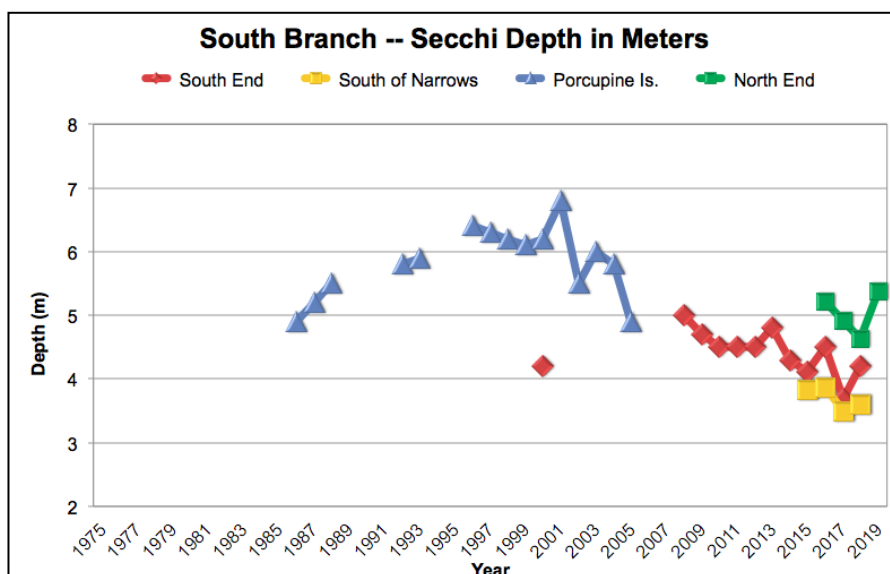
Secchi measurements are performed by lowering a Secchi disk into the water until it is no longer visible, and then recording the depth of the disk.

On the North Branch of Buck Lake, secchi disc measurements have been performed since 1975. As shown in the graphs below, the Secchi disk measurements increased slightly and then have gradually decreasing since 1996. This means that the water in the lake was becoming less clear.



On the South Branch, we began taking secchi disc readings in 1985 at a location near Porcupine Island. However, this ended in 2005 when the person taking the measurements, move away from the lake. More recently, measurements have been take at two locations near the south end of the lake and at one location at the north end, just north of Buck and Porcupine Islands. The graphs appear to show that the south branch may also be becoming less clear, and that that the lake is slightly clearer at the north end of the branch.

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



One factor that can affect water clarity is the presence of zebra mussels which, can actually cause in the clarity to increase. As zebra mussels feed, they filter plant plankton from the water, making the water clearer, but not cleaner. As the sun is able to penetrate deeper into the lake, aquatic plants can take root in more extensive areas than they did before zebra mussels appeared. This is unlikely to be an issue on the North Branch where the calcium levels in the lake are too low to sustain zebra mussels. However, zebra mussels have been found throughout the southern end of the South Branch and may be at some point have an impact on the water clarity. This does not appear to have happened yet.

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

In a recent communication from FOCA, we learned that the Environmental Test Centre is closed for the summer and there will be no more water samples analyzed for phosphorus and calcium in the near future. Secchi disc measurements however continue.

**TAKE THE FEAR OUT OF ENTERING
OR EXITING YOUR KAYAK**

**AVAILABLE ONLINE AT
KAYAARM.COM**

Ron's Home & Cottage Services

- Plumbing, electrical, tiling, window replacement
- Bathroom renovations, maintenance
- Closing cottages for winter/water supply & drain systems & spring re-opening
- Renovations of all types
- Call Ron at **353-6919** (Buck Lake Resident)

Gord McDiarmid

Barrister, Solicitor,

Since 1979

(and a happy year-round resident on
Buck Lake since June 2006)

*Real Estate, Mortgages, Family Law
Wills, Estates, Powers of Attorney*

Home: 1097 Tober Lane, Buck Lake
Phone: 613-353-6912

Office: 3 Rideau Street, Kingston
Phone: 613-546-3274
Fax: 613-546-1493

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

South Frontenac - Lake Ecosystem Advisory Committee

The Township of South Frontenac is forming a Lake Ecosystem Advisory Committee and is currently accepting applications to join the committee.

The goal of the committee will be to support the health and welfare of the Township's lake ecosystems and the enjoyment and use of those lakes by residents, visitors and future generations through specific duties and functions.

Gillian Lash from the Buck Lake Association is applying, and we strongly encourage anyone else from the lake who is interested to apply as well!

Those interested in being appointed to this committee can submit their resume and/or an outline of their experience as it relates to the committee's mandate.

Applications can be submitted to admin@southfrontenac.net until July 16, 2020, clearly marked "Lake Ecosystem Advisory Committee".

The Buck Lake Rider Cup

After some 20 years of organizing the annual Rider Cup, a memorial golf tournament in honour of her late husband, Sandra Rider and her family and a loyal team of Buck Lake friends are passing the torch to others to run the event. This has been a highly popular event which among other things promoted community spirit and raised funds for local causes. A special thanks to Sandra and friends.

The tournament will continue on as The Buck Lake Rider Cup Golf Tournament and the new organizing team will be headed by Peter and Reine Dawe and Dean and Katrin Milner. The proposed date for this is the second Sunday in Sept. (Sept. 13), however with the uncertainties of Covid-19 restrictions, there is a chance that it might not take place this year. Consideration will be given to whether just playing the golf without the dinner afterwards is an attractive option. In any event, please save the date.



WAYNE GORDON
SALES/MARKETING

4201 PERTH ROAD
INVERARY (Kingston),
ONTARIO K0H 1X0
613-353-1577 EXT.22 FAX: 613-353-7230
www.northcountrymarine.ca
email: wayne@northcountrymarine.ca

ELSON **LEGEND BOATS** **TRIUMPH** **MERCURY**



Locally Owned & Operated
Over 25 years experience

Full Seasonal Control & One Time Services Available

Bat Control
Humane Bat Removal
Proofing & Decontamination
Warranted Work, Attic Restoration

Wildlife Control
Raccoons, Skunks, Birds, Squirrels, Mice, Rats, & Other Wildlife Humane Removal

Insect Control
Ants, Spiders, Bees, Hornets, Fleas, Cluster Flies, Earwigs, Bed Bugs, Cockroaches, Millipedes, & More

Call for a FREE Estimate
Call Locally: 613 389 3999
Toll Free: 1 877 838 7278

Free Estimates
Full Warranties
Senior Discounts

www.greenshieldpestcontrol.com

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

Reminders:

Easter Seals – Camp Merrywood Fundraising

Unfortunately, our Boatilla cannot be scheduled this year due to COVID-19 and this affects face-to-face fundraising. For the past 15 years, the Buck Lake community has very generously contributed to Easter Seals' Send a Kid to Camp campaign, raising a total of \$279,643 through the Boatilla and other events to send 113 children to the Camp. Easter Seals is grateful for the long-standing commitment; the organization could use our support again this year. Contributions will make a difference for kids who may otherwise be socially isolated by providing them with the opportunity to stay connected to fellow campers, helping to maintain the spirit of Camp.

If you are able to lend our support to Camp Merrywood, please make your donation online at: easterseals.org > Events > Buck Lake Boatilla > Donate to the Boatilla. Or you can send a cheque to 993 Princess Street, Suite 102, Kingston, ON K7L 1H3 (please indicate "SAKTC").

Buck Lake Calendar needs you ALL YEAR LONG!

Please send your amazing Buck Lake pictures in full resolution to Cheryl Dawson at dawson.cheryl13@gmail.com all year long... right when they happen. 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. Send updates now to catch the July 2020 edition.

Facebook Group

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

Coming Events:

Due to COVID 19 there are currently no summer events planned.

September 13, 2020 – Rider Cup – Tentatively scheduled. More info to come.

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/>

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