

Dec  
2020



Remembering former BLA President Tricia Waldron in her own words

# The Buck Laker

A Window on Life Around Buck Lake

## Say Cheese!

New BLA Photo Contest

## Most Lake Power Bills to Climb \$648/Year

## When's the Ice Good?

## Chainsaw

## Safety:

The limb  
you save  
may be  
your own

Official Publication of the



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Blue Rodeo's Jim Cuddy lends his voice to the Frontenac Arch







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## Your Buck Lake Association Board of Directors

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## Do you want to get more involved in your Lake Association?

We Currently Have the Following Committees Active

& Would Always Welcome Volunteers

### Friends of the Lake

Martha Scheinman (co-lead)

Gillian Lash (co-lead)

Nora Lapp



### Government Relations

Randy Ruttan (lead)

Nora Lapp

Crawford MacIntyre

### Community Outreach & Social

Ria Berry (co-lead)

Cathy Ottenhof (co-lead)

John Curran

### Nominating

Gillian Lash (lead)

Don Young

### Member Services

Cheryl Savery

(lead)

### Communications

Martha Scheinman (lead)

Cheryl Savery

Kathy McDonald

John Curran

The next directors' meeting will be held on Sunday, January 17 @ 9 a.m. via Zoom. Note: All Buck Lake Association members are always welcome to attend any board meeting. If you are interested, please email [The Board](mailto:The Board) for more details about how to attend/access any forthcoming meeting.



## President's Message



# Happy Holidays from the BLA

Let's celebrate! After the unprecedented year that we have all experienced, we do have one thing that we should all be grateful for... Buck Lake!

I am your new Buck Lake Association Board of Director's President, although I am not new to Buck Lake. I have been able to experience this magnificent place my entire life! You can find me either jumping into the lake off of the point in the south bay of the south branch, motoring around in my grandfather's 1958 cedar boat or, more often than not, simply canoeing in the early morning. Now that is something to celebrate.

You will also notice a very different look to the Buck Lake newsletter. We are very excited about the new format and hopefully you will be, too. However, we are always open to suggestions!

Finally, we have one more way in which to celebrate this very special place and that is through our very first Buck Lake photo contest. We hope that you will also join in



In summer I enjoy jumping into the lake off of the point in the south bay of the south branch.

the celebration by submitting your favourite photographs in one or more of the myriad of categories.

Wishing you a very merry and healthy holiday season!

Gillian Lash

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# Most Buck Power Bills to Rise \$648/year

By John Curran

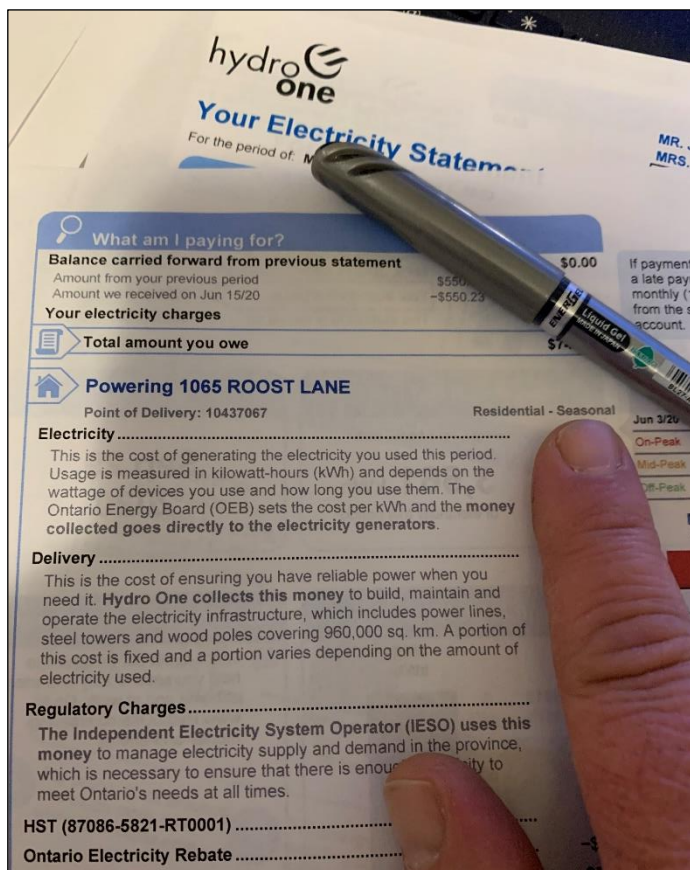
The vast majority of Buck Lakers – seasonal cottagers and year-round residents, alike – can probably expect to pay an additional \$54 a month, or almost \$650 a year, for electricity once Hydro One's seasonal rate class is fully eliminated.

That's considerably more than the electricity giant was promising just one year ago when it proudly proclaimed that the change would only result in a \$1.99 per month increase for impacted customers.

Daniel Levitan, Vice President Stakeholder Relations for Hydro One Networks, explained how the "Delivery" portion of consumers' bills (listed on Page 2 of your Hydro One bill) would be impacted during the Nov. 21 Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations' (FOCA) fall webinar.

He reminded people the increase is really the fallout of the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) directive mandating the elimination of the Residential-Seasonal special cottagers' rate class which had been in place for decades.

To figure out the exact impact on your bill, it really depends on how Hydro One classifies the zone your property is in now and going forward. Cottages are currently all classed as residential-seasonal, and owners' bills will soon change. Province-wide, they will go to either low or medium density. In medium density zones – an area that contains 100 or more



You can see how Hydro One currently classes your property on Page 2 of your bill; post-change all residential customers on Buck Lake are expected to be classified as low density.

customers, with at least 15 customers for every kilometre of power line used to supply energy in the zone – customers will actually see their monthly bills decrease by about \$5 on average.

"The breakdown between those who will be classed as medium density versus low density is about 50/50," said Levitan.

Sadly, a Hydro One customer service representative later confirmed on Nov. 26 that Buck Lake and all of its surrounding properties will be classed as low density after the changes are implemented.

"Their bills will increase by \$54 a month," confirmed Levitan during his presentation.

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## Continued: Change Phased in Over 9 years

To see what the impact on a typical Buck Lake neighbourhood would be, the customer service representative scanned the Roost Lane area in her system. Among eight properties, only one showed up as low density, six of the other seven are residential-seasonal, and one is not currently connected to the grid.

“For my part, I can say that all of Roost Lane will be classed as low density going forward,” she said, adding the same could likely be expected for all Buck Lake neighbourhoods. “You won’t have a situation where rate classes are different among neighbours,” in the future.

Theoretically the change shouldn’t have any impact on the lake’s year-round residents. Further investigation of Hydro One accounts, however, revealed that among several random properties known to be year-round residences only 33 per cent were currently classed as low density, while 67 per cent were incorrectly classed as residential-seasonal.

Following the review, the Hydro One agent agreed, any permanent resident whose property is not currently classed as low density, “Then it would be going to low density,” and they could expect to eventually pay another \$54 a month, too. To determine how you’re currently classified, check your Hydro One bill. It’s listed near the top of Page 2. *(See the photo on the previous page.)*

Hydro One, aided in part by FOCA, had argued the changes imposed by the OEB were unnecessary and would inflict undue hardship on rural property owners. Those efforts ultimately weren’t successful, but the plan going forward includes a measure to help soften the blow at least somewhat for those, like Buck Lakers, impacted at the high-end of the range.


“The rate changes will now be spread out over nine years,” said Levitan.

He added that FOCA played an important role in voicing the concerns of Ontario’s waterfront property owners.

“I really appreciate the advocacy work you’ve done on behalf of your members and our customers,” said Levitan. “Although we may not always agree on everything, we’ve been very good partners.”

Hydro One is Ontario’s largest transmission and distribution company operating 98 per cent of Ontario’s transmission grid.

“We have regular dialogue with Hydro One, they’re an important supplier to all of us,” said Terry Rees, FOCA executive director, not nearly as congratulatory in his tone when responding to Levitan. “Electricity is a pretty vital element to our quality of life, so we’ll continue to work closely together.”

FOCA continues to make energy pricing one of its key areas of focus and has an electronic news service you can subscribe to for any updates on the issue. It is available at [https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/th201F5/ElectricityIssue2020?utm\\_source=Electricity+Update+Nov2020&utm\\_campaign=Electricity%231+Nov2020&utm\\_medium=email](https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/th201F5/ElectricityIssue2020?utm_source=Electricity+Update+Nov2020&utm_campaign=Electricity%231+Nov2020&utm_medium=email). 

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Sunday 9:00am-5:00pm



Fall has traditionally brought with it the FOCA seminar – COVID transformed it into a webinar.

## Provincial Cottagers' Group Meets Online

**By John Curran**

The Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA) held its fall webinar on Nov. 21, with a broad range of topics to appeal to the online crowd. The overarching theme was Learning to Pivot: Lake Associations in 2020, and the 100 or so participants found the sessions quite informative.

The program got underway with an update of the Association's programs and project files by Terry Rees, FOCA executive director.

"We are largely an association of associations," he said.

"We've been operating for more than 55 years serving 520-plus lake associations and more than 50,000 unique member families."

Deanna Forgie, FOCA's Membership Coordinator, later announced the newest benefit available to lake association leaders: a new legal helpline. Offered free of charge to

all existing FOCA insurance policy holders, the new service was explained by Ross Fraser, of Cade Associates, the association's insurance broker.

The Legal Helpline is available by calling 877-255-4269 and there is no limit to the number of times you can call. The staff supporting the line are available from 8 a.m. to midnight, seven days a week.

"There's no contract review or document review – this isn't like having a lawyer on retainer," said Fraser, "but it is helpful and reassuring for directors."

Later during the webinar, FOCA President Marlin Horst, who hails from the Baptiste Lake Association, provided an update on the development of the Association's 2020-23 Strategic Plan.

The finalized plan will be released, "by March 2021 in time for the FOCA annual general meeting ... either in person or virtually depending on COVID requirements."

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## Continued: Diverse FOCA Webinar Topics

Horst added FOCA's six proposed priorities are: 1) Promoting healthy lands, lakes and rivers; 2) Advocating for responsive government; 3) Serving lake and road associations; 4) Championing affordable and safe rural living; 5) Fostering community; and, 6) Building FOCA's capacity.

### The Case for Faster Internet

Dr. Helen Hambly, a University of Guelph researcher and leader of Canada's oldest and ongoing broadband research effort – the Regional and Rural Broadband Project – joined FOCA delegates as well as federal and provincial government ministers to explain how the pandemic has hastened the need for rural broadband investment.

"The COVID-19 experience has made that need for access come home," she said. "Life and livelihoods are changing."

In particular, she highlighted two critical demographics whose need for reliable broadband skyrocketed as a result of the pandemic.

"The needs of youth and seniors," have changed significantly almost overnight, she explained. "Their need to access education and healthcare professionals online," resulting from sweeping public shutdowns makes the demand for change imperative.

### Wild on the Water


In the final presentation of the morning, Sgt. Dave Moffatt, the Provincial Marine Co-ordinator for the Ontario Provincial Police, gave an update of policing efforts and statistics.



Thirty-nine per cent of fatalities happen in a canoe.

"We had a lot of challenges," he said. "COVID really threw a wrench in things."

Moffatt highlighted a number of grim statistics that should serve as a wakeup call for anyone who spends time at a waterfront property during the boating season. Among all fatalities this year, 65 per cent have occurred when environmental conditions were classified as "clear"; 39 per cent of boating fatalities have happened in a canoe; Saturday is the most dangerous day on the water – 35 per cent of fatalities happen then; 94 per cent of victims have been males; 23 per cent of boating fatalities involved alcohol; and, 65 per cent of Ontario's marine-related deaths have happened on inland lakes.

"Inexperience on our lakes was high this year," he explained. "It's hard to teach courtesy ... It's hard to get people [new to boating] to understand the amount of damage that can be caused by their wake." 



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Blue Rodeo's Jim Cuddy narrates the new documentary, which in part highlights the grey rat snake.

## TVO series spotlights the Frontenac Arch

Season 2 of TVO's series Striking Balance is now available online and an episode featuring the Frontenac Arch would make for great viewing over the holidays if you're looking to dream about summer days around Buck Lake.

"In case this new documentary from TVO on the Frontenac Arch isn't on your radar you can find the video on TVO DOCS YouTube page or at [tvo.org](http://tvo.org)," writes Martha Scheinman, the Buck Lake Association's communication committee chair. "At 50 minutes long it's excellent and well worth watching. The film features Ross Sutherland, Councillor – South Frontenac, Stephen Loughheed the Queen's Biological Station director, endangered species and aquatic life monitoring, the restoration of the Opinicon Resort, invasive species, development challenges and more," she added.

The show's website promotes the episode as exploring the heart of eastern North America's last, great forest corridor and how it is threatened by development. It tells the story of the people of Ontario's Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve, who are determined to keep it intact.

For fans of Canadian content, the show is also narrated by Jim Cuddy of Blue Rodeo fame. Cuddy has one of the most recognizable voices in Canadian history thanks in part to

the more than 5 million records the group has sold world-wide. Cuddy was even invested as an Officer of the Order of Canada.

"There's one animal in particular that's symbolic of the Arch," says Cuddy early in the video. "Reaching up to two metres in length, more threatened grey rat snakes live here than anywhere else in the country."

The entire second season of Striking Balance is available on YouTube for viewing and this year's episodes include:

Tsá Tué Biosphere Reserve, NT  
<https://youtu.be/IL7US9XshY0>

Manicouagan-Uapishka Biosphere Reserve, QC  
<https://youtu.be/ea5gVvJiAlI>

Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Reserve, ON  
<https://youtu.be/R59Q5WBzdwl>


Riding Mountain Biosphere Reserve, MB  
<https://youtu.be/u0mzddToaDk>

Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region, BC  
<https://youtu.be/OOHStZSVGbc>

Lac Saint-Pierre Biosphere Reserve, QC  
<https://youtu.be/5dkRWbZTFmU>

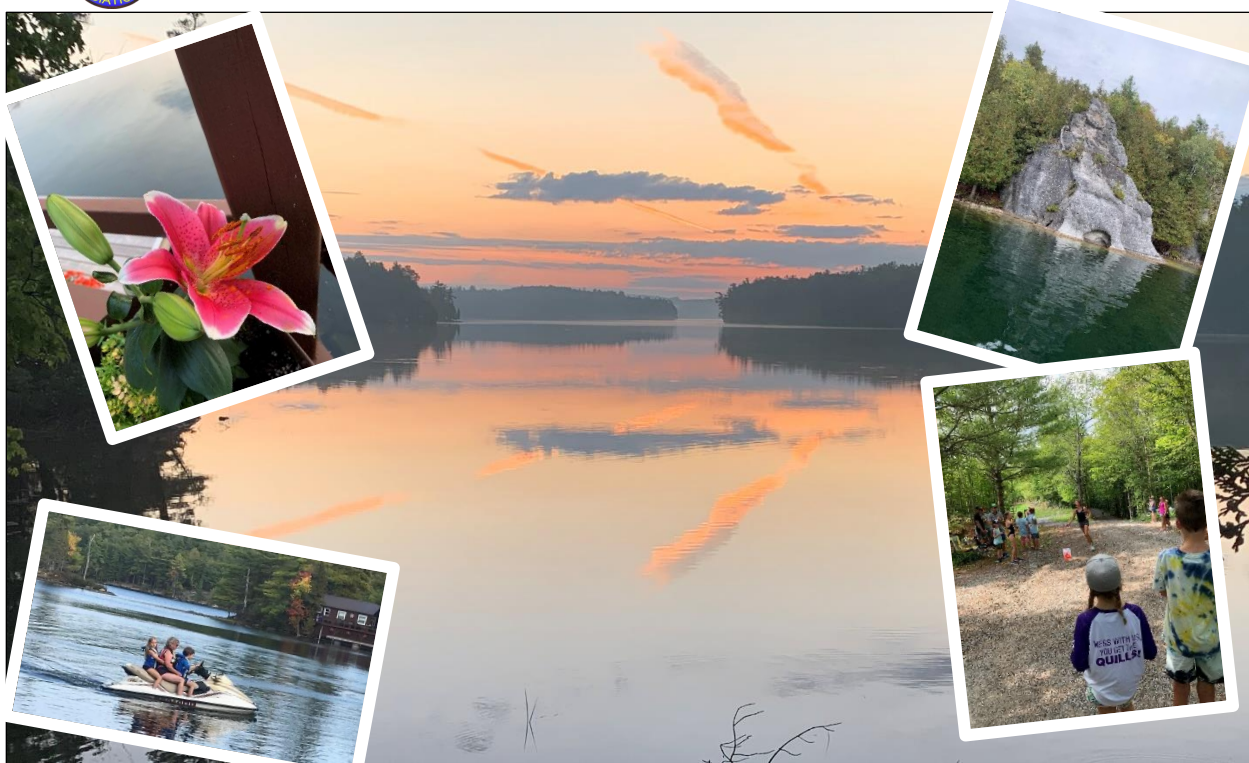
Beaver Hills Biosphere Reserve, AB  
<https://youtu.be/d63EVNQo9TA>

Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve, ON  
[https://youtu.be/r\\_2mU\\_da\\_q4](https://youtu.be/r_2mU_da_q4)

Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve, NS  
<https://youtu.be/-RofIKevqss> 

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## Say Cheese! Introducing the BLA Photo Contest

COVID-19 has kept us all cooped up in our own worlds for almost a year now.

We are all fortunate to have a refuge like Buck Lake to which we can retreat in troubled times like these.

Still we've missed a year of each others lives and we've been unable to share in all the fun memories made around our favourite lake throughout 2020 with many of our neighbours, seasonal best friends and in some cases, even our loved ones.


Your Buck Lake Association Community Outreach & Social Committee is pleased to announce your chance to catch up with everyone on the year that was and maybe even win a prize or two while you're at it!

Introducing the first ever Say Cheese End-of-Year Buck Lake Association Photo Contest! You can win prizes in any of 26 categories, including three divisions just for young photographers!

"Each category winner will get a \$5 Tim Hortons gift card and we'll publish their winning photo with their credit and caption in the next edition of *The Buck Laker* newsletter," said Cathy Ottenhof, committee co-lead, adding if there are people in the shot, please try to name them in the caption.

One photo will even be crowned BLA Photo of the Year, selected from among all of the individual category champs.

"Of course, top bragging rights will be reserved for the overall winner, we'll run that one on the cover next time out and have a special prize for that person," said Ria Berry, committee co-lead, adding the contest is open now and closes Sunday, Jan. 17, 2021, at 5 p.m.

**Check out the ad on the next page** for all the details, including a full list of the categories. Just click on whichever division you are trying to enter – the more categories you submit to, the better your chances of winning! 

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## The Say Cheese End-of-Year Buck Lake Association Photo Contest

You could win a \$5 Tim Hortons gift card in any of 26 categories, including three just for young photographers, and maybe win Photo of the Year honours! Just click on the category you want to enter and send us your photo and information.

[Water](#) – The lake and its tributaries.

[Flora](#) – Wildflowers, trees, and other naturally occurring plants around the lake.

[Fauna](#) – Wild animals including birds, turtles, snakes, beaver, you know... *critters!*

[Buck Lake Rocks](#) – Just don't take it for granite.

[Fishing](#) – But hey, we support sustainable harvesting practices among all anglers, so no hero shots of you and your trophy at home. *Let's see you catching it, eating it, or about to let it go!*

[The Sky](#) – There are countless watercolour moments and wonders in the Buck Lake sky!

[Fun on a Rope](#) – Calling all tubers, skiers and wakeboarders, let's see those jumps and spills.

[Green Thumbs](#) – Mary, Mary, quite contrary, how does your garden grow? You get the picture.

[Be a Sport](#) – Golf, pickleball, cornhole, etc.

[If I Had a Hammer](#) – You built it, *legally* we assume, let's see those candid construction moments.

[Decked Out](#) – Chillin' on the deck, dock or patio.

[Swimming](#) – C'mon, take the plunge.

[Hiking](#) – Left, left, left-right-left.

[Underwater](#) – Life from a perch's perspective.

[Cruisin'](#) – On a Sunday afternoon...

[Campfires](#) – How do you take a picture of a ghost story?

[My Paddle's Clean and Bright](#) – Hey kayakers, canoeists, paddleboarders, and whoever that guy is that goes by my South Arm window rowing the little red and white skiff...

[Trail Cams](#) – Big Brother is always watching.

[Winter Wonderland](#) – Skates, skis, snowmobiles, snowmen, basically any fun on the ice and snow.

[Gun Powder & Gasoline](#) – Let's see you enjoying your toys *responsibly* on the land. No dead stuff! *We gotta draw the line somewhere.*

[Cute as a Bug](#) – Show us those creepy-crawlers.

[God Bless America](#) – For all our Yankee neighbours – *and yes, it's spelled neighbours* – show us how you endured the year away from Buck Lake.

[A Dog's Life](#) – Ok, we'll allow cats, too.

**Youth Divisions:** Ages [12-17](#), [9-11](#), [8 and under](#); Have mom or dad send us your best photo of anything related to Buck Lake.

**Submit your entries via email by clicking on the category you want to enter.** Enter as many categories as you'd like. You are also encouraged to share your entries on the BLA Facebook page, but **to be considered for the contest, your entry must be received via email.** In the message tell us who took the photo, and a brief description of who or what is in the frame, and something about what's going on (100 words maximum). We'll run the winners in the next issue of *The Buck Laker*. You will get credit for your photo if we choose to run it. The deadline for entries is January 17 at 5 p.m. **By submitting, you and anyone featured in your photo give consent to the BLA to publish your images in the newsletter.** Should you have trouble with the links, please call or text 867-444-4003 for assistance.





## Keeping cool on the ice could save your life

By John Curran

Buck Lake's second season is just around the corner and for many residents, it's actually their favourite time of year: Winter. And of course, with winter comes fun on the frozen lake.

Our definition of fun has obviously changed over the years. The photo of the car on the ice (I believe my Grandmother Shirley Graves took it) comes from the South Branch near Birch Island during the mid-1960s and that car is driving over 100 feet of water with 10-plus inches of ice. It was quite common to see many vehicles on the ice like this up until the late '70s and early '80s. I even drove a Plymouth Horizon across frozen Buck Lake myself as recently as 1991. Some continue the practice to this day, in fact.

"We have seen a car out on the ice here in the North Branch two years ago and again last year," said Kathy McDonald.

For those who continue to press their luck, keep in mind that your insurance isn't generally valid unless you are driving on an established ice road or crossing. Also please remember what my Grandpa Graves always told me many times while growing up, "Never wear your seatbelt when you are driving on the ice and always keep the windows down so you can get out of the car that much faster if you do go through. If that does happen, crawl out the window and on to the roof of the car and push straight up with your legs towards the surface. If you don't swim straight up, you'll miss the hole the car made and end up trapped under the ice. Be prepared to use your arms because when you are wearing



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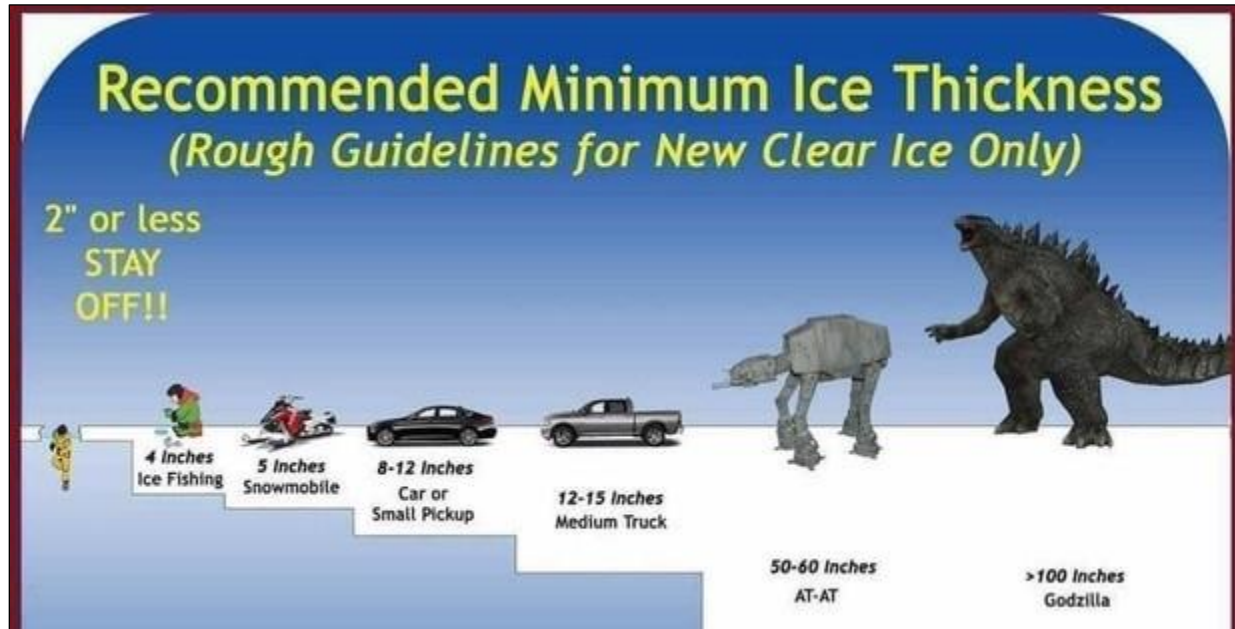
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## Continued: Never trust the ice too much

boots and you try to kick your feet cut through the water and won't help you much when swimming."

With winters here not nearly as cold as they used to be, such activities would now fall into the "absolutely terrifying" category for most rather than a fun way to spend a Saturday. Even when the ice seems safe, events can turn tragic in a split second.

"I was thinking about that awful accident that happened in the South Branch Narrows about five years back when Darryl Greene went through the ice on his ATV and died," said Cheryl Savery.

"It was so sad, but it shows us that even the most experienced outdoorsman can put too much faith in the ice."

She also points to another incident highlighting something that people often overlook when walking on a frozen lake – the safety of their four-legged friends.

"Our neighbours also had a near miss with their dog on the ice. The ice was definitely very thick – at least 8 inches – and everyone in our area had been out on the ice for the past few weeks," she said. "The dog ran over closer to shore and fell through ... It turns out there is a spring there and almost no ice at all, so just



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## Continued: Take the online safety course

because the ice is thick in one spot it does not mean it is thick everywhere.”


Fortunately, the ice still gets thick enough for us to enjoy in many ways and it is possible to avoid areas of traditionally thin ice caused by springs, natural currents, or even man-made bubbler systems. Whether it's fishing, cross country skiing, or something with a little more octane, the included chart on Page 12 (circulated widely among snowmobiling clubs) is intended to serve as a funny, but important reminder about what sort of thickness you need when traveling on fresh clear ice.

As it states, no ice should ever be regarded as 100% safe – no matter how thick. I've seen trucks on their way to Canada's Arctic diamond mines that crash through three feet of ice simply because they were driving too fast.

Ice thickness is always the place to start when it comes to staying safe around the lake in the winter, but it isn't the only consideration.

Especially if you are like many and your winter fun is going to include snowmobiling, the Ontario Federation of Snowmobiling Clubs (OFSC) recommends new riders go online to its website and take the “Safe Riders! Course” available courtesy of a consortium of U.S. and international associations.

The Safe Riders! Snowmobile Safety Awareness Program provides basic essentials about safety from several perspectives and includes short quizzes to help you test your knowledge about snowmobiling best practices. It includes five sections: [Be Prepared for Your Ride](#); [Key Snowmobile Parts](#); [Riding Tips](#); [Surviving Emergencies](#); and, [Dangers to Avoid](#).

Once you've read all the chapters, studied the laws and rules, learned all parts of your machine, and prepared your best to ensure a safe ride, you can then put your knowledge to the test with the Safe Riders snowmobile safety awareness exam. The entire program is accessible for free on the OFSC website at <https://www.ofsc.on.ca/safe-riders/>. 



# Remembering Tricia Waldron in her own words

By Cheryl Savery

Tricia Waldron moved to Buck Lake in 2004 and rapidly became involved in the Buck Lake Association, first as treasurer and then taking over as president in 2009. Although she left the lake in 2011, she made numerous contributions through her leadership of the BLA.

We were saddened to hear that Tricia was killed in a pedestrian accident near her home in Toronto on November 4th.

Tricia had a great love for Buck Lake, which showed in the many messages she wrote for the newsletter. In her words:


*"Today, I watched as two pairs of skaters came from opposite directions and stop to greet each other in the middle of Christmas Bay on the south basin. While they were chatting, a wolf wandered across the bay and climbed onto Buck Island. It would appear that this winter is good for wolves and not so good for the local deer population with more than one taken down by a wolf or coyote. The bald eagles have also been enjoying the proceeds of the work of the wolves."*



Tricia Waldron


*It also seems to be a good year for ice fishing. I am not a fisher myself but there do seem to be more ice huts on the lake than usual.*

*I have long been fascinated by the many forms of H<sub>2</sub>O. Very few people are blessed with the opportunity to skate on the surface of a body of water in which they were swimming a few short months earlier. The ability to 'walk on water' is indeed one of nature's wonders."*

Tricia will be remembered for her positive outlook for all Buck Lake residents and her love for the lake and its people. 



## Go get poked!

Thanks to all the workers and residents who came out for the drive-thru flu shot clinics held recently at the Harrowsmith Free Methodist Church. To anyone who has yet to get their shot this season, what are you waiting for? With COVID overwhelming hospitals around Canada, let's keep Buck Lake healthy. 





## Join the Buck Lake Association Today


*It's only \$25 a year and your world will open up to a broader lake community that you never even knew existed.*

To sign up today online,  
cruise on over to

<https://foca.on.ca/product/buck-lake-association/>.



By signing up or renewing that way, you'll also become a member of the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA) for free. As a FOCA member you get plenty of perks:

- ✓ Information on rural property issues: Septic systems and requirements, taxation, land use planning, mining, energy and utilities, etc.
- ✓ Environmental programs: Lake Partner Program water sampling on Buck Lake; invasive species action, etc.
- ✓ Discounts from merchants such as Cottage Life Magazine, Separett Waterless Toilets, Action First Aid, DockinaBox, the Canadian Canoe Museum, and, recently new to the list, Sawmill Structures. 

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





Dave Curran wanted it known, he wasn't the one who got these saws stuck in the tree  
(look closely, there's a blue handled bow saw in there, too).

## Timber! It's chainsaw season, be careful

In November, an impromptu meeting and work party came together among the members of the Roost Lane Amateur Arborists' Association. The plan was to clear any standing dead trees before they had a chance to come down across the road due to snow loads this winter.

As you can see from the photo above, things didn't exactly go according to plan at first. Any time you are using a chainsaw, safety should be front of mind, especially when something goes wrong.

With that in mind, here are a handful of chainsaw safety tips primarily from the folks at Husqvarna, the limb you save may be your own!

Oh, and in case you're wondering, the tree above eventually surrendered and was safely cut up and removed from the road.

### 1) Before you start

Tell someone where you'll be working;  
Park your vehicle so that you can make a quick exit; and, Always carry a mobile phone.

### 2) Chainsaw safety equipment

The most common chainsaw injury is a laceration. This means "an injury that breaks the skin" and is sometimes expanded to mean a torn and ragged cut – precisely what one would expect from a chain pulling on tissue.



## Continued: Plan to be safe from the start

Wearing the right gear can help prevent this and many other injuries. Wherever you are working, make sure to wear the following:

- Helmet with cushioning
- Protective glasses
- Forestry jacket with proper upper body coverage
- Protective trousers
- Anti-slip boots
- Gloves

### 3) Plan for “on site-safety”

Before you fire up your saw, assess the site. Plan multiple escape routes and ensure safe and level footing whenever possible. Be sure to assess above your head as well, widow-makers and other dead material often falls from trees when they’re being cut down. You don’t want to get hit while you are working.

### 4) Felling direction

Most trees have a natural direction of fall. This is affected by the tree’s lean, the

shape of the branches and crown snow-load or snow-covered branches. If you are unsure of the tree lean, move away a little and check with a plumb line. To some extent, you can force a tree to fall against its natural falling direction, but this requires knowledge, experience and in some cases the right felling support tools. Trees with weak timber, such as dead or decayed trees, should always be felled in the easiest direction.


### 5) Saw handling

Finally, when handling your saw there are a few techniques that will make your work safer as well as easier.

Wrap thumbs and fingers completely around the handles and hold your left-hand thumb under the front handle to reduce the force of a kickback.

Don’t be afraid of the saw. Hold it close to your body to achieve balance and accuracy.

The optimal working position is with your left foot in front of your right and with your knees – not your back – bent.

The chain must never be rotating when you move to another cutting spot. 



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# South Frontenac Takes on Septic Authority

Earlier this year, Kingston Frontenac Lennox and Addington Public Health (KFL&A) announced that it would no longer be providing On-Site Sewage Systems Services (Part 8 of the Ontario Building Code) to the Municipalities in Frontenac and Lennox & Addington Counties as of the end of 2020.

Based on the Township's growth projections and the enhanced capacity over the last year and a half to deliver Building and Planning services within the Township's Development Services Department, Council has made the strategic decision to bring the delivery of septic services in house.

"With increasing development pressures in South Frontenac, we wanted to make the permitting process as streamlined as possible for our residents and builders," said Mayor Vandewal. "By bringing Part 8 Sewage Systems in house, our Building Services now offers a one-stop shop for permitting under the Building Code. This is just another way that South Frontenac is attempting to get ahead of the curve on our growth, while maintaining the integrity of our natural environment."

As a result, Council made the decision that effective Nov. 18, 2020, the Township of South Frontenac will assume the delivery of Part 8 On-Site Sewage Systems services. In order to accommodate these services, South Frontenac has bolstered its staff and other resources in the Building Department, including the addition of a Deputy Chief Building Official and implementation of new software that will make the permitting

process more streamlined for both Township staff and applicants.

"There has been a lot of positive change in the Department this past year, in preparation for the delivery of Part 8 On-Site Sewage Systems services and the growth that we see on the horizon," explained Claire Dodds, Director of Development Services for South Frontenac.

While South Frontenac has officially assumed this service from KFL&A Public Health, other Municipalities are in the process of determining how they will deliver this service.

"The four Frontenac townships would ideally deliver Part 8 services through a single delivery agent, and in light of the recent capacity that South Frontenac has established, we may be in an ideal position to assist our fellow Frontenac neighbours as well," said Neil Carbone, Chief Administrative Officer for the Township. "We anticipate further conversations about this."

South Frontenac's Building Department is currently accepting septic system permit applications for properties within the Township. Residents can obtain applications on our website and submit via email to [building@southfrontenac.net](mailto:building@southfrontenac.net), or in person at our Municipal office located at 4432 George St., Sydenham.

Other Frontenac Townships should be contacted directly regarding Septic System applications at this time.

Residents with questions are encouraged to contact Tom Berriault, Chief Building Official at 613-376-3027 ext. 2228 or via email at

[building@southfrontenac.net](mailto:building@southfrontenac.net). 

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