

February
2021

The

Buck Laker

A Window on Life Around Buck Lake

**Calling all
Citizen
Scientists**

**It's Easter Seals time,
what can you do?**

**BLA
Photo
Contest
Winners**

*Congrats to Dorene Hookey
on her Photo of the Year*



Are you doing all you can to protect our loons, eagles & osprey?



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On the Cover:
Piper the Wheaten
Terrier watches her
people fish in the fog.

*Photo by
Dorene Hookey*



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www.bucklake.ca

bucklakeassoc@gmail.com

Official Publication of the Buck
Lake Association

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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

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Community Outreach & Social

Ria Berry (co-lead)

Cathy Ottenhof (co-lead)

Nominating

Gillian Lash (lead)

Don Young

Member Services

Cheryl Savery (lead)

Don Young

Crawford MacIntyre

Communications

Martha Scheinman (lead)

Cheryl Savery

Kathy McDonald

The next directors' meeting will be held on Sunday, February 28 @ 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](#) for more details about how to attend/access any forthcoming meeting.



President's Message



Worth an honourable mention, this shot of a deer in winter was entered by Kim & George Turner.

Keep those Cameras Ready

Welcome to our first edition of the new year. As promised, we have included the winning photographs of our first ever Say Cheese End-of-Year Photo Competition!

I will not ruin the surprise, but suffice it to say, that the winning photographs are amazing and really capture the essence of Buck Lake!

In fact, all of the submissions were really good, which made life "difficult" for the judges!

Knowing that we will likely have the competition once again at the end of

this year, keep your cellphones or cameras at the ready all year long!

I would also like to thank everyone who provided feedback on the new layout of *The Buck Laker* "newsletter." As we continuously strive to improve, we look forward to hearing from our readers, not only on the layout, but also if you would like us to address any particular topics.

In the meantime, keep enjoying these glorious winter days full of bright blue skies, smooth ice and white fluffy snow on the trails!

Gillian Lash 

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



BLA Crowns Photo Contest Winners


The judging has wrapped up and after a tight competition, 25 images have been recognized as winners in the Say Cheese End-of-Year Buck Lake Association Photo Contest. In total, some 181 images were received from a skilled group of more than 30 photographers.

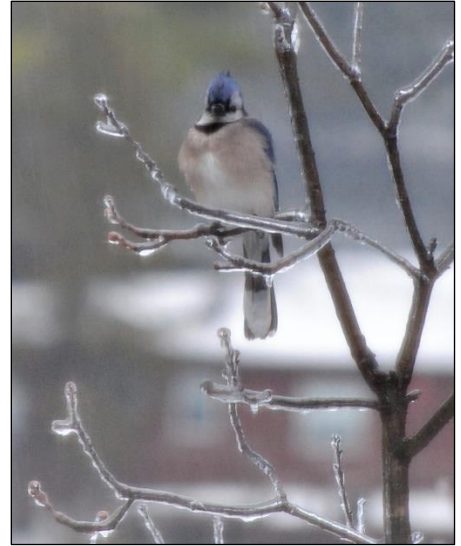
“We were thrilled with the response from the membership to this first-time event,” said Cathy Ottenhof, co-lead of the BLA Community Outreach & Social Committee, which co-ordinated the fun-for-all-ages event. “Especially this year with COVID-19, any chance you get to focus your mind on fun things, like Buck Lake, is a welcome distraction.”

Some categories were extremely competitive, a total of 48 entries were received in the Fauna category for example. In the end, however, the judges crowned Dorene Hookey’s shot of her family’s wheaten terrier, Piper, as the Photo of the Year for 2020. You can see her winning image both on the cover of this issue and on page 16, where you can also review all of the other individual category champs. Her prize package included a \$5 Tim Hortons gift card, a plaque version of the cover of this issue of *The Buck Laker* and a Buck Lake mug donated by North Branch Designs.

“It was hard picking winners in some of the divisions,” said Ria Berry, the other committee co-lead. “Like any artform, photographs can be very subjective, and what appeals to one person, may not strike the same chord with another. Fortunately, we work very well as a committee, so we were able to employ a consensus-based judging system that seemed to work quite well.”

The Association hopes to run a number of the photos that didn’t win their respective divisions in future issues of *The Buck Laker* newsletter, but for now here are three of the best of the rest that didn’t quite make it to the winners’ circle this time around, including: Ice storm blue jay, by Cristen Fidler; Juvenile deer, by Jenn Campbell; and, Captain of your own boat, by Susan Hendry.

“Overall, I think everyone was extremely pleased with the way things went and we’ll likely look to do this event again in the future,” added Berry. “We may juggle the categories around a little, but it’s clear we have some extremely talented photographers here on Buck Lake and we’re just happy to help give them a venue to share and showcase their work.” 





Get the Lead Out

*Time to ditch toxic tackle,
ammunition for the sake
of loons, other wildlife*

Photos by Sandy Pines Wildlife Centre

There is currently a threat faced by loons, eagles and other wildlife around North America that is both 100% manmade and 100% avoidable: Lead.

Lead is a toxic metal that, when present in sufficient quantities, has adverse effects on the nervous and reproductive systems of humans and animals. Found in most fishing jigs, sinkers, shotgun shells and other outdoor gear, this metal is poisoning our wildlife. While it is hard to get an accurate count of waterfowl and birds of prey that



die each year due to lead poisoning, what numbers that do exist definitely aren't good.

Looking at the experiences Sandy Pines Wildlife Centre in Napanee from the past year, for example, the statistics are quite telling for loons. Just two out of 12 loons treated for lead poisoning in 2020 survived. According to Sandy

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**It's always
BLA Calendar
season**

**Remember:
WE NEED YOU
ALL YEAR LONG!**



**Calendar submissions are now open
for the 2022 edition. Please send your
amazing Buck Lake photos in full
resolution to Cheryl Dawson at
dawson.cheryl13@gmail.com
right when they happen.**

Please, no people in the photos.

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



Continued: Other wildlife impacted, too

Pines Founder/Director Sue Meech, loons aren't the only birds being impacted.

"Out of 12 swans (rescued) that were either entangled or lead poisoned, eight were released," she said. "Lead is usually from sinkers, but lead shot is an issue, too."


Sandy Pines has been in operation for 25 years working under the mandate to help all injured and orphaned wildlife across Eastern Ontario and release the creatures back into the wild once possible. Typically, this volunteer- and donation-based organization assists 5,000 animals a year, with an average of 400 patients in care at any given moment.

"We have a bald eagle in now with lead poisoning," added Meech.

"Fortunately, levels are not too high and there is no lead in the bird, so it is going to be releasable. Although we have medication given intravenously to help absorb the lead in the blood, there is often lead still in the bird that is being absorbed," she added. "This has to be removed usually by surgery. Loons in particular are very high stress birds, and that is what usually kills them."



Current research south of the border also indicates that lead poisoning is a serious concern for loons in particular, as Meech's work suggests. Statistics assembled from around the U.S. show lead poisoning from fishing tackle is responsible for 12% to 50% of adult loon deaths.

The Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota has monitored injured bald eagles for lead since 1980. Lead poisoning has been the cause of admission of 315 out of a total of 1,398 eagles, or 23% of the total population treated. Eagles are generally exposed when they eat fish that have themselves ingested lead tackle. 

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Seeking Buck Lakers for National Loon Survey

*Want to be a citizen scientist?
Here is your chance*

By Don Young

The Canadian Lakes Loon Survey is a long-term program delivered by Birds Canada. Participants survey the lake of their choice visiting it at least three times during the breeding season. The information participants collect helps track the reproductive success of common loons across Canada.

While the program is not designed to identify population indices, the reproductive trends let us know how the species is doing across the nation and regionally.

Purpose: The Canadian Lakes Loon Survey was launched in Ontario in 1981 by Birds Canada (then Long Point Bird Observatory) with support from various partners. It went national in the early 1990s. In 40 years, more than 4,000 participants have monitored breeding Common Loons on 4,500 lakes. This impressive effort allows us to achieve many important outcomes, including:

1. Assess Common Loon reproductive success at different scales;
2. Investigate links between reproductive success and habitat;
3. Contribute to conservation management and planning; and
4. Increase public awareness of the importance of lake conservation.

Volunteer Position Description

Key Responsibilities:

- Review protocol, how to determine chick ages, and commonly

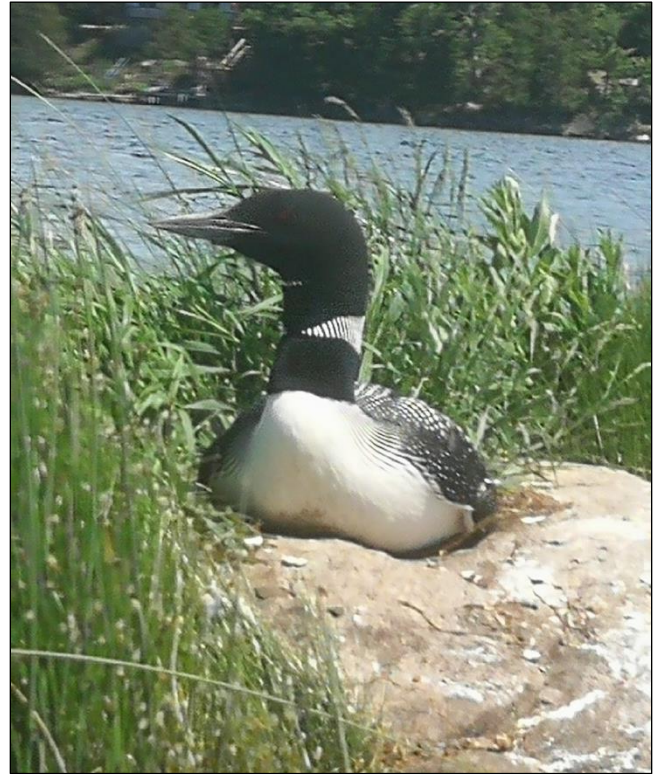


Photo by Peggy Blair

Volunteers will be asked to observe resident loons during several key times each year season.

misidentified species on an annual basis or as needed.

- Visit your lake section at least three times, once in each of June, July, and August.
- Survey following the protocol, ensuring that you are confident no loon pairs or chicks are missed on your survey area (entire lake or lake section).
- Track number of Common Loon pairs, adults, chicks, and chick age.
- Record other cottage/lake bird species (optional).
- Collect data following the standardized data form.

Data will be collected by the Buck Lake Association coordinator and submitted to Birds Canada for the whole lake as well as published annually in *The Buck Laker*.

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



Continued: BLA will coordinate data for Lake

The Length of Appointment: Surveyors are asked to participate for as many years as possible. Many cottage and lake users create traditions surrounding their loon surveys with family and friends working together to ensure the data are collected. Many participants take their commitments even further, working to support loon and lake conservation actions within their community.

Recent studies, including those by the Canadian Lakes Loon Survey, have shown a periodicity, or cycle, to loon reproduction. These studies suggest that loon reproduction success increases and decreases in about a 10-year pattern. The most recent Status of the Common Loon report for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has recommended that a minimum of six years of data are needed to identify true reproductive success for a single lake.

Time Commitment: This depends on the size of the area you survey. Three well-timed surveys can suffice but many surveyors are regularly at the lake and constantly survey loons. Often loon surveys can be conducted

during your other lakeside activities. Thus, many participants survey loons for hours – as they fish, swim, boat, or just enjoy the lake they are on.

Support: Birds Canada will provide a training factsheet and data forms. Participants can contact the Volunteer Manager if they have questions or concerns. Birds Canada stores the data collected, analyses simple trends annually, and shares those trends with participants. Program data are also available online.

The Canadian Lakes Loon Survey creates reports periodically and our most recent report is available on the website. In addition, we publish scientific articles; report in BirdWatch Canada; share conservation and stewardship blogs; and provide data and information to scientists, lake managers, and lake associations.

Age Requirement: None. This program is family friendly. The lead participant will need to be able to interpret the materials and potentially use a watercraft.

Birds Canada will also support high school volunteer hours – just provide the appropriate paperwork with your data return.

Connection Without Contact

Join the Buck Lake Association Facebook Group

Buck Lake Association
Public group · 713 members

+ Invite

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Continued: Helps to ensure lake stewardship

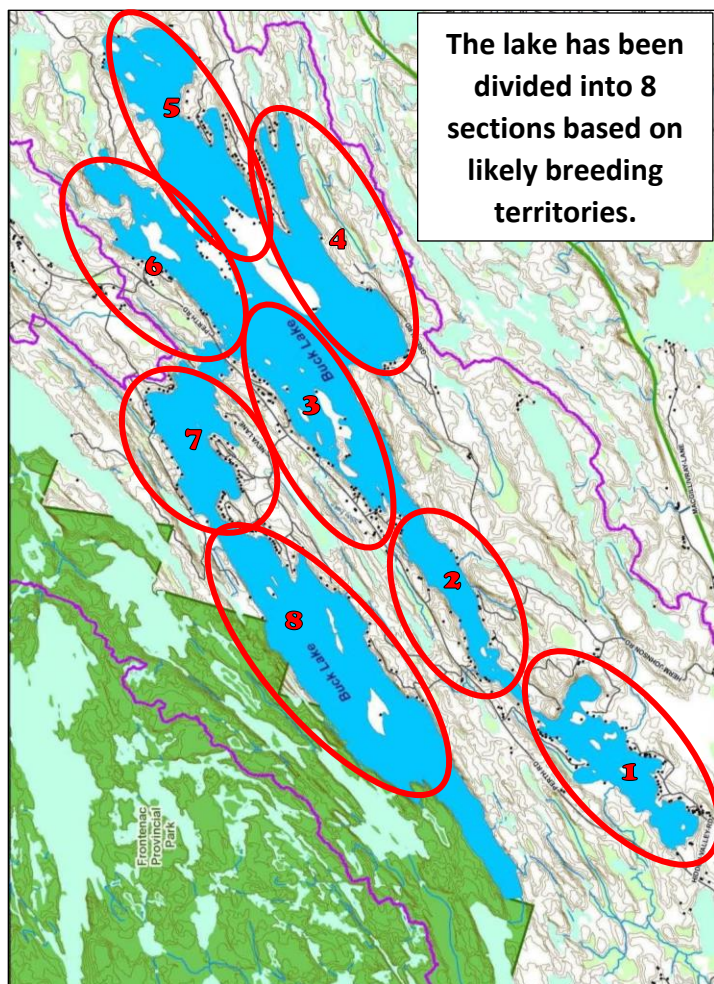
Dress Code: Dress appropriately for being outside in the sun on a boat. Please wear a PFD to minimize risks and ensure your safety.

Concerns: The most common issues are dangers associated with paddling on lakes, sun exposure, and boat failure. Please wear an appropriate floatation device when on/near the water and ensure your watercraft meets all legal safety requirements for your province or territory.

Equipment Needed/Other Concerns: Most situations require a watercraft – only a few of the lakes can be surveyed from land. Binoculars are required (to ensure chicks are seen) and, if available, a telescope is very handy.

Interested: Please forward your name, contact information and section(s) of the lake that you would like to survey and any other pertinent information (for example: are you a real bird lover, a biologist or just want to get involved to help loons) to the Buck Lake Association using the subject line Loon Lake Survey to the following email address, bucklakeassoc@gmail.com.

The deadline to apply to take part is March 1, 2021. You will be informed shortly after if you have been selected to participate and information on how to collect, record and submit your observations will be forwarded. 



Join the Buck Lake Association Today

It's only \$25 a Year!

To sign up today online, paddle 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 for free. As a member you get lots of perks: Information on rural property issues; Environmental programs; and, Discounts from merchants.



The Buck Laker – February 2021



The Say Cheese End-of-Year BLA Photo Contest Winners



by Dorene Hookey

I shot this of our wheaten terrier, Piper, keeping a close eye on her people who were fishing in the heavy fog not far from our dock.

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by Jugjit More-Curran

Dave Curran shows off his short game while golfing at Evergreen on the shores of Wolfe Lake.



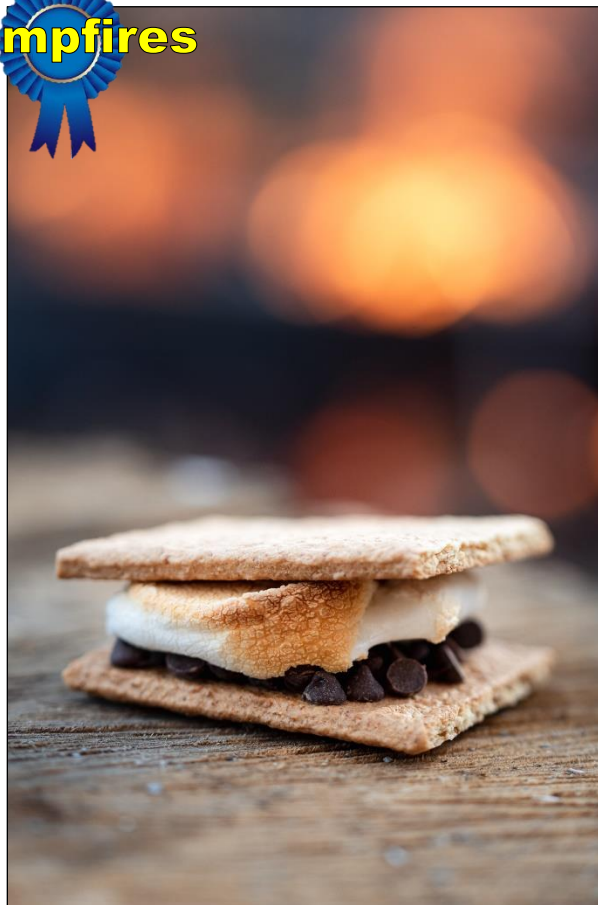
by Ric Mattingley

This was taken this summer in the late afternoon.

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Campfires

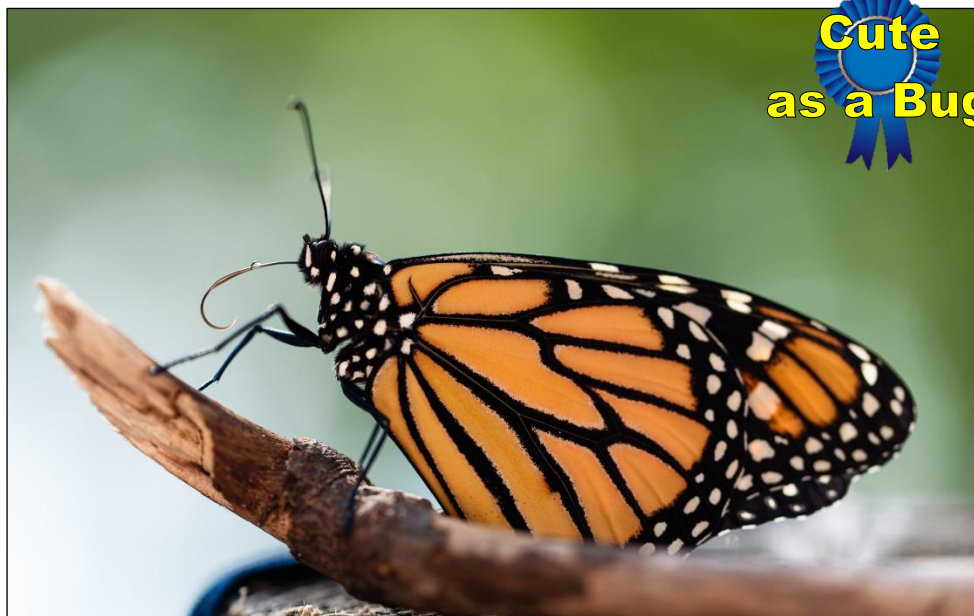


by Dorene Hookey

S'mores... the kids' favourite thing about the campfire.

by Dorene Hookey

We raised some monarch butterflies from caterpillars we found at the cottage. This was taken just after one of the butterflies emerged from the chrysalis.



Cute
as a Bug

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Cruisin'



by Susan Curran

Yell when you go through the tunnel and you can hear it echo.



by Natasha Miklaucic

These are the four Miklaucic siblings, Brie, Ella, Chloe and Cole (grandchildren of Jane Verner) sitting on the dock at 1261 Hidden Valley Road, Buck Lake, enjoying sunset.



Frog by Dan Wainman

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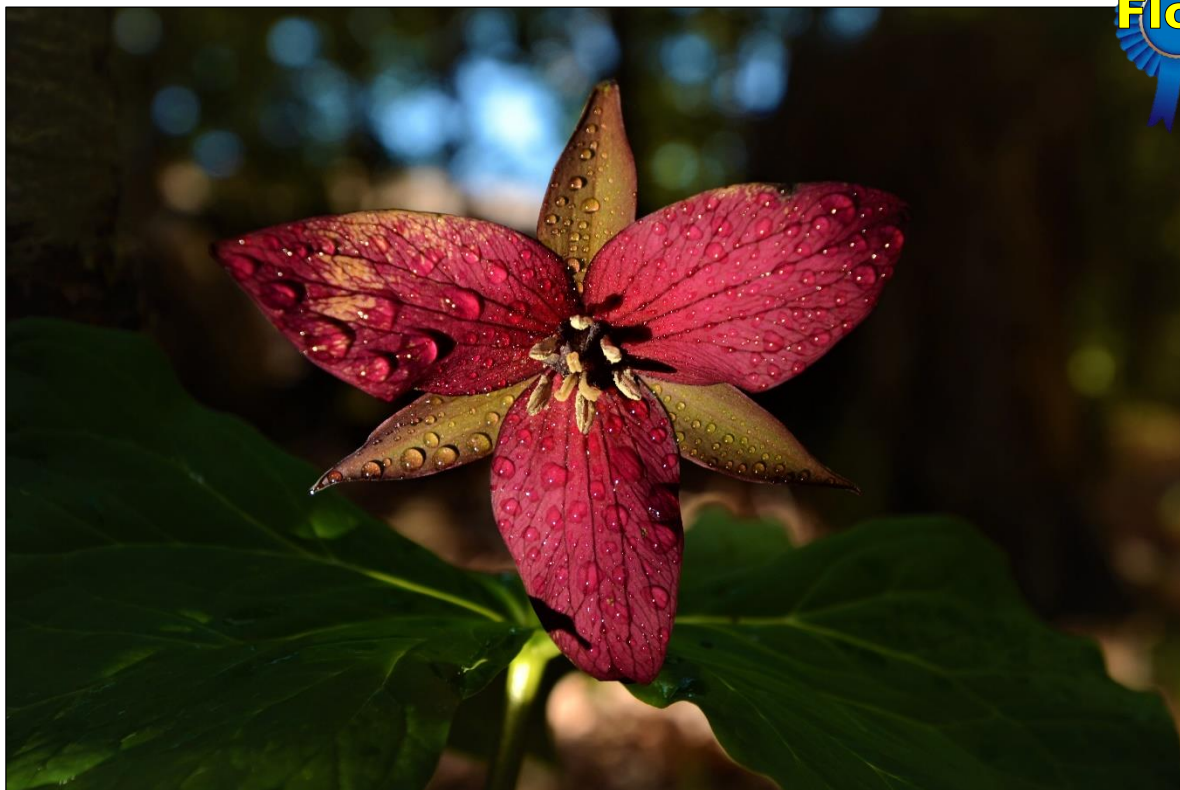


Fishing



by David Smith

During this challenging Covid-19 year, my granddaughter managed to spend a weekend with us at our little three-season cottage. She had never fished before, but it didn't take long for her to catch on and I thought this photo reflected the peace and contentment of fishing from a dock on Buck Lake.



Red Trillium by Dan Wainman

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Fun on a Rope



by Barb Gillis

Jaxsyn Gillis leans into his cut while slalom skiing on the South Branch.

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God Bless America

by Dawn Gagnon

The Tubbs family missing the lake while stuck on the other side of the border.



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Spring is here!

by Bruce McDonald

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by Andrea MacLean

This photo was taken Thanksgiving weekend 2020 on the small Slide Lake trail.

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If I had a Hammer

by Dorene Hookey

My teenage son hard at work building his little shack in the trees with leftover lumber.

My Paddle's Clean & Bright

by Jenn Campbell

Down the Massassauga!
What we like to call
"The Amazon."



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Swimming



by Ian MacMillan

Above: Jumping in for a dip.

The Sky



by Doug Roughton

Left: I am very pleased to submit "Sunset Over Frontenac Provincial Park," in memory of my father Stephen Roughton. Dad loved his cottage "Kwoneshe" and all things Buck Lake from 1979 to 2020.

Underwater



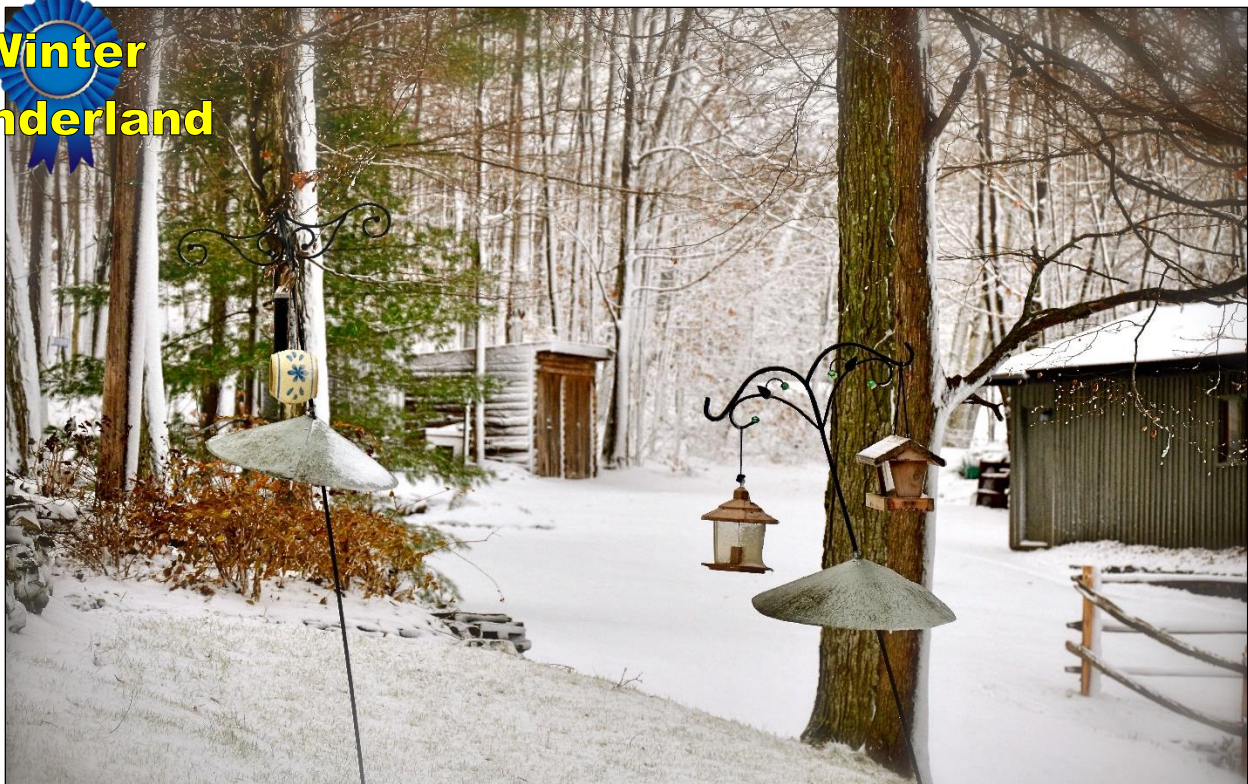
by Jugjit More-Curran

Above: A pair of rock bass stake out their territory for nesting in the shallows.



Gliding through the mist.

by Cyndy MacIntyre



Truly a winter wonderland.

by Kim & George Turner

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**Youth
8 & Under**



by Emily Youngman

Claire Youngman and Tayah Pratt-Valier
mastering their moves on the Lilypad!



**Youth
9-11**

by Claire Youngman

This is my sister Emily kissing her
turtle friend "Tiny Elvis." We
enjoyed 10 of these little guys all
summer long, who found a home
on a fallen tree by our dock.

**Youth
12 & Over**



by Liam Hookey
My parents going for a
morning paddle in
their canoe. 🛶



Courtesy of Easter Seals

Bo Patterson is seen here over the holidays with his brothers Colton and Emmett.

Thanks to Buck Lake for all your support

By Rebecca Pero

For 15 years, the Buck Lake community generously contributed to Easter Seals' Send a Kid to Camp campaign, raising \$279,643 to send 113 children to the Camp.

Easter Seals is grateful for your long-standing commitment; your contributions have made a difference, helping kids who may otherwise be unable to attend camp programs and experience the spirit of Camp Merrywood.

Connecting with fellow campers and staff and supporting feelings of normalcy and

freedom are extremely significant for Easter Seals' children and youth. Thank you!

Unfortunately, Easter Seals has had to suspend all in-person camp programs during the COVID-19 pandemic, which has presented a challenge to Easter Seals' organizational mission to provide Easter Seals families with quality programs and services that help children living with physical disabilities thrive. While living in isolation many families have required particular pieces of equipment to further support their child's sense of independence and safety at home. Families have had to wait months for funding. You may recall a former Buck Lake Boatilla participant and Easter

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COVID-19 Modifies Some Easter Seals' Plans

Seals child, Bo Patterson. At 11 months of age, Bo was diagnosed with FOXG1, a rare neuro-developmental disorder that impacts every aspect of his physical body. As a result of this genetic mutation, Bo is unable to walk, sit, eat, or talk. Bo also experiences global development delays, seizures, sleep disturbances, high pain tolerance, and more. Easter Seals was unable to fund a \$4,000 shower chair for Bo, so that Bo's family could bathe him safely. The family was, however, able to secure an alternative source of funds to purchase the needed piece of equipment. Despite the extreme struggles he faces, this 7-year-old is known to "light up a room." He loves music, water, as well as his two brothers, Colton and Emmett. This family's positivity constantly shines through; "everyday may not be good, but there is something good in everyday," states Laura, Bo's Mother.

In the face of the ongoing pandemic, the annual March Is Easter Seals Month campaign, which takes place on The CKWS Morning Show on Global Kingston, will celebrate success stories, honour Easter Seals kids and their families, recognize donors and sponsors, and raise essential funds for children and youth with physical disabilities! Supporters can donate online at marchiseastersealsmonth.org, and local residents are encouraged to form their own fundraising team or to make their donation on the "South Eastern Ontario" webpage.


Together we have helped kids BE KIDS; let's continue our efforts this year!



Courtesy of Easter Seals

As a result of a genetic mutation known as FOXG1, Bo is unable to walk, sit, eat, or talk.

Since 1922, Easter Seals Ontario has provided families of children with physical disabilities with financial assistance for expensive mobility equipment, such as wheelchairs, walkers, braces, as well as summer camp opportunities at two fully accessible Easter Seals Camps.

– For more information, visit www.easterseals.org or contact Rebecca Pero, Development Officer, Easter Seals South Eastern Ontario bpero@easterseals.org; 613.484.1910. 

In promoting the spirit of community around Buck Lake, we invite your feedback, comments and submissions for articles or announcements. We reserve the right to edit for space, clarity, and good taste. Please email the BLA Board of Directors: bucklakeassoc@gmail.com