



The Buck Lake Association Inc.

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www.bucklake.ca

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

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

Buck Lake News – September 2021

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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 <u>Scheinman</u> (co-lead) Gillian Lash (co-lead) Nora Lapp		Government Relations Randy <u>Ruttan</u> (lead) Nora Lapp Crawford <u>MacIntyre</u>
Community Outreach & Social Vacant	Nominating Gillian Lash (lead) Don Young	Communications Martha <u>Scheinman</u> (lead) Cheryl <u>Savery</u> Kathy McDonald
	Member Services Cheryl Savery (lead)	

If you are interested, please email BuckLakeAssoc@gmail.com
for more details about how to attend/access any forthcoming
meeting.

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President's Message

Gillian Lash



Do you love Buck Lake?

Are you interested in social activities, marketing, communications, government relations or the environment?

The Buck Lake Association is looking for a few good people to join the Board of Directors. Take an active role with minimum time commitment. You can either be a year-long or seasonal resident. Come join a diverse and fun-loving group of Buck Lakers!

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

Helpful Information for Keeping Buck Lake Healthy

As the summer winds down and we think of our summer memories we no doubt think about all the fun we have had on the lake and how we can protect this beautiful lake for everyone. In 2016 an *Algae and Aquatic Plant Educational Manual* was prepared by several contributors¹ and can be found on the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority website at www.rvca.ca. This short article will be a summary of some of the information discussed in the manual, and I encourage you to read this summary with the full manual open online beside you.

The manual discusses the many factors that are important in understanding “how our lakes and rivers work in order to keep them healthy for future generations”.²

As we swim, boat, fish, canoe, and kayak on the lake we often see algae and aquatic plants. I often have wondered what is algae and is algae a sign our lake is not healthy? This manual helped answer many of my questions, and what to look out for as fall approaches. The manual tells us the following³:

- algae and aquatic plants play an important role in maintaining the health of our water bodies;
- algae is similar to aquatic plants but they do not have roots, stems or leaves;
- algae play an essential role in the food chain;
- there is green algae (found in most lake & rivers & are part of a healthy ecosystem);
- blue green algae or cyanobacteria is similar to algae but not real algae but rather photosynthetic bacteria (generally okay but some species can produce toxins making humans & animals sick if exposed to high concentrations);
- blue green algae blooms should be reported to the Ministry of Environment & Climate Change, & one should assume toxins are present & do not drink the water & also remember boiling & UV or chlorination are not effective tools in eliminating the toxins & may enhance the release of toxins⁴;
- blooms can occur due to excess nutrient addition to the water from human activity, such as pollution & runoff from septic beds, manure piles & fertilized lawns⁵;
- blue green algae blooms occur most often in mid-to-late summer and into the fall.

So, this fall look out for blue green algae blooms which appear as follows: bluish green or like green pea soup; turquoise, green or red paint spills on the water surface; small green dots/globs (I

¹ Carleton University, Friends of the Tay Watershed Association, Lake Networking Group, Lanark Fish and Game Club, Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority, Ottawa RiverKeeper, Rideau Valley Conversation Authority, Watersheds Canada, University of Ottawa and Upper Rideau Lake Association.

² Page 1/Manual.

³ Pages 2 -6 & 7/Manual.

⁴ Page 2/Manual. Report all blue green algal bloom to the Ministry – see page 3 of Manual for contact info.

⁵ See page 4 of Manual for chart summary outlining differences between algae that does not release toxins and some species of blue green algae (cyanobacteria) which can release toxins.

have seen those on the lake which is unfortunate); and can form solid looking clumps.⁶ I know now to report!

We not only need to prevent algal blooms but also excessive aquatic plant growth. Aquatic plant growth is excessive when it begins to alter the ecosystem negatively and begins to disrupt recreational use of the body of water. The manual tells us a healthy aquatic plant community does many things including⁷:

- improve water clarity;
- help prevent shoreline erosion;
- provide shelter, breeding or nesting sites for insects, fish and other animals;
- provide an essential food source for herbivores and omnivores;
- serve as a key contributor to the release of oxygen in the air and water necessary for life to thrive.

Harmful nutrient inputs can increase the growth of algae and aquatic plants. Harmful nutrients include the following⁸:

- pet & livestock waste runoff into the waterbody;
- storm water runoff carrying excess nutrients;
- runoff from irrigation & rainfall, in particular when lawns & fields use fertilizers or pesticides;
- addition of phosphorus from use of soaps & detergents;
- loss of natural vegetation;
- failing private sewage systems (aka – septic systems) allowing for excess nutrients to leach into the waterbody;
- shoreline erosion.

I encourage us all to look at this list and see if we can all play a role in the prevention of harmful nutrients making their way into our beautiful Buck Lake.

The manual also identifies the following factors having an impact on lake and river environments⁹:

- climate change has been linked to changes in both algae and aquatic plant growth;
- invasive species leading to biodiversity & habitat loss (for example - invasive aquatic plants like eurasian milfoil & invasive invertebrates like zebra mussels).

Lastly and most importantly the manual tells us what we can do to help and become active stewards of the health of our lake and recommends/lists the following¹⁰:

⁶ Page 4/Manual.

⁷ Page 8/Manual.

⁸ Page 9/Manual.

⁹ Pages 10-12/Manual.

¹⁰ Pages 13-19/Manual.

- choose sustainable drainage systems (for example - use of rain barrels, rock pits, re-direction of downspouts, & gradient terraces) that help absorb rainwater into the ground instead of running into the lake;
- ensure the control of invasive species (for example – make sure your boat is cleaned when entering a new waterbody. Don't empty your bait bucket into the lake);
- practice shoreline management (for example – keep your shoreline as natural as possible, or improve it by planting native plants);
- plant trees;
- limit livestock from accessing waterways to prevent erosion & contamination of water;
- sewage system management (for example – check that your sewage disposal system is in working order. Get an inspection and ensure it is not leaking);
- watch your wake while boating (erosion from wave motion contacting the shoreline results in damaged property & excess nutrients; try to distance yourself from the shoreline by 50 metres as often as possible);
- get needed permits and approvals for work on property (including the removal of aquatic plants);
- eliminate use of fertilizers (which contain nutrients and can leach into the soil and runoff into the water system);
- limit runoff activities;
- maintain, restore & promote wetlands in Ontario (conservation is the most critical approach in maintaining a healthy wetland ecosystem);
- citizen science reporting (see page 19 of Manual for list of agencies to which you can report changes you see on your waterbody/Buck Lake; for example you can report invasive species, frog & toads, turtle sightings, bird observations etc.).

Enjoy the rest of the summer and the upcoming fall safely on the lake.

Nora L. Lapp

Buck Lake Association Member



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Save the Date: Buck Lake Association AGM

The AGM will be held on Thursday, September 30th by Zoom. The link will be emailed to members closer to the date.

If you are interested in joining the Board, please email BuckLakeAssoc@gmail.com or contact Gillian Lash.

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.

Your Buck Lake Association Board of Directors

President:

Gillian Lash

Vice-President:

Don Young

Treasurer:

Cheryl Savery

Recording Secretary:

Cheryl Dawson

Archivist:

Kathy McDonald

Directors at Large:

Nora Lapp

Randy Ruttan

Crawford MacIntyre

Martha Scheinman

**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.



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Buckstock 2021: A Huge Success



On July 24th, the Buck Lake Association hosted Buckstock 2021 – a boat parade followed by a concert at Hidden Valley Campground. We could not have asked for better weather and the band, R-Banned, played for over 2 hours entertaining the boaters and campground residents with a great collection of classic rock songs.

Even more importantly, we managed to raise nearly \$5,000 for Easter Seals Camp Merrywood.

Way to go Buck Lakers!

Thanks to all for your generosity. If you want, you can still donate at easterseals.org/buck-lake/

Finally, thanks to [R-Banned](#) for coming out and playing and thanks to Randy Ruttan for the use of the campground and setting up a great stage for the band.

Hopefully, this can become a Buck Lake tradition with an onsite picnic and more socializing in the future.



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Have You Completed the Quest?

You Have Until September 17th to Complete the Cataraqui Trail Quest!

The Cat Trail Quest is continuing until September 17th! This fundraising Quest is part scavenger hunt, part mystery. Get on your bike or take a hike on the Cat Trail to find clues. The Quest has 3 challenge levels, so it can be fun for the whole family!

Passports provided after registration provide guidance on how to start the Quest.

The Cat Trail Quest started on June 1 and the first person to complete the quest was an adult who did it all in the first day! Quest clues are within 3 km of a parking area (most are a little closer – if you are hiking, take an extra snack for the clue between Harrowsmith and Sydenham!) to make it easy for the hikers.

Natasha Klink and Keval Shah live in Ottawa, and are working on the Quest with Natasha's parents who live in Kingston. They are escape room enthusiasts who enjoy the outdoors. The four of them have hiked to two of the clue locations together, then they split up to find other clues. With their combined knowledge, they will be able to put their heads together to solve the Quest.

Alex, a pre-reader, provided the driving force in his family to go out and complete the challenges by bike. His favourite part was searching for the hidden clues on the trail, and loved it when he found them before his parents! His parents found the Quest fun as well because they explored parts of the trail that they have not been to before. They look forward to doing questing again next year!

Emile and Yvette are working to complete the Quest together. Their mother, Justine Lord, commented "We've really enjoyed the Quest so far, especially the opportunities to see different parts of the trail. We have a beautiful section of the trail behind our house in Harrowsmith but have never ventured further east than Sydenham or west from Yarker. The best part of this experience has been seeing the interesting features of the trail: the stream under the bridge in Smiths Falls, the river in Yarker, Chaffey's Locks, and lots of wildlife. Our girls are really loving the different animal clues, along with their colours and favourite foods."

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There is still time to participate in the Cat Trail Quest. Register at <https://cataraquiconservation.ca/pages/cat-trail-quest> to download a passport and information. Follow the guidance in the passport, look for clues, complete the activities, then go back to the website, click on the 'complete Quest' button, and answer the question correctly to complete the Quest. Les passeports sont aussi disponibles en français for both francophones and francophiles.

Prizes can be picked up on Cataraqui Trail Day, Saturday, September 25. This day will feature a Ghost Train Bike Ride from Strathcona to Sydenham, where participants will get a Ticket to Ride listing the stations along the Trail. At the stations, participants can learn about the history of the trail when it carried trains, and maybe even meet a conductor.

Contact cattrail.fun@gmail.com if you would like to volunteer to help out on September 25th. Funds raised from this event will go towards trail maintenance.

The Friends of the Cataraqui Trail have developed a survey <https://cataraquitrail.ca> in which users (both Questers and non-Questers) can indicate where they feel maintenance is most needed. Information on joining Friends of the Cataraqui are available on that website too! The next on-line meeting the Friends is September 23rd at 7:00pm. Contact info@crca.ca for details if you would like to attend.

The Cataraqui Conservation Authority and the Friends of the Cataraqui Trail ask participants to not spoil the quest for others by sharing photos, clues, or your passport on social media. You are welcome to take photos with the 'I found it!' sign near the clues.

Also, please be respectful to other Cataraqui Trail users by following all Public Health COVID-19 guidelines such as physical distancing, limiting group size, wearing a face covering when physical distancing is not possible, staying home if you or a family member is not well, and practicing safe hygiene. Please leave no trace - pack in and pack out. Dogs must be on a leash at all times.

Children - \$10 registration (no tax receipt) Adults - \$35 registration (includes tax receipt)
Group of 4 - \$75 registration (includes tax receipt) Submitted by

Heather Keeling on behalf of Paul Klink

For more information about the Quest, please contact Heather Keeling at hekeeling3@gmail.com.

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Cottage Succession A to Z

with estate lawyer
Peter Lillico

brought to you by
FOCA
Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations

and co-hosts:



On Saturday, August 14, 2021, over forty members of The Buck Lake Association and The Chaffey's Area Lakes Association registered for this excellent webinar sponsored by FOCA.

Peter Lillico's presentation gave participants the most practical and up to date information about the ins and outs of the cottage succession process – how best to pass on your cottage to your child(ren). There are five steps to follow to ensure a successful cottage succession.

FAMILY – Consider the age, health, financial resources and motivation of the parents (cottage owners). Start planning for succession now if your goal is to keep the cottage in the family. Due to the phenomenal increase in cottage values/prices (a trend likely to continue), the cottage you have now may be the only opportunity your children will have to own a cottage.

A planning guide that takes into account the children's geography/proximity, finances and interest in shared ownership can be valuable.

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TAX – Consider the impact of capital gains tax on the sale or gift of a cottage to a child(ren). Capital gains is calculated based on the original price paid for the cottage, the current market value, capital improvements and your tax rate. Timing is very important. Your lakeside property may also be your primary residence in which case the primary residence exemption may apply. Seek more detailed information about your own situation as it relates to capital gains from a lawyer or accountant.

TIMING – As it is very likely that cottage values/prices will continue to appreciate it is advantageous to transfer ownership to a child(ren) sooner rather than later to minimize the amount of tax to be paid.

PROTECTION – A Cottage Sharing Agreement (when more than one child will own the cottage in the future) can be formalized through a lawyer and can help protect from a variety of risks, including family friction, a relationship breakdown (in which a child's ex-spouse may have a claim on the cottage) and creditor worries when the cottage is passed along.

IMPLEMENTATION – Consult a lawyer to arrange the transfer of a deed to a child(ren), to update your will to reflect the succession plan or to establish a Joint Partner Trust with a Sprinkling Cottage Trust.

Peter Lillico can be reached through his contact information;

LILLICO BAZUK GALLOWAY HALKA

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Aquatic Plants: the good, the bad, and the ugly

Submitted by Gillian Lash, Friends of the Lake

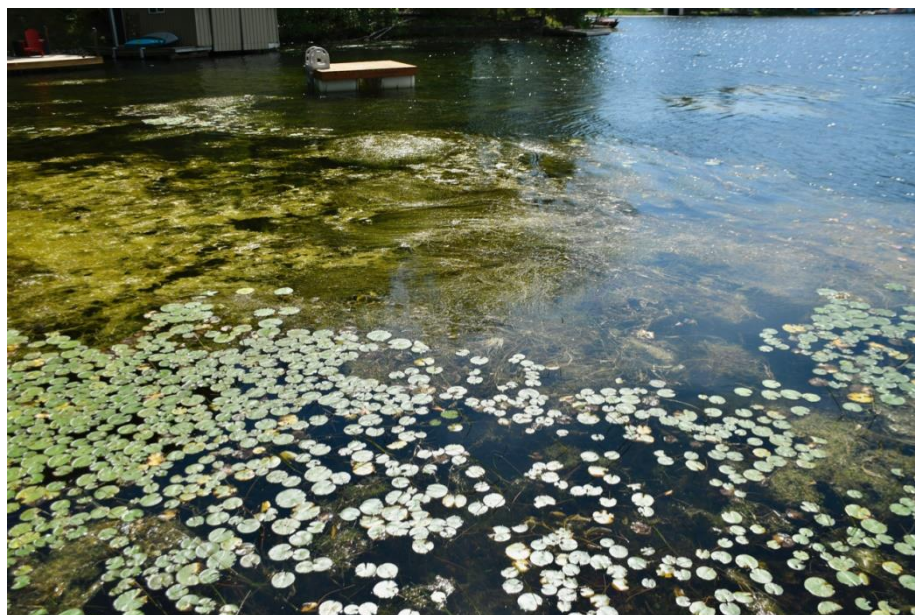
Why do we typically refer to all aquatic plants as weeds? Is it because we do not value them, feel that they are unsightly, do not like how they feel against our legs as we swim past, or get aggravated when they get caught in our fishing lure or motorboat propellers?

Most of these aquatic plants that we call “weeds” play a critical role in maintaining Buck Lake’s great water quality and excellent fishing habitat. They stabilize sediments and absorb many harmful pollutants, while providing habitat for fish to spawn, feed and hide from predators.

However, some aquatic plants are invasive species, such as Eurasian Watermilfoil which are quite harmful to the health of the lake.

Invasive or not, you may have noticed that the amount of aquatic vegetation has increased in recent years. According to Parks Canada, in general, this is due to a number of factors both natural and human induced. These include:

- Nutrient run-off
- Cutting, but not removing shoreline aquatic vegetation from the water as these cuttings will re-root



Improperly removed plants

This year I noticed that some people contracted a mechanical harvester to ‘remove’ aquatic plants. A recent study by Carleton University’s Aquatic Ecosystems & Environment Change (AEEC) Lab found that 18 months after having used a mechanical harvester to remove Eurasian Watermilfoil on Malcolm Lake, the Eurasian Watermilfoil reappeared. Therefore, mechanical harvesting can be a costly and ineffective treatment.

Currently, there is no proven method to permanently eradicate Eurasian Watermilfoil. Please note that if you do decide to try to remove this aquatic invasive species or any other type of aquatic vegetation, that your efforts should not take place between March 15th and June 30th which is fish spawning time. Also, the disposal of any plants removed should take place on land far from the lake shoreline!

However, there are ways in which we can sustainably slow down the rate of growth of aquatic vegetation in general. Parks Canada suggests the following:



- 1) Leave or replant a minimum of a 3 metre buffer of natural vegetation along the shoreline to absorb nutrients before they hit the water
- 2) Minimize the use of garden chemicals
- 3) Maintain your septic system with regular pump outs and maintaining the leaching bed/system. One of the local septic service supplier’s tag line sums it up nicely by using a poker adage “A Royal Flush beats a full house every time!”
- 4) Try not to “harden” (pavement, gravel) any shoreline areas. Hardening increases direct run-off into the lake which can decrease water quality

The above actions are certainly a better way (and more effective) than having to spend our time in the water every year “weeding out” excessive aquatic vegetation!

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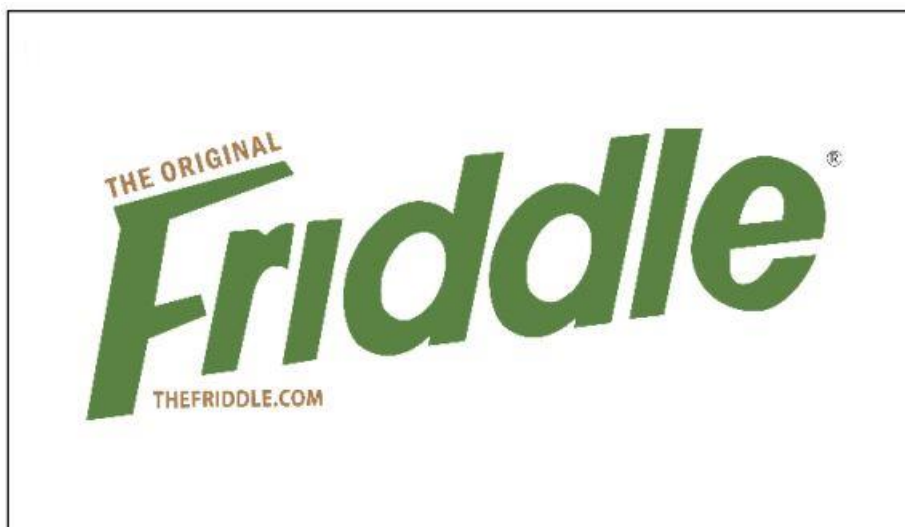
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Office: 3 Rideau Street, Kingston
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Coming Events

- Mondays BLA Weekly Monday morning Golf alternating between Rideau Lakes and Evergreen. If you're new, please email bucklakegolf@gmail.com to get on the mailing list.
- September 30 **BLA AGM** 7pm on Zoom
Members will receive a link by email.

In order to promote the spirit of Buck Lake, we invite your comments and suggestions for newsletter articles or announcements. Mail to: BuckLakeAssoc@gmail.com



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