



The Buck Lake Association Inc.

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www.bucklake.ca

email: Buck Lake Information

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

Buck Lake News – April 2022

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FOCA AGM & Spring Seminar for Lake Associations



The Federation of Ontario Cottagers Association Annually General Meeting was held this year on February 26th. Martha Scheinman attended the meeting on behalf of the Buck Lake Association. The following is a brief summary of the meeting.

As your representative at this year's virtual FOCA AGM I heard about a variety of initiatives and issues of interest to the Buck Lake Community. Here are a few highlights;

- This is an election year in Ontario. The Provincial Election is on June 2. Municipal elections are on October 24. You are eligible to vote in each municipality in which you own property. Visit this website to check if you are on the voter list – voterlookup.ca There are many election issues such as Rural Source Water Protection that impact those of us living on or near bodies of water. Get out and get involved!

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- FOCA advocates for over 50,000 families through their road associations.
- There has been a 40% increase in the resale price of cottages in the Kingston area!
- With the exodus from Toronto and Ottawa during the pandemic, more rural roads are being used year 'round, impacting maintenance and other road issues.
- Check out www.GreatLakesDataStream.ca for one stop shopping about water quality throughout the Province. You can look up data about our lake and enter data you have collected as well.
- The gypsy moth is all too familiar to all of us but it is now referred to as the **LDD moth** – the *lymantria dispar dispar* moth. I have also heard it referred to as *the spongy moth*.

Do you want to get more involved in your Lake Association?
We Currently Have the Following Committees Active
& Would Always Welcome Volunteers

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

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

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Buck Lake - Thinking About our Present and Future

Submitted by Duncan Sinclair

I have been laid up recently with a medical problem, happily now repaired. It has given me lots of time to read and reflect on things, one of them being the work of our Council in rolling-forward The Township's strategic plan for the next decade. I began to question the time horizon and to worry that we have slipped dangerously as a society into considering ten years to be long-term when, at the rate time passes, 2032 will be here tomorrow, especially for those "well up in the paints" as the author Damon Runyon once described us oldsters. My worrying increased when my thinking wandered to the future of our Buck Lake and what it will bring for us privileged to live and vacation on its shores, skating in winter, and swimming, fishing, and boating in summer. The lake was here long before us and will continue long after all of us are gone. What will the medium and long-term future bring?

My mind wandered back many years to Leona's and my honeymoon at a kind of wilderness camp on Lake Joseph in Muskoka. About a year ago I attended a meeting at the same lake. Frankly it was unrecognizable. Its once heavily wooded shores are now manicured lawns, the cottages replaced by wall-to-wall mansions, the rickety docks by concrete piers, many supporting elegant two-story boat-houses containing the residents' big, expensive water toys. It was no longer a lake where my bride and I could afford to honeymoon much less want to. Has the transition been a good or bad thing for Lake Joseph? It all depends on your perspective. No doubt for its residents and vacationers who have transplanted their urban mod-cons to replace the previous wilderness it has been good but I wonder. Was Lake Joseph's urbanization carefully planned or did it just happen? What comes next? Will there be even more intense development or will those estates decay and be reclaimed by the forest one day as the interests of subsequent generations shift with the economy, climate, and all the other changes the long-time future always brings. Is the Council in Muskoka thinking about such things as it too rolls-forward its strategic plan? Is it seeking and paying attention to the views of the Lake Joseph's and others of the area's residents? Are the residents themselves meeting with one another to discuss and come to consensus on the best way forward for them and their lake?

All that, of course, got me thinking about Buck Lake, its future and ours.

The first thing that came to mind was regret that the pandemic, now going into its third year, has largely precluded our gathering together socially; Covid has weakened our sense of community. Let's hope that our opportunities to get to know one another as fellow Buck Lakers and to talk with one another informally and formally at meetings called for the purpose about the past, present, and future of our lake can be re-instituted this coming summer. We could get a good start by participating in the up-coming get together on April 23 at the Hidden Valley campground.

What about elements in the Township's Official Plan that will affect Buck Lake? One thing that's got to be coming up before too long are decisions about what to do about the culvert and boat ramp. It remains perhaps the most dangerous section of Highway 10, between Kingston and



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Westport, a menace to pedestrians, boaters, drivers, and close neighbours alike. The roadbed continues to crumble into the water to the west, the aged steel culvert continues to tilt ever more at its east end, and the islanders' and boaters' parking problem seems to worsen every year. At some point (and I think sooner than later), the old double SS will apply - "Someone with have to do Something!". It is pretty clear that the 'Someone' will be South Frontenac Township. As for the 'Something', there was an open meeting now some years ago at the Harris Park hall in Perth Road with representatives of the Township and some consulting engineers to present and seek input to some options but I have heard nothing since. Many factors, financial, regulatory, and environmental, will bear on the decision about what to do but surely one such should be what we, the lake's residents and vacationers, would prefer. It's something we need to talk about, be informed about what the available options might be, and see if we can come to a consensus on what we think collectively would be best for us and for Buck Lake a few generations down the road when the new culvert will have been in place as long or longer than the one there now.

Does anybody have any idea what the long-term plan is to regulate the water level in Buck Lake? I don't. Frankly I have only a vague idea of by whom it is controlled, much less the factors taken into consideration when the requisite decisions are made, presumably annually, taking into account the forecast rainfall and snow load in the watershed. I suspect (and hope) the Cataraqui Conservation Authority is deeply involved. It wouldn't be a bad idea, once the Covid guidelines permit, to have representatives of both the CCA and of those responsible for managing the outflow over the dam in the Massasauga Creek come to a meeting to fill us in.

I have used some of the time during my recuperation to deepen my understanding of the many factors bearing on the forecasts of climate change. The predictions seem to me both well founded and really scary with lots of wild, warm, and wet weather ahead and not long off. We could also have a 'heat dome' and wildfires as B.C. did this past summer. We should talk among ourselves about what we can and should do to protect both our individual properties and the lake itself from harm. At the least, we and the Township should plan to limit the harm done by a major change in our environment that has been building since the very beginning of the industrial revolution. Until comparatively recently, we and rest of global society have been ignoring it complacently. It has come home to roost in our lifetimes and those of our children and grandchildren, our successors here on Buck Lake. I fear that there is precious little each of us can do individually to ameliorate climate change but I, for one, would surely welcome suggestions from neighbours (and officialdom) savvier than I about what to do to get ready.

When I was a kid, getting on for 90 years ago, my father told me, probably right after I made some stupid decision personally gratifying in the short term but bearing significant long-term cost, "Son. There's a lot more of the future than there is of the present. Look after it!" I share that advice with you as I look out over a snow-covered lake, sleeping there peacefully getting ready for another spring, summer, and fall with us settled around its perimeter, giving us pleasures beyond measure, even sustenance for those of us who fish. I often wonder what Buck Lake would say was I able to hear what it would ask of us. Honestly, I think it would be saying "Dunc. Your interests and mine are one and the same. I relish your enjoyment of your property on my banks and the fun you, yours, and your community of neighbours get from me. All I ask is that you look after our long-term future together and we'll all be OK."

Let's Party Like It's 2019!

Submitted by Cheryl Savery

It feels like forever since we have been able to get together with all our friends and neighbours from around Buck Lake. The pandemic may not be over, but the time for avoiding all get-togethers hopefully has.

On April 23rd from 3:00 to 5:00pm, we are planning to host the first of possibly many **Buck Lake Happy Hours**. An outdoor social event at Hidden Valley Campground located on Hidden Valley Lane at the south end of Buck Lake.

Bring your own beverages of choice and the Buck Lake Association will provide a variety of snacks and appetizers. There are some picnic tables on site, but if you can bring your own lawn chairs, that would be helpful.

Hopefully the weather will be great. We will put up the picnic shelters if it is warm with a light rain. But if the weather is really horrid, we will postpone to the Sunday or the following weekend. Watch your email or facebook for updates.

Hope to see you all there.

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It's always
BLA Calendar
season

Remember:
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ALL YEAR LONG!

Calendar submissions are always welcome. 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.

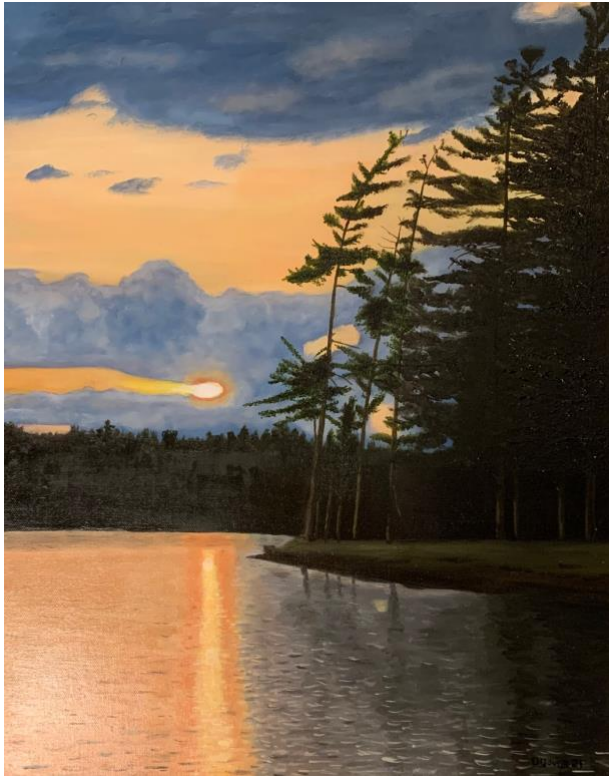


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Buck Lake Artists

In our February newsletter, we invited Buck Lakers to send in their artwork to share with the rest of the lake. We would like to thank all who sent in pictures of their work. Please enjoy their wonderful creations.

Don Young



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

Jo Kramer



Join the Buck Lake Association Today

It's only \$25 a Year!

To sign up today online, paddle on over to
<http://bucklake.ca/membership/>

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.

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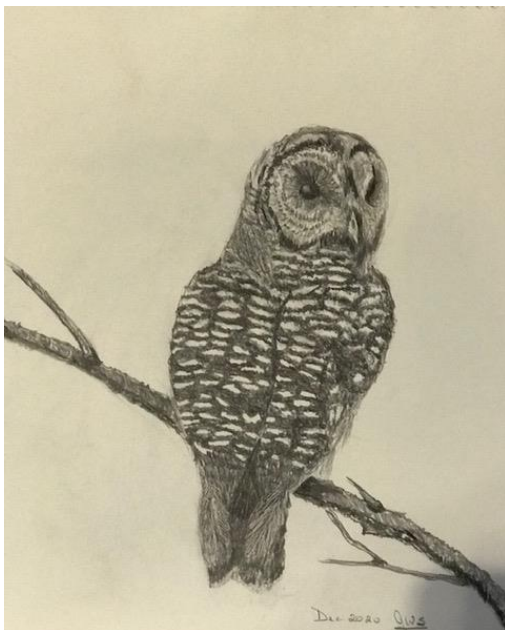
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Jane Spence

I started drawing at the beginning of the pandemic and found many great things to draw at the lake. These are a few that I have enjoyed working on. A nesting loon, a family of ducks, a great gray owl and my granddaughter.



Your Buck Lake Association Board of Directors

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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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