

BUCK LAKE NEWS

AUGUST 2023

YOUR VOICE

BY DON YOUNG

In July 2023 the Buck Lake Association Board of Directors sent out a short survey to over 300 addresses on Buck Lake. The survey was sent to every email address that is on file with the Association, including current members, past members and those that have never been members. The impetus for sending the survey was a reduction in the number of paid members and a need to find more volunteers to serve on the Board of Directors and the various committees of the Association. We currently have 120 paid members (down from 160 last year), but the Board of Directors is short by six members and the committees need more help to achieve their goals. We received 62 responses, which is approximately 20%. Thank you to everyone who responded.

What did we find?

In general terms, the Buck Lake community is happy with the work of the Association. There were a few misconceptions about what the Association does. For example, the Association does not do any kind of enforcement of any by-laws, marine regulations or of any activity on the lake. The Association does not have anything to do with road conditions or garbage storage and collection. Road and garbage issues are usually handled by road associations around the lake, although not all roads have a road association. We do try to educate everyone using the lake about how to protect the lake, how to share the lake with others in a respectful way and how municipal and other regulations that affect the lake change over time. We also try to help create a sense of community through social events and information sharing.

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Photo by Scott Lillis



The Official Publication of the

Buck Lake Association

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



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In collating the responses, we found that Buck Lakers are interested in three main areas. First, you are very interested in the environmental impacts on the lake and on protecting the natural environment of the lake. Second, you are keen on events that create a sense of community and bringing neighbours together. Third, you appreciate being kept informed about the lake, the community and how government regulations can affect the lake.

Some great ideas

The survey provided some great ideas for new initiatives for the Board and committees. One suggestion was to have more social events and more social events involving children. One suggestion was involve everyone in collecting various data points about the lake (temperature in different sections, water quality, algae blooms, ice in and out dates, loon activity, fish info, wildlife activity, etc). One suggestion was to provide more educational information about the harm caused by pesticide use, shoreline protections and lake water healthy practices.

Priorities for the coming year

The survey has helped to confirm the priorities for the Buck Lake Association for the coming year:

- 1. Helping residents and cottagers to protect the lake environment.*
- 2. Social activities and creating a sense of community.*
- 3. Information sharing.*

How much can be achieved in each of these areas depends on the volunteers who make up the BLA Board of Directors and the various committees. Without more participation by Buck Lakers, we will be very limited in what we can achieve. To put it very simply, we need your help.

If you would like to volunteer as a Board member or committee member, please send your contact details to bucklakeassoc@gmail.com.

BUCK LAKE CALENDAR 2024

Calendar submissions are always welcome.

To make things easier we ask that you please send or share your images to bucklakeassoc@gmail.com

Be sure to include your name, a title or description for the image, and share the camera meta data as well if you can (like the example). Please do not include any identifiable people or pets - wildlife are encouraged though!



"Blue Jay" by Scott Lillis

Canon EOS 6D (f/5.6, 1/60, ISO 2000)

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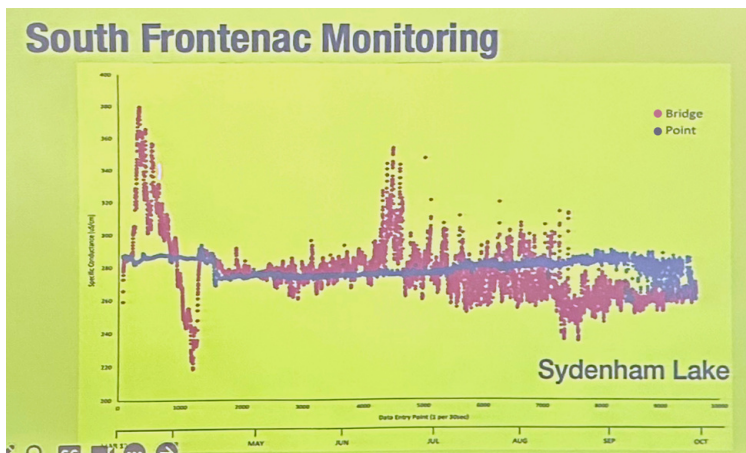
To enhance people's enjoyment of Buck Lake now and for future generations

KEEP YOUR LAKE HEALTHY

A SUMMARY BY SCOTT LILLIS

On Wednesday, July 26, 2023 the South Frontenac's Lake Ecosystem Advisory Committee hosted its first annual "Keep Your Lake Healthy" forum. Troy Martin, a Masters student from Queen's University presented findings from the Lake Ecosystem Grant Projects Awarded in 2021. This project focussed on understanding impacts of road salt runoff on water quality and ecosystems in Sydenham and Devil Lakes, using Gould Lake as their baseline. Researchers measured seasonal changes in conductivity in the near shore and offshore of the two lakes in 2022 (and are waiting to collect the results from 2023).

In brief, the results showed high levels of chloride in the lakes as the snow and ice melted in the spring. This spike negatively declined before chloride levels in the lake returned to a more consistent level. There were a few anomalies that the researchers are hoping to see corrected or confirmed when they get the samples from 2023 (see image below for more details).



Data from two collection points in Sydenham Lake (near the dam beside Home Hardware and at the end of The Point) - Troy Martin



Troy Martin presents his research findings to the crowd.

Photo by Scott Lillis

The project looked at three different types of road salt: traditional rock salt (99% NaCl), organic beet juice-brine (17% NaCl, 25% beet juice sugars), and inorganic: chloride mix (16% CaCl₂, 8.5% NaCl, 3.5% MgCl₂). The high sugar content in the organic brine is a distinct disadvantage, inviting bacteria in the water to consume it and thereby decreasing oxygen availability for desired flora. It should be noted that this research only measured the activity of zooplankton and has not been reproduced with other flora or fauna.

The Township offers Lake Ecosystem Grants to support and encourage the preservation, restoration, monitoring and analysis of lake ecosystems within South Frontenac. Non-profit community organizations including lake associations such as ours, other charitable organizations, and unincorporated groups who meet the project guidelines can apply during grant windows each year for funds. While this year's window for applications has closed, we will highlight other awarded projects over the next few issues of our newsletters.





NEIGHBOURS SAVING NEIGHBOURS

Volunteer Responder Program



NEIGHBOURS SAVING NEIGHBOURS

COMPILED BY SCOTT LILLIS WITH INFORMATION FROM THEIR WEBSITE

The Neighbours Saving Neighbours (NsN) Volunteer Responder Pilot Program aims to increase survival rates in those who suffer cardiac arrest in our community. Once trained in CPR and equipped with automated external defibrillators (AED), volunteer responders will be dispatched to nearby cardiac-arrest emergencies to provide basic life support until paramedics arrive.

As a volunteer, you'll be assigned to a team of other volunteers based on geographic location. You'll be trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and the safe and proper use of an automatic external defibrillator (AED).

Once trained, your group will be equipped with AEDs and you may be called upon by 911 communications professionals to attend possible cardiac arrest emergencies. Your role will be to assess the scene, administer CPR and use and AED if needed, and to assist paramedics when they arrive on scene. To learn more and/or apply for the program click [here](#) or on the banner at the top of this page.

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BLA member Kathy McDonald was part of the first cohort of volunteers.

Photo retrieved from https://engagefrontenac.ca/neighbours-saving-neighbours/news_feed/first-nsn-cohort-completes-in-person-cpr-aed-training

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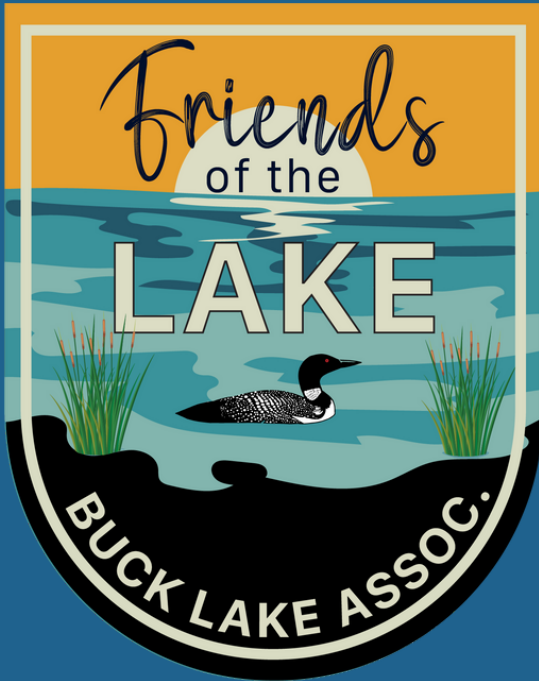
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Friends of the Lake uses this column to share useful links and information to help promote a healthy lake for everyone's enjoyment.

LOVE YOUR LAKE

A healthy lake starts with healthy shorelines. LOVE YOUR LAKE is a shoreline evaluation program developed by Watersheds Canada and the Canadian Wildlife Federation (CWF) designed to encourage lakefront property owners to take proactive steps toward improving lake health by creating and maintaining healthier shorelines. Take a look at their website and take their self-evaluation to see what you can do to help Buck Lake and your shoreline!

BE WAKE AWARE

Boating is a popular pastime on our lake, providing a chance to enjoy the great outdoors and spend time with friends and family. Enjoying our lake is a lot of fun but also requires every boater to be safe and responsible. For everyone's sake, Be #WakeAware.

BUCK LAKE POSTERS - LAST CHANCE SALE!

Friends of the Lake have a few Buck Lake maps available for purchase. They are as pictured to the left and are poster size (approximately 18 x 24 inches or 46 x 61 centimetres). These maps are great to help identify areas of the lake and to help visitors acquaint themselves with our beautiful surroundings. Final Sale Price is \$15.00. First come, first served. To reserve a map please email bucklakeassoc@gmail.com and include your name and how many posters you would like.

GET INVOLVED WITH THE BLA!

We are always happy to welcome new members to both the Board of Directors and committees within the Buck Lake Association. The Board meets bi-monthly at the home or cottage of one of the Board members. Board membership is a great way to meet folks from around the lake and to become involved in the Buck Lake community at large as well as to help protect the lake. The committees meet on an ad hoc basis depending on what activities they are undertaking. Please email us at bucklakeassoc@gmail.com to express your interest!

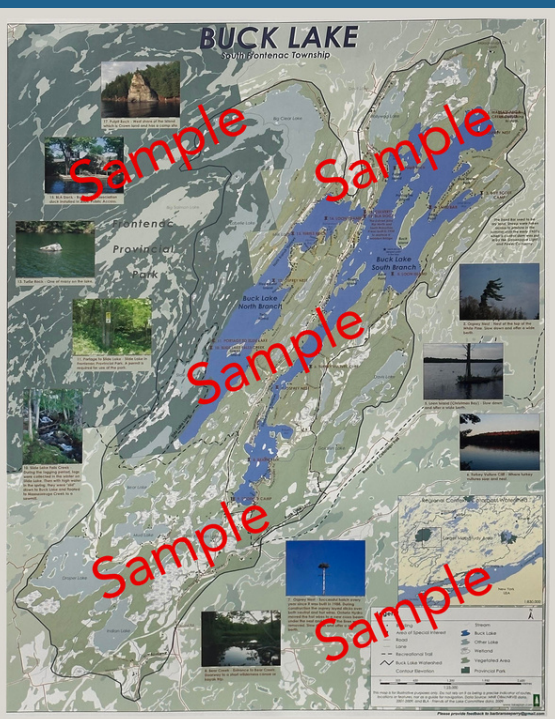


Photo by Scott Lillis



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WATERSHEDS CANADA

BY CHANTAL LEFEVRE, NATURAL EDGE REGIONAL COORDINATOR

Protecting your local freshwater health can be a daunting task, which is why Watersheds Canada created the Natural Edge Program. This one-of-a-kind program uses impactful technology with its own iOS App that creates personalized restoration plans using native plant species best suited for a property based on Canada's hardiness zones and a property's conditions.

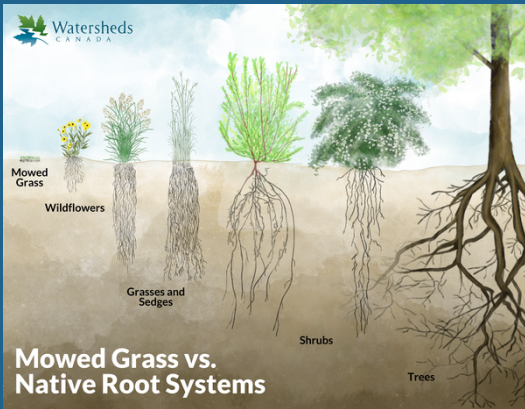
Created in under an hour, the customized planting plan is a blueprint to take action on a property! Individuals pick the plant species they want on their property that may produce fruit, attract certain wildlife species, be their favourite colour, or grow to a certain height to protect their waterfront views.

Site visits with Natural Edge staff are free in eligible regions of Ontario, and are currently available! Please reply back to this email if you are interested in learning more about how you can promote this important program on your lake or river.

Once a property owner gets and approves their planting plan, it's time to get planting! For just \$395 Natural Edge shoreline renaturalization starter kits give a

property owner everything they need to keep the momentum going. Each kit contains 50 native plants (25 bare root stock, 15 potted stock, 10 wildflowers), 45 hemp fiber pads, tree guards, mulch for wildflowers, and 4 planting and stewardship guides.

Check out watersheds.ca or email info@watersheds.ca to learn more.



Graphic provided by Watersheds Canada.

Join the Buck Lake Association!

It's only \$25 a year!

To sign up today, paddle on over to bucklake.ca/membership

By signing up or renewing you'll also become a member of the Federation of Ontario Cottagers Association for free. As a member you get lots of perks, including information on rural property issues, environmental programs, and discounts from merchants.

What are you waiting for - *join now!*

TOWNSHIP NOTICES

- Take the Strategic Plan Survey: The Township is updating their strategic plan and want to hear from you. They're asking all residents to take a short survey on their vision for the Township and priorities for next four years. [Take the survey](#) by August 31, 2023 and have your say.
- With extreme weather becoming more common, everyone is encouraged to be prepared for emergencies. A great start is to [download this great guide](#).
- Follow South Frontenac on all your favourite social channels, including Instagram, LinkedIn, Facebook and X. Be sure to follow them @SouthFrontenacTownship.



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KIDS CORNER

Here are some activities for any young (or young at heart) residents or visitors to try on a rainy day at the lake!

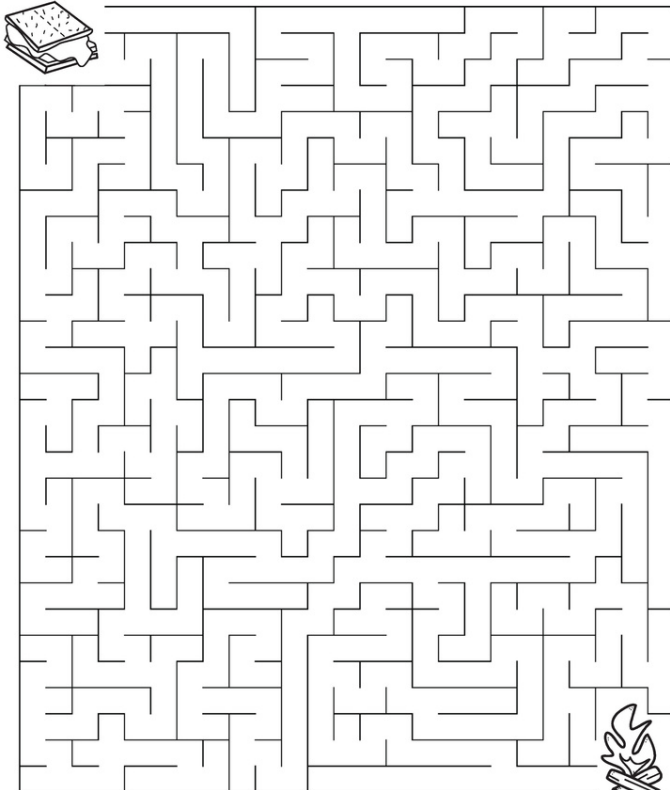
GET THE NUT!



PLEASE HELP THE SQUIRREL

Image by Freepik

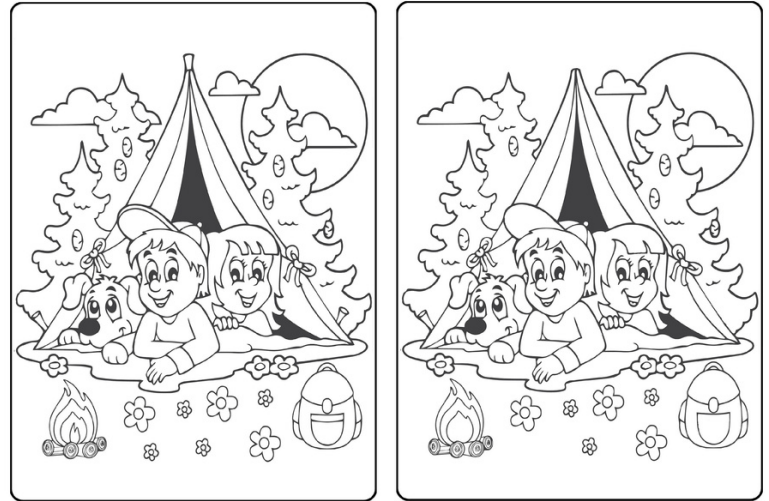
S'more Maze



www.GrowingPlay.com

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Can you spot the 10 differences between these two pictures?



Free printable courtesy of PrintitFree.net

Summer Word Search

B	I	R	T	Q	U	R	E	W	S	K	M	O	S	Q	U	I	T	O	E	S	B	M	N
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- | | | | |
|-----------|----------|--------------|--------------|
| Beach | Deck | Marshmallows | Stars |
| Birds | Deer | Moon | Sun |
| Boat | Dock | Mosquitoes | Sunrise |
| Buck Lake | Duck | Motor | Sunscreen |
| Bug Spray | Fish | North Branch | Sunset |
| Campfire | Frog | Paddleboat | Swimming |
| Camping | Hot Dogs | Sand | Tent |
| Canoe | Islands | Sandcastle | Tree |
| Cottage | Kayak | Smores | Tubing |
| Culvert | Loon | South Branch | Water Skiing |

Word Search created by Scott Lillis

