

# **BUCK LAKE NEWS**

NOVEMBER 2025

## A SEASON OF GRATITUDE AT BUCK LAKE

As we turn back our clocks and settle into the shorter, cozier days of fall, we want to take a moment to thank all of you — our wonderful Buck Lake community — for making this another memorable season on the lake.

Whether you joined us for one of our social events, attended the AGM, helped with lake stewardship efforts, or simply spent time enjoying and caring for Buck Lake's natural beauty, your participation helps keep our community strong, connected, and thriving.

This past season was filled with music, laughter, and a shared commitment to preserving the place we're so fortunate to call home. Thank you for showing up, lending a hand, and helping to keep the spirit of Buck Lake alive.

As we move into fall, we hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter — packed with updates, photos, and ways to stay involved all year long.

Warmly,

The Buck Lake Association



Enjoy the peace and tranquility that the lake provides in the Fall.

Photo by Dorene Hookey

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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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## **GET READY, SOUTH FRONTENAC:** RECYCLE MORE THAN EVER BEFORE STARTING IN 2026!

#### WRITTEN AND DISSEMINATED BY CIRCULAR MATERIALS

Circular Materials will launch a unified material list for recycling, including new materials like coffee cups, across the province of Ontario in 2026.

Starting in 2026, Ontario residents will be able to recycle more materials than ever before and recycle the same materials no matter where they live in Ontario. Circular Materials is a national not-for-profit organization that will be responsible for operating Ontario's new recycling system for packaging and paper products. As the administrator of Ontario's common collection system, Circular Materials is pleased to introduce these enhancements to recycling across Ontario as the province fully transitions to a new extended producer responsibility (EPR) blue box recycling system.

Under EPR, Ontario's new recycling program will be fully funded and operated by producers of packaging and paper products. EPR is recognized as an effective mechanism to improve recycling rates and advance a circular economy where materials are collected, recycled and returned to producers for use as recycled content in new products and packaging. EPR will enable innovation, operational efficiencies, increased standard levels and access to materials.

For example, last year, Circular Materials announced a pilot for the recycling of both hot and cold paper-based and plastic-lined beverage cups at home and other eligible locations in Toronto. This pilot marked the first step towards incorporating these materials in recycling systems across all cities and communities in Ontario by 2026.

The pilot has been progressing smoothly and successfully. Early results from the pilot show an 8% increase in collected polycoated paperboard, the material used to make most single-use coffee and other beverage cups. This material is sent to end markets where they are recycled and repurposed into new paper products.

Thanks to the strong progression of this pilot, starting January 1, 2026, Ontario residents will be able to recycle coffee cups and other hot and cold paperbased and plastic-lined beverage cups province wide.

Building on this momentum, coffee cups are just one of the new materials being introduced across the province on January 1 as part of Ontario's new EPR recycling program. Other new materials will include:

- Deodorant
- Toothpaste tubes
- Ice cream tubs
- Black plastic containers
- Frozen juice containers

Additionally, Circular Materials will be introducing a unified material list across Ontario. "Currently, materials collected for recycling across Ontario vary from community to community - starting January 1, 2026, Ontario residents will be able to recycle the same and even more materials no matter where they live across Ontario. This will make it easier for residents to recycle. improving recovery rates and benefitting both people and the environment," says Allen Langdon, CEO, Circular Materials. "The unified material list and new materials included are a great example of how extended producer responsibility advances innovation and improves environmental outcomes."

Circular Materials will be communicating more to Ontario residents about the province's enhanced recycling system via a province-wide communications campaign in the fall. To learn more about Ontario's new recycling program and recycling in your community, visit circularmaterials.ca/ON.

Retrieved from:

https://www.southfrontenac.net/news/posts/get-ready-south-frontenacrecycle-more-than-ever-before-starting-in-2026/



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## FALL LAKE MAINTENANCE: 5 ESSENTIAL STEPS FOR LAKEFRONT PROPERTY OWNERS

#### BY EVERBLUE LAKES

As autumn settles in and the summer crowds fade, many lakefront property owners breathe a sigh of relief. But seasoned lake stewards know the truth: what you do this fall determines your lake's health next summer.

While your lake may look peaceful as the leaves change, this is actually one of the most critical times for lake management. Every leaf that falls into your water, every bit of runoff from that final fertilizer application, and every shoreline maintenance task you skip this fall will impact your water quality come June.

#### Why Fall Matters More Than You Think

Most lake problems that show up in summer actually begin in fall and winter when organic debris accumulates and slowly breaks down. The good news? A few smart actions this season can dramatically improve your lake experience next year.

#### **5 Essential Fall Lake Health Steps**

#### 1. Take Stock of This Year's Water Quality

Before you start raking leaves, honestly assess what happened this summer:

- When was your lake at its best and worst?
- Did chemical treatments provide lasting results or just temporary relief?
- How did this year compare to previous seasons?

Action item: Walk your shoreline and take photos now. Document current conditions so you can track improvements next year.

#### 2. Eliminate Fall Nutrient Loading

Keep organic matter out of your lake:

- Rake and remove leaves from shoreline areas and shallow water
- Don't burn brush or leaves near the lake—ash contains high phosphorus levels
- Stop fertilizing within 400 feet of your waterline immediately
- Clean up any remaining lawn clippings around your property

Pro tip: If your lake water is clear enough, use it to water your lawn instead of fertilizing. You'll remove nutrients from the lake while nourishing your grass naturally.

#### 3. Create Natural Nutrient Filters

Transform your property from a pollution source into a water quality solution:

- Install shoreline buffers: Plant native vegetation between your lawn and the lake to filter runoff
- Build rain gardens: Create natural depressions that capture and filter stormwater
- Replace hard seawalls: Switch concrete or steel walls for natural rock (riprap) that supports beneficial bacteria growth
- Establish perched beaches: Raise sandy areas above the high-water mark to prevent erosion

#### 4. Address Hidden Problem Sources

- Septic system maintenance: Schedule your annual inspection and pumping now, before winter weather hits
- Roof and driveway runoff: Install gutters and downspouts that direct water away from the lake
- Erosion hot spots: Identify and stabilize areas where soil washes directly into your lake



Fall perfectly reflected on the lake.

Photo from the article

# 

#### KINGSTON

RIDE BIKES have fun FEEL GOOD

#### 5. Plan Your Spring Strategy Now

Don't wait until March to think about next year's lake management:

- Test your soil to determine exactly what nutrients (if any) your lawn actually needs
- Research sustainable solutions like aeration and biological treatment that address root causes instead of just symptoms
- Connect with neighbours who share your vision for better water quality—lake health is a community

#### The Truth About Quick Fixes

Here's what most lake management companies won't tell you: chemical treatments that kill weeds and algae often make the underlying problem worse. When herbicides and algaecides kill aquatic plants, that dead material sinks to the bottom and decomposes, releasing even more nutrients to fuel future growth.

#### A Better Approach: Working with Nature

The healthiest lakes use natural processes to maintain water quality. This means:

- · Aeration systems that maintain oxygen levels and support beneficial bacteria
- Biological treatments that consume excess nutrients instead of just killing plants
- Watershed management that prevents pollution from entering the lake in the first place



These approaches create lasting improvements that get better each year instead of requiring increasingly aggressive interventions.

#### Your Lake's Future Starts This Fall

The steps you take this autumn will ripple through your lake's ecosystem for months to come. Every leaf you remove, every buffer strip you plant, and every nutrient source you eliminate is an investment in clearer water, healthier fish populations, and more enjoyable swimming next summer.

Don't let another year pass watching your lake's condition decline while throwing money at temporary solutions. This fall, join the growing number of lake communities choosing sustainable approaches that work with nature instead of against it.



It is important to test your soil to determine what nutrients it needs.

Photo from Freepik.com Retrieved from:

https://everbluelakes.com/2025/09/02/fall-lake-maintenance-5-essential-steps-for-lakefront-property-owner



#### **ENJOY YOUR PROPERTY PEST FREE**

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Suzanne Bailey, Kevin Borges, Ian Kilborn, Kasia Kindrat, Scott Lillis, Kathy McDonald & Don Young



# LASAGNA DINNER

GLUTEN FREE, MEAT OR VEGETARIAN OPTION

# & GAMES NIGHT

JOIN US FOR A FUN-FILLED EVENING!

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2025

6 PM - 11 PM

\$25 per person for BLA members \$30 per person for non-BLA members

Please register using <u>this form</u>.

Send payment via e-transfer to <u>BuckLakeAssoc@gmail.com</u>

and don't forget to add your name!

Sign-up by November 5th to secure your spot!



Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 542 10099 Highway 10, Westport, ON KOG 1XO





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## YOUR FALL HOME MAINTENANCE GUIDE: A HOMEOWNER'S CHECKLIST

#### BY ROYAL LEPAGE YOUR COMMUNITY REALTY

In Canada, fall isn't just a season of colourful leaves and cozy sweaters - it's the crucial window between summer and winter when homeowners prepare their properties for the months ahead.

With Canadian winters bringing snow, ice, and freezing temperatures, the steps you take in September, October, and November can save you thousands in repair costs, keep your family safe, and even increase your home's resale value.

Whether you're a homeowner planning to stay put, preparing to sell your property, or a buyer eager to protect your investment, this comprehensive fall home maintenance guide will walk you through everything you need to do, indoors and out.

Why Fall Maintenance Matters in Canada

- **Prevent costly winter damage**: Frozen pipes, ice dams, and roof leaks are far more expensive to fix in February than to prevent in October.
- Energy efficiency: A well-sealed and serviced home saves money on heating bills (a big factor during Canadian winters).
- Safety first: From chimney cleaning to checking smoke detectors, fall is when you address issues that could become serious hazards.
- **Boosting resale value**: Homes that are well-maintained show better to buyers and appraisers, reflecting pride of ownership.

Think of fall maintenance as your insurance policy - an upfront investment of time and effort that pays dividends in comfort, safety, and savings.



A sure sign of fall! This year the leaves came a little early due to the dry summer.

Photo from the article.

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Sandy Pines Wildlife Centre is one of three CVO accredited wildlife hospitals in Ontario with veterinary care including in house x-rays and surgery.



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#### The Fall Home Maintenance Checklist

#### 1. Exterior Care

Your home's exterior takes the brunt of Canadian winters. A little fall prep goes a long way.

#### Clean Gutters and Downspouts

- Why: Leaves, pine needles, and debris can block water flow, leading to ice dams, leaks, and foundation damage.
- Pro Tip: Use a gutter scoop or hire a professional for two cleanings one in early fall, again after most leaves drop.

#### Inspect Roof and Shingles

- Why: A loose shingle in October can become a leak in January.
- How: Check for missing, curled, or cracked shingles. Look for flashing damage around chimneys and vents.
- Pro Tip: Use binoculars for safety or hire a roofer for a fall inspection.

#### Seal Gaps and Cracks

- Why: Cold air (and critters) sneak into even the smallest openings.
- Where: Around windows, doors, siding seams, and utility pipes.
- Materials: Exterior-grade caulk or expanding spray foam.

#### Protect Exterior Woodwork

- Why: Decks, fences, and railings suffer from snow and ice.
- How: Apply a weatherproof sealant or stain before the first freeze.

#### Check Driveways and Walkways

- Why: Small cracks become major hazards when water freezes and expands.
- How: Seal cracks with filler, and ensure walkways are even to prevent slips.

#### 2. Yard & Garden Prep

#### Rake and Compost Leaves

- Why: A thick layer of leaves suffocates grass and invites pests.
- Pro Tip: Mulch leaves with a mower and use them as natural fertilizer.

#### Aerate and Fertilize Lawn

- Why: Prepares grass roots to survive winter and thrive in spring.
- How: Use a core aerator, then apply a fall fertilizer rich in potassium.

#### Trim Trees and Shrubs

- Why: Overhanging branches can snap under heavy snow, damaging roofs and power lines.
- How: Cut back dead limbs and keep branches
   3-6 feet away from your home.

#### Store Outdoor Furniture and Tools

- Why: Prolongs the life of patio furniture and prevents rust.
- Checklist: Clean and cover furniture, store garden hoses, drain and shut off exterior faucets.

#### Prepare Snow Equipment

- Why: The first snowfall in Ontario often catches homeowners by surprise.
- Checklist: Test your snowblower, stock up on salt or sand, and store shovels in an accessible spot.

#### 3. Interior Maintenance

#### Furnace and HVAC System

- Why: Heating accounts for over 60% of Canadian home energy use. A poorly maintained furnace is costly and unsafe.
- Steps:
  - Replace filters.
  - o Schedule a professional tune-up.
  - Check for carbon monoxide leaks.

#### Chimney and Fireplace

- Why: A cozy fire should never become a safety hazard. Creosote buildup causes chimney fires.
- Steps:
  - Hire a certified chimney sweep.
  - o Inspect damper for smooth operation.
  - Stock up on seasoned firewood.

#### Test Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors

- Why: Risk of fire and carbon monoxide exposure increases in winter.
- How: Test units monthly, replace batteries in fall, and replace units every 7–10 years.

#### Inspect Windows and Doors

- Why: Drafts can increase heating bills by up to 20%.
- How: Feel for cold spots, replace weatherstripping, and add draft stoppers.

#### Plumbing Prep

- Why: Frozen pipes are one of the costliest winter emergencies.
- Steps:
  - Insulate exposed pipes in basements and crawl
  - Disconnect garden hoses and drain outdoor faucets.
  - Consider heat tape for vulnerable pipes.

#### Attic and Basement Check

- Attic: Look for insulation gaps, leaks, or signs of pests.
- Basement: Check for moisture, cracks, or musty odors.

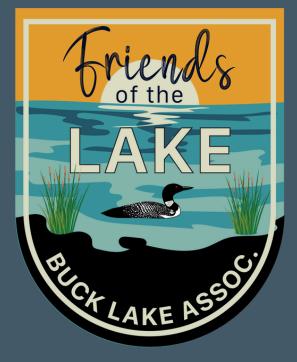
Article and image retrieved from: https://www.yourcommunityrealty.com/blog-article.cfm?id=27140





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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.

### PLANNING FOR OUR SHORELINES

Watersheds Canada and its program steering committee are leading the path towards an ecosystem-based approach to land use management for waterfront property owners, municipal staff, elected officials, and everyone who cares about decisions affecting the future enjoyment of our waterways. This program is a growing information hub where the science of natural climate solutions is explained in plain language, practical best management toolkits are created and shared, and education and outreach support on the numerous benefits of shoreland restoration is provided.

https://watersheds.ca/our-work/habitat-programs/

## NATURE DISCOVERY PROGRAMMING

This curriculum linked programming was created to decrease financial, geographic, experiential, and knowledge-based barriers for the next generation to participate in community science, species identification, and environmental stewardship. Nature is for everyone, at all learning levels! Discover videos, lesson plans, and handouts to help your family or classroom identify local species, explore and connect with nature, learn about water quality, and lead stewardship projects.

https://watersheds.ca/our-work/nature-discovery-programming/

## A LANDOWNER'S GUIDE TO INVASIVE GROUND COVERS

Common invasive ground covers (periwinkle, English ivy and goutweed) are found throughout various areas of North America. Native to Europe and Asia, these ground covers were introduced to North America as ornamental plants. As invasive ground covers, these species thrive in disturbed areas and prefer shady or semi-shady areas. They commonly grow in rich, moist soils and can be found along roadsides and forest edges.

#### **Impacts of Invasive Ground Covers**

- Create dense carpets of vegetation that limit the amount of sunlight available to other species, affecting overall plant diversity.
- Persist and spread vegetatively as well as through underground stems and roots.
- Plants are shade tolerant and once established, are highly competitive.
- Periwinkle leaves are toxic to most grazers and seeds are too small for birds to consume.
- English ivy climbs on other plants and objects in its area

#### What You Can Do

- Learn how to properly identify invasive ground covers and how to effectively manage invasive plants on your property.
- Avoid using invasive plants in gardens and landscaping.
- Purchase native or non-invasive plants. Grow Me Instead: Beautiful Non-Invasive Plants for Your Garden.
- Do not dispose of invasive plants in the compost pile discard them in the regular garbage.
- If you invasive ground covers or other invasive species in the wild, please contact the Invading Species Hotline at 1-800-563-7711, or visit EDDMapS to report a sighting.





English Ivy



Images and Information retrieved from: https://www.invadingspecies.com/invaders/





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A progressive and vibrant rural community.

### **TOWNSHIP NOTICES**

- Effective 9:00 am on October 31, 2025, South Frontenac's Fire Chief, Del Blakney, has lifted the Level One Fire Ban that has been in place since August 29.
- On Remembrance Day, we must take the time, at a memorial or privately, to honour the extraordinary contributions of the men and women who sacrificed their lives to protect Canada's freedoms and values. Municipal offices closed on November 11 from 10:00 am 12:00 pm.
- South Frontenac Township has started to prepare their 2026 budget and is asking residents to take a <u>short survey</u> to share their input. Survey closes November 21, 2025.
- Mayor Vandewal and Members of Council will welcome South Frontenac volunteers to their annual <u>Volunteer Appreciation</u> <u>Luncheon</u> on Saturday, November 15, 2025.





# Gord McDiarmid Barrister, Solicitor

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## **KIDS CORNER**

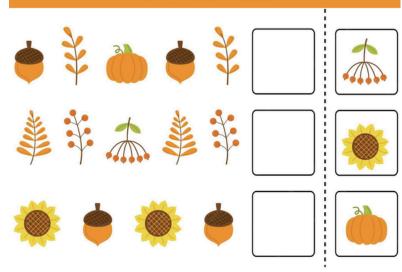




ASH BIRCH ASPEN CHESTNUT

ELM OAK MAPLE WILLOW

#### WHAT COMES NEXT?



#### NAME THAT BIRD!

Can you identify the species of bird that was photographed here on Buck Lake?

The answer and information about the species will be provided on our website - under the Kid's Corner tab.

