

BUCK LAKE NEWS

MAY 2026

PREPARING FOR SPRING

As we look out over Buck Lake this year, the long-awaited transition has finally arrived—the ice has gone out, marking a clear shift into spring.

Just days ago, winter still seemed to be holding on, but the change came quickly. Now, open water stretches across the lake, and with it comes that unmistakable sense of renewal. It's been a unique season, with its share of ups and downs, reminding us just how unpredictable this time of year can be.

With the ice now behind us, the signs of spring feel even more present—longer days, returning birds, and the energy of everything beginning to come back to life. There's a renewed excitement in the air as we look ahead to warmer days at the lake.

This transition always feels a little special. It's a time to shift gears, to reconnect with the outdoors in new ways, and to enjoy the beauty of Buck Lake as it wakes up for the season ahead.

As always, we look forward to reconnecting as a community—sharing stories, supporting one another, and taking care of the place we're lucky to call our own.

Here's to open water, the arrival of spring, and the many moments ahead at the lake.

Warmly,
The Buck Lake Association

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



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5 WAYS TO PROTECT BUCK LAKE THIS SUMMER

BY THE BUCK LAKE ASSOCIATION

As another summer season begins at Buck Lake, many of us are looking forward to long days on the water, time with family and friends, and everything that makes lake life so special. Along with that enjoyment comes a shared responsibility. The health of Buck Lake depends on the everyday choices we all make.

Here are five simple but important ways we can all help protect the lake this summer:

Keep It Natural Along the Shoreline

A natural shoreline is one of the best ways to protect water quality. Native plants and trees help prevent erosion, filter runoff, and provide important habitat for wildlife.

While it may be tempting to clear vegetation for a better view, keeping (or restoring) a natural buffer along the shoreline makes a big difference. Even small changes—like planting native species or letting sections grow naturally—can have a positive impact.

Be Mindful of What Goes Into the Water

Everything that enters the lake—whether directly or through runoff—affects water quality. Avoid using fertilizers and pesticides near the shoreline, as these can contribute to algae growth and harm aquatic life.

When washing boats or equipment, use environmentally friendly products and keep soapy water away from the lake.

Take Care of Your Septic System

A well-maintained septic system is essential for protecting the lake. Regular inspections and pumping help prevent leaks that can introduce excess nutrients into the water.

If your system is older, it may be worth considering an upgrade. Small steps now can prevent bigger issues later—for both your property and the lake as a whole.

Prevent the Spread of Invasive Species

Invasive species like zebra mussels can have lasting impacts on lake ecosystems. Help prevent their spread by cleaning, draining, and drying boats, trailers, and gear before entering or leaving the lake

If you notice anything unusual in the water, reporting it early can make a big difference.

Be a Thoughtful Lake User

Whether you're boating, swimming, or enjoying time on the shoreline, being mindful of others and the environment helps keep Buck Lake a place everyone can enjoy.

Reduce wake near shorelines to prevent erosion, respect wildlife habitats, and follow local guidelines to ensure safe and responsible use of the lake.

A Shared Responsibility

Protecting Buck Lake isn't about one big action—it's about many small choices made consistently by a caring community. By working together, we can help ensure that the lake remains healthy, beautiful, and vibrant for years to come.

Here's to a safe, enjoyable, and environmentally responsible summer at Buck Lake.



Let's work together to continue enjoying the beauty of our lake.

Photo by Scott Lillis

This article was prepared by the BLA and is informed by resources from:

FOCA: <https://foca.on.ca>

Ontario MECP: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/ministry-environment-conservation-parks>

RVCA: <https://www.rvca.ca>

Invasive Species Centre: <https://www.invasivespeciescentre.ca>





Spring Social



Saturday, May 23, 2026
1:00pm to 3:00pm
Hidden Valley Campground
1021 Hidden Valley Lane



featuring **Craig Jones & The Alternative Facts**

SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 2026





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FROM ICE TO OPEN WATER: WHAT TO WATCH FOR THIS SPRING

BY SCOTT LILLIS

As we look out over Buck Lake in these early days of the season, we find ourselves in a familiar—but always fascinating—transition. The lake has now shed its winter coat of ice, and the signs of spring are no longer subtle—they are all around us. Longer days, brighter sunshine, and fluctuating temperatures remind us that the new season is fully underway.

This time of year remains one of the most dynamic periods for the lake. In just a matter of days, we've seen a complete transformation—from solid ice to open water. As conditions continue to shift, it's important to remain mindful along shorelines and around docks, where water levels, currents, and cold temperatures can still present hazards.

Beyond safety, this is also a season of observation and renewal. As snow continues to melt, you may notice increased water flow into the lake from surrounding areas. Small streams reappear, ditches begin to run, and the ground gradually softens. Along the shoreline, the lake feels alive again, with gentle movement and the return of open water.

Wildlife offers some of the clearest signs that spring has arrived. Birds are returning in greater numbers, their calls growing louder and more frequent with each passing day. Waterfowl are now exploring the open lake, and familiar sounds of the season are beginning to fill the air once again. These small but meaningful moments remind us that the lake ecosystem is reawakening.

For many, this time of year brings a mix of emotions. There's still an appreciation for the quiet beauty of winter—snow-covered landscapes, crisp air, and the stillness that once covered the lake—paired with a growing excitement for everything that spring and summer will bring. Soon, docks will go back in, boats will return to the water, and the familiar rhythms of lake life will resume.

Until then, this transition period offers a unique opportunity to slow down and take it all in. Whether you're enjoying a walk along the shoreline, watching the water ripple in the spring breeze, or simply soaking up a sunny afternoon, there is something special about witnessing the lake come back to life.

With the ice now gone, a new season at Buck Lake has officially begun—and we look forward to all that it will bring.

HOW YOU CAN HELP SOLVE THE MONARCH BUTTERFLY MIGRATION MYSTERY

BY CBC NEWS

Monarch butterflies are the only known butterfly to embark on an epic two-way migration. But much of that migration is a mystery. Project Monarch has attached individual transmitters to 160 butterflies and, with the help of their new app, anyone can help track exactly where and when these butterflies migrate.

For more information check out the article here:
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/world/monarch-butterfly-mexico-migration-tracking-smartphone-9.7126224>

and watch the video by CBC News here:
<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/9.7141277>

The Buck Lake Association Board of Directors 2026

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Sharon Ledwell

Vice President:

Bill Wylie

Recording Secretary:

Lorelei Rosa

Treasurer:

Rob McLean

Directors at Large:

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





WEAR YOUR LIFEJACKET

CSBC's

5

STEPS to Safe Boating



BOAT SOBER



TAKE A BOATING COURSE



BE PREPARED — YOU AND YOUR VESSEL



BE COLD WATER SAFE





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WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT RADON IN YOUR HOME

BY THE BUCK LAKE ASSOCIATION

Many of us spend as much time indoors at the lake as we do outdoors—especially during cooler months. While we often think about water quality and shoreline health, there's another invisible factor worth paying attention to: radon.

Radon is a naturally occurring gas that comes from the breakdown of uranium in soil and rock. It can enter homes through cracks in foundations, gaps around pipes, and other small openings. Because it is colourless, odourless, and tasteless, the only way to know if it's present is to test for it.

Why Radon Matters

Radon exposure is the leading cause of lung cancer after smoking in Canada, responsible for an estimated 16% of lung cancer deaths.

The risk comes from breathing in radon gas over time, particularly in enclosed spaces like basements or lower levels of homes.

Radon and Rural / Lake Properties

Radon is found in homes across Canada, but levels can vary significantly depending on location and building characteristics.

Homes with:

- Basements
- Direct contact with soil
- Private wells

may have a higher likelihood of elevated radon levels.

This means cottages and lake homes—especially those used year-round—should not assume they are risk-free.

Testing Is Simple—and Important

The only way to know your radon level is to test.

Health experts recommend:

- Long-term testing (at least 3 months) during the heating season
- Testing in the lowest lived-in level of your home

Across Canada, about 1 in 5 homes exceed the recommended guideline level, so testing is strongly encouraged.

What If Levels Are High?

The good news is that radon problems can be fixed.

Common solutions include:

- Improving ventilation
- Sealing foundation cracks
- Installing a radon mitigation system

These systems are often effective and can significantly reduce radon levels in a home.

**Monday Morning
Buck Lake Golf**

Contact
BuckLakeGolf@gmail.com
to join/learn more

May
04 - Rideau Lakes
11 - Evergreen
18 - Rideau Lakes
25 - Evergreen

June
01 - Rideau Lakes
08 - Evergreen
15 - Rideau Lakes
22 - Evergreen
29 - Rideau Lakes

Evergreen Golf Course: 463 Wolfe Lake Rd, Westport, ON
Rideau Lakes Golf & Country Club: 326 Sunnyside Rd, Westport, ON

Buck Lake
Community Directory

We will be sharing an updated version soon.
Be sure to contact us at BuckLakeAssoc@gmail.com
to make sure you're in it!

A Simple Step for Peace of Mind

Radon is one of those issues that's easy to overlook—but also relatively easy to address once you're aware of it.

Taking the time to test your home is a simple step that can help protect your health and the well-being of your family.

A Healthy Home, A Healthy Lake Community

Caring for Buck Lake isn't just about the water—it's also about the health and safety of the people who live here.

By staying informed and taking small, proactive steps, we can continue to build a strong, healthy community both indoors and out.

This article was prepared by the BLAssociation and is informed by:
<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/health-risks-safety/radiation/radon.html>
<https://www.ontario.ca/page/radon-workplace>
<https://takeactiononradon.ca>





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

CLEAN DRAIN DRY

When we enjoy our favourite water activities, we can unintentionally help spread invasive aquatic plants, animals, and diseases. These hitchhikers latch onto boats, paddles, and fishing gear, spreading quickly and disrupting ecosystems.

Aquatic invasive species don't just harm wildlife—they impact fishing, recreation, and even local economies. Many communities, including Indigenous Nations who have stewarded these waters for generations, rely on clean, healthy lakes and rivers for food, cultural traditions, and livelihoods. Protecting these waters is a shared responsibility, and Clean Drain Dry is one of the easiest ways to help.

<https://www.invasivescanada.ca/get-involved/take-action-programs/clean-drain-dry/>

INVASIVE SPECIES - GOUTWEED OR GROUND ELDER

Goutweed is a perennial, herbaceous and terrestrial plant belonging to the Apiaceae family, and is native to northern Asia and Europe. European settlers first introduced goutweed into America during the mid-1800s. It has been naturalized and locally abundant in North America since the 1960s due to its appeal as an attractive garden ornamental. Aside from its aesthetic appeal, goutweed's popularity in gardening was mainly due to its low maintenance requirements, adaptability to various soil and light conditions, and its ability to grow and spread with little encouragement. Unfortunately, these characteristics, while advantageous in a contained garden environment, have led to its rapid spread as an invasive plant in natural ecosystems, outcompeting native species for resources and claiming habitats. Today, goutweed is regarded as one of the most problematic perennial garden species. Goutweed is not currently regulated under Ontario's Invasive Species Act, and is commonly sold in garden centers and nurseries. Various other common names exist for goutweed, including ground elder, bishop's goutweed, English masterwort, aise-weed, dog elder, and snow-on-the-mountain.

What You Can Do

Learn how to identify goutweed and how to differentiate it from common look-a-like species:

- Avoid using invasive plants in gardens and landscaping.
- Buy native or non-invasive plants from reputable garden suppliers. Native plants provide habitat and food sources for native wildlife. See [Grow Me Instead: Beautiful Non-Invasive Plants for Your Garden](#).
- Dispose of invasive plants in the garbage. Do not put them in the compost or discard them in natural areas. Discarded flowers may produce seeds.
- When hiking, prevent the spread of invasive plants by staying on trails and keeping pets on a leash.
- Try to avoid disturbing soil and never remove native plants from natural areas. This leaves the soil bare and vulnerable to invasive species.
- If you've seen goutweed or other invasive species in the wild, please contact the Invading Species Hotline at 1-800-563-7711 or visit [EDDMapS.org](#) to report a sighting.



Image of goutweed from the article

Retrieved from:

<https://www.invasivespeciescentre.ca/invasive-species/meet-the-species/invasive-plants/goutweed/>





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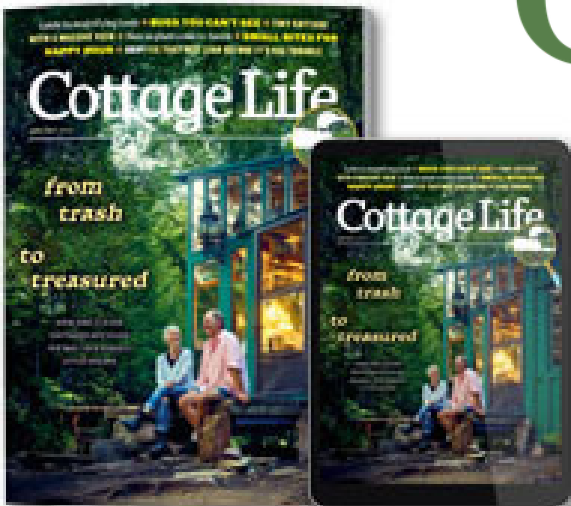
SOUTH FRONTENAC

A progressive and vibrant rural community.

TOWNSHIP NOTICES

- **Touch the Truck.** May 6th from 4pm to 7pm at The Point Park, Sydenham. Aligning with Emergency Preparedness (EP) Week, which takes place the first full week of May, Touch the Truck features many activities focused on what families can do to plan for different emergencies. Of course, there are lots of big trucks and equipment to explore, with South Frontenac's Public Services, South Frontenac Fire and Rescue, Frontenac OPP, and Frontenac Paramedics all participating in the event. Rain date: May 7th.
- **Summer Kickoff Music Festival.** May 23rd from 2pm to 9pm at Centennial Park, Harrowsmith. Join us for some live, local music at the Summer Kickoff Music Festival! The event is a true celebration of local talent and artistry, bringing together masters of their craft in the music, food, and drink industries here in South Frontenac. Admission is free, but donations are gratefully accepted at the gate with proceeds going towards the next event.
- **2026 Road and Bridge Construction Projects.** The 2026 construction season has begun in South Frontenac. We've updated our Road Closures and Construction page with details on the main road construction projects planned this summer including maps of where the work will take place.
- **Joint Statement: Mayors of Kingston and South Frontenac, and Save South Frontenac.** Mayor Ron Vandewal, Mayor Bryan Paterson of the City of Kingston, and Save South Frontenac hosted a joint media conference on Monday, March 9, 2026, to outline a unified regional position on the proposed Alto rail project. Decisions about major infrastructure will shape our region for generations.
- **Brass Point Bridge Rehabilitation Update.** Parks Canada will begin the full replacement of Brass Point Bridge in Seeley's Bay in summer 2026, with reopening expected in early 2028. This project will replace both the historic swing and fixed bridges, upgrade roadway infrastructure, and ensure the long-term safety and functionality of this key crossing on the Rideau Canal National Historic Site.

Cottage Life



When you become a member of the Buck Lake Association, you're helping protect our lake, support community programs, and keep cottage life thriving for years to come.

Did you know Cottage Life offers cottage owners a complimentary 3 issue subscription to Cottage Life magazine? That's expert tips, inspiring cottage stories, and plenty of ideas to make the most of your time at the lake — delivered right to your door (or screen)!

Click [here](#) to learn more!



FIRE SAFETY AWARENESS PRESENTATION FOR COTTAGE AND LAKE ASSOCIATIONS



Saturday, May 9, 2026



Presentations: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Equipment: 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm



Storrington Centre

3910 Battersea Road, South Frontenac



4 ESTEEMED PRESENTERS:

SOUTH FRONTENAC FIRE CHIEF DEL BLAKNEY

- Open Air Burning
- What3Words
- Responsibilities of cottage owners and persons who have rental properties
- General cottage fire safety
- See some of our firefighting equipment.

SOUTH FRONTENAC CLERK AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR

- FireSmart – how to protect cottages and residents from wildfires
- Emergency Preparedness

M&L SUPPLY FIRE & SAFETY, RICK BROWNING

- Equipment displays for purchasing fire pumps and sprinkler systems to protect cottages and residences from wildfire

MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES, AVIATION, FOREST FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICE

- Dangers of Drones during Wildfires
- Provincial Fire Permit Requirements
- Clearing the Lake for Water Bombers
- FireSmart

Please RSVP indicating organization and number of persons attending by 4 pm May 7, 2026 via the link: <https://bit.ly/4tJ5Tmo>



How many?

5

Find one of a kind

Complete the series

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.

