



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 – June 2017

History of the Buck Lake Boatilla

Submitted by Duncan Sinclair

The Buck Lake community can be justifiably proud of many aspects of living in our little piece of paradise in South Frontenac Township. One such aspect is the annual Boatilla that sends physically disabled children to Camp Merrywood, a specially equipped summer camp on the Big Rideau operated by Easter Seals. There these 'Sent to Camp' kids get to enjoy for ten days what we Buck Lakers enjoy throughout the whole summer or, some of us, year-round.

Ironically, the Buck Lake Boatilla traces its origins back to an outbreak of petty crime in the 1990s. In response to a rash of break-ins, theft of gas tanks from boats, and the like, some 'take charge' members of the community formed a Neighbourhood Watch and recruited others to conduct regular patrols and keep their eyes open for trouble. The crimes stopped when the U.S.¹ left Buck Lake. It was not long before the organizers, Rick, Ron, Boyd, Steve, and Roscoe, decided the Watch was no longer necessary. Rather than disbanding, they cast around for another useful purpose for the organization. They decided on supporting Easter Seals' Camp Merrywood and created the slogan "Send a Kid to Camp". That was in 2005, the start of the Buck Lake Boatilla.

That first year was both hilarious and a bit scary. It was before the Boatilla Committee got the idea and Randy Ruttan and his campers agreed to have the participating boaters and others assemble for a barbecue at the Hidden Valley campground at the end of the parade of boats. The plan on that first day was for the boats to assemble at the culvert, parade around Pulpit and Buck Islands, and re-assemble in a sort of 'floatilla' in Christmas Bay. There was no advance canvas for funds; instead the suggestion was that people would donate \$5.00 for every person on their boat, the collection being done by Ross Trudel being driven from boat to boat. It was a great plan, but it didn't allow for the strong wind and high waves that day that made the 'floatilla' part impossible and produced any number of near dunkings as Roscoe precariously attempted to do his collections without ramming anybody. It was quite a show, but a successful one that raised \$3,750, enough to send nearly two kids to Camp Merrywood; the goal had been funding enough for one. In those days it cost \$2,000 per child; more recently the cost has increased to \$2,500.

¹ Usual suspect. His leaving was said to be the consequence of his becoming a guest of Corrections Canada.

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The high cost is due to the need for a very high staff to camper ratio combined with the Camp's having comprehensive health care services on site to keep the children safe and also with the specialized equipment needed for them to overcome the limits of their physical disabilities.

Each year since 2005, the Boatilla has grown both as a charitable and a community event. Thanks to Randy Ruttan and the campers, many of whom participate actively, that first frustrated 'flotilla' in Christmas Bay was replaced shortly thereafter by a community barbecue at the Hidden Valley campground. The campers, largely from the United States, are not only generous contributors to Camp Merrywood, they share their space with the Boatilla participants, and some do the cooking as well as sharing in the fun.

Another great innovation adopted early on was to invite past and potential campers to the barbecue and, more recently, for Buck Lakers with big pontoon boats to provide them with rides in the Boatilla itself. Sometimes it has been quite a challenge to get those big battery-powered wheelchairs safely maneuvered onto the decks of pontoon boats but the resulting delighted smiles on the faces of the children and their parents have been well worth the effort.

Another more recent innovation has been live music at the wind-up BBQ. This has been provided by Caz' band, a father associated with the Kingston Symphony Orchestra and his two daughters. A feature number in the last two years has been an original song written and sung by Kiera, a Merrywood camper, who has come with her parents several times to the Boatilla. Another speaks well for the future. About four years ago, some children from Hidden Valley spontaneously showed up with a little plastic cash register and put on a bake sale, all proceeds (over \$300) going to the Boatilla. It was a surprise to everyone except, of course, their parents who no doubt furnished encouragement, cooking skills, and the baked goods' ingredients. In the same spirit of giving, other children on Buck Lake have put on a book sale and offered lemonade from a dock in the narrows with the proceeds earmarked for various causes, including cancer research.

The Boatilla's contributions to the Buck Lake community are hard to measure. It certainly contributes substantially to our community's pride, its identity, and to the pleasure its seasonal and full-time members derive from their participation in it. Its contribution to Easter Seals is relatively easily measured in terms of the money raised for Camp Merrywood. Its contribution to physically challenged children is partially counted by the number of kids sent to camp. Getting

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measures of what going to camp means to those children, their enjoyment, development, self-assurance, and the respite provided to their parents is significant but not easily measured. The measurable results, so far are:

Year	\$ Raised	Kids to Camp
2005	3,700	1.9
2006	5,450	2.7
2007	7,129	3.6
2008	9,057	4.5
2009	11,116	5.6
2010	13,360	6.7
2011	16,000	8.0
2012	20,120	10.0
2013	22,120	11.1
2014	27,004	10.8
2015	26,835	10.7
2016	28,143	11.3
2017	????	????



Boatilla 2007

Apart from the first year and the 10th Anniversary when it sought to “Send Ten in Ten”, the Boatilla has never set a fund-raising target. The first principle has been that each donation depends entirely on each donor’s prosperity, whether his or her donation is easily accommodated or difficult. All donations matter and are welcome, small and large; it’s the spirit that counts. The second principle is that 100% of the donations go to Easter Seals and Camp Merrywood; the Boatilla incurs no administrative costs.

The 2017 Boatilla will be the 13th annual. Cumulatively (including the anticipated donations this year) our community, through the Buck Lake Boatilla, will have raised over \$200,000 over its 13 years, enough money to send to camp around 100 kids who would not otherwise have been able to have this great experience. That’s something of which to be really proud!

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PLEASE DON'T FEED THE BEARS!

This photo was taken at the end of the Massassauga Road in early June and is a heads up to all of us living on Buck Lake. A bear has been using these garbage bins as a snack bar. To reduce the risks and in consideration of your neighbours, please act responsibly:

- **Make sure your latch clip is on the bin at all times.**
- **Clean your cans and jars before recycling.**
- **Don't leave garbage outside the bin.**
- **If you leave after the weekend and before your pick up day, take your garbage home with you. This applies to visitors and renters, too.**
- **If you are renting out your cottage leave garbage and recycling information and tags for your renters.**

If you see the bear, please report to the Ontario Bear Wise line 866 – 514 – 2327. In an emergency, call 911.

For more information check out: bucklake.ca/friends/BearInfoFromOntarioGovt.pdf

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Boat Right – Be Polite

Tubing, wake boarding and water skiing are popular summer activities on Buck Lake, and while they can provide immense enjoyment for those participating, they can also be a source of great annoyance for some of your friends and neighbours around the lake. This is especially true on a small lake like Buck Lake, where in many areas it is difficult to get very far from shore.



Boat Right – Be Polite is the slogan of a boater education program developed by the Lake of Bays Association after conducting a recreational boating survey, which found that five activities - water skiing, tubing, wakeboarding and operating personal watercraft or noisy boats cause particular problems for other people enjoying the lake. This article is taken from their [pamphlet](#) and outlines some guidelines to help reduce the impact of those activities your friends and neighbours.

Boat Right:

- Towboats must have an operator, a spotter and a seat for each person being towed.
- Do not tow before sunrise or one hour after sunset.
- Remember, the speed limit is **10 kilometres per hour within 30 metres of shore.**
- Those towed must wear an approved personal flotation device.
- Know and obey the right-of-way rules.
- You can take off from shore at speed provided you drive **straight** out from shore.

Be Polite:

- Keep well beyond the 30 metre limit to avoid swimmers and boaters near shore.
- Don't swing your riders in front of other people's docks. Drop them outside the 30 metre limit or come in and out perpendicular to your dock.
- Avoid multiple runs in the same area. Vary your route to share the pain.
- Keep a safe distance from other towboats, which stop and turn unpredictably.
- Don't tow around canoes, kayaks, sailboats or small outboards. They may cross your rider's path, and your wake can capsize them.
- Concentrate! Most boating incidents are caused by operators not paying attention.

More Considerations for Wake Boarding

- Boats designed for wake boarding can create much bigger wake than other boats on the lake. Guidelines indicate that you should try to keep at least **300 metres** off shore. Your



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wake can damage docks, moored boats, the shoreline, and wildlife habitat. The 30 metre limit is not enough for your wake to dissipate. Realistically, however, there is almost nowhere on Buck Lake that is **300 metres** from all shorelines – meaning this limit is not really feasible on our lake. Even so, please try to use areas where you can keep as far from shore as possible.

- Repeated runs in front of the same cottages are profoundly annoying because of swells and noise. Vary your route frequently.

The mission of the Buck Lake Association is: To enhance people's enjoyment of Buck Lake now and for future generations. Please try to be considerate so that your enjoyment of Buck Lake is not spoiling it for others.

The Kasaboski Trio Returns to the Buck Lake Boatilla

Submitted by Crawford MacIntyre

We are pleased to announce that the Kasaboski Trio will be returning to the Boatilla again this year.

Performing timeless songs from the likes of The Beatles and Patsy Cline to modern day hits from Nora Jones and Carrie Underwood, the members of the Kasaboski Trio close their generational gap through music. This family band consists of Dan, Paige, and Michelle Kasaboski – a father and his two twin daughters – all professional musicians in their own rights, who come together to share their passion for music with others.



Growing up in the Kasaboski household there was always music. Dan is a multi-instrumentalist who started learning guitar with his own father as a young boy and has played in several bands since his teen years. He plays lead guitar and the mandolin for the band, as well as provides lead and backing vocals. Paige and Michelle started singing in church choirs at a young age and continued to perform music over the years in school productions and concert bands. Paige, who recently moved back from Toronto where she was studying music, provides lead and backing vocals for the group, as well as plays percussion, guitar and piano. Michelle, a classically trained singer, has performed as a solo act and with jazz groups throughout Kingston and the surrounding areas. Michelle provides lead and backing vocals for the Trio, as well as guitar on a few tunes.

From country and jazz to rock and pop, The Kasaboski Trio always looks forward to bringing great music and good times wherever they go!

For more information, please contact Paige at paige.kasaboski@gmail.com.

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Meet the Donna and Mark from your BLA Board

This month, we highlight 2 more long serving members of the board, Donna Neumann and Mark Nicol. Donna has been on the board for 5 years and has been the driving force behind many new initiatives including the calendars and the amazingly successful Murder Mystery dinners. Mark has served on the board for 4 years and as president for the past 3 years. Due to personal commitments that will keep him away from the lake, Mark has decided to step down from the board following the AGM at the end of June. We all wish to thank you, Mark, for your service and will miss your organizing and leadership during our meetings.

Donna Neumann

Donna and her partner, Dave Pruner, bought property on the North Branch of Buck Lake for their dream cottage. It wasn't long (even before the house was built) that they realized this was HOME and sold their home in Kingston to live permanently on the Lake.



Both Donna and Dave retired from the Limestone District School Board, Donna as an Attendance Counselor and Dave as an Elementary School Principal.

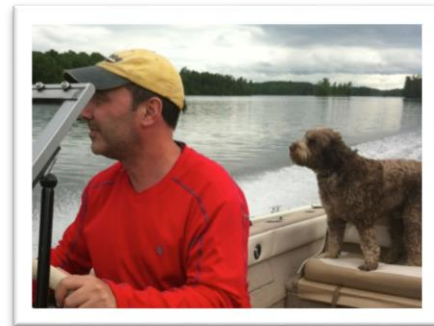
Between them they are blessed with 4 children: Darren (Yolanda), Jason (Nicole), Donna (Pat) and Dana (Angie), 9 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

Donna has been involved with the Buck Lake Association for 6 years and enjoys being involved in the Lake and its many activities.

Life is good at the Lake!

Mark Nicol

Life on Buck Lake has truly been a wonderful escape for Mark who works in the pharmaceutical industry. Often you can see Mark and his dog Siegfried (“Ziggy”) canoeing, boating, hiking or just appreciating everything the lake has to offer during the summer and winter months. Mark built a cottage 9 years ago on Buck Lake and considers it his second home. Although Mark still lives in Oshawa, he cherishes the time at the cottage socializing with family, friends and the Buck Lake community!



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Upcoming Events

Saturday June 24th 9am – **Buck Lake Association Annual General Meeting**
Perth Road Sunday School Hall

Sunday July 2nd 2pm – **Buck Lake Boatilla**
Boats meet at the culvert (South Branch) 2:00pm
Kayaks and canoes meet at 1077 Roost Lane at 1:30pm. Just follow the signs for parking
BBQ and cheques presentation to follow at Hidden Valley Campground

Sunday August 27th – **Buck Lake Picnic/Pork Roast** **** Note the date change ****
Hidden Valley Campground
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Watch for more details in upcoming newsletters

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