



The Buck Lake Association Inc.

P.O. Box 1753, Stn Main, Kingston, ON K7L 5J6

www.bucklake.ca

email: info@bucklake.ca

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

Buck Lake News – 2008 August

Principal writer: Roy Mills

President's Message

International comparisons perennially rank Canadians as "weather obsessed". Apparently we think and talk more about the weather than people who live elsewhere. True or not, it is hard to be indifferent to the rain we are having. Can you remember a more soggy summer? I can't. Nor can I remember having such green grass at the end of July, nor as lush foliage or healthier looking trees in the woods, or flowers in the garden, or by the roadside. All that, coupled with lots of rainy days to read some of those books in the "I must find time to read" pile, have made it, for me, a wonderful summer so far. I hope it has been so for you too.

Congratulations to the Buck Lake Community Watch and all those who participated in and contributed so generously to the 4th Annual *Send a Kid to Camp Merriwood* Boatilla. Ron Matthey has just announced that a total of over \$9,000 was raised, enough, according to Easter Seals, to send four children to camp for 2 weeks and a fifth for 1 week. Take a well-deserved bow everybody!

Duncan Sinclair,
President

Annual General Meeting Report

The Annual General Meeting of the BLA was held on Saturday July 5th at Perth Road Public School and attended by approximately 70 members and guests including Mayor Gary Davison, Councilors Ron Vandewal and Allan McPhail from Loughborough District and Taro Alps, President of the Bob's and Crow Lakes Assoc. Our Guest Speaker was Gordon Rodgers of French Planning Services who outlined the lake planning process options currently being used by associations like the BLA across eastern Ontario.

Mayor Davison and the Councilors addressed issues such as the Official Plan Review currently underway and enforcement of the Township Building By-laws. Gord Rodger's presentation was followed up with an excellent presentation organized by the Friends of the Lake Committee on July 17th where MNR biologist Cam McCauley talked about the lake trout of our lake and what they tell us about the health of Buck Lake.

The official minutes of the AGM will be posted on at www.bucklake.ca in next few weeks for your information. The Board of Directors will meet on August 16th to establish an executive for the 2008-2009 year and a full report will be included in the September Newsletter.

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Membership Report

As of 08 July 29 paid up BLA memberships stand at 120 and past due memberships at 49. As a replay of past years, it appears there are some who have forgotten to pay and/or are not aware they have not paid the \$25 membership fee for 2008. They will receive a reminder soon.

Maximum Speed – Slow

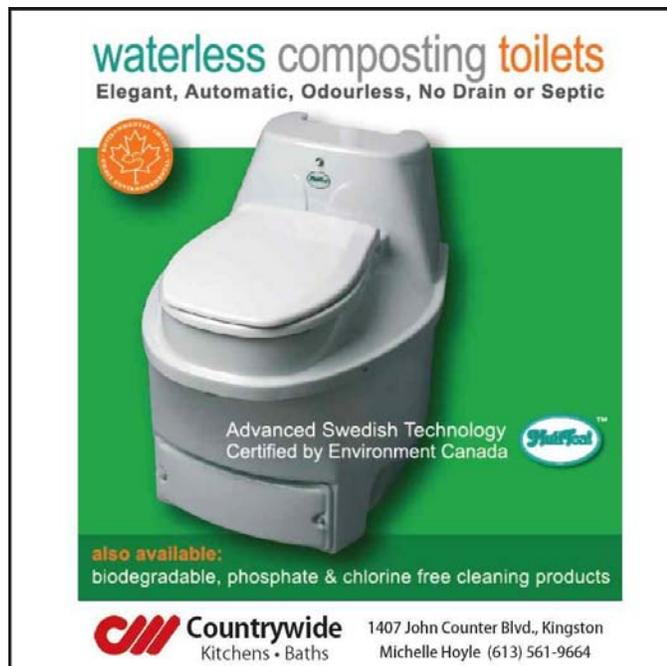
In the recent past, the BLA was instrumental in obtaining and distributing “speed reminder signs” which still can be seen around the lake. At the AGM a number of members asked if there were still signs available and if not where to obtain one. FOCA has signs available on its website however we took the opportunity to contact a Kingston printer who designed a sign to our specifications. We will have them available in the next week at a subsidized cost to members. The signs are 12” x 18” and made of 10 mil coroplast. Please contact us at info@bucklake if you are interested in purchasing a sign.

You and the Taxman

Over the last few years, we have included a number of items in the News about property taxation and realty issues affecting cottage/recreational properties in Ontario. With thanks to Director Stephen Roughton, we include some up-dated information that might be of interest to our members.

- Tim Cestnick writes a column for the Globe & Mail on a regular basis and has devoted a number of articles to the topic of cottage real estate and taxation. On his website there are currently 23 such links. His most recent column published on July 17th, is entitled “Selling your cottage or second home needn’t be so taxing”. Tim’s web address is www.timcestnick.com . On the home page click on Tax Articles and enter: cottage. Check it out for some interesting reading.
- The Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) has recently announced the establishment of a website called About My Property. The website tells you how you can access information about your property and how to register to do so.

Once registered, you will have access to information about your property and comparable properties free of charge. For residential properties, owners can access site information, recent sales information and structural information. In addition to your “property profile” you can also access up to 12 property profiles of comparable properties of your choice. To access the site go to http://www.ca/pages_english/products_services/aboutmyproperty.asp .



Official Plan Review-2008

Another on-going saga has been the South Frontenac Official Plan Review process that seems to have been going on forever. Council has reached the point where public consultation is required again. As we reported in our July Newsletter, the proposal being presented for consultation has one significant amendment from the draft prepared and recommended by the Planning Department of the Township. On June 17th, Council amended the draft by a 5/4 vote by proposing to re-setting the severance clock to 2008. This means that a current parcel of land which had already been severed three times under the 2002 guidelines could be eligible for three further severances in the next five years. Of course, the lots would have to comply with the criteria outlined in the OP as to minimum size, road/lake frontage etc. Re-setting the severance clock has a potential impact on undeveloped lakefront property and also continued strip development along the rural roads of South Frontenac. The Official Plan specifically focused on directing new residential development to designated areas of the Township to better provide services and encourage commercial development. As a lake community, our primary interest is the health and beauty of our lake. Planned growth is not only inevitable but necessary for our municipality.

In our opinion, the Official Plan currently in place and not amended by the re-setting of the "severance clock", provides for planned growth in a progressive and environmentally responsible way and should be supported as recommended by our Planning Department. Minor amendments will always be necessary from time to time but unlocking the severance door at this time is not a minor change and would result in a significant change to the focus of the Official Plan for our Township.

The power of influence is in the hands of our Storrington and Loughborough members. Three of the four Councilors in these two Districts voted for the severance amendment. Please express your views on the issue as soon as possible. Letters, phone calls, emails and personal contact are all recommended. Let your voice be heard.

For purposes of public consultation re the Official Plan Review, the Corporation of the Township of South Frontenac has announced a **Public Open House** for Wednesday August 13th, 2008. There will be two sessions: in the afternoon between 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. and in the evening between 7:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. at the Council Chambers 4432 George St. Sydenham, Ontario. Please plan to attend and express your views to our Councilors.

Gord McDiarmid

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Summer BBQ/Picnic at Buck Lake

Our Social/Outreach Committee is in the process of planning for the **Fourth Annual Summer Picnic**. The date will be **Saturday August 23rd at Harris Park in Perth Road Village**. The gates will open at 4:00 p.m. and food will be served at 5:30 p.m. The menu will include roast pork, hot dogs and some veggie burgers as well. Fill your plates with fresh salads, corn on the cob and dessert for the great price of \$8.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children 6 – 12. Children under 6 years of age are free.

Soft drinks and coffee will be available at minimum cost as well. Entertainment is planned and excellent weather has been ordered. Come early, bring friends and relatives and stay late. Spread the word and mark your calendar and don't forget to bring a lawn chair just in case the seats run out.

The "Rider Cup" Buck Lake Golf Tournament

- Sunday September 21st at Rideau Lakes Golf Club in Westport
- 1:15 p.m. shotgun tee time with dinner at 4:30 p.m.
- Nine hole scramble (best ball)...mixed teams preferred
- \$45.00 includes 9 holes of golf and a roast beef dinner
- All participants are asked to bring a prize in the \$15.00 range
- Raffle and Silent Auction for Charity...prizes sent to the organizers ahead of time would be appreciated
- Registration: Barry and Marilyn O'Connor 613 353-1708
Boyd and Janet Barr 613 353-7998
Saundra Rider 613 353-6051
Mike Flannigan and Anna Fummerton 613 353-1023
- Team entries can be emailed to occonnorb5@xplornet.com. Include names and phone numbers. Names and money should be to a contact by September 1st 2008. Registration is limited to 60 golfers so please register early and don't be left out of the fun.



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So You want to be on T.V.

Ottawa-based Mountain Road Productions is looking for **vacation properties** for a new half-hour television series in development for **HGTV** called: **Vacation Renovation**. If you or someone you know with a recreational property (cottage, cabin, chalet, hobby farm etc.) that could use a facelift is interested in more information, read on. You can contact the company at their email address casting@mountainroad.ca or check their website at www.mountainroad.ca. Your email subject line must be VR Property Submission. With your email submission you are asked to include photos of exterior and interior, photos of yourselves and a brief outline about the property and what it means to you (family significance, special features, location etc.).

Barbra Rose Perry
RMT

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Please Note: Only chosen submissions will be contacted and no photos will be returned. If chosen, some but not all of the renovation costs are covered. The Buck Lake Association was contacted and asked to forward this information to members. We do not recommend this opportunity but only inform members of the offer. Check out the website and remember to be informed consumers.

If It's Tuesday Morning, The Marine Patrol Must Be On The Lake

Oops, the OPP Marine Unit was on the lake on Saturday afternoon on July 19th. They usually visit when there are few boats on the lake so we were glad to see them on a weekend recently. They checked a number of watercraft including at least one kayak and went through the mandatory list with the occupant. She had her required gear including a whistle, floating tow- rope, life- jacket and paddle of course but she didn't have a flashlight or bailer. The officers issued the standard warning that all mandated equipment is required in all watercraft including kayaks and that fines range from \$300 to \$400. This news is presented without editorial comment...be safe on the lake and take the steps required to comply with the regulations that apply to us all.

Coming Events

- Friday August 15th - Perth Road United Church Fish Fry - 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Saturday August 23rd – Annual BLA Picnic/BBQ at Harris Park – Starting at 4:00 p.m.

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