



The Buck Lake Association Inc.

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

Buck Lake News – 2011 August

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

At our recent AGM the membership re-elected Peter Dawe, Anna Fummerton, Wayne Myles and Sandra Rider for a further two year term. Four new directors were elected in the persons of Terry Demers, Lynn Hendry, Jana Johnson and Grayden McClurg.

At the first meeting of the new Board on July 28th the following officers were elected by the Board:

President---Peter Dawe

Vice President---Crawford MacIntyre

Secretary-Treasurer---Grayden McClurg

Recording Secretary and Archivist---Terry Demers

Committees for the coming year will be served by the following directors:

Nominating Committee---Crawford MacIntyre, Peter Dawe, Anna Fummerton

Communications Committee---Grayden McClurg, Peter Dawe, Lynn Hendry, Jana Johnson

Membership Services Committee---Grayden McClurg, Jana Johnson, Crawford MacIntyre

Community Outreach/Social Committee---Sandra Rider, Anna Fummerton, Maureen McClellan

Friends of the Lake Committee---Wayne Myles, Crawford MacIntyre, Peter Dawe

Government Relations Committee---Crawford MacIntyre, Peter Dawe, Wayne Myles

Webmaster---Richard Linley

The History Committee was moved under the umbrella of The Friends of the Lake Committee.

The above positions will be posted on our BLA website, through which any director can be contacted.

Recognition and acknowledgments of the significant contributions by our retiring directors was made. Our thanks to: ---Nancy Daugulis, Roy Mills, Cheryl Savery, Tricia Waldron and Ralph Wirsig.

President's Message

As is our custom, I am required to say a few words as the incoming President of the BLA. It is also customary to remind all of us about what an incredibly wonderful resource we all share in our lake. So I won't get into that further.

I will, however, say I am happy to be a resident of Buck Lake. Reine and I enjoy the beauty and serenity here of course. We also enjoy the people who inhabit the lake as permanent and seasonal residents. This community is special and, probably because it is a relatively small one and most of us have chosen to make it our home, we enjoy a greater sense of community than most other people.

I am also happy to work with other like-minded people who make up the BLA board. We are a good mix of North and South branches, seasonal and permanent residents, and women and men. None of us is a die-hard "tree hugger" although all of us want what is best for our lake and, by extension, what is best for all residents over time. We, the board, are always looking for new members so please contact me if you have any desire whatsoever to chip in. Believe me, there is a myriad of jobs to be accomplished.

I think one of the most important things we are presently undertaking is putting together a lake study. Led by Wayne Myles and his Friends of the Lake committee, the study is shaping up very well. The study, in my view, will unite all of us and give us the ways and means to actively protect our lake and preserve it for our grandchildren. I see the majority of us doing smallish things toward a bigger good. These tasks could range from observing the loon population like Ralph and Cathy Wirsig do at present, to conducting water quality and fish sampling in our particular area of the lake. These observations will, among other things, provide us with a benchmark against which we can measure the key parameters of our lake's health. Hopefully we will observe a continued healthy lake or even a healthier one because we are more conscious of what it takes to make that a reality. Personally, I look forward to doing more in this regard.

So, I hope to meet many of you at the annual picnic this Saturday August 20th. If not, please feel free to contact me any time.

Best regards,

Peter Dawe

613-353-2051

Friends of The Lake Report

On July 21st at Perth Road Church Hall, about 50 Buck Lakers and others from the surrounding area enjoyed a wonderful talk by Mark Conboy on animal and plant species at risk in our area. Mark is a wildlife biologist and assistant director of the Queen's University Biological Station (QUBS) at Lake Opinicon.

He explained the importance of the Frontenac Arch, the corridor running between the Adirondacks to the south, and the Canadian Shield to the north. Animals use this corridor all the time – he noted that animals can get across the Saint Lawrence by swimming but can't get across the 401! In British Columbia there are tunnels built under major highways so that creatures aren't impeded in their migrations. There are biologists here working on the possibility of a similar project for the Frontenac Arch. He emphasized the incredible biodiversity of the area, listing the numbers of species of birds, butterflies, insects, amphibians and trees that are found here, many of which are not found anywhere else in Canada.

Out of about 30 species at risk in this region, Mark chose three to talk about – the whip-poor-will, the stinkpot turtle and the butternut tree. Apparently every butternut tree is now affected by a fungus and the long-term prospects for this tree are not good. He noted that the First Nations' people planted groves of butternut trees for food. Stinkpot turtles are at risk partly due to their being caught in commercial fishing nets on the Rideau and researchers at QUBS have devised several methods that fishermen can use to give the turtles a way to escape the nets. He talked about research being done at QUBS on the whip-poor-will. Due to the Frontenac Arch, there are still a significant number in this area but the population has declined by 51% in the last 20 years.

Reasons for this decline are being studied at QUBS. Since the whip-poor-will is active at night, the researchers study them at night; photos and videos of some of the birds' nocturnal activities can be viewed on the QUBS website (click on QUBS Flickr site for Photos on Quick Links). Also on the QUBS website is the listing of talks that are held on Wednesday evenings throughout the summer and activities in the fall and winter. These talks and activities are open to the general public. Mark talked about fishers and said it's not true that fishers were introduced into the area by MNR; in fact, the fisher population can be traced by DNA testing to three very old distinct populations in the Frontenac Biosphere. A number of people reported seeing fishers around Buck Lake and wondered if there had been an increase recently. As a scientist, Mark said it wasn't clear if there had been an increase. Another question had to do with the apparent increase in the deerfly population and Mark said this probably has to do with a rainy long spring this year rather than a decline in insect-eating birds. He noted there are 11 types of deerflies in our area!

Anthony Hommik, the student researcher from the School of Urban and Regional Planning at Queen's, hired by Friends of the Lake to help with our lake plan, gave a short talk on the social history of Buck Lake. He talked of the early loggers and miners in the late 1700's and into the 1800's and noted that after Sir John A. Macdonald and John Counter, mayor of Kingston, opened up Perth Road as a winter road in the 1850's, people began to settle around Buck Lake in greater numbers.. By 1878, there were settlers living around both branches of the lake and by the mid-1920's, cottage lots were being sold.

Anthony's work on the history of Buck Lake will appear in the lake plan.

A great evening on a very warm July night, thanks to those who helped organize the evening – Roy Mills, Kathy Wirsig and Maureen McLellan and other Friends of the Lake committee members.

Liz Whelpdale

Did You Know?

The Buck lake community is very diverse. Some of us live on the lake all year, some only for the summer months or for those few precious weeks of our summer vacation and some have returned to the lake after many years away to make this their home. There are some who have lived in the area all their lives, some travel from other cities, provinces or countries to enjoy this little piece of paradise.

I believe we all have one thing in common and that is our love for this lake. Our love of the lake is partly because of the stories we share around the camp fire and the legends of those who came before us.

Buck Lake's history goes back to the eighteen hundreds and is filled with amazing stories. Did you know that at one time the Baptist Church in Perth Road performed its baptisms at what is now the Michea's cottage across from the Osprey nest on the south arm, and that in the 20's there was a bridge to Birch Island so sheep could graze on the island and that the Graves boys use to catch some great bass off that bridge?

We are sure there is more history out there stories your families share and pass from one generation to the next, and we would love to hear them. The Buck Lake Association and the Friends of the Lake are looking for Buck Lake history its people and their adventures. We would like to invite you to share your stories and the part of Buck Lake History that you know and love.

As one of the newest members of the BLA board of directors I have been given the opportunity to help with the communication committee and the Friends of the Lake. Part of my responsibility is to be the contact for gathering communication from members and send it on to whomever it may concern. So if you have a story to tell or an item for the newsletter, send it to me Lynne Hendry at lynne.hendry@gmail.com

Intruders

Paddling over a lily-pad covered pond.
We duck under an overhanging willow branch
that sways in the whispering breeze.
Warm sun washing over our face and arms.
While beads of perspiration stream down
glistening in the noon-day light.
Overhead the sound of adult Osprey catches our attention.
They coax their young to dive for the perfect lunch.
Watching them, they glide on upward drafts of air,
then swoop down toward the mirror calm water.
We are intruders in this private world.
Privileged to be observers,
able to enjoy and marvel at the
purity of nature.

Lynne Hendry

North Branch Captures Mike Rawes Trophy in North-South Golf Challenge

On August 10th, golfers from the North Branch squared off against golfers from the South Branch in the Buck Lake Monday morning golf group's annual tournament. This year, the North Branch narrowly edged out the South Branch with a score of 36.25 to 39.0.

2011 marks the third year for the Buck Lake North-South Golf Challenge. The tournament is a scramble with the branch having the lowest average score being declared the winner. This year, is the first year for the Mike Rawes trophy which was created in honour of Mike Rawes who passed away in March 2011 and was one of the most active participants in the Monday Golf Group.

For more information about the Buck Lake Golf Group, or to participate in the tournament next year, contact Cheryl Savery at bucklakegolf@gmail.com.



Ontario is bear country, black bear country, to be exact.

Living throughout most of Ontario, black bears primarily stick to their coniferous and deciduous homes. But, according to the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), when these bears are not hibernating, they are looking for food and their attraction to an easy meal could lead them to your home.

National Geographic reports black bears can weigh up to 600 pounds and are able to smell a dead animal from 30 kilometres away. It's this keen sense of smell that makes garbage the number one reason bears are drawn onto properties, followed closely by things like bird seed, suet and nectar.

Standing at around six feet tall, these bears can reach speeds of up to almost 50 km/hr, so if contact with one of these large mammals is made, trying to out-run, out-swim and out-climb them would be pointless.

The MNR has a Bear Wise campaign, which offers tips to prevent encounters and protect yourself and your home from any unwelcome visitors.

Tips to avoid black bear encounters:

- Make noise as you move through wooded areas, especially in areas where background noise is high.
- Never leave garbage laying around and only fill bird feeders through the winter months.
- Remove any grease or food residue from your barbecue grill after each use.
- Travel with others if possible.
- Be aware of your surroundings, don't wear headphones and keep an eye out for signs of bears, like tracks, claw marks on trees, flipped over rocks or fresh bear droppings.
- Consider bringing a whistle or air horn, long-handled axe or bear spray.
- Avoid strong fragrances that may cause a bear to be curious, and put any food you are carrying into sealed containers in your pack.
- If you are with a dog, control it. Uncontrolled, untrained dogs may actually lead a bear to you.
- While berry picking, occasionally scan your surroundings to check for bears, and rise slowly from your crouched position so you don't startle any nearby bears.

Tips if you encounter a bear:

- If the bear is not paying attention to you, slowly and quietly back away while watching the bear to make sure it isn't following you.
- Do not approach the bear to get a better look.
- Watch the bear to gauge its reaction to you. Generally, the noisier the bear is, the less dangerous it is, providing you don't approach the bear. If a bear huffs, pops its jaw or stomps its paws on the ground, it wants you to back away and give it space.
- If a bear approaches you, drop any food you may be carrying and continue to back up.
- If a bear continues to approach, stand your ground and stay calm. Use your whistle or air horn, speak loudly, stand tall, wave your arms and throw objects.
- If a bear makes contact, fight back with everything you have.

If bears become a nuisance, phone the MNR at [1-866-514-2327](tel:1-866-514-2327). In the case of an emergency, contact the police.

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