



The Buck Lake Association Inc.

Box 36, INVERARY, ON K0H 1X0

www.bucklake.ca

email: [Buck Lake Information](mailto:BuckLakeInformation)

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

Buck Lake News – September 2020

BLA Annual General Meeting

The 2020 Annual General Meeting will be held virtually to enable all Buck Lakers to attend if they wish.

The meeting will take place on Tuesday, September 15th at 7pm on Zoom. We will send out the link by email closer to the date. (If you have not been receiving emails from our association, please contact us at bucklakeassoc@gmail.com to get on our distribution list).

The minutes from the 2019 meeting can be found online at: <http://bucklake.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Minutes-of-the-AGM-2019.pdf>

Remember, you can join the association online on our website at <http://bucklake.ca/membership/>.

* Please be sure your copy of Zoom is up to date.

Openings on the Board This Year

If you would like to put your name forward or know of someone who is interested, please contact us. It's a great way to get to know the entire Buck Lake community.

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Are Your Outdoor Lights Driving Your Neighbours Crazy?

While carefully placed and appropriate lighting can add to the safety and appeal of your lakefront property, it is easy to overdo it or to make choices that affect others around the lake. That spotlight that illuminates your dock when you pull up at night may be very helpful, but if left on all the time it may also be shining directly into a cottage across the lake. Just like sound, light can travel a long distance at the lake. Part of the appeal of the lake is our beautiful dark, quiet evenings and night skies without the city lights.

Maybe now is a good time to take a closer look at your lighting choices and see if there are some minor changes you can make. Some options to consider are:

- Use lower wattage bulbs.
- Choose shielded lights that are purposely directed at doorways, stairs or other features in a downward fashion while minimizing glare and light trespass.
- Limit the use of your outdoor lights to only when they are needed and when your property is actually occupied.
- Recognize that summer foliage reduces where light shines but lighting may be more problematic for neighbours once the leaves fall.
- Choose light bulbs that produce a warmer orange colour, rather than the cooler blue white options.
- Consider retrofitting existing lights with a nightsaver shield that directs light downwards and prevents upwards or outwards stray light.

For more information, check out the [Lake Protection Workbook](#) developed by Watershed Canada. As well as information on the issue of light pollution and the impact of lighting on wildlife, it provides a complete self-assessment guide for evaluating how you and your property are impacting the lake.

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Battle of the Branches 2020

Submitted by Bruce McDonald

The Battle of the Branches 2020 (BOB 2020) took place on Monday August 24th at the Evergreen Golf Course with 28 golfers. Four teams from the South branch competed against three teams from the North branch in a four person, best ball scramble format. The sunny and humid day was better than the forecasted possibility of rain and the course was in excellent shape. The Evergreen GC staff did a wonderful job of helping us to organize and run this event despite the COVID-19 situation. Many golfers remained after the 9 holes and had a bit to eat and drink on the outdoor patio while the scores were being processed.

At the end of the competition, the North branch average score was 38.3 and the South branch averaged 41.0 resulting in the North branch claiming the BOB 2020 title for another year.

Thanks to all the golfers that participated in BOB 2020.

As a reminder, anyone interested in playing 9 holes every Monday morning starting at 9 am please email BuckLakeGolf@gmail.com and I will get you on the weekly signup distribution list. Depending on the weather, we will likely play Mondays up to the Thanksgiving weekend this year.

Missing from the North Branch BOB 2020 photo are Mark Nichol, Dave Pruner, Donna Neumann, and Jay Black.



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Kids Triathlon 2020



Despite all the restrictions due to Covid-19, the Clarke family, and in particular chief organizer 14 year-old Daley Clarke, managed to pull off an amazing event on the lake this summer.

The morning of Sunday August 23rd was hot and sunny with virtually no wind as 25 kids ranging in age from 8 to 14 swam, kayaked and ran to raise money for [CHEO Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario](#).

Parents, grandparents and neighbours spread out in boats and along the shore to watch the kids. The cheering and encouragement as each participant completed a section of the course could be heard throughout the south bay. The sense of community spirit was overflowing.

We are happy to report that so far, over \$7000 has been raised, far exceeding expectations. Congratulation to all the volunteers, triathletes and donors. And a special thanks to the business sponsors [Autohouse Kingston](#), [The Original Friddle Company](#), Curran and Associates, and [WHIT Kingston](#) who donated t-shirts for all the participants.



For more on this story, check out the article in the [Frontenac News](#) .

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Rider Cup Golf Tournament Cancelled for 2020

This year, Peter Dawe and Dean Milner volunteered to lead the planning and execution efforts of the Rider Cup Golf Tournament, which has been a key Buck Lake event for many years. Reluctantly, they have decided to cancel the 2020 version of the Rider Cup.

Several reasons led to this decision.

1. The Rider Cup is first and foremost a socialization effort to unite Buck Lakers with a secondary role of raising money for local charities. That effort required a shotgun start and the ability to sit the diners subsequently. Unfortunately the Rideau Lakes Golf Club will not allow a shotgun start because too many people would be gathered around the club house prior to starting, even though they would be outside. Also, Rideau Lakes Golf Club can only accommodate 25 people inside and has virtually no capacity to have a meal outside.
2. They considered asking Evergreen to host the event but the same rules would apply there as well.
3. Holding the world famous crowd-pleasing raffle would be totally untenable.

So, with no socialization on the scale needed for success lead to the cancellation of the event this year. But mark your calendar, Rideau Lakes Golf Club has already been booked for September 12th 2021.

Last year, the money raised at the raffle was donated primarily to [The Loughborough Christmas & Emergency Relief Committee](#), that provides approximately 100 local families a year with holiday food baskets and/or emergency financial assistance to help them cope with unexpected crises such as fire, sudden death or utility disconnection. Please consider donating the money you would have normally spent on the Rider Cup this year, to this or another worthy cause.



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A Survivor

Many Buck Lakers were saddened to hear of a loon at the south end of the south branch that was distressed with a fish hook and line caught in its mouth. Katrin Milner, who first noticed the loon, contacted [Sandy Pines Wildlife Centre](#) to find out how to help it. Their recommendation was as a group to keep an eye on the loon and if it no longer dives and appears weak to try to capture it and take it to Sandy Pines.

Rosa Berardo and Gillian Lash watched the loon regularly from their canoe. Initially, they saw it suffering a lot on the first days after it got the hook in its beak. They were not able to do anything to help it. Then they thought it had died and they no longer saw it on the lake. Some days after they were very surprised and happy to see it recuperated, even though still with the hook.

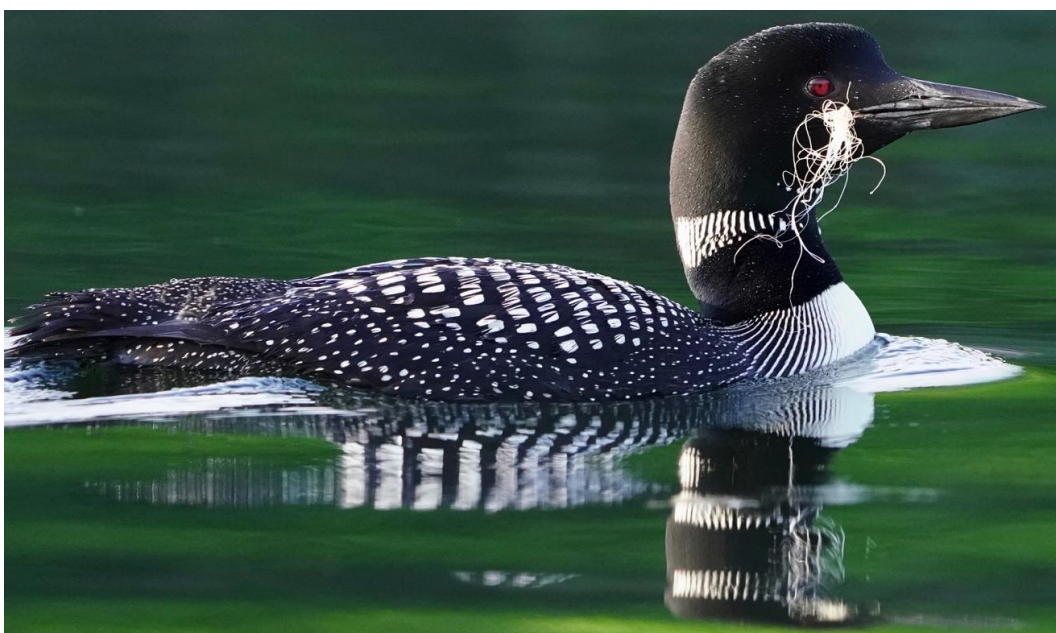


Photo by Rosa Berardo

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Is It Time to Revive Buck Lake's Extinct Mutant Trout?

Submitted By John Curran

As Frontenac County emerges from COVID-19 and we collectively look for creative ways to rekindle any sort of economic flame in our tourism sector, the time might be right to reintroduce a mutant trout that once called many of our lakes home.

The lab-engineered species in question is the splake; a hybrid cross of a male speckled (brook) trout and a female lake trout. Back in the 1970s and '80s as we grappled with acid rain and some waters lost the ability to support large, healthy, self-sustaining populations of native lake trout, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources turned to splake to mitigate the problem. It stocked a splake backcross – bred using a male splake and a female lake trout – into many lakes, including the North Arm of Buck Lake.

Actually, first developed in New York state in the late 1800s, the non-reproducing splake in the North Arm provided anglers with a great fishing opportunity and took pressure off neighbouring South Arm lake trout – and according to some studies they actually grew faster than native trout reaching maturity in as little as two years after being introduced as fingerlings at 2.5 years of age.

Especially in winter, when laker season is closed completely due to the sensitivity of populations at that time, people were still able to go out and jig splake through the ice on the north side of the old Perth Road.

Though I wasn't a big trout fisherman back in those days, I do remember catching a few of these over the years. The main difference between splake and lakers was the cut of their tail. The former having a more squared, slightly v-shaped tail, like its brookie father, while the latter's tail is deeply forked.

Some have claimed in the past that splake meat is pinkish while laker meat is a yellowish-white in colour, but those differences can be found within the natural variations of each species and are more related to diet. Fish eaters tend to have whiter meat while those eating a more crustacean-based diet end up with pink or in extreme cases, red meat.

To the casual angler, lake trout and splake were virtually identical in every way that matters.



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While almost anything is possible in nature, Buck Lake's last splake likely died out more than decade ago. Meaning all trout fishing is now largely concentrated on the South Arm. Beyond the Buck, natural trout lakes take all the pressure that was once shared by splake lakes.

By most expert predictions, and based on anecdotal information about outdoor recreation, gear sold out around the province recently, Ontarians intend to put a renewed focus on enjoying our lakes as long-distance travel to international destinations is now about as popular as a porcupine in an airplane washroom. That pressure on trout populations is only going to increase in this new normal.

Our cabin is located on a point that sticks out into the main reach of the South Arm. It's prime lake trout territory with deep trenches, rocky cliffs and submerged humps and saddles. I can personally attest to the fact that trout fishing pressure has been brisk this year with many boats plying the waters between Rider's Roost and Burnt Point.

While success is never guaranteed, one guy who catches more than he doesn't is local fishing guide Kevin Buck. Out recently with his neighbour, Buck Lake's "fishin" technician helped Dean Milner boat a gorgeous 16-pound laker from that same stretch of water; for most would be the fish of a lifetime. "That's a baby compared to some of the ones in the South Arm," insisted Buck. "I'd say they go up to 30 or 40 pounds on our side of the lake."

Buck, whose name is just a coincidence, has been on the lake for some 60 years including time spent on the North Arm in his youth where his parents had a cottage. "We've been doing quite well for the trout this year, I've got my pontoon boat all set up with downriggers now, we got six trout this past weekend," he said. "They were mainly three to six pounds – all on typical Lake Ontario type spoons, Williams Wobblers, Northern Kings, that sort of thing... I can't give away all my secrets."

As long as it was in areas where natural trout populations don't do well, such as the North Arm of Buck Lake, the long-time angler said he'd be in favour of bringing back splake – anything that's going to increase fishing opportunities and take pressure off the natural trout. "I used to have a cottage on Dog Lake too and we used to catch a lot of splake there," he said. "And we would get them as accidental catches while fishing for pike on the North Arm of Buck in the winter, they were fun."

Reintroducing splake may not be as easy as simply reinstituting a previously run stocking program, mind you. According to former Buck Laker and biologist Paul Johnathon, whom long ago did a double major at Queen's University in biology and life sciences, the environmental assessment side of the equation could take years to complete.

"As I understand it, the process is more complex, and takes longer to evaluate, than one would imagine," he wrote from his present-day home in Switzerland. "In the era of my grandfather's youth, northern pike were introduced to Devil Lake and some of those in the surrounding area. He had told me this was done to promote game fishing, (and attract) American tourists." The results were not good for the more sensitive inhabitants of the lake.

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“Apparently their introduction lead to a dramatic reduction in the amount of freshwater salmon that were originally in those lakes,” he said. “The smaller fry and eggs were food sources for the more voracious pike. The introduction of pike was done long before there were any kind of Ministry controls.”

Obviously avoiding any sort of repeat of that lesson would be paramount before advancing.

In the meantime, if you’d like to contract Kevin Buck and try his guiding service in search of your own trophy lake trout, or any other species swimming in Buck Lake for that matter, he can be reached at 613-353-1213.

More information on splake:

A cold-water fish that was introduced in many parts of Ontario, the splake is not actually sterile but due to behavioural issues reproduction in the wild has only occurred in a small handful of lakes, Buck Lake is not known to be one of them.

What it looks like:

- slightly deep-bodied fish
- hatchery hybrid of brook trout and lake trout, so between them in look and size
- often has tricoloured fins
- light spots on dark background, some red spots but without the brook trout’s blue halo
- slightly forked tail, but not as deeply so, as its lake trout mother
- counting the pyloric caeca (finger-like projections of the intestine) is the only positive identification method: splake (65-85); brook trout (23-55); lake trout (93+).



Size:

- average length: 25-46 centimetres (10-18 inches)
- average weight: 0.45-1.35 kilograms (1-3 pounds)
- Ontario record: 9.4 kilograms (20.71 pounds).

Habitat:

- need a year-round supply of cold, clear water
- generally, around rocky breaks, shoals and deep-water humps
- can tolerate marginal lake trout habitat (e.g., warmer temperatures, shallower water, higher acidity levels) such as the North Arm of Buck Lake.

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Reminders

The Buck Lake Community Directory

To be added to and receive the Buck Lake Community Directory, please email your contact information (name, lake address and up to 2 email addresses and phone numbers) to bucklakeassoc@gmail.com. Send updates ASAP to catch the August 2020 edition.

Buck Lake CALENDAR needs you ALL YEAR LONG!

Please send your amazing Buck Lake pictures in full resolution to Cheryl Dawson at dawson.cheryl13@gmail.com all year long... right when they happen. Please: no people in the photos.

Ron's Home & Cottage Services

- Plumbing, electrical, tiling, window replacement
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- Call Ron at **353-6919** (Buck Lake Resident)

Facebook Group

We have a very active group on Facebook with 670 members. Please feel free to join. Remember to answer the questions when you request membership so that we know who you are!

Coming Events:

September 13, 2020 – Rider Cup – Cancelled

September 15, 2020 – 7:00PM - BLA AGM – by Zoom – Link distributed by email closer to date.

In order to promote the spirit of Buck Lake, we invite your comments and suggestions for newsletter articles or announcements. Mail to: [Buck Lake Information](#)

Renew your Buck Lake Association membership on line. A receipt will be emailed to you to confirm your payment. A service provided by FOCA: <http://foca.on.ca/product/buck-lake-association/>

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