



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 – December 2021

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Do you want to get more involved in your Lake Association?
We Currently Have the Following Committees Active
& Would Always Welcome Volunteers

Friends of the Lake Martha <u>Scheinman</u> (co-lead) Gillian Lash (co-lead) Nora Lapp		Government Relations Randy <u>Ruttan</u> (lead) Nora Lapp Crawford <u>MacIntyre</u>
Community Outreach & Social Vacant	Nominating Gillian Lash (lead) Don Young	Communications Martha <u>Scheinman</u> (lead) Cheryl <u>Savery</u> Kathy McDonald
	Member Services Cheryl Savery (lead)	

If you are interested, please email BuckLakeAssoc@gmail.com
for more details about how to attend/access any forthcoming
meeting.

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President's Message



Photo by George Kim

Winter is definitely upon us! Interestingly enough, it is one of my favourite seasons at Buck Lake. But to get to this point has been challenging!

The pandemic continued to exert itself. From my perch on Buck Lake, I have noticed that many people took advantage by making improvements to their homes and properties, spending more time at the lake while participating in more lake activities (skating, snow-shoeing, skiing, swimming, fishing, canoeing, wake-boarding, water-skiing, kayaking or walking). I have also noticed more people taking advantage of Buck Lake's beauty as well.

Mother Nature also threw in a few twists of her own. I certainly endured and tried to limit the impact of being in the epicentre of the Gypsy Moth infestation, the seemingly increasing quantity of Eurasian watermilfoil along with the climate extremes of drought, high temperatures and humidity.

But through all of this, the passion for Buck Lake is stronger than ever!! In this edition, Don Young writes about such an example. The 2022 Buck Lake calendars were, as always, a huge success. The calendar is filled with photos to enjoy 12 months of passion as seen through the lenses of your fellow Buck Lakers!!

In the meantime, I wish everyone a happy, joyous and healthy holiday season!

Gillian Lash

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The 2021 Buck Lake Loon Survey – Results

by Don Young

This year, for the first time, the Buck Lake Association coordinated the efforts of six ‘citizen scientists’ by taking part in the Bird Studies Canada, Canadian Loon Lakes Survey. Each of the volunteers surveyed their assigned areas of the lake a number of times each month from May through the end of August in 2021. They recorded the total number of loons, the number of breeding pairs and the number of loon chicks. This was the first time that the entire lake has been surveyed. The Buck Lake Association thanks our volunteer surveyors, Jessica Burjorjee, Crawford MacIntyre, Annie Preston, Shirley Young, Kim Turner and Heather Keeling.

The Results

There were eight breeding pairs recorded on the lake. Each breeding pair has their own territory, which they will defend against other loon intrusions during nesting and when the chicks are very young. Once the chicks are past the six-week stage, loons once again become quite social and solo loons will interact with the breeding pairs. In 2021, approximately 20 solo loons were recorded on the lake. This number varies as these loons move around the lake and may fly from lake to lake as loons gather in larger numbers when they prepare to fly south for the winter. **Finally, and most importantly, there were five chicks that survived past the six week point this year!**



Loon chicks born on the nest on the small island in Christmas Bay 2021 (photo – Kim Turner)

Is the Buck Lake Loon Population Healthy?

Bird Studies Canada published a 40-year update on the Canadian Loon Lakes Survey in 2021. In the update, the loon population productivity, the number of young that loons produce and that survive past the six-week point, was measured over the 40-year period to indicate the health of the species. Over the last three decades loon productivity has been decreasing at a rate of -1.4% per pair per year and is now at an average of 0.55. The decrease in productivity is nearing the critical point of 0.48, below which, the overall loon population will decrease. With 5 surviving chicks produced by 8 pairs, the productivity rate on Buck Lake is 0.625. While this is above the national average, it has not been consistently this high with some years having no chicks on the lake.

What Does the Loon Population Tell Us About Buck Lake?

“Loon productivity, or the number of young that loons produce, gives an indication of how well this species is doing and warns us about whether the health of our lakes is deteriorating. Because loons are top predators, any problems lower down in the food chain can be reflected in loons.”ⁱ There are many factors that affect loon productivity, including human disturbance, early spring temperature (affecting black flies and ice-off timing), predators including eagles and raccoons, acid rain, mercury and climate change impacts (including droughts and changes in water temperature). Buck Lake is certainly experiencing many of these lake health impacts. Our loon population indicates that our lake is still healthy, but there are warning signs that the lake health is deteriorating.



Loon on a shoreline nest in the South Bay 2021. Unfortunately this nest was not successful. (photo – Gillian Lash)

What Can You Do To Help?

- Slow down and minimize boat wakes in May and June to avoid washing out loon nests. Loon nests are very near the shore, well camouflaged, and can be easily washed out by boat wakes. Buck Lake has many uninhabited small islands that are preferred nesting sites and not normally an area where boaters would be concerned about their wake.
- Avoid loons in general with your boat and particularly when the chicks are young. Young chicks cannot dive during their first few weeks and are vulnerable to boat strikes and being separated from their parents by speeding boats. Buck Lake has many narrow channels where boat/loon interactions are more likely to occur than in wide open lakes. Please slow down in these areas.
- Use non-toxic, non-lead fishing tackle to prevent lethal ingestion of lead by loons, which can be a leading cause of mortality and occurs when loons catch hooked fish or when they mistake lost weights for pebbles or grit to aid in digestion.
- Let native wetland plants grow in wide strips along shorelines to provide shelter for small chicks and fish habitat to feed loons.
- Dispose of fishing lines properly and keep the lake garbage-free to help loons avoid getting entangled or injured and to avoid attracting garbage-feeding loon predators.

Learn more about loons. The Bird Studies Canada, Canadian Loon Lakes Survey website has a great deal of information on loons.

<https://www.birdscanada.org/bird-science/canadian-lakes-loon-survey/>



Loon on Buck Lake in 2019 with fishing line wrapped around its beak. (photo – Don Young)

ⁱ CANADIAN LAKES LOON SURVEY, Celebrating 40 years of conservation, research, and monitoring. Bird Studies Canada, 2021



Buck Lake Association

2021 Annual General Meeting

On Thursday, October 14, 2021, the BLA Virtual Annual General Meeting took place via Zoom.

The meeting was recorded to assist our secretary in the preparation of the minutes.

The full minutes are available on the Buck Lake Association website at bucklake.ca.

Search the site for “Annual General Meetings” then 2021 Annual General Meeting (draft).

[2021AGM Minutes \(Draft\)](#)

Highlights of the 2021 AGM included the following;

Welcome from our president, Gillian Lash.

Updates from South Frontenac Government Officials

Mayor Ron Vandewal, Councillor Ross Sutherland, Councillor Alan Revill

In spite of the challenges of Covid-19, the last few years have continued to be busy in South Frontenac. Building and Planning has been swamped and has faced the most pressure over this time. The Lake Advisory Committee, chaired by Gillian Lash, is underway with grants available for environmental projects. New this year is a portal on the SF website for budget input. The initial summary of the Official Plan is forthcoming from various committees. An issue of concern being brought to the Council relates to Air BNB's on the lake. Please contact Ross Sutherland if you have questions or concerns around this issue. A road needs study will be undertaken to look specifically at the use, planning and funding of gravel roads in SF.

Your Buck Lake Association Board of Directors

President:

Gillian Lash

Vice-President:

Don Young

Treasurer:

Cheryl Savery

Recording Secretary:

Cheryl Dawson

Archivist:

Kathy McDonald

Directors at Large:

Heather Douglas

Nora Lapp

Randy Ruttan

Crawford MacIntyre

Martha Scheinman



“To enhance people’s enjoyment of Buck Lake now and for future generations”

Remarks from our president, Gillian Lash

The effects of the pandemic continue to be evident on Buck Lake with more home improvement projects underway and more people enjoying the lake in more ways.

Natural extremes are having an impact on the lake including being an epicentre of Gypsy Moth infestation, summer heat, humidity and drought and a prolific aquatic invasive species – Eurasian Milfoil.

Approval of 2020 AGM minutes and business arising

Due to the fact that the required 20% of BLA membership for a quorum was not present at the 2021 AGM, approval of the 2020 Minutes, business arising, motions to accept reports, the election of a new officer, Heather Douglas, and the re-election of four other directors are tabled until a further meeting.

Treasurer's report (please see Appendix B attached to the minutes for the full report)

Membership

There are approximately 150 active members of the BLA from around 450 eligible members. We have seen a good increase in membership this year and encourage others to follow suit. Cost is \$25 year.

Friends of the Lake (FOTL)

Look for an update by Don Young in this issue of the newsletter on the Loon Lakes Survey.

Nominating Committee

We are always looking for new directors for the BLA Board of Directors. Contact Gillian Lash or another Board member if you are interested.

Closing Remarks, Discussion

Gillian Lash encouraged members to take advantage of the opportunities to give input to South Frontenac Township on a variety of issues through Official Plan comments, the 2022 Budget Survey and Engage South Frontenac – all available on the SF website.

Ron's Home & Cottage Services

- Plumbing, electrical, tiling, window replacement
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Duncan Sinclair spoke to the impact of the pandemic on the social activities around the lake and the need to promote community engagement. A volunteer to join the Board and head the Social Outreach Committee would be a great step in the right direction.

A discussion of short-term rentals focussed on noise, concern for the care of the lake environment, numbers of people in a property, water activities and wakes and the protection of loon platforms and nests. A survey regarding the issue of short term rentals is being proposed by some community members. Councillor Ross Sutherland asked for a link to the survey to be sent to SF Council and mentioned that noise infractions are hard to enforce but that residents can call SF and a by-law officer will come out to investigate. The issues of possible licensing, education, guidance to owners and renters were discussed.

Submitted by Martha Scheinman

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Join the Buck Lake Association Today

It's only \$25 a Year!

To sign up today online, paddle on over to
<http://bucklake.ca/membership/>

By signing up or renewing that way, you'll also become a member of the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations for free. As a member you get lots of perks: Information on rural property issues; Environmental programs; and, Discounts from merchants.

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Joining the Board: Heather Douglas



Heather Douglas discovered Buck Lake in 2005 while working long hours in New York City. An email newsletter from a realtor made her aware of the “perfect” cottage (nice view, not too big) on Cliff View Lane. She convinced her parents to do the reconnaissance. By year’s end she was a cottage owner, yet didn’t have a car.

Sixteen years later, she’s retired, has gained a husband (John) and a dog (Rosie). They’ve moved to Ottawa, after time in Toronto and Calgary, but still don’t get to the lake as often as they would like. They love it all, except maybe the caterpillars that eat the oak leaves and the ticks. She’s looking forward to being on the BLA board, getting to know her neighbours better, and helping keep the lake and cottage experience special.

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It's always
BLA Calendar
season

Remember:
WE NEED YOU
ALL YEAR LONG!

Calendar submissions are always
welcome. Please send your amazing
Buck Lake photos in full resolution to
Cheryl Dawson at
dawson.cheryl13@gmail.com
right when they happen.

Please, no people in the photos.

WAYNE GORDON
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Perth Road United Church Food Bank Challenge

Perth Road United Church has resumed in-person services Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m.. Covid-19 screening and protocols are in place. Masks must be worn. We recommend arriving early to complete the screening.

Upcoming Special Service: Christmas Eve service on December 24 at 7:00 p.m.

Food Bank

Support our local food bank and community by giving to our Advent Challenge during the period leading up to Christmas. The challenge is to provide donations of **protein** foods for those in need in our community. Donations of peanut butter, canned fish and canned meat will be **accepted at the church on Sunday mornings** prior to the morning service. Alternatively, donations may be **brought to Perth Road Store** during business hours throughout December, 2021. Members of Perth Road United Church will deliver the donations to our local food bank. Thank you in advance for your support.



Submitted by Mary Ellen Ivison

What You Can Do To Help The Cataraqui Trail

The Cataraqui Trail has been there for all of us throughout the pandemic. It gives us a place to find peace, and enjoy nature, while we re-energize. Stretching 104km from Strathcona in the west to Smith Falls in the east, the Cataraqui trail gently winds through the rural landscape, passing through small hamlets, villages, and towns along the way. Cataraqui Conservation, with its partners (the Friends of the Cataraqui Trail, Stone Mills Township, Township of South Frontenac, Township of Rideau Lakes and Town of Smith Falls), maintain this pristine Canadian gem, so we can enjoy this trail all year long! In addition, Cataraqui Conservation and its partners have been successful in obtaining Federal and Provincial grants, as well as Private donations/grants which have assisted in providing funding for several initiatives including signage, trail surface improvements, parking, gates, and bridge re-decking.

While many enjoy the trail, not everyone is aware of what they can do to keep the trail in its current condition and even improve it.

There are four ways you can help the trail:

- 1) **Complete User Survey** - Take 5 minutes to fill out the Cataraqui Trail Survey on our website at <https://cataraquitrail.ca/>.
- 2) **Become a Friend** - Join the **Friends of the Cataraqui Trail** at <https://crca.ca/who-we-are/online-services/cataraqui-trail-membership/>. It is tax deductible!

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- 3) **Purchase Merchandise** - Cataraqi Trail merchandise can be purchased at the **Outdoor Centre** located in the **Little Cataraqi Conservation Area**, located at 1641 Perth Road in Glenburnie from **9am to 4pm**, daily. Photos and pricing are available at <https://cataraquitrail.ca/>.
- 4) **Donate** - The Cataraqi Trail is a registered charity. Donations of \$20, or more, will receive a tax receipt. This can be done from the membership page at <https://crca.ca/who-we-are/online-services/cataraqi-trail-membership/>.



Photo by Kari Knowles

Cataraqi Trail Survey

Thank you to the over 360 people who have already taken the survey! Your feedback helps the Friends of the Cataraqi Trail better understand how you use the trail and any improvements, you would like to see. However, we know that our current response does not fully represent all those who use the trail, or how much the trail is truly loved!

Please take 5 minutes to answer 6 questions. Your input will help to inform decisions about the trail and could assist in securing grants.

Who Are The Friends of the Cataraqi Trail

The Friends of the Cataraqi Trail is a volunteer group that advocates for the sustainability, enjoyment and stewardship of the Cataraqi Trail. We monitor the trail for hazards and maintenance issues. We report these issues to the Cataraqi Conservation. While the Friends group assists with light maintenance, the responsibility of maintaining the trail and the bulk of maintenance is done by Cataraqi Conservation.

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While not everyone does hands-on work, this past year, 45 of the over 130 members have:

- Cut brush
- Filled holes with gravel
- Cleared ditches
- Cut grass
- Cleaned up picnic areas
- Pulled and reported on invasive species
- Checked bridges, signs, gates and barriers
- Reported on erosion, trail surface issues and evidence of prohibited use

Thank you to all of the members of the Friends of the Cataraqui Trail and the public for helping to make the trail a great place to relax and have fun!

Cataraqui Trail – Merchandise & Donations

You can assist the trail directly by donating, or purchasing merchandise. Trail donations help improve the trail in many ways. Thanks to a private donation and grants, you will soon see improved signage along the trail. Donations help to purchase materials and amenities, like benches.

Thank you to all the donors for 2021 that helped us maintain the trail and add to its enjoyment.

Coming Events

Nothing scheduled at this time due to COVID-19.



In order to promote the spirit of Buck Lake, we invite your comments and suggestions for newsletter articles or announcements. Mail to: BuckLakeAssoc@gmail.com

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