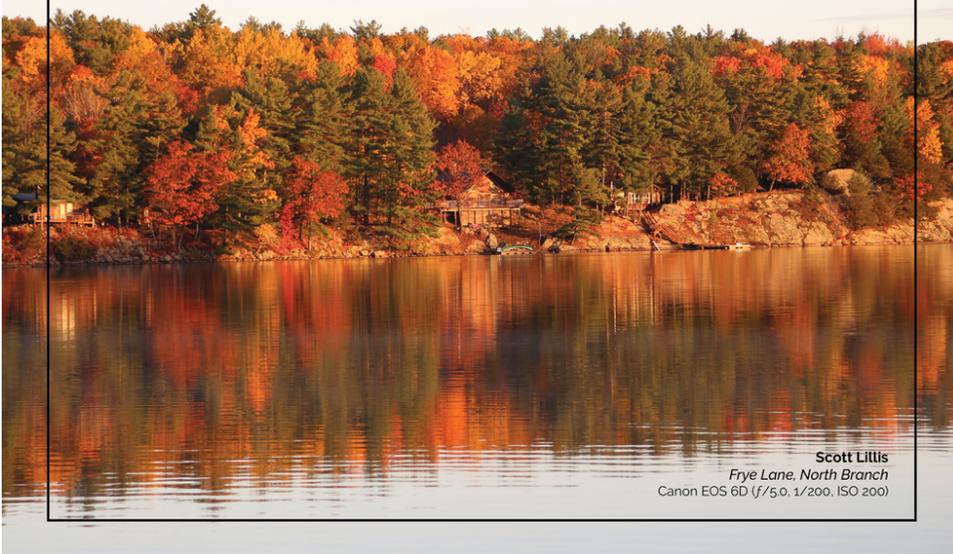




BUCK LAKE NEWS

OCTOBER 2023

Fall Is Our Favourite Color!



Scott Lillis
Frye Lane, North Branch
Canon EOS 6D (f/5.0, 1/200, ISO 200)

CELEBRATE THE SEASON

A MESSAGE FROM THE BLA

As we prepare to turn our calendars to November, we watch autumn fade away as the final leaves fall from the trees. This is our chance to say goodbye to the painted landscape of our beautiful community. Now we must wait another eleven months to see autumn arrive at the lake and paint our surroundings in the symphony of vibrant hues that we have enjoyed for the last month. Oh how we will long for the trees along our tranquil shores to show off their red, orange, and gold outfits again, making the lake's surface mirror their style. While the colours may be quickly fading, we still have some time to wrap up in cozy blankets, soak up the smell of campfires, and dig into warm pies. Wildlife are getting ready for winter, making our lakeside walks extra exciting. Autumn by the lake is like a laid-back, gratitude-filled nature show, reminding us why we love our spot by the water so much. Until next year autumn!

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Buck Lake Association

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

<https://cslbc.ca/en/stretching-the-season>

THE 2023 BUCK LAKE LOON SURVEY

BY DON YOUNG

Once again, 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. They recorded the total number of loons, the number of breeding pairs and the number of loon chicks. The Buck Lake Association thanks our volunteer surveyors, Jessica Burjorjee, Crawford MacIntyre, Annie Preston, Shirley Young, Kim Turner and Heather Keeling.

The Results

There are eight breeding territories 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 2023, loons in four of the eight territories were successful in hatching chicks with a total of six chicks reaching full size by the end of the summer. This is one more than in 2022.

One very heart wrenching incident occurred this summer with the loons that nest on the island in Christmas Bay. The nest was washed out by a large wake created on purpose by a boat towing a tube. The loons renested and sat on the nest for another 30 days, but the nest was not successful. This demonstrates how fragile our loons are during nesting season (May and June) and how difficult it is to get the message to boaters to take care not to create large wakes near islands. The lake is large enough for us to share with the loons. We just have to get everyone to understand that living with nature requires some care!



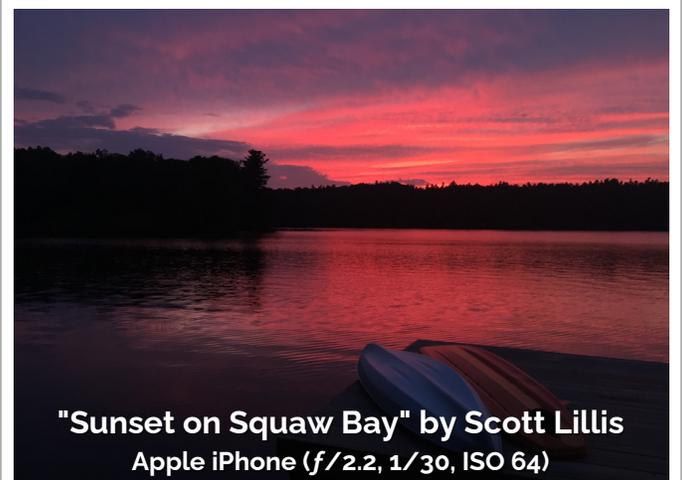
One of the new families this year on the South Branch.

by Don Young

BUCK LAKE CALENDAR 2024

We are putting the finishing touches on the calendar and working on getting quotes for printing.

Please check your email or Facebook next week for ordering information.



"Sunset on Squaw Bay" by Scott Lillis
Apple iPhone (f/2.2, 1/30, ISO 64)





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Media Release



Reception celebrates 50 years of Foley Mountain Conservation Area

WESTPORT, Sept. 29, 2023 – Foley Mountain Conservation Area officially marked its 50th anniversary with a community reception on Friday, Sept. 22 – in the very same spot it celebrated its official opening in 1973.

Past and present RVCA staff and board members, special guests, local residents and community partners gathered at the Interpretive Centre to reminisce about the conservation area's long history in the community.

The 833-acre site, owned and operated by the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA), was acquired in 1970 thanks to a donation from prominent Westport resident Harold Foley, who wished to see the property remain natural.

Other land donations, purchases, land swaps and leases over the years completed the largely forested property. Today it boasts 10 kilometres of public trails, a swimming area, a group camping site and, of course, the famous Spy Rock lookout overlooking the village of Westport.

Since 1974, Foley Mountain has also developed a suite of popular outdoor education programs, which have inspired multiple generations of school children to better appreciate the natural world. The program began by offering school field trips and overnight camping, followed by the addition of popular day camps and forest school programs in more recent years.

The celebration on Sept. 22 focused on the site's many successes and partnerships over the years, including support from the Friends of Foley Mountain, which was founded in 1996 to support the conservation area in the face of provincial cutbacks. It has since leveraged more



From left, RVCA general manager Sommer Casgrain-Robertson, Augusta Township Deputy Mayor and RVCA board member Adrian Wynands, Rideau Lakes Mayor Arie Hoogenboom, Leeds-Grenville-Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes MPP Steve Clark, Westport Mayor Robin Jones and RVCA board chair and North Grenville Councillor Kristin Strackerjan.

Taken from <https://www.rvca.ca/media-releases/reception-celebrates-50-years-of-foley-mountain>

than \$300,000 in fundraising toward accessible infrastructure, bus and tuition subsidies and programming.

"50 years is an incredible milestone for an organization," said Steve Clark, MPP for Leeds-Grenville-Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes, while addressing the crowd. "You can't get to this level of success without tremendous staff, tremendous board members and tremendous volunteers. And that's one of the real things that I think separates this area from many others, the fact that so many people work together."

Rideau Lakes Mayor Arie Hoogenboom and Westport Mayor Robin Jones also offered their congratulations and noted the central role Foley Mountain plays in both their communities.

RVCA general manager Sommer Casgrain-Robertson said Foley Mountain wouldn't be the success it is today without the support of the watershed's 18 member municipalities, which have consistently recognized the value of conservation areas for their residents.

"We are so grateful for the ongoing support from Rideau Lakes, Westport and our other municipalities that enables Foley Mountain to continue to serve the community," Casgrain-Robertson said. "This support has also played a critical role in protecting these lands for a healthier watershed today and into the future."

Learn more about Foley Mountain and plan your visit at www.rvca.ca/conservation-areas.

Media Release retrieved from <https://www.rvca.ca/media-releases>





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A HOMEOWNER'S PERSPECTIVE: WHY SAFETY SCREENS MATTER

BY SARAH CHABOT, NORTH DUMFRIES, ONTARIO

Retrieved from Onsite - Ontario Onsite Wastewater Association Newsletter (Volume 23, Issue 3 - Fall/Winter 2022)

One day last August, my children were outside playing, and I was in my office. My 3-year-old son was driving around the property on his power wheels machine. I had the window to my office open and I heard my mother yell my son's name and call for me. She was hysterical and was asking why the lid to the septic tank was off. Immediately I ran out to see that the lid to the septic tank was off and was very confused as to what happened. At the time, I knew my son was in the house as he had just come in to go to the washroom. My mother didn't know this as she was still making her way to the front of the house with my one-year-old. My 3-year-old came outside and told us he ran over the septic tank with his power wheels and the lid came off and he told us he was looking down in there.



The Infiltrator - 24" EZsnap Safety Screen is an example of a safety screen that can be added to a septic tank opening

<http://wastewtrsupply.com/products/infiltrator-24-ezsnap-safety-screen-snapsaft-2400>

I have to say, I was SHOCKED that there was nothing in there preventing my son from falling in!! I shudder to think what could have happened. I covered the lid immediately and began googling septic tank safety, and quickly found that the manufacturer produces safety screens that are cheap and easily installed. I contacted the septic tank manufacturer locally and was able to purchase safety screens for \$40 each. I was also shocked to find out from them that they supply the safety screens with every septic tank they sell, meaning my installer CHOSE not to install them. Had we been asked if we wanted it installed, we most definitely would have said yes!! We would have paid above and beyond to ensure that the septic tank had additional safety.



Another example of a simple safety screen that can be purchased and installed inside your septic tank opening.

<https://www.simtechfilterinc.com/safety-nets>

This incident has caused me many sleepless nights imagining that this could have turned out very differently. I'm sharing my story because I want people to know that the lid can come off and that ensuring a safety screen is installed could prevent a tragedy. We are thankful our story has a positive outcome. I really hope that it doesn't take a tragedy to make it to the Ontario Building Code to have safety screens installed with every septic tank.





<https://csbc.ca/en/stretching-the-season>

STRETCHING THE SEASON

BY THE CANADIAN SAFE BOATING COUNCIL

If one of your annual post Labour Day rituals is to pull the boat and put it away for the winter, you're missing out on a spectacular fall boating season. While swimming and watersports may lose their lustre as the water temperature cools, taking in the Fall colours of the shoreline from the water is nothing short of breathtaking. Pristine anchorages offer quiet solitude, and, for anglers, the action is hot with fish actively feeding ahead of the long winter freeze-over. The benefits of fall boating necessitate extra attention and an ability to be self-sufficient because there are fewer boaters in the immediate vicinity should you require assistance. Consider these precautions to maximize your safety and enjoyment as you stretch your boating season.

Before heading out, be sure to check the weather forecast. The mixing of warm and cold air can quickly spawn high winds and waves making it treacherous for small boats. Fog, too, is an issue at this time of year making visibility difficult. Should you find yourself in a fog bank, be sure to proceed slowly and sound your horn at regular intervals to alert other boaters of your presence.

Well into October, daytime temperatures can occasionally be balmy but resist the urge to bring your shorts and T-shirt back out of the closet. Dressing for the water temperature will help slow the onset of hypothermia should the unexpected happen and you find yourself in the water. Accidental cold water immersion can be shocking, but don't panic. It may take a minute or so to get your breathing under control after the initial shock but you will have at least 10-15 minutes, even in very cold water, to affect self-rescue before you will start to lose muscle control in your arms and leg. This is where an approved lifejacket, either inflatable or inherently buoyant, is an essential part of your wardrobe to keep you afloat.

Be sure to leave a float plan with a responsible person on shore who will know what to do if you're overdue. A marine radio or cell phone will allow you to call for assistance should the need arise. Having a few tools and spare parts aboard will also allow you to fix minor problems that might otherwise cause you to be stranded out on the water.

Ensure that your boat and engine are in good shape and mechanically sound. Ethanol-based fuel can allow water contamination in the tank. Use a fuel additive to prevent water in the fuel line from freezing that could cause your engine to chug to a halt. If using portable fuel tanks, it's a good idea to have a spare on board as a reserve.

As you head out, be wary of reduced water levels that can result after a long, hot and dry summer season. Some of your favourite shallow water fishing holes may be inaccessible at this time of year. Also, while underway, keep a sharp lookout for debris and chunks of ice that could penetrate your boat's hull at speed.

Don't be afraid to indulge in the splendour and peaceful solitude that Fall boating has to offer. Just keep in mind these few tips and prepare to build memories that will last till Spring thaw. For more tips on boating safely both early and late in the season, visit CSBC's SmartBoater.ca.

<https://csbc.ca/en/stretching-the-season>



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FOCA FOCUS

This year, we proudly celebrate 60 years since the creation of FOCA as a province-wide organization dedicated to thriving and sustainable lakes, lands and rivers across Ontario and the volunteer associations that work to protect them. FOCA started with 125 people in 40 associations. Today FOCA represents 50,000 member families in 525 lake, road, and residents' associations across the province. Together, we are the voice of waterfront Ontario, and our united voice carries weight on the issues that matter to cottage country communities.

HOME MAINTENANCE - FALL/WINTER EDITION

COMPILED BY THE BLA WITH INFORMATION FROM THE INTACT INSURANCE WEBSITE

Staying warm, preventing damage to your home and avoiding unnecessary insurance claims are just a few of the reasons why a little prep and cleanup can go a long way. Here's a handy checklist to help you get started.

Outside your home

- Clean gutters and downspouts to ensure proper drainage. Ignoring this crucial area can lead to water damage and ice build-up over winter.
- Check for and repair damage around your property including cracks and storm damage.
- Caulk window trims and door frames to prevent air infiltration and heat loss.
- Install weatherstripping to outside doors and windows to help keep the heat in.
- Clean out and cover up your pool or hot tub.
- Shut off the water supply to outdoor taps. Open them first to completely drain any remaining water, and leave them in the open position through the spring.
- Clear snow away from the foundation of your house to reduce the chance of basement leaks.
- Check your roof for loose or missing shingles. Even just a few can cause extensive damage to your home.
- Check the expiry date and integrity of your carbon monoxide detectors. With furnaces being turned on in the colder months, it's important to watch for high CO levels in the home, as they can be lethal.
- Ask a heating expert to check the filter in your furnace. Clogged or dirty filters can cause a breakdown in your heating system. Regular maintenance will ensure the efficiency and extend the life of your furnace.

Inside your home

- Check ductwork and water pipe insulation for anything amiss.
- Inspect washing machine and dishwasher hoses for cracks or leaks, and clean the filters.
- Learn the location of, and how to use, your water shut-off valve.
- Have chimneys cleaned.
- Have the furnace and/or air conditioning units serviced professionally to avoid damage and fire hazards.

<https://www.intact.ca/blog/en/home-maintenance-fall-winter-edition.html>

When you turn back all your clocks on Sunday, November 5, 2023, be sure to check and replace the batteries in your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms as needed.



TREK

KINGSTON

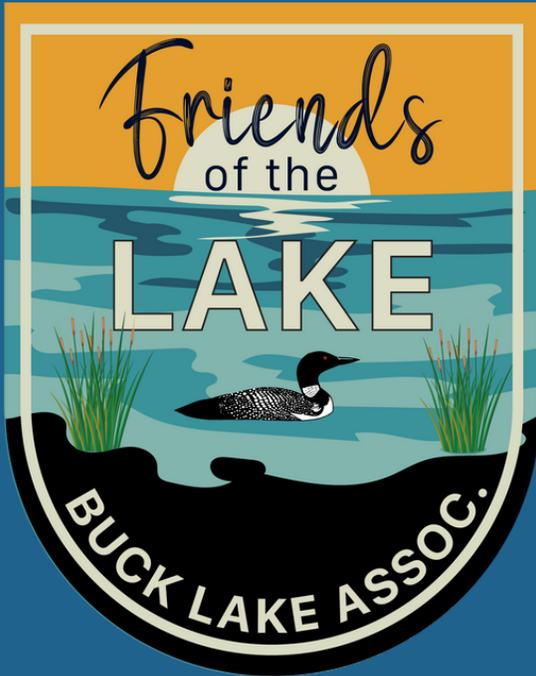
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Friends of the Lake uses this column to share useful links and information to help promote a healthy lake for everyone's enjoyment.

INVASIVE SPECIES PATHWAYS OF SPREAD

Did you know that the transport of watercraft and watercraft equipment from one waterbody to another is a significant pathway for the spread of aquatic invasive species? These invaders love to attach themselves and hide in various places on your watercraft, motor vehicle, and equipment! Pieces of aquatic plants can easily become wrapped on the boat motor or trailer and small, hard-to-see invasives can be hidden in the bilge, livewells, or attached to gear! If these invaders are not removed, they can hitch a ride from one waterbody to another making it extremely difficult, costly, and often impossible to eradicate them.

Visit us online to learn more about aquatic invasive species: <https://www.invasivespeciescentre.ca/learn/pathways/>



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WILDFIRE AWARENESS

BY SCOTT LILLIS

Living here in rural Ontario we are privileged to be surrounded by the beauty and solitude of nature. Unfortunately this year we have become acutely aware of the dangers that wildfires present in areas like ours.

This year, the fires have encroached upon us more ominously than ever, with the smoke from the Quebec fires permeating the air and negatively impacting our air quality. We heard about the damage caused when someone started and abandoned a fire in Calabogie that grew out of control in June and destroyed 50 hectares of land and forced the evacuation of homes and cottages around Centennial Lake.



Dozens of homes have been evacuated in the Township of Greater Madawaska after a forest fire broke out Sunday afternoon.

Still image from video recording by Conor and Tiffany Drummond

It is important to do what we can to minimise the risk of fires and to be prepared for such an event. The first step is to ensure that you create a defensible space by clearing flammable materials from your property. It is also important to develop an evacuation plan, establish safe meeting points, escape routes, and prepare emergency kits with essentials. Stay informed, monitor local news, weather alerts, and firefighting updates to make informed decisions. This also means regularly checking the South Frontenac township website or social media channels for information about fire bans and/or restrictions.

Stay safe, be prepared, and together, we can reduce the impact of wildfires on our lives and communities.

Information about Calabogie fire and image from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/centennial-lake-fire-madawaska-cause-suspect-1.6885070>



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WATERSHEDS CANADA - LAKE LINKS 2023

COMPILED BY THE BLA WITH INFORMATION FROM THEIR WEBSITE

Lake Links is a collaborative one-day workshop held every October. It attracts citizens and scientists to share ways we can help sustain our lakes and rivers. Individuals spread across five watersheds in Eastern Ontario and beyond attend this day-long event to learn, network and see what's new. Each year, Lake Links addresses the lake and river issues

that matter most to our communities with expert speakers, breakout sessions, and dynamic presentations. Each year, financial support for Lake Links is received from various partners across the environmental sector. The current Lake Links Planning Committee has representatives from Cataraqui Conservation, Friends of the Tay Watershed, Lake Networking Group, Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, and Watersheds Canada. This Committee is fundamental to the success of Lake Links each year.

Register using this [link](#) or by clicking on the image to the left.

To learn more about previous events click [here](#).



Graphic provided by Watersheds Canada.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Do you have something to share with our Buck Lake Community?

Please let us know at bucklakeassoc@gmail.com and we will add it to the newsletter!

The Announcements section will not publish ads or requests for services, etc. Instead it is intended to share news, celebrations or lake milestones, and other information of relevance for our community.

AFTER HOURS EMERGENCIES



TOWNSHIP NOTICES

- Drive-in Flu clinic at the Keeley Road Public Services yard. No appointments necessary. Bring your health card and wear short-sleeves or sleeves that roll up easily. November 7, 2023 3pm - 7pm. 2490 Keeley Road.
- Have your say! We are asking residents to take a short survey to provide input into the 2024 Municipal Budget. [Take the survey](#) by November 8, 2023.
- Have an urgent Township issue after 4:30 pm, on weekends or holidays like a tree down on the road or a missing stop sign? Call 613-376-3027 and follow the instructions to speak with our after hours service. For noise or animal bylaw complaints, call 613-541-3213.



A progressive and vibrant rural community.

KIDS CORNER

Here are some activities for any young (or young at heart) residents or visitors to try on a rainy day at the lake!

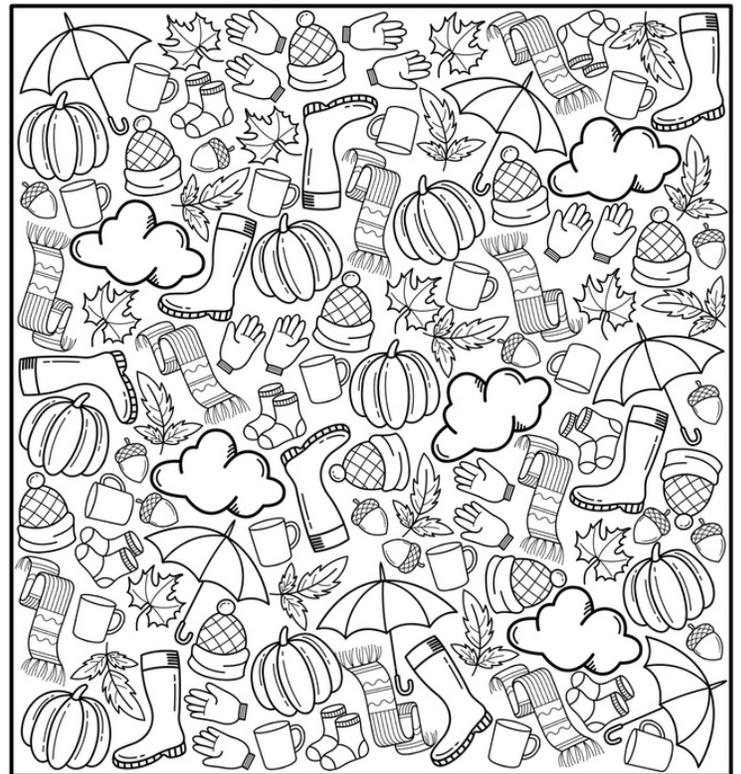


Image by Freepik



Image by Freepik

I Spy Autumn



Search and color these 12 items - How many of each can you find?



Free printable courtesy of PrintitFree.net



Image by Freepik

