



BUCK LAKE NEWS

FEBRUARY 2024

BLA SPECIAL MEETING UPDATE

BY SCOTT LILLIS

A huge thank you to everyone who came out for our Special Meeting (or signed a proxy form) on January 20th at the Perth Road Sunday School Hall. We were able to elect five new board members - so we are happy to welcome (in alphabetical order): Greg Anderson, Ian Kilborn, Sharon Ledwell, Rob McLean, and Rob Sinclair.

We also amended our constitution - lowering the minimum number of board members from nine to five and allowing board members to extend their term(s) if there are no other members wishing to join the board. Both of these changes were implemented in order to increase the effectiveness of the board moving forward and allowing the Buck Lake Association to remain active, even if our numbers wane. We remain committed to enhance people's enjoyment of Buck Lake now and for future generations.

The board is always open to welcoming new board members and/or volunteers for various committees so please email us at BuckLakeAssoc@gmail.com and let us know how you would like to get involved in this great community!



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The Official Publication of the

Buck Lake Association

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



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Save the Date!

Feb Fest '24

February 19, 2024
1 - 4 pm
Hidden Valley Campground



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TOWNSHIP NOTICES

- The Township of South Frontenac recognizes the valuable contributions of community organizations and volunteer groups who make South Frontenac a great place to live. We help and support these groups through our grant programs. The Township is now accepting applications from community groups. Please reach out to us at BuckLakeAssoc@gmail.com with your ideas so we can submit them and work on them together!



A progressive and vibrant rural community.



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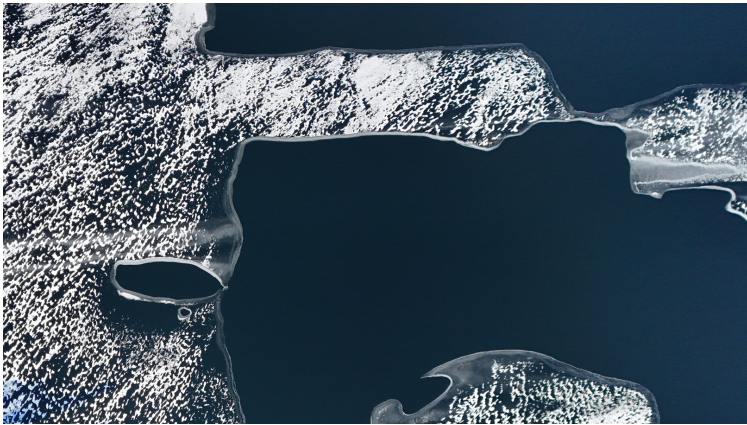
Buck Lake Association

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

ICE SAFETY: 3 STEPS THAT COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE

FROM THE DESTINATION ONTARIO WEBSITE

Stay safe and be very careful when trying to determine ice safety. Use extreme caution before heading out on a frozen lake or river in Ontario. Temperature changes or a fresh snowfall can contribute to concealing thin ice. Because so often it may be up to your own discretion when trying to determine ice safety, follow these important tips first. You may think that the first thing you need to do is measure the thickness of the ice, but there are actually two key steps before that.



Bird's eye view of ice beginning to form on the North Branch - Jan. 4, 2024.

Photo by Scott Lillis

3 steps for ice safety

There are three unique steps required to assess ice safety:

1. Complete a visual inspection
2. Note the colour of the ice
3. Measure the thickness of the ice

It's important to follow these three steps (explained in more detail later) before setting up your fishing rod, tying up your skates or starting the engine of your snowmobile. Do not trust that the ice is safe. This is important all the time, but even more so in the early parts of winter and the late spring.

Factors to consider for ice safety

Before selecting a body of water, remember ice safety depends on many things, including:

- size of the body of water
- movement of the water, including currents and tides
- current temperatures / recent and upcoming temperature fluctuations
- fluctuations in water levels
- chemical composition of the water
- depth of the water under the ice

3 steps in detail

You've picked your lake and have arrived on site. You must now complete your visual inspection.

1. Visual inspection

During your visual inspection, always remember that logs and rocks absorb the heat from the sun, which results in faster melting and slower formation of ice. If you see any of these signs during your visual inspection, do not go out onto the ice:

- cracks, breaks or holes in the ice
- water on top of the ice
- water flowing onto the ice
- ice that's soft or mushy
- flowing springs in spring-fed ponds and lakes
- ice that appears to have thawed and refrozen
- snow on the ice; snow can warm up the ice as it acts like an insulator



Ice shows signs of stress and cracking when forming in early winter.

Photo by Scott Lillis



TREK

KINGSTON

RIDE BIKES *have fun* FEEL GOOD



ICE SAFETY continued

2. Ice colour

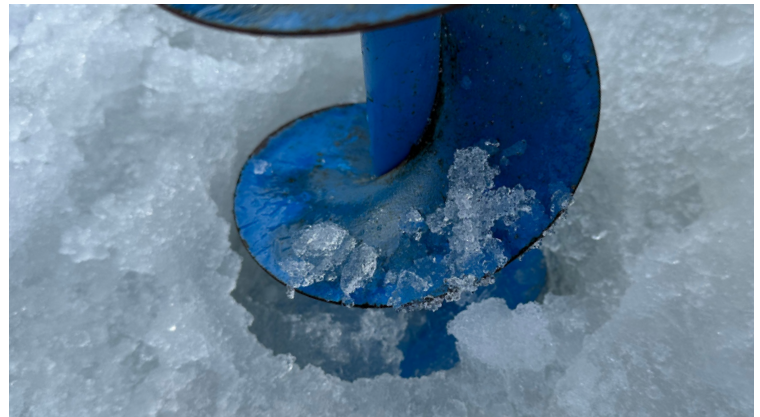
The next step in the inspection is to look at the colour of the ice, which is extremely important. There are three colours of ice and each means different things when it comes to the ice's strength:

- Dull grey is a sure sign of unsafe ice. This grey colour means the ice is unsafe and that water is present. This ice will NOT support much weight. Grey is very common in the spring and in faster moving water all winter long.
- White opaque ice or snow ice is only half as strong as blue ice. It is formed by wet snow freezing on the top of existing ice. It can be very dangerous if this ice has formed on top of ice that is not completely frozen. When this forms, it takes even longer for the lower-level ice to solidify. This type of ice can cover up danger and has caught even seasoned anglers off guard.
- Blue ice is clear and strong and the safest ice of all. The colour of ice deepens with increasing thickness because water is naturally turquoise blue. It forms when the temperature drops below minus 8 degrees Celsius.



Only after you are sure it is safe should you do any activities on the lake.

Photo by Scott Lillis



Measuring ice thickness in multiple spots is imperative for safety.

Photo by Scott Lillis

3. Ice measurement

The final step is ice measurement, and this must always be done. Do not test alone; always ensure you're using the buddy system. You can chip the ice with an axe or hatchet to create a small hole in the ice or use an ice auger or spud bar. Then measure the thickness of the ice. Continue to check the ice thickness as you move around the lake. Remember: ice thickness is NOT uniform across most lakes and rivers.

When you're considering heading out for a day of skating, a greater ice thickness is required for a group than for one skater. The Canadian Red Cross recommends that ice should be at least 15cm (6in) thick to carry a single person, but if you're heading out with a group of friends for skating or a game of shinny, ensure it's 20cm (8in). Ice thickness for a sled or snowmobile is a minimum of 25cm (10in). Always keep in mind when you move around the ice that thickness does vary, so check the depth of the ice often.

For driving on the ice, you're looking for a minimum of 30cm (12in) or more for a light vehicle, according to the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. Again, remember this is 30 centimetres of blue ice, so double that thickness if the ice is white or opaque.

Retrieved from:

<https://www.destinationontario.com/en-ca/articles/ice-safety-3-steps-could-save-your-life>



BLA WINTER BIRD PHOTO CONTEST



Photo by Scott Lillis

Let's honour our amazing local feathered friends who spend the winter with us at Buck Lake!

Senior Division: Prizes awarded for the top three photos as well as the photo that best represents Buck Lake.

Junior Division: Anyone under 16 years old. Prizes awarded for the top three photos and for the photographer who submits the most different species.

Submission Guidelines: Photos must be submitted in digital format to BuckLakeAssoc@gmail.com before March 31, 2024. Submission(s) must have the photographer's name, email address, and photographer's age for the *Junior Division*.

All photos submitted may be used by the Buck Lake Association in the future. Some will most likely become part of future Buck Lake Calendars.

Get your smartphones and cameras ready and get out there!
Photos must be taken in 2024.



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BUCK LAKE CALENDARS ON SALE

We have a handful of calendars left and since it is now February you can pick yourself up one or more for the discounted price of \$12! You still get eleven months of use and enjoy the wonderful photography all year long!

To order please use [this link](#) or go to our website - bucklake.ca and follow the instructions for payment. Pickup will be on Buck Lake - on sale while supplies last - first come first served!

You can always submit photos for next year's calendar to us at BuckLakeAssoc@gmail.com. Please be sure to share the photographer's name and any camera metadata with us as well.



EMAIL ADVISORY

BY SCOTT LILLIS

We have come across a few instances where members have used the wrong email address in attempts to contact us. Please note: there is more than one Buck Lake and our address isn't our full name spelled out. Instead, please be diligent in ensuring that you use the word Assoc instead of Association when writing to us. Better yet, add us to your contacts so you don't have to type it out at all - BuckLakeAssoc@gmail.com

One thing that we have started doing in this newsletter and will continue to do wherever we publish our address is type our email address using what is called Pascal Case. This is a convention used in computer programming but it is becoming more popular online and on social media. It helps differentiate between words and is helpful when using hashtags, as sometimes it can be difficult to understand what is being spelled out. Pascal Case is also helpful for neurodivergent learners, as it makes distinguishing between words much easier to pick up on.

While this has been done to help ensure people are using the right email address we feel that it is a simple change that can help everyone.



The Buck Lake Association Board of Directors 2024

President: Don Young Recording Secretary: Lorelei Rosa
Vice President: Sharon Ledwell Treasurer: Annie Preston
Directors at Large: Greg Anderson, Ian Kilborn, Kasia Kindrat,
Scott Lillis, Rob McLean, Randy Ruttan, Rob Sinclair





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WHO YOU GONNA CALL?

FROM OUR FRIENDS AT FRONTENAC PARAMEDICS

If you need help or medical resources we'd like to ask you to please ensure that you make the right call. You've all read about the demand pressures facing everyone working in the health care system, including paramedics. You can help ensure emergency medical resources are available to those who need them most by reducing your risks, especially on the roads, trails, and lakes.

If you do seek medical help we ask that you consider accessing other resources before you call on us by dialing 911. We're at the ready, as always, if you need us but please dial 911 only for life-threatening emergencies.

You can find more healthcare resources from the good people at Kingston Health Sciences Centre via the Right

Care site:

<https://kingstonhsc.ca/report/right-place-right-care>

MAKE THE RIGHT CALL

211
To find community and social services including walk-in clinics, home health care access, and other medical supports

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KFL&A Addiction & Mental Health Services
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911
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SPAWNING BEDS ON ICE

BY MONICA SEIDEL, WATERSHEDS CANADA

As winter puts a freeze on green action projects, Watersheds Canada is warming up for another lake stewardship initiative on the hardwater.

Loads of washed stone is set to be trekked across a frozen eastern Ontario lake this February, as volunteers will haul, shovel, and rake the natural material to create a bigger, better spawning bed for walleye. This in-water work is done with government approval and permits. However, the heavy lifting comes from community action and generous funding.

Watersheds Canada's volunteers arrive with their snowmobiles, four-wheelers, utility trailers, and sleds, but most importantly, they provide their time, elbow grease, and enthusiasm. All of this cold, hard work falls into place as the April thaw brings open water followed by walleye spawning time.

"Some of our best fish habitat work happens on the ice, and it's a great time of the year to connect again with our great donors and volunteers," said Watersheds Canada's Habitat and Stewardship Program Manager, Melissa Dakers, who is



Some of the volunteers at work on a Watersheds Canada project.

Photo from <https://watersheds.ca/spawning-beds-on-ice/>

supported by Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry fisheries staff, lake association members, and local anglers on a variety of fish habitat projects.

An upcoming spawning bed on ice is Watersheds Canada's twenty-seventh fish habitat enhancement initiative, all of which have rallied a grassroots determination for local lake and river stewardship. Watersheds Canada encourages the stewardship spirit with a fish habitat toolkit and webinars that share its fish habitat success stories including the deployment of in-water brush bundles (woody debris) and stream restoration work that helped save a native brook trout population.

Dakers stressed that her team's winter spawning bed work for lake trout or walleye is preceded with months of site visits, volunteer monitoring, fisheries meetings, material ordering, and planning as well as a day of washing. Yes, washing.

"In October, a team from Watersheds Canada used a pressure washer and brooms to clean a traditional walleye spawning bed that has become significantly less productive for walleye reproduction as a result of a build up of silt on the rocks and gravel."

Because walleye is a very sensitive fish species, siltation negatively affects their spawning beds. Silt covers the eggs, preventing them from being adequately oxygenated. This increases embryonic (early-stage development) walleye mortality.

"Thank you to the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry district managers who help encourage our local conservation work that has been made possible in the past with support from Bass Pro Shops/Cabela's Outdoor Fund, and most recently the Government of Canada, through the Environmental Damages Fund, as well as Honda Canada Foundation and the Ontario Wildlife Foundation," adds Dakers.

This project was undertaken with financial support of the Government of Canada through the Environmental Damages Fund in addition to the Honda Canada Foundation and Ontario Wildlife Foundation.

Retrieved from <https://watersheds.ca/spawning-beds-on-ice/>



B _ _ _ _ _

S _ **C** _ _ **G** _ _ _ **S**

E _ _ _ _ _

_ **S** _ _ _ _

Image by Freepik

Groundhog Day letter soup

The groundhog needs your help! Find these hidden words and draw an ellipse around it.

NAME: _____ DATE: _____
 TEACHER: _____ CLASS: _____

Q U B H Q Y E F G S G
 W E A T H E R W R F R
 R J N W J G C Y W L O
 S T M I U K N B U V U
 U G G N I I C Z S R N
 N B Y T J I M A L J D
 N S E E D Q E S G N H
 Y Q S R U H I C P T O
 V X L J O H Z R Y W G
 C W Y S L E E P Y N R
 Q O T Z J T S P Q J C
 M T K L I H O L E K T

- Groundhog
- Hole
- Winter
- Animal
- Weather
- Seed
- Sunny
- Sleepy



Image by Freepik

NAME THAT BIRD!

To accompany our BLA Winter Bird Photo Contest we are going to include a photo of a bird in each of our newsletters this year. Can you identify the species of bird that was photographed here on Buck Lake?

The answer and information about the species will be provided on our website - under the Kid's Corner tab.

WHAT KIND OF BIRD AM I?



Photo by Scott Lillis

