

BUCK LAKE NEWS

APRIL 2024

SIGNS OF SPRING

BY SCOTT LILLIS

As the remnants of an unseasonably warm winter fade away and daylight extends, we welcome spring to our lake community with anticipation. This past winter saw temperatures higher than usual and less snowfall than expected.

Despite the deviation from the typical winter weather, we're still eager for the arrival of spring and the opportunities it brings.

Spring at the lake marks a transition, influenced by the warmer winter we experienced. While the absence of harsh cold has altered the landscape somewhat, it has also allowed for earlier budding of trees and increased wildlife activity.

Looking forward to the warmer months, we are currently planning various events and initiatives to foster community engagement and eco-awareness. We can encourage our friends and neighbours to join us for Pitch-In Week from April 15-22, cleaning up litter in our community and along township roads and lanes. This is just one example of the many ways that we can positively impact our lake and its surroundings.

We also encourage everyone to enjoy the recreational activities available this spring, including fishing, boating, hiking, or simply taking leisurely walks in our community.

Above all, spring reminds us to be grateful for the unexpected beauty brought by the warm winter, the companionship of our community members, and the responsibility we have in preserving our lake for future generations.

Let's approach this new season with a spirit of unity and cooperation, making it a memorable one for all Buck Lakers.

IN THIS ISSUE

Welcome to Spring
PAGE 01

Total Solar Eclipse on April 8
PAGE 02

Fostering a Greener Waterfront
PAGE 03

Perth Road Maple Syrup Festival
BLA Spring Social
PAGE 05

Opening-Weekend Checklist
PAGE 06

BLA Winter Bird Photo Contest
PAGE 08

Friends of the Lake
PAGE 09

FOCA Focus
PAGE 10

Tackling Road Salt Pollution
PAGE 11

FebFest '24
PAGE 12

Kids Corner
PAGE 13



The Official Publication of the

Buck Lake Association

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



The Official Publication of the

Buck Lake Association

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

TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE ON APRIL 8

FROM SOUTH FRONTENAC TOWNSHIP

On Monday, April 8, 2024 our region will experience a total solar eclipse, a once in a lifetime event.

A solar eclipse occurs when the moon passes between the earth and the sun casting the earth in darkness. It will last about 2 ½ hours, starting shortly after 2 pm until 4:30 pm. The total eclipse when the sun will be completely blocked by the moon and the earth in complete darkness will last 3 minutes from 3:22 pm to 3:25 pm.

South Frontenac is directly on the path of totality, the slim sliver of the Earth's surface where the moon will completely block out the sun. You can [see the path](#) on this Queen's physics website.

Here is some helpful information to make this a safe and memorable experience for your family:

- The local school boards have declared April 8th a PA Day so school activities, and busing will not be impacted
- There could be higher than normal traffic volumes in our region that day so be careful on the roads.
- We are already hearing reports that prices for accommodations in regions with the optimal viewing for the eclipse are higher than normal, so if you are travelling or have friends or family members planning to visit, book early.

- While there are no Township-planned viewing events scheduled in South Frontenac, here are some sites that list local viewing locations and events in the greater Kingston region:

[Visit Kingston](#); you can also order ISO 12312-2 certified viewing glasses from their site in the merchandise section [Queen's 2024 Eclipse](#)

How to view the eclipse safely

Looking directly at an eclipse without proper eye protection is harmful to the eyes and can cause partial or total blindness if the proper precautions are not taken. Sunglasses, no matter how dark, are not safe to use during an eclipse. See [this brochure for safe viewing instructions](#).



Map created by the Canadian Space Agency and enhanced by South Frontenac Township to focus on our region.

Retrieved from

<https://www.southfrontenac.net/en/news/total-solar-eclipse-on-april-8.aspx>





The Official Publication of the

Buck Lake Association

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

FOSTERING A GREENER WATERFRONT

BY ROBERT PYE, WATERSHEDS CANADA

Lake life. Two words that send waves of leisurely thoughts of swimming, fishing, paddling, or just reading on the dock. The most relaxing times are always sunny days against the backdrop of nature. Today, however, our rural waterways and the people who enjoy them are under a cloud of stress from major (re)development plans as well as the impacts of climate change.

Seasonal cottages are increasingly becoming three-story, permanent homes, situated on the same lot where an A-frame and an outhouse were built in the pre-baby boom era. Family foundations, however, are still shaped by outdoor experiences. Families started and joined lake associations which were born out of respect for our shared environment. It was a natural shore that drew a generational commitment to the lake and to organizations like Watersheds Canada that have never been prepared to let unsustainable practices wash it all away.

Shorelands stressors

Evidence of property erosion and floods due to weakened shorelands is invariably linked to the changed aesthetic preference for a highly manicured waterfront. The natural armour that protected shores for centuries was gradually felled, mowed, and trimmed right down to the water's edge. Unfortunately, meticulous lawn care at the shore is fashion over function. Perhaps that explains why the aftermath of incense and sustained winds, tornados, derechos, or floods—all symptoms of climate change—are obvious along the shorelands of our rural lakes and rivers. Properties were left defenceless.

Thankfully Canada's water quality, fish and wildlife populations, outdoor recreation, and other freshwater values can be protected through shoreland preservation and restoration and caring landowners who understand the ecological services their properties provide. Anyone who enjoys Canada's two million lakes and rivers benefits from healthy shores, either public or private.

Waterfront residents have always been admired for their lakeside views, but what is more important is their view on freshwater stewardship. Residents are encouraged to see beyond their own dock and share Watersheds Canada's message that freshwater protection takes a community approach. From our grassroots perspective, everyone can help take on the heavy lifting to achieve environmental net gain.

Community and Conservation

The Natural Edge, a program of Watersheds Canada, was recognized as a miter Canada Award conservation finalist in 2023 for its role in planting over 135,000 native plants along over 352,000m² of shoreland. This program is challenging the hardened landscape trend. Naturalized shorelands are scientifically proven to be the most productive breeding and feeding habitat, for all species, in the entire lake ecosystem. It is biologically referred to as the riparian zone, or "ribbon of life."

The Natural Edge program has delivery partners and supporters across Canada and is most recently funded through RBC Tech for Nature. It supports community parks and other municipal properties, but the highest uptake comes from individual landowners. They receive customized planting plans that suit the needs of their property and waterfront life style.

Through the Natural Edge app and native plant database, we recommend (and in some areas, personally deliver and plant) native species that will create a stunning waterfront oasis. A vibrant natural edge can be created without heavy equipment and professional labour, and for pennies on the dollar compared to the per linear foot cost of break walls made from lifeless and time-limited construction materials.



A naturalized shoreline as referenced by Watersheds Canada.

<https://naturaledge.watersheds.ca/how-it-works/>





The Official Publication of the

Buck Lake Association

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

FOSTERING continued...

Stewardship success stories

While I do not own shoreland myself, I do own over 100 acres of woodland, property that was purchased in the interest of conservation. Wooded acreage like mine captures carbon and serves the entire community in terms of biodiversity and greenspace protection. Paying the taxes is required annually, but the initiative to improve its priceless eco-function is not.

My recreational downtime will never outnumber my work time in the woods. Hours of back-bending tree and trail care, and all the other weekend grunt work is the life simply accepted and embraced by the likes of farmers, woodlot owners, and cottagers. It is a land ethic that generates new growth, combats invasive species, and supports better habit for multiple species including species at risk.

Waterfront property owners can relate to this kind of labour of love. They never stop thinking globally while acting locally. Families may volunteer at the local fish hatchery, build loon nesting platforms, service and upgrade septic system to prevent blue-green algae blooms, take part in community science programs to detect road salt runoff and other pollutants, or spend their time and hard-earned money to plant native trees and shrubs for the health of the entire waterbody and everyone else downstream. Ultimately, they are the eyes and ears of the lake, raising environmental concerns with town councils and lake residents while being a part of the solution and not the problem.



You can have the Natural Edge come and plant native species at your property to enhance and protect your shoreline.

<https://naturaledge.watersheds.ca/how-it-works/>

Local anglers also deserve credit for assisting Watersheds Canada with clearing silt from walleye and lake trout spawning beds. Additionally, we've worked together to add brush bundles (woody debris) in the water, enhancing fish habitat. Boaters have volunteered their watercraft, fuel, and time, guiding our Love Your Lake teams around bodies of water in a program that assesses shoreland integrity.

In my neck of the woods, land conservation costs, namely taxes, can be offset through forest management incentives, but there is no system like this for the humble lake steward who contributes to society's greener good. This is where Watersheds Canada believes our shoreland expertise and vast partnership network can create the framework to encourage more volunteer-led shoreland preservation. In doing so, we want to propose a sustainable model that marches other successful tax break incentives and stewardship protocols. We welcome all ideas and support.



A newly planted shoreline courtesy of the Watersheds Canada program.

<https://naturaledge.watersheds.ca>

Planning for the future

In the meantime, Planning for our Shorelines start with a Watersheds Canada program by precisely that name. Planting plan toolkits and the science of vegetated buffer zone webinars are among a great list of free resources available to property owners, municipal planners, and local decision-makers. Watersheds Canada may also be available to visit a local council with our professional delegation on how a community can come together at all levels to save our shorelands.

Environmental action sets the scene for a perfect day on the water. In the future, the picture of lake life should be more than Muskoka chairs and paddleboards, even though both provide a place to connect with the stewardship goals of great organizations and volunteers.

Retrieved from:

[Water Canada magazine - January/February 2024](#)



Come Celebrate Spring!

Perth Road Maple Syrup Festival

(sponsored by the Perth Road Sunday School Hall Board)

Saturday, April 13th from 8:30am - 2:00pm

Pancakes & Sausages & Maple Syrup

Adults \$12.00 Children \$5.00

(under 3 yrs free!)



Visit the Votary farm & tour their sugar house!

Home Baking and Syrup for sale in the Sunday School Hall

Judy's Jams & Pickles, Home Baking and Hand-made Crafts for sale in the Harris Park Hall

Children's Activities

Find Pond, Face Painting & other activities at the Sunday School Hall from 9:30am - 2:00pm

Dress for the weather and the mud!



Spring Social

Saturday, April 20, 2024

1:00pm to 4:00pm

Hidden Valley Campground

1021 Hidden Valley Lane

As the weather gets nicer and nature starts showing off its colors, it's a great opportunity to get together and enjoy one another's company!

Please bring your favourite beverages and a chair and join us for an afternoon of camaraderie and relaxation by the lake. We can't wait to share laughter, good company, and perhaps even a few tales from our lake adventures.

See you there!





The Official Publication of the

Buck Lake Association

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

OPENING-WEEKEND CHECKLIST FOR YOUR COTTAGE

BY COLIN FIELD FROM COTTAGE LIFE

It's time to open the cottage, making May Two-Four one of the most chore-filled weekends of the year up here. But there's no reason it has to be all busywork and no beach.

Sure, there are things that absolutely need to be looked after, but not everything is urgent. So to make sure you have time this weekend to relax on the deck, Corona in hand, we've compiled a simple checklist of tasks you absolutely need to do so you can make the most of your long weekend.

Before you go

There's nothing worse than arriving at the cottage to realize you've forgotten something. Sure, you'll always need to make one more trip to the hardware store, but the better prepared you are, the more quickly you'll be able to kick back and relax.

- Make sure your electricity is turned on. And be sure to phone whatever other services you'll need before heading up. It's always best to do this before the weekend to be sure someone can help you.
- Be sure that everything is insured and you know where the documents are. This includes boat, trailer, and cottage insurance. And if you're pulling a trailer, be sure to test all the lights and connections before your family is loaded into the car.
- Try to remember all and any keys you'll need. Track them down and make sure you bring them with you.
- Put a tool kit together. You will need tools this weekend. Figure out which ones you're going to need and pack them. And don't forget the duct tape!
- Gather some cleaning supplies. You're definitely going to need to do a little bit of cleaning this weekend. Even if all you do is wipe off the deck chair, you'll need to have the right equipment to do it!
- If you're going to need filters or batteries, then charge them and pack them. And obviously you'll need clothes, water and food.

On arrival

After this year's dramatic spring, there's no telling what could be waiting for you when you arrive at your cottage property, especially if you haven't been there all winter. The first thing you'll want to do is look around for any outdoor or indoor issues that need to be fixed.

- Check for any damage to power lines, phone lines, the chimney, the deck, the dock, windows, screens, and under the cottage at the posts, pads, and beams.
- After surveying your property, head inside and check cupboards and counter tops for signs of mice or other animals, and look for any water damage that may have occurred over the winter.

Tuning up

Before the relaxation begins, start the cottage season off right with a few minor chores that will make sure everyone is safe and sound for the summer.

- Replace batteries in smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Make sure your fire extinguishers are charged.
- Replace batteries in any flashlights.
- Clean the eaves troughs.
- Clear any large branches off the building and trim any that may have become too close to your cottage over the winter.
- Replace any filters that may need to be changed.



I know I am ready to get the dock back in the water and enjoy the view!

Photo by [Shutterstock](#)



TREK

KINGSTON

RIDE BIKES *have fun* FEEL GOOD



www.trekcyclekingston.com

613-767-3076

info@trekcyclekingston.com

CHECKLIST continued...

Turning on the taps

Perhaps the most involved part of opening the cottage is getting your water system going. If you have a pump that draws directly from the lake, here are the steps to get it up and running.

- Inspect all lines for signs of damage.
- Replace the pump's filter.
- Prime the pump.
- Open a cold-water tap in your cottage, and be sure the cold-water valve to your hot water tanks is closed.
- Switch on the water pump at the panel box.
- Open all valves between the pump and your cottage.
- Open all cold water taps to remove air from the system.
- Close all the taps and look for leaks and hissing.

Turning on the hot water

Once your water's running, you need to fill your hot water tank with water before turning it on. It's pretty simple, really, but there are a number of steps you should follow to ensure you do it right.

- Be sure the hot water tank is off and all your taps are closed.
- Connect a hose to the drainage valve and run it outside. Open that tap.
- Open a hot-water tap.
- Close the drainage valve.
- Turn on the cold water intake to fill the tank.
- Watch the open hot-water tap. Once water is flowing through it, the tanks is full.
- Turn on the hot water tank, and watch for leaks.

That's it! You've got water, hot water, a shelter, and electricity. What else do you need? You remembered cold beer, right?

Retrieved from:

<https://cottage.life.com/design-diy/opening-weekend-checklist-for-your-cottage/>



WAYNE GORDON
SALES/MARKETING

4201 PERTH ROAD
INVERARY (Kingston),
ONTARIO K0H 1X0
613-353-1577 EXT. 22 FAX 613-353-7230
www.northcountrymarine.ca
email: wayne@northcountrymarine.ca



**TAKE THE FEAR OUT OF ENTERING
OR EXITING YOUR KAYAK**



**AVAILABLE ONLINE AT
KAYAARM.COM**





BLA WINTER BIRD PHOTO CONTEST



Photo by Scott Lillis

We have extended our photo contest to ensure that everyone has a chance to submit their wonderful images!

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 April 30, 2024. Submission(s) must have the photographer's name, email address, and photographer's age for the *Junior Division*.



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

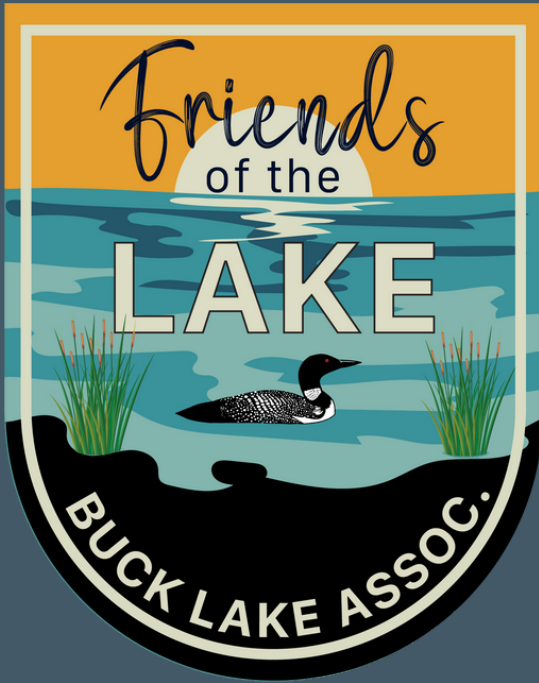




The Official Publication of the

Buck Lake Association

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



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

LOVE YOUR LAKE

A healthy lake starts with healthy shorelines. LOVE YOUR LAKE is a shoreline evaluation program developed by Watersheds Canada and the Canadian Wildlife Federation (CWF) designed to encourage lakefront property owners to take proactive steps toward improving lake health by creating and maintaining healthier shorelines. Take a look at their website and take their self-evaluation to see what you can do to help Buck Lake and your shoreline!

BE WAKE AWARE

While boating is a popular pastime on our lake, providing a chance to enjoy the great outdoors and spend time with friends and family. Enjoying our lake is a lot of fun but also requires every boater to be safe and responsible. For everyone's sake, Be #WakeAware. This is especially important for our loons, as they nest close to the shore and are often washed away by waves.

A LANDOWNER'S GUIDE TO INVASIVE PHRAGMITES

Invasive species are plants, animals or other organisms that are transported—generally by people, often accidentally—to a new region and manage to survive and thrive there. They spread quickly, can displace beneficial native wildlife, are costly to remove or manage, and can change the landscape, causing environmental, economic and social harm. Climate change is also creating paths for many species to move northward, with new and potentially negative effects on our northern ecosystems.

The European common reed (*Phragmites australis* subsp. *australis*), generally known as invasive Phragmites, is well established in southwestern Ontario and eastern Ontario near the Quebec border. The plant is also spreading north into Ontario's boreal region.

The fast-growing perennial grows up to six metres (18 feet) tall in a wide range of conditions, often found in wetland habitats and along roadsides or ditches. The reeds grow very close together and reduce open water in wetland habitats and impede water movement within ecosystems.

The tightly packed plants create dense stands that squeeze out other wildlife including turtles, which are already under population pressure in Ontario. Under the right conditions, stands of invasive Phragmites can spread up to 30 per cent in a single year. This growth happens through seeds, underground roots (rhizomes) and above-ground runners (stolons). Without decisive action, Phragmites will continue to expand its range and become a serious obstacle for more and more Canadians.

Learn more about how to identify and protect our wetland from phragmites and other invasive species by visiting the Ducks Unlimited website at ducks.ca and [Ontario's Invading Species Awareness Program](#).



A native Phragmites seedhead (top) and an invasive Phragmites seedhead (bottom). Note that the native Phragmites seedhead is smaller and sparser compared to that of the invasive Phragmites. Photo courtesy of Erin Sanders, MNR.



Retrieved from: <https://www.ducks.ca/assets/2023/03/phrag-guide-140323.pdf>



The Official Publication of the

Buck Lake Association

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



FOCA FOCUS

INFORMATION FROM OUR FRIENDS AT FOCA

COTTAGE SHARING AGREEMENTS

Upcoming webinar: "Cottage Sharing Agreements" - a FOCA Cottage Succession Seminar on Wednesday, April 17, 2024 from 7-8:30pm by Zoom webinar.

Register to join FOCA and estate lawyer Peter Lilloco for a "deep dive" into Cottage Sharing Agreements: advantages and obstacles to overcome to make your family's succession plan a success. [MEMBERS register for free here](#); remember to tell us your FOCA affiliation when you register!

BUILDING OR RENOVATING A COTTAGE?

With spring on our doorstep, the season of construction and renovation is almost here. Before you begin your exciting building or renovation project, it's crucial to be well-prepared, and that includes understanding how your property is insured. [Download this handy overview](#) (PDF, 2 pages) that includes important considerations to ensure your construction project is properly protected. Whether you're starting from scratch, expanding, or just giving your family cottage a fresh look, it is important to take steps before construction begins to safeguard your property.

Greenshield
PEST CONTROL INC.

Cottage Residential Commercial

24 Hours / 7 Days a Week Same Day Service

Senior & Military Discounts

Local Family Owned
Over 30 Years Pest Control Experience

Insect Control
18 Pest Protection Plan
Ants, spiders, Bees, Hornets, Fleas, Cluster Flies, Earwigs, Bed Bugs, Cockroaches, Millipedes & More.

Humane Wildlife Control
Mice, Raccoons, Squirrels, Birds, Skunks, Rats
Humane Removal
Proofing / Exclusion
Damage Repair

Bat Control
Humane Bat Removal
Decontamination
3-10 year Warranty bat proofing
Attic Restoration

Contact Us Today
613-389-3999

www.greenshieldpestcontrol.com

Greenshield Bucks **25**
This certificate value is \$25.00
Off your Home or Cottage Service

One coupon per customer. Not valid with any other offer. No Cash value. New Customers Only.

Gord McDiarmid Barrister, Solicitor

Since 1979

(and a happy year-round resident on
Buck Lake since June 2006)

*Real Estate, Mortgages, Family Law
Wills, Estates, Powers of Attorney*

Home: 1097 Tober Lane, Buck Lake
Phone: 613-353-6912

Office: 3 Rideau Street, Kingston
Phone: 613-546-3274
Fax: 613-546-1493



Your Source for Waterfront Properties
 in Westport, Rideau Lakes and Surrounding Area!



INFO@GURREATHOMES.COM • 613.273.9595 • GURREATHOMES.COM



TACKLING ROAD SALT POLLUTION

BY MONICA SEIDEL, WATERSHEDS CANADA

Watersheds Canada is excited to launch our latest resource toolkit: **tackling road salt pollution**.

As snow falls on our streets and highways each winter, road salts are generously used to ensure safe travel. This is especially true with the unseasonably warm winter we are currently experiencing across Canada as freezing rain and rain fall instead of snow, and there is constant freezing and thawing. While road salts play an important role in human safety, their persistent use is causing immense consequences for our freshwater ecosystems.

With the launch of the new toolkit and your support, we will:

- Raise awareness about the detrimental effects of road salt pollution on our freshwater.
- Encourage discussion on how municipalities and communities can have more comprehensive norms and enforcement regarding road salt usage.
- Promote de-icing alternatives that are both effective and ecologically responsible.



A snowplow clears snow while simultaneously spreading salt on the road.
 Photo from Watersheds Canada

Here's how you can take action today:

- Take the Survey: We have designed a survey to gather your insight and opinion on road salt pollution. Your feedback is invaluable, so please take a few minutes to fill in this anonymous survey!
- Spread the Word: Share our toolkit with friends, family, colleagues, and your municipality. The more voices that come together, the more ground-level action can occur.
- Donate: Ensure more communities have access to toolkits and the knowledge they need to protect their local freshwater.

Together, we can make a difference. Canada's waters are a treasure and a legacy we owe to future generations. As the winter months continue, let us come together to ensure that our efforts to combat ice do not come at the expense of our precious aquatic ecosystems.

Thank you for being a part of our community and your unwavering support. Together, we can chart a path toward a safe and eco-friendly winter.

TOWNSHIP NOTICES

- South Frontenac Township has been named by Call2Recycle Canada, Inc. as a 2023 Leader in Sustainability. The Leader in Sustainability Award is granted each year to organizations that display exceptional commitment to the environment and responsible battery management. The Township collected and diverted 2,310 kilograms of batteries from landfill in 2023, making it one of the program's top-performing partners. [Click here](#) to learn more.
- Pitch-in Week returns to South Frontenac April 15-25. It's easy to pitch in! Pick up the special yellow biodegradable bags starting Mon April 15 from our offices or local retailers who sell bag tags, pitch in to keep South Frontenac beautiful, then put the bags out on your regular collection day the week of April 22. [Click here](#) to learn more.
- For the latest on fire bans, [see this page](#).
- Subscribe to our [News and Public notices](#) to get key news and updates delivered directly to your inbox.



SOUTH FRONTENAC

A progressive and vibrant rural community.

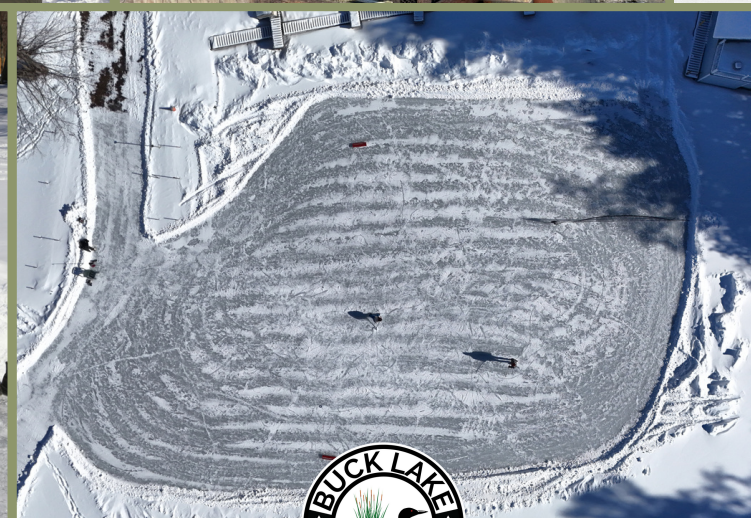





FebFest '24
 Thank You
 for attending!

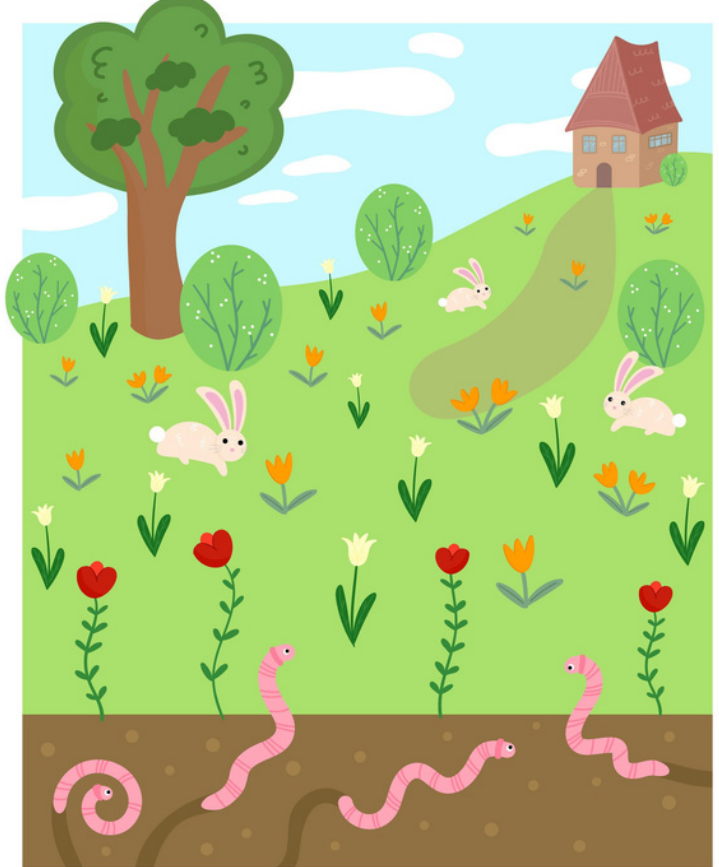
On Monday, February 19, 2024 we were able to resurrect a winter tradition on the lake - FebFest. We had a solid turnout come to Hidden Valley Campground on the South Branch to ice skate, play games, enjoy a bbq, and most importantly - enjoy one another's company. A heartfelt thanks to all that participated!

photos by Kasia Kindrat & Scott Lillis



1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

Bugs Game



HOW MANY?









	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>

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.



Photo by Scott Lillis

