











### TABLE OF CONTENTS

We have designed this Guide to help residents and visitors alike get aquainted with their surroundings here at the lake. We have tried to include as much information as possible on various subjects, hopefully without being overwhelming. If you have any suggestions for future versions of this guide please send them to us at <a href="mailto:BuckLakeAssoc@gmail.com">BuckLakeAssoc@gmail.com</a>

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## THE BUCK LAKE ASSOCIATION

The Buck Lake Association (BLA) is a not-for-profit organization with a mission to enhance people's enjoyment of Buck Lake now and for future generations. Membership is open to owners or residents of a property or properties bordering or on Buck Lake. There is a small annual membership fee.

Should you wish to join the Buck Lake Association, please visit our website at BuckLake.ca

### **ABOUT THIS GUIDE**

Please note that while we ensured that links, phone numbers and information were all correct at the time of publication, changes can and sometimes do happen. The BLA is not responsible for any changes that occur.

We would like to thank our resident photographers who contributed the images that you see on the inside cover. The photographs of common flora and fauna were sourced from <u>pixabay.com</u>

# **NATURE AT BUCK LAKE COMMON WILDFLOWERS**

### **SPRING FLOWERS**



Coltsfoot



Spring Beauty

Dutchman's Britches



Trillium (Ontario's flower)



Hepatica



Trout Lily

# SUMMER FLOWERS



Blue Flag Iris



Columbine





St. John's Wort



Water Lily



Wild Oats

### **FALL FLOWERS**



Goldenrod



Ox-Eye Daisy



Wild Aster

### **NEW TO THE LAKE?**

Welcome to Buck Lake! Whether you are a renter, visitor or new owner, here are your top seven hacks to help you and those around you enjoy your time at the lake:

### **BOATS AND PERSONAL WATERCRAFT**

Buck Lake has lots of large open areas where you can run your boats at speed and tow waterskiers and tubers. The lake also has many narrow channels where your boat wake will cause damage. Slowing down near shorelines not only reduces erosion but also safeguards nesting sites of birds like loons and allows more safety for swimmers. Please slow down in the channels and near shorelines.

### **ANGLERS**

Buck Lake has many species of game fish. Consider catch and release to help maintain our fish populations. It is also a great idea to remove the barbs from your hooks to prevent damage to fish returned to the lake. We are requesting that you do not use lead sinkers to avoid lead poisoning to waterbirds that ingest the sinkers to help digestion. Please do not dispose of your bait, garbage and used fishing line in the lake or on the shore.

#### **PARTIES AND NOISE**

Many of your neighbours are full time residents at the lake. Some of them are elderly or have young children. You may be here for party weekend, but they are not. Please respect your neighbours by toning down the noise or taking your party inside after dark. Loud music and voices carry a long way over the water, especially at night. If you are enjoying your music near the water it would be appreciated if you place your speakers with their backs facing the water. This will provide you with the same sound but reduce the distance it will travel across the lake affecting others.

#### **CAMPFIRES**

Buck Lake is surrounded by forest. Before starting a campfire please check the South Frontenac Fire ban status at <a href="www.southfrontenac.net/en/living-here/fire-ban-status.aspx">www.southfrontenac.net/en/living-here/fire-ban-status.aspx</a> Make sure your campfire is in a proper fire pit in an open area (not directly under the trees). When you go in for the night, please make sure your fire is completely out. This usually takes several buckets of water.

#### **ROADS AND LANES**

Most of the roads and lanes at Buck Lake are narrow, hilly and have poor sightlines. Please reduce your speed on the roads and lanes as there may be children playing, as well as loose pets and wildlife. Remember that a big dumptruck can be coming at you around any blind corner.

#### **GARBAGE AND RECYCLING**

Garbage and recycling are collected at the end of the lanes once weekly. If you will not be here on that day, please take your garbage and recycling with you. If you leave garbage overnight, wild animals will create a big mess as they forage through it.

#### **NEED HELP?**

If you have an **emergency** and need fire, police or ambulance **dial 911**. For other services, from the nearest hospital or drug store to veterinarians or help with injured wildlife, please see the list of local services on the back cover of this guide.

# **NATURE AT BUCK LAKE**

### **COMMON SUMMER BIRDS**



Baltimore Oriole



**Broad-Winged Hawk** 



Common Loon



Common Merganser



Eastern Phoebe



Great Blue Heron



Great Crested Flycatcher



Mallard Duck



Osprey



Red Wing Blackbird



Ruby Throated Hummingbird



Turkey Vulture

### **BUTTERFLIES**



Black Swallowtail



Monarch



Yellow Swallowtail

### **BOATING GUIDELINES**

### **RESPECT SPEED LIMITS AND KNOW YOUR BOAT WAKE**

Ontario imposes a speed limit of 10 km/h within 30 meters (approximately 100 feet) of shore on all water bodies, to reduce boat wake damage. Buck Lake has many narrow channels where your boat wake will cause damage. Slowing down near shorelines not only reduces erosion but also safeguards nesting sites of birds like loons and allows more safety for swimmers.

#### **SHARE THE LAKE**

Everyone wants to have a safe and enjoyable water experience. Please share the lake responsibly with other boaters, wildlife, swimmers, kayakers, canoeists, and paddle boarders. Reduce your speed near others and near wildlife, particularly loons, who may have young chicks that cannot dive to avoid your boat or watercraft.

#### **FOLLOW SAFE BOATING PRACTICES**

Close to 100 people die annually and many more sustain serious injuries in boating incidents in Canada. The majority of boating-related incidents and fatalities are caused by:

- Not wearing a lifejacket or PFD
- Falling overboard
- · Capsizing, swamping, sinking, or running aground
- Being involved in a collision
- Operating a pleasure craft while under the influence of alcohol or drugs

Buck Lake has shoals extending out from the shoreline and many islands. To make the lake safer for boaters, Buck Lake Association members maintain markers around the lake at some of the main isolated shoals, but boaters still need to be vigilant and monitor their depth at all times. The lake is patrolled by the Ontario Provincial Police who regularly conduct boat safety and alcohol checks.

#### RESPECT THE WATER QUALITY AND SHORELINE ENVIRONMENT

Maintaining the water quality and shoreline environment is a collective responsibility. Boaters should refrain from polluting the water with garbage, gas, or oil by conducting thorough inspections of their boats before setting sail. Proper disposal of waste items, including drink containers and fishing gear, is essential to preserve the pristine condition of Buck Lake for future generations to enjoy. By taking proactive measures to protect the lake, boaters contribute to its sustainability and longevity as a cherished recreational resource.

### **PREVENT INVASIVE SPECIES**

Combating the spread of invasive species is crucial for preserving the ecological balance of lakes. By adhering to local bylaws and thoroughly cleaning and rinsing boats before entering new waters, boaters can help mitigate the introduction and spread of invasive organisms.

#### Boating resource:

Transport Canada's Safe Boating Guide: <a href="https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection-2015/tc/T34-24-2014-eng.pdf">https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection-2015/tc/T34-24-2014-eng.pdf</a>

# **NATURE AT BUCK LAKE**

### YEAR-ROUND RESIDENT BIRDS



American Goldfinch



Bald Eagle



Barred Owl



Black Capped Chickadee



Bluejay



Downy Woodpecker



Hairy Woodpecker



Pileated Woodpecker



Red Bellied Woodpecker



Red Breasted Nuthatch



White Breasted Nuthatch



Wild Turkey

### **SNAKES**



Eastern Gray Rat Snake Threatened Species



Garter Snake



Northern Water Snake

 $<sup>^{\</sup>star}$  PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE ARE  ${\color{red} {
m NO}}$  POISONOUS SNAKES ON BUCK LAKE

### **BUCK LAKE LOONS**

We are so very fortunate that several families of Ontario's official bird, the common loon return to the lake each year to breed. We are trying to support this loon population as they are facing more difficulties due to increased lake usage every year.

The loons return to the lake as soon as the ice is out in the spring and begin searching for a site to place their nest. They will nest sometime from late April to late May. They will sit on the nest for 28 to 30 days and if successful will hatch one or two chicks.

The chicks are very vulnerable in their first few weeks as they cannot dive to avoid boats.

The loon family will stay together until the fall when they head south for the winter. The adults will return the next year, but the chicks will not return for three years.

Members of the Buck Lake Association participate in the Bird Studies Canada, Canadian Lakes Loon Survey each year to assist the scientists in monitoring the health of the loon population on Buck Lake and contributing to the survey across the country.



### **HOW CAN BOATERS HELP?**

The most critical time for the loon population is during nesting and when the chicks are young. Boaters can help by avoiding wakes near nesting sites such as small or uninhabited islands and by giving the loons a wide berth, especially if there are chicks present.

### **HOW CAN CANOEISTS, KAYAKERS, AND PADDLE BOARDERS HELP?**

It is really special to see a loon family with young chicks and very tempting to quietly approach them in your watercraft. As you approach, you will likely see one of the loons (usually the male) separate from the family and swim in your direction. This should tell you that you are starting to encroach on their safety distance and that you have already disturbed the family from caring for and feeding the chicks. This is a situation that causes the loon family significant stress and should be avoided. Let's give our loon families lots of space and freedom to care for and feed their chicks.

### **HOW CAN ANGLERS HELP?**

In addition to reducing your wake and avoiding the loons there are other ways that anglers can help. First, please use an alternative to lead sinkers. Loons ingest pebbles to aid digestion and they can ingest lost sinkers which usually causes them to die from lead poisoning. Second, if you are fishing in an area where loons are fishing, please move to another area. There are lots of good fishing spots on the lake. Finally, please do not dispose of your used fishing line in the water as loons can get caught in it or get it wrapped around their beaks.

### PLEASE HELP US SUPPORT OUR LOONS!

# **NATURE AT BUCK LAKE**

### **COMMON MAMMALS**



Beaver



Chipmunk



Eastern Cottontail



Grey Squirrel



Mink



Muskrat



Otter



Porcupine



Raccoon



Red Fox



Red Squirrel



White-Tailed Deer

### **TURTLES**



Map Turtle Species of Special Concern



Painted Turtle



Snapping Turtle
Species of Special Concern

### HARMFUL AND INVASIVE SPECIES

**TICKS** 

The blacklegged tick (also known as the deer tick), can carry the bacterium Borrelia burg-dorferi which, if transmitted to humans via a tick bite, may cause Lyme disease. Early symptoms of Lyme disease can include a ring-like rash that expands outward from the bite. Other symptoms may be flu-like, including fever, headache, muscle and joint pain, and fatigue. Find out more about Lyme disease and how to avoid exposure to infected ticks at the Ontario government's Lyme disease information page: <a href="www.ontario.ca/page/tick-borne-diseases">www.ontario.ca/page/tick-borne-diseases</a>. For information on how to remove an attached tick see: <a href="www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/lyme-disease/removing-submitting-ticks-testing.html">www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/lyme-disease/removing-submitting-ticks-testing.html</a>. If you remove an engorged tick or have other lyme disease symptoms, see your health care provider right away.

**POISON IVY** 

All parts of the poison ivy plant, including the roots, contain the poisonous resin urushiol. Contact with any broken part of the plant may cause a reaction. Most people develop symptoms 24 to 48 hours after contact. The inflamed areas often develop blisters, which leads to intense itchiness. The rash spreads through exposure to the sap, not from the sores themselves. Contact with a surface that has picked up sap from the plant (like the fur of an animal) can also result in a reaction. DO NOT BURN POISION IVY. If the smoke is inhaled, the rash will appear on the lining of the lungs, causing extreme pain and possibly fatal breathing problems. If poison ivy is eaten, the digestive tract, airway, kidneys, or other organs can be damaged. See <a href="https://www.ontario.ca/page/poison-ivy">www.ontario.ca/page/poison-ivy</a> for more information.

**GARDENERS** 

Be very careful when choosing plants for your gardens around the lake. Some plants like purple loosestrife are invasive species, while others like periwinkle may be virtually impossible to control once planted. For more information see the gardeners action plan: <a href="https://oncommons.org/nation.com/pages/invasive-species-action-plans#gardeners">ontario.ca/pages/invasive-species-action-plans#gardeners</a>

**BOATERS AND ANGLERS** 

When invasive species enter our lake, they can eat native species, out-compete them for food and habitat and introduce and spread disease. It is illegal to deposit live or dead bait or baitfish, or release them into or within 30 metres of any waters (including onto the ice). Washing your boat including the live well prior to entering the lake will also help reduce the spread of invasive species. For more information see the invasive species action plans: <a href="mailto:ontario.ca/pages/invasive-species-action-plans#anglers">ontario.ca/pages/invasive-species-action-plans#anglers</a>

**COTTAGERS** 

Cottagers often contribute to the spread of invasive species without knowing. You can help control invasive species by using only local firewood, cleaning your bikes, other gear and brushing your pets before coming to the cottage. For more information see the cottagers action plan: <a href="https://orca/page/invasive-species-action-plans#cottagers">ontar-io.ca/page/invasive-species-action-plans#cottagers</a>

### AROUND YOUR PROPERTY

### **ROADS AND LANES**

Most of the roads and lanes at Buck Lake have not been assumed by the Township. Therefore, the cost of maintaining and upgrading the road is the responsibility of the residents who live on that road. Most roads and lanes at Buck Lake have road associations that charge annual fees to maintain and snow plow the roads and lanes. Ask your neighbours about your road or lane. Many roads and lanes are narrow, hilly and have poor sightlines. Please reduce your speed on the roads and lanes as there may be children playing, as well as loose pets and wildlife.

#### **SHORELINES**

Natural shorelines provide habitat for fish, nesting birds, mammals and insects. Plants at the water's edge help filter nutrients and prevent erosion. This shoreline zone is called the "Ribbon of Life". The 'Ribbon of Life' is the natural shield protecting our lake. It is what mitigates erosion, protecting the beauty and property values of waterfront properties. It is a haven for wildlife. It is a key natural feature increasing resilience to climate change for people and wildlife. An owners guide can be found here: <a href="foca.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/FOCA Shoreline Guide Fl-NAL ed\_2019.pdf">foca.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/FOCA Shoreline Guide Fl-NAL ed\_2019.pdf</a>

Should you wish to naturalize your shoreline, you can find a Shoreline Naturalization Planting Plan here: <a href="www.southfrontenac.net/en/living-here/resources/Shoreline-Naturalization-Planting-Plan-Template-South-Frontenac-FINAL.pdf">www.southfrontenac.net/en/living-here/resources/Shoreline-Naturalization-Planting-Plan-Template-South-Frontenac-FINAL.pdf</a>. Shoreline weed removal is permitted to create swimming areas. The area that can be cleared of weeds depends on the property frontage. Please see the regulations at the Ministry of the environment: <a href="www.ontario.ca/page/remove-native-aquatic-plants">www.ontario.ca/page/remove-native-aquatic-plants</a>. If you remove weeds please dispose of them on your property, not back into the water.

### **SEPTIC SYSTEMS**

To remain effective your septic system should be pumped and inspected regularly. This will extend the life of your system and ensure that you are not releasing harmful nutrients into the lake. Buck Lake has been designated as a Highly Sensitive Lake Trout Lake. This designation has created special requirements for new or replacement septic systems. See the South Frontenac Township official plan for more details: <a href="www.southfrontenac.net/en/living-here/resources/OfficialPlan-FinalOct2013.pdf">www.southfrontenac.net/en/living-here/resources/OfficialPlan-FinalOct2013.pdf</a>

#### **LAWNS**

If you have a lawn, please do not use fertilizer, herbicides or pesticides as these will all leach into the lake. Adding nutrients (phosphorus and others) which may negatively impact water quality, which reduces the lake trout habitat. Buck Lake regularly has algae blooms that indicate excessive phosphorous and nitrogen in the water. Warmer weather due to climate change will make this situation worse. It is to every property owner's benefit to protect the water in our lake and to keep our Highly Sensitive Lake Trout Lake designation.

#### **WELLS**

Private well water testing is provided free of charge by Public Health Ontario. Public Health Ontario tests for the bacterial indicator organisms E. coli and total coliforms but does not test for other contaminants such as chemicals.

www.ontario.ca/page/testing-and-treating-private-water-wells

### AROUND YOUR PROPERTY

### **DOCKS AND BOATHOUSES**

A Cataraqui Conservation Permit is required for any marine development (e.g. docks, boathouses, boat ports, marine railways, etc.) and alterations to shorelines.

www.cataraquiconservation.ca/pages/docks-shoreline

### **GARBAGE AND RECYCLING**

Garbage and recycling are typically collected at the end of the lanes once weekly. Some road and lane associations have animal proof garbage containers to keep the garbage until pick-up day. If your road or lane does not, and you leave garbage overnight, wild animals will create a big mess as they forage through it. All garbage bags require South Frontenac garbage tags. More information on garbage, hazardous waste, dumps and recycling can be found at <a href="https://www.southfrontenac.net/en/living-here/solid-waste.aspx">www.southfronte-nac.net/en/living-here/solid-waste.aspx</a>

### **PETS**

All dogs over the age of two months must be registered with the Township and licensed. Dog tags help in the fast and safe return of your pet if it gets lost. More information: <a href="https://www.southfrontenac.net/en/living-here/dogs-and-animal-control.aspx">www.southfrontenac.net/en/living-here/dogs-and-animal-control.aspx</a>

Should you need a veterinarian, please see the back page of this guide.

### **FIRE SAFETY**

Buck Lake is surrounded by forest. Fire is the greatest single threat to our environment. Please be cautious with your campfires or any open air burning. Fireworks are not recommended. The noise created is disturbing to people, pets and wild animals. The remnants of fireworks are a significant fire hazard should they fall in the forest and they are pollution if they fall in the lake. For fire prevention and safety tips visit: <a href="https://www.southfrontenac.net/en/living-here/fire-prevention-and-safety-tips.aspx">https://www.southfrontenac.net/en/living-here/fire-prevention-and-safety-tips.aspx</a>

#### THE NIGHT SKY

Buck Lake is far enough from large urban centres to have an amazing night sky. Shortly after dark, you can see planets and satellites crossing the night sky. Later, when the sky is darker you can easily see the milky way. Several times each year, you can see meteor showers. Please reduce your outdoor lighting to a minimum to let everyone enjoy our pristine night sky.

#### **ICE SAFETY**

Buck Lake is a wonderful place in the winter offering many outdoor activities on the ice. Please be aware that ice conditions can change rapidly, especially where there is a current in the lake (like the narrows areas). Please check the ice thickness before venturing on the ice and consider taking a whistle and handheld ice picks to help you get out of the water should you break through.

# **BUCK LAKE NATURALIST CHECKLIST**

We are surrounded by nature at Buck Lake. Use this checklist to record the species that you see around you and become a Buck Lake Naturalist!

	BIRDS	DATE		SNAKES	DATE
	American Goldfinch	· <del></del>		Eastern Grey Rat Snake	
	Bald Eagle			Garter Snake	
	Baltimore Oriole			Northern Water Snake	
	Barred Owl	·		BUTTERFLIES	
	Black Capped Chickadee			Black Swallowtail	
	Bluejay			Monarch Butterfly	
	Broad-winged Hawk			Yellow Swallowtail	
	Canada Goose			WILDFLOWERS	
	Common Loon			Blue Flag Iris	
	Common Merganser			Columbine	
	Common Raven			Coltsfoot	
	Downy Woodpecker			Dutchman's Britches	
	Eastern Pheobe			Fleabane	
	Great Blue Heron			Goldenrod	
	Great Crested Flycatcher			Hepatica	
	Hairy Woodpecker			Ox-Eye Daisy	
	Mallard Duck			Spring Beauty	
	Northern Flicker			St. John's Wort	
	Osprey			Trillium	
	Pileated Woodpecker			Trout Lily	
	Red Breasted Nuthatch			Water Lily	
	Red Winged Blackbird			Wild Aster	
	Ruby Throated Hummingbird			Wild Oats	
	Turkey Vulture			TREES	
	Wild Turkey			Basswood	
	MAMMALS		$\overline{\Box}$	Black Ash	
	Beaver		$\overline{\Box}$	Eastern White Cedar	
	Chipmunk			Hemlock	
	Eastern Cottontail			Ironwood (Hop Hornbeam)	
	Grey Squirrel			Poplar	
	Mink			Shag Bark Hickory	
	Muscrat			Sugar Maple	
	Otter			White Birch	
	Porcupine		$\overline{\Box}$	White Pine	
	Raccoon			FISH	
	Red Fox			Crappie	
$\vdash$	Red Squirrel		$\sqcap$	Lake Trout	
	White Tailed Deer			Large Mouth Bass	
	TURTLES			Northern Pike	
	Map Turtle			Small Mouth Bass	
	Snapping Turtle		$\sqcap$	Sunfish	
	Painted Turtle			Yellow Perch	
		4.5	 >		

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### **COMMUNITY RESOURCES**

**EMERGENCIES** 

Police, Fire, Ambulance – Dial 911

Poison Control – Call the Ontario Poison Centre 1-800-268-9017 (Toll-Free)

Kids Help Line - 1-800-668-6868

Suicide Crisis Helpline – Call or text 988

**MEDICAL CLINICS** 

Westport - Country Roads Community Health Centre, 79 Bedford Street, Westport, ON Phone: 613-273-9850 Website: <a href="https://www.crchc.on.ca">www.crchc.on.ca</a>\*You must be on their roster to receive care here.

Sydenham - Sydenham Medical Clinic, 3113 Rutledge Road, Sydenham, ON Phone: 613-376-3327 \*You must be on their roster to receive care here.

Kingston - Kingston Health Sciences Centre Urgent Care Centre

Phone: 613-546-1240 Web: <a href="https://www.kingstonhsc.ca/programs-and-departments/urgent-care-centre">www.kingstonhsc.ca/programs-and-departments/urgent-care-centre</a>

**VETERINARY SERVICES** 

Westport - Westport Veterinary Clinic, 39 Concession Street, Westport, ON

Phone: 613-273-4250 Website: perthvet.ca

Sydenham - Sydenham Veterinary Services, 3050 Rutledge Road, Sydenham, ON

Phone: 613-376-3618 Website: sydvets.vetstreet.com

Kingston - After Hours Emergency Pet Care

Kingston Regional Pet Hospital, 1381 Midland Avenue, Kingston, ON Phone: 613-634-5370 Website: <a href="https://www.kingstonpetemergency.com">www.kingstonpetemergency.com</a>

**WILDLIFE** 

Should you encounter injured wildlife, please contact the Sandy Pines Wildlife Centre at 613-354-0264 or <a href="https://sandypineswildlife.org/">https://sandypineswildlife.org/</a>. You may wish to assist turtles crossing roads or lanes. If so, please be cautious of traffic, advance the turtle only in the direction it is going. You are advised not to attempt to pick up a snapping turtle.

**POWER OUTAGES** 

Buck Lake is serviced by Hydro One. Should you have a power outage, you can report it at 1-800-434-1235. If your power is out you can view power outages and predicted restoration times on the outage map at <a href="https://www.hydroone.com/support/contact">https://www.hydroone.com/support/contact</a>.



