**TURTLE RESCUE AT CHARLESTON LAKE**

In late July 2020, a large snapping turtle appeared on the beach at Peter and Judy Warren’s cottage on Webster Bay. The turtle was injured, with a large gash in his shell which looked as though he might have been hit by a propeller. He was not in good condition and, over the course of a couple of days, he stopped going in the water at all. He was clearly deteriorating, much to the concern of all the people who lived close by and could see this beautiful creature suffering.

To the rescue came Dwayne Struthers, a CLA Board member and Webster Bay resident. Dwayne decided to drive the turtle that evening to Sandy Pines Wildlife Centre, an animal rescue centre in Napanee. They assessed his condition which by then seemed very serious and made a decision to start a course of antibiotics. The experts at Sandy Pines were not sure that this would be successful, but were hopeful.

Two weeks later, on August 12, Sandy Pines called Dwayne with the good news that the turtle could be returned to Charleston Lake – he had responded very well to the antibiotics. Dwayne and his wife Nancy spent their wedding anniversary driving to Napanee to pick up the turtle. A small group of neighbours gathered, socially distanced to see his return to the lake on the Warren’s beach. It was very moving to see this big turtle enter the water and, after a couple of minutes, swim away and disappear. While he had been away in Napanee, another large turtle was seen swimming around the Warren’s dock on a number of occasions – perhaps this was his mate and they were reunited on his return.

Thanks to Dwayne and Sandy Pines, a valued long-time resident of the lake has lived to enjoy many more years. Sandy Pines Wildlife Centre.

