



Est. 1890

NEWSLETTER

We're dedicated to keeping Charleston Lake beautiful in every way !

Winter 2009

CLA/CLEA Recognized

Your associations efforts to keep Charleston Lake beautiful have been recognized by Cottage Life (an award winning magazine) with which many of you are probably familiar. We are finalists in their Green Cottager Award for 2009 in the Association category. The winner to be announced at the Spring Cottage Show in Toronto in March. Following is a letter sent to Cottage Life in May 2008 by CLA/CLEA requesting consideration for the 2009 Green Cottager award.

May 2008

Charleston Lake

We read with interest your recent edition, May 2008, containing the 2008 Green Cottager Awards and then thought about what the Charleston Lake Association has been doing over the last number of years and realized what remarkable work has been done here. For your information here is a glimpse of Charleston Lake and the Charleston Lake Association (CLA).

Charleston Lake is a mid-size lake (26 km sq) located in the Eastern Ontario Counties of Leeds and Grenville, and sits atop the Frontenac Arch, is the largest lake in the Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve and the most southerly inland lake in Ontario with a lake trout population. It also boasts Charleston Lake Provincial Park.

Here are some of CLA's accomplishments:

Healthy Shoreline Review - Every inch of our 150 km shoreline has been assessed with all 800 cottage owners receiving a shoreline binder detailing, with photographs, the condition of their shoreline. Improvements were recommended where needed in order to benefit the overall health of the lake. The Healthy Shoreline Review Handbook contains numerous tips on many cottage and related shoreline items and has served as a model for a similar project in the Thousand Islands..

Lake Management Plan - A comprehensive plan produced by the CLA took over four years to put together (2002- 2006). This project included public workshops to make sure all stakeholders had their say. Water quality was one of the guiding principles in the management plan. Working hand in hand with municipal officials and MOE many of the recommendations from this plan were included as part of the Municipality of Leeds and Thousand Islands' Official Plan. Lot size, set back requirements, septic tank location and future development restrictions became part of the Official Plan.

Stream Rehabilitation - The greater Charleston Lake watershed encompasses some 350 km sq with streams that total 565 km. Many of these streams are used as watering and wading areas for cattle. CLA has been working cooperatively with farmers to fence off many of these streams and to provide alternate water sources for cattle. This program has been costly but very successful and farmers are actually signing up. However it is ongoing and will take a few more years to complete. The Leeds Stewardship Council has been of great assistance in coordinating this project.

Nature Clean - As pointed out in the most recent edition of Cottage Life the cleaning products we use in and around our cottages can impact water quality. The CLA has been selling a complete range of Nature Clean products for several years at our Info Centre. Some local marinas and merchants have been convinced to also offer these products for sale.

Our Association - The strong and dedicated leadership of CLA is one of our greatest assets. Our association finds its roots dating back to 1890 and is still going strong. The CLA has been the driving force behind the Lake Management Plan, Healthy Shoreline Review Binder and the Stream Rehabilitation programs. CLA and CLEA (see below) were founding members of the Biosphere which is now known as the Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve which received its UNESCO designation in 2002. Our directors take on many challenges from staying in touch with municipal affairs, organizing the annual golf tournament (a major fund raiser), arranging children's programs (youth camp and swimming lessons), working with MNR (fish and wildlife concerns etc), environmental issues, water levels and The Thousand Islands Watershed Land Trust. Our directors as well as our membership share a love for Charleston Lake.

See CLA/CLEA Recognized Continued page 2

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CLA/CLEA Recognized Continued

The Charleston Lake Environmental Association (CLEA) - This group was set up in 1999 to work hand in hand with CLA. Its objective is to raise funds (golf tournament, trillium grant, \$100 Club, bequests etc.) to provide CLA with the financial resources for the many activities. Annual lake testing with the cooperation of the MOE Lake Partner Program and stream rehabilitation are some examples of programs CLEA makes possible. Our goal here at Charleston Lake is to keep the lake "Beautiful in every way", and this was the inspiration for The Healthy Shoreline Review, Management Plan and Stream Rehabilitation. These, together with cottager education, have resulted in a steady drop in phosphorous levels over the last few years. There are still challenges that we face but we think we are on the right track.

We are enclosing copies of our Lake Management Plan and our Healthy Shoreline Review Binder for your perusal. These two documents provide information on the motivation for their implementation as well as the other groups and organizations that assisted with their development. We are therefore requesting that the Charleston Lake Association be considered in Cottage Life's 2009 Green Cottager Awards.

Respectfully submitted by
Don Curry
Bill Borger
Bill Hallam
Directors with CLA

President's Message

On behalf of the directors, I wish you and your families a happy New Year.

Before addressing this year's plans I would like to reflect on the year 2008 which was a very good year for your associations; thanks to your support and generosity. During the year 2008:

CLUB 100--90 members joined Club 100 and contributed a total of \$ 10,750.00

GOLF TOURNAMENT--Golfers and their friends, who attended the dinner following the tournament, contributed \$9,252.00.

These two contributions amounting to \$ 20,002.00 will be invested in programs designed to protect and enhance the natural environment of Charleston Lake.

NEW DIRECTORS--Five members joined the association's board of directors. Your new directors are Mike Boyd, Dennis Freeman, Rob Gibson, Hartley Nichol, and Steve Page.

EXCITING NEWS--We are finalists in the Cottage Life magazine's Green Cottager award for 2009. For further information please refer to the article on the cover of this newsletter.

OUR PLANS FOR 2009.

Continue to monitor the septic system re-inspection program.

Ontario Lake Assessments have been awarded a contract to study our continuing weed problem. The parameters of the study are (1) Zero-in on the algae and slimy green vegetation which covers the lake bottom and shorelines (2) What is causing the growth in these two weed populations and (3) What action(s) the association should initiate to control these populations.

Boating Safety remains a priority one. No matter what type of watercraft--navigation, lights are a must when on the lake at night.

Continue to work through WRAFT (Water Front Ratepayers after fair taxation) to overhaul the current property assessment system which we feel is a seriously flawed system of taxation.

Puzzling and a concern to your directors is that late last year we still had approximately 100 members who had not paid their 2008 membership fees. No doubt this is an oversight on the part of the members concerned however it is a costly oversight to your association in terms of reminder letters, postage etc. Your 2009 membership invoice is enclosed with this newsletter, please take the time today to mail us your payment.

Enjoy Winter 2009 and take comfort in the fact that in three or months from now you will be back at beautiful Charleston Lake.

Don Curry

ONCE UPON A TIME.... THE VILLAGE OF CHARLESTON

In the Beginning

The **Laurentian Archaic People** were the first people in the Charleston area. Their tools, dating from around 5000 BC, have been found on Charleston's western shores. These tools include points, scrapers, awls and drills. This shows that the people were hunters and gatherers instead of farmers. The most important feature left by the Laurentian Archaic People was the portage from Charleston Lake to Red Horse Lake.

Roughly 1000 years ago corn was first introduced to this area. This reliable food source is the reason the initial Woodland People developed villages.

Years 1700 to 1799

During the 1700's Charleston Lake and Village was a mecca for the **Mississauga Indians**. Before the coming of the white man the Indian spent his summer and fall hunting and fishing.

After the Mississauga sold the land to the British Crown in the 1790's, development around the lake was slow.

William Kelsey was the first white man to settle in the Village of Charleston. He was a United Empire Loyalist who worked his way up to Canada at the time of the American Revolution. In the year **1798**, following a trail from Brockville, Mr. Kelsey arrived in the Indian village located on the north shore of Charleston Lake.

Years 1800 to 1899

In the 1800's several Indian families resided in the Village of Charleston.

Joseph Wiltsie claimed the first land grant from the British Crown in 1811. His 200 acre farmstead took in most of the present site of the Village of Charleston. Wiltsie held on to the land for only a year, selling it to Ben Slack.

Charleston is named in honour of a prominent mill owner, Charles Jones. The original name of the lake was Gananoque Lake.

The Village of Charleston grew up among fishing shacks and boat houses.

A fishing guide's day consisted of rowing (before motor boats were on the lake), cooking, fishing, hunting, swimming and occasionally giving medical advice. Some of the guides included James Kavanaugh, "Short" Sam Kelsey, Bill Crozier, Hersch Crozier, Del Woods, Ed Latimer, Ed Foster, Joe Kelsey, Tom Kelsey and Emmett Covey.

The first non-native watercraft used on Charleston Lake was the wooden rowing skiff.

Three local skiff builders lived in the Village of Charleston. Joseph Kelsey (1871-1963), one of the first guides, built skiffs from his own pattern. "Short" Sam Kelsey (1854-1929) was a guide who built boats and was known for making oars.

Delbert Covey (D 1954) was a boat builder, guide and carpenter.

Some time after 1825, **Patrick Anderson** established a grain storage facility and public store in the Village of Charleston, where he received wheat from farmers. He also operated a small shipping business that hauled grain from the Village of Charleston to the flour mill in Gananoque. This involved shipping the grain by boat to Marble Rock, where it was unloaded and placed on another boat for shipment to Gananoque. Things looked good for Anderson and for the Village of Charleston, especially when it was thought that the Rideau Canal system might include Charleston Lake. Unfortunately, the route finally chosen for the canal followed the Catarqui River rather than the Gananoque River. When, in 1832, the Rideau Canal opened and began to attract many of his former customers, the real crunch came for Anderson's business. In 1840 Patrick Anderson sold his public store and warehouse to David Bews. The store contained dry goods, groceries, teas, wines, liquor, crockery and ploughs. Local farmers traded their meat for goods.

The heavy forests around the Village of Charleston led to a lumbering industry that lasted 40 years or more. Timber was rafted from Charleston down through the waterway to Gananoque, the St. Lawrence River and Kingston. From there it was conveyed to England.

By the mid 1830's the Village of Charleston had developed into a small village.

By 1846 the Village of Charleston had 100 people, a store, tavern, tannery, shoemaker and cooper. The tannery was located near the present-day bait shop beside Kelsey's Marina. The store was located on the present site of the late Bill Kelsey's house (803 King Street). It sold goodies and candies to locals and visitors. The store was only open in the summer. By 1853 the Village of Charleston had grown to 125 people and boasted a general store, 2 tanneries, a carpenter, saddler, harness-maker, tavern and a Church of England clergyman. The general store, which contained a post office, later installed gas pumps for the motor boats. It was located where the Dockside Restaurant currently stands (802 King Street). Peter Green was the first Postmaster.

Sir John A. MacDonald, Canada's first Prime Minister, briefly owned parts of lots 21 and 22 in the Village of Charleston. He purchased the land on June 24th, 1854 and sold it 22 days later to David Bews.

Bews also owned lots 15, 16 and 77. He sold the first two to Francis Tremayne. The Tremayne family sold the land to Edward Duffield in 1875. Edward immediately built the famous Duffield Hotel on the site. Duffield's Hotel was later renamed the Harbourview. He ran the business for 23 years. The first school house, built in 1860, was located across the road from Samuel Kelsey's house (currently 837 King Street). It was a frame building that was used until 1874. By 1884 the village's business community had sharply declined due to pressures from the growing and more accessible communities of Lyndhurst and Farmersville (Athens). Remaining were a hotel, a general store and two blacksmiths.

See Charleston History page 4

Charleston History continued

During the late 1800's Justus Smith, a guide and fish inspector, ran a 38 boat livery (rental). Cedar Park Inn was built in 1889 by Adam Armstrong. The Inn was a three story building with two wings and a double veranda. It contained public and private parlours, a billiard room, barbershop, bar, fine office, reading room and dining room. There wasn't a proper road to the Inn, just a pathway.

Years 1900 to 1987

Fire leveled the village's waterfront on September 14, 1908. A house, two stables, a boat livery and eight boathouses were destroyed. Thirty boats were lost.

World War 1:

All women and girls became members of the Red Cross Society. They were constantly knitting and sewing. They packed boxes for district soldiers and were one of the busy groups in Ontario. World War 1 claimed the lives of three local soldiers. In March of 1917 the Lake Association built a dock at the bottom of King Street in the Village. The dock cost \$1,000. It was built in the shape of an "L" and stretched 270 feet from shore. The **Hanson Memorial Church** was built in 1926. The church was open most of the year, with most services hosted by local United or Pentecostal ministers. All the children of the Village of Charleston attended Sunday School. The church was closed in the 1960's; however, services commenced again in 1979.

Electricity came to the village in 1931.

World War II claimed the life of one local soldier.

On May 22, 1942, Cedar Park Inn was destroyed by fire. Because it was hidden behind large white cedar trees, the three storey hotel was almost leveled before anyone knew it was in danger. The Inn was never rebuilt.

The County Park at Sand Bay was created in 1954 as a public park and bathing beach.

The Harbourview Hotel closed in the early 1980's and was torn down in 1987.

Years 2008 - Present

As it has since the 1800's the Village of Charleston continues today as an important destination for visitors to the area. Presently in the village are 36 permanent residences and 6 business establishments. Although small in size, the village provides an important role for residents, cottagers, day-trippers, tourists and visitors to the Charleston Lake Provincial Park and the County Park.

Acknowledgment

The Charleston Lake Associations wish to thank the residents of the Village of Charleston and others too numerous to name, for the information provided in these brief notes covering the Village of Charleston's past.

Charleston Lake Associations
September 2008

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Thanks For Asking

Question: Does my septic system work better with more water or less water flowing through?

Answer: Limiting the amount of waste water helps your septic system function properly and minimizes the chance of untreated septic material returning to the environment. Thus a reduce flow shower nozzle, low flush toilet and water conservation habits not only save water, but also help to ensure septic performance.

Septic systems do not require any type of activator to function properly.

Question: Is biodegradable soap safe to use in the lake?

Answer: The short answer is no. Biodegradable soap is a good choice to use at the cottage, but never directly in the lake. All soap has an immediate contaminating effect in water. Biodegradable soap requires soil bacteria and time to break down.

CLA/CLEA Responds to Members Concerns

CLA/CLEA in addition to many association members have become concerned about a proliferation of certain species of Algae that we have seen in recent years. Therefore we have commissioned Reg Genge of Ontario Lake Assessments to research this bothersome issue. His work will include a three part study; a literature review on the findings of other researchers, survey work on Charleston Lake in the summer of 2009, and finally to prepare a report on his findings specific to Charleston Lake. This study will be funded by CLA/CLEA with MOE covering the costs of species identifications.

Year 2008 Water Quality Results

Water Quality tests carried out in 2008 indicate that water quality conditions are improving on Charleston Lake. The trends indicate that Water Clarity continues to improve and Total Phosphorous (TP) values continue to decline.

There is a definite trend to lower TP values on the lake resulting in a shift in lake trophic status from a mesotrophic status (moderately enriched) lake toward an oligotrophic status (nutrient poor) lake. If this trend continues the mean TP values could fall below the Provincial Water Quality Objective of 10ug/L within a few years.

While some of the decline in TP can be attributed to the efforts of shoreline owners and farmers in the watershed to reduce phosphorous loadings to the lake; the decline in TP in the water column may be also related to the zebra mussel colonization in that some phosphorous would become sequestered in their biomass as well.

The nutrients may be concentrated in near shore areas due to the zebra mussel excrement and therefore be promoting the growth of cladophora and other filamentous algae.

The Charleston Lake Environmental (CLEA) provided funding for the 2008 water quality tests. The Ministry Of The Environment (MOE) through the Lake Partner Program (LPP) provided analytical support for total phosphorous analysis for seven different sample locations on the lake that resulted in a cost saving to the overall survey. Ontario Lake Assessments was contracted to undertake the field survey work and report on the findings. Ontario Lake Assessments has been contracted for the year 2009 water quality testing program.

Environment Water-Land Committee.

NEWSLETTER



Est. 1890

While the Association makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of information contained in this newsletter, it cannot accept responsibility for errors and omissions. Readers are urged to obtain professional advice before acting on the basis of the material contained in this newsletter.

This newsletter is published regularly By the Charleston Lake Association for its' members and those persons interested in Charleston Lake. Comments and/or submissions are welcome and should be forwarded to The Secretary, Charleston Lake Association, P.O. Box 609, Athens, ON, K0E 1B0

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**For Membership
Information
Call 613-924-2809**

It's So Simple...

...to make a contribution to the health of the lake and possibly to your own health as well. NATURE-CLEAN cleaning products are the green brand of choice promoted by CLA/CLEA. This Toronto based company produces non toxic and environmentally safe alternatives for household cleaning, laundry and personal care products.

These products can be purchased at the Dockside Restaurant, Kelsey's Marina, Lake Line Lodge & Marina, Laine's Coffee & Convenience store in Athens, the Landsdowne Foodmart and at the Association's Information Centre

PLEASURE CRAFT OPERATOR CARD MANDATORY FOR ALL BOATERS IN 2009

If you are under the age of 26, you already need to possess a valid Pleasure Operator Card when operating a boat and by September 15, 2009, all boaters in Canadian waters are required to have successfully completed the test associated with the card. Besides people born before April 1, 1983, operators of any powered watercraft under 4m in length, all operators of personal watercraft such as sea-dos and jet skis already require a card. Boat operators don't need to possess a drivers licence. Operating a craft without the required Pleasure Craft Operator Card can result in a \$250 fine. The Pleasure Craft Operator card is good for life with no annual fees. Guidelines for foreign visitors are somewhat different from those for Canadians. Non-residents only need to obtain a Pleasure Craft Operator card if they are operating a powered boat in Canadian waters for more than 45 consecutive days and that includes rented boats, or if the boat they are operating is registered or licensed in Canada. Boater Education Cards or equivalent certifications are also recognized in Canada. According to Transport Canada over 150 boating fatalities occur each year along with an estimated 6000 non-fatal accidents. The introduction of the card is intended as an important step to reduce these numbers.

SAFETY COMMITTEE--CLA

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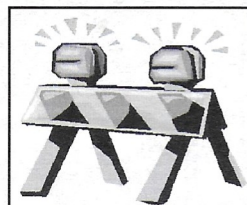
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Some Worldly Lake Facts

- The deepest lake in the world is Lake Baikal in Russia near the Mongolian border. It is 5,712 feet (1,741 meters) deep. That's more than one mile straight down! It is so large that all of the rivers on earth combined would take an entire year to fill it.
- Lake Superior has the greatest surface area of any fresh water lake in the world. It covers over 82,000 sq. km of land and there's enough water in the lake to fill all the other Great Lakes plus three Lake Eries.
- In South America, Lake Titicaca, in the southeastern corner of Peru, is the world's highest navigable lake, lying 12,500 feet above sea level!
- If travel plans take you to Antarctic, you'll be near the world's coldest lake, Lake Vostok. However, since it's buried beneath several thousand feet of glacial ice, you won't actually be able to visit it. Discovered just 5 years ago, it's one of the largest lakes in the world - its exact size is still not known. Cut off from the rest of Earth for at least a million years, Lake Vostok may harbor previously unknown species of microbes, having the ability to withstand conditions at the edge of survivability.
- The distinction of the world's lowest and possibly the saltiest lake goes to the Dead Sea. Bordering Israel and Jordan, it lies 1,340 feet below sea level!

PLEASE
ERECT
PROPER
WARNING
SIGNS



If you create open water
on the ice this winter,
REMEMBER...
you could be held responsible!

Yes!

I / We wish to help keep
Charleston Lake Beautiful
and Healthy

Enclosed is my / our donation of:
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Make cheques payable to C.L.E.A.

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MARINE DEBRIS BIODEGRADATION TIME LINE

