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# NEWSLETTER

SUMMER  
2021

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

[www.charlestonlakeassociation.ca](http://www.charlestonlakeassociation.ca)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This has been another difficult and trying year for all. Hopefully this pandemic will soon be behind us and all will be able to return to the lake.

CLA/CLEA directors have however been busy over the fall and winter with some interesting and challenging endeavours. This summer you will see around the lake some new signing at the boat launches and other areas, a result of many months of work between CRCA and CLA/CLEA directors.

This along with our BASS (Boater Awareness and Safety System) initiative will focus on ways to keep Charleston Lake safe and enjoyable for boaters, other users of the lake and wildlife as well. Read more about the BASS project in this newsletter and the informative pamphlet which is included.

We are fortunate that Water Quality testing will be continued for 2021 after a year hiatus due to Covid. Some CLA members will be teaming up with Ontario Lake Assessments, Reg Genge, this summer to "learn the ropes" of the testing procedure so it can continue down the road when Reg retires at the end of this season. CLA/CLEA has negotiated with him to purchase

his testing equipment which will be needed to continue with this very important program.

Thanks go out to Robbie Gibson, Cody Johnson, George Bellisle, Marty Rukavina and Brent Moulton for getting out the shoal markers. This volunteer program keeps us all a little safer while boating on Charleston.

CLA/CLEA will once again be offering a bursary to graduating students from the two local area High Schools. This \$500. bursary will be awarded to deserving students pursuing post secondary studies.

The Youth Summer Program has been postponed again due to Covid related issues but we are hopeful for the summer of 2022.

The Doug Hale Memorial Golf Tournament is still a possibility for August depending on Covid restrictions. Check our website for updates.

The CLA/CLEA Info Centre, near Charleston Village, will once again be opened to the public this summer with health and safety measures to apply.

Ontario Nature Youth Summit in Orillia is a question mark, at this point, for 2021.

CLA/CLEA AGM will take place virtually on July 17, 2021 at 9:00am. Our guest speaker will be Matt Ferguson. See Matt's description of tax topics to be discussed in this newsletter.

CLA members will be contacted via email for Zoom contact details.

Please check our website at [www.charlestonlakeassociation.ca](http://www.charlestonlakeassociation.ca). This is a helpful and useful tool to help us enjoy and keep informed about events in and around Charleston Lake.

Have a great and safe summer at beautiful Charleston Lake.

**Bill Hallam**

## BOATING AWARENESS SURVEY

Take the Boating Awareness Survey on the Charleston Lake Association website and enter a draw for a \$50 gift certificate, redeemable at either Athens Hardware Store or Lyndhurst Home Hardware.

# PROTECTING OUR TURTLE POPULATION

I was driving north through The Outlet this morning with my wife (May 26) and called to her attention the six or so Map turtles basking on the rock in the bay near the boat launch. A second later one was seen on our right within the shoulder of the road laying eggs. Just up from her on the opposite side was a second female also in the process of laying eggs. It was a timely reminder for me to get going on an article for your newsletter that I had agreed to do. Last minute, but some people never change.

You may recall an article I wrote a couple of years ago introducing folks to the various turtles we have in the area with a little information on the biology of each. This time I would like to talk about some of the issues or threats that are common to all of our turtles and offer some ideas that we as co-habitants of the landscape can practice and in doing so have a positive effect on their survival.

A quick refresher first. In and around Charleston Lake there are five species of turtles. They are Common snapping, Blanding's, Midland painted, Northern map and Eastern musk turtle. With the exception of the Midland painted turtle, all of our turtles in Ontario are considered by the Province to be at risk, ranging from endangered to special concern. The painted turtle is assessed at the federal level as special concern.

Why are all of our turtles at risk (of extinction or extirpation)? The reasons are many and varied but there are common themes or challenges faced by all of Ontario's turtles. These issues are repeated around the globe in many cases. They range from environmental changes or degradation to direct and indirect impacts from humans. Some examples are wetland loss to development or draining, water quality declines, barriers to movement for life processes, predation of eggs by subsidized species, road mortality (accidental and intentional) and boating collisions.

Many of our turtles take a long time to mature to their reproductive age – as long as 15 to 20 years for some species. This compounds the stresses and effects of other threats as the reproductive rates and survivorship of young hatchlings for most turtles is naturally low in most cases. Adult turtles have a low mortality rate (naturally) and can reproduce throughout their entire adult life. Their survival is critical to the continuation of populations. Additional impacts caused by environmental changes or other human-caused actions therefore exacerbate the situation for these creatures and can result – have resulted – in declines of turtle populations throughout Ontario.

So, what are some of the more common threats related to activities we engage in and can readily address through simple positive actions or behavioural modification?



Road-kill comes to mind right away for me. So many turtles are killed on our roads every year and especially now (May-June). May 23 was World Turtle Day. Who knew, right? I must have seen about ten dead turtles this past May 23rd on local roads. Why are the turtles out there? This time of year it is most likely related to adult females travelling in search of somewhere to lay eggs, sometimes in the shoulder of the road itself. Studies have shown that losses of only 1-5% of adult turtles can cause a significant decline in a local population. What can we do? The easiest action is to be aware and vigilant. Let's face it, turtles are not known for their speed and are relatively large and easy to spot if one is driving attentively. I often wonder why so many are hit. If a rock the size of cereal bowl or dinner plate were in the middle of the road, the vast majority of drivers would see it and be sure to avoid it. I have all too often seen drivers intentionally swerve to hit a turtle, sometimes almost putting themselves in the ditch because the turtle was located on the shoulder. Don't be that person, please. Avoiding is easy, but still leaves the next car down the road posing a threat. The next level of positive action is to remove the turtle from the area of threat – off the road. There is a load of good information on the internet as to how to conduct this safely. It is important to keep your safety and that of other drivers in mind. This simple action can be helpful in ensuring that mature, reproductive females are spared and can continue to contribute to their local population.

Turtle eggs are a nutritious meal for many species of wildlife. Unfortunately, many are predated by what are known as subsidized species. These are animals that are typically generalists by nature and flourish in environments near human populations. We all know them – raccoons, skunks, coyotes, foxes, and even ravens now in southern Ontario. For example,

ravens have adapted to recognize human travel corridors as a feature that attracts egg laying turtles. They have been observed "patrolling" roadways during turtle nesting season and then digging up freshly deposited eggs. Studies have shown that predation rates on turtle nests can approach 100% in some areas. While the loss of young hatchlings is normally high and survival of young to maturity is naturally low in the wild, this level of predation is not natural since the species predating them are at unnaturally high numbers in some areas. How can we help? Many of us have come across a turtle laying her eggs. If this occurs on your property it would help if you could allow it to continue. Better still, once she is done and leaves, providing some form of protection for her eggs from predators would be a nice touch. A simple nest protector can be built out of wood and wire mesh and placed over the nest site. This will keep predators from digging up the eggs. The design is very basic and the materials (2x4's and wire mesh) are easily acquired or maybe already on hand at home or cottage. There are several designs on the internet but the one used locally by conservation organizations can be found at:

<https://www.kingstonist.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/NestProtector.png>

If you are short of materials or skills, they can be borrowed or acquired locally through Frontenac Arch Biosphere or Thousand Islands National Park ([pc.rare.pc@canada.ca](mailto:pc.rare.pc@canada.ca)).

Boating is a popular recreational activity on the lake and for some a necessity. A number of studies, locally and beyond, have demonstrated that there are significant numbers of turtles injured and losses to adult turtles due to collisions with boats and their propellers. Admittedly, it can be a difficult to spot a swimming or floating map turtle in the water. But becoming familiar with the areas they frequent such as obvious basking areas and taking a wider berth around such areas and, or slowing down and looking ahead can help reduce the risk of boating over them. Slowing down can give them a better chance to dive and avoid an impact. Minimizing or avoiding the use of motorized boats in shallow and vegetated bays where many turtle species bask near the surface of warm, summer waters and forage will reduce the chances of interacting or colliding with turtles. These are great areas to observe turtles up close and get some great exercise in a turtle-friendly kayak!

Naturalized and soft shorelines allow turtles to safely exit the water to travel across land to access nesting sites, alternate habitats or mates. As we all know now, natural shorelines are beneficial to other wildlife and water quality in general. They can also provide nesting habitat for turtles.

There are other threats that turtles face, but the above are the ones most people are going to have an opportunity to address and enjoy some sense of accomplishment in helping out a neighbour in need.

## Charleston Lake Association & Charleston Lake Environmental Association Comparative Combined Financial Report Statement of Revenue & Expense

<u>Revenue</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Membership Dues	\$18,800	\$23,831
Club \$100 Donations	\$21,200	\$12,250
Golf Tournament	\$0	\$5,269
Other Donations	\$1,624	\$291
Interest and Other Income	\$1,429	\$1,789
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b><u>\$43,053</u></b>	<b><u>\$43,430</u></b>
 <u>Expenses</u>		
General Administration	\$10,715	\$11,346
Information Center	\$3,814	\$4,440
Youth & Social Programs	\$0	\$558
Safety	\$1,356	\$6,368
Miscellaneous	\$3,879	\$2,749
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b><u>\$19,764</u></b>	<b><u>\$25,461</u></b>
Total Environmental Project Costs	\$0	\$15,764
<b>Total Expense &amp; Project Costs</b>	<b><u>\$19,764</u></b>	<b><u>\$41,225</u></b>
<b>Unexpended Funds Current Year</b>	<b>\$23,289</b>	<b>\$2,205</b>
Unexpended Funds Prior Years	\$85,521	\$83,317
<b>Unexpended Funds at Dec. 31st</b>	<b><u>\$108,810</u></b>	<b><u>\$85,522</u></b>
 <u>Balance Sheet at Dec. 31st</u>		
	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Cash & Cash Invested	\$108,398	\$95,816
Accounts Receivable	\$4,817	\$7,485
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b><u>\$113,215</u></b>	<b><u>\$103,301</u></b>
Accounts Payable	\$4,405	\$17,779
Unexpended Funds	\$108,810	\$85,522
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Unexpended Funds</b>	<b><u>\$113,215</u></b>	<b><u>\$103,301</u></b>
 <i>Prepared by: Wayne Gill &amp; Steve Arthur - Secretary Treasurers</i>		

# CLA TO LAUNCH BOATING SAFETY INITIATIVE

This Summer, the CLA will launch a major new initiative aimed at reducing boat speed and noise, and to promote safe boating etiquette. The initiative, known as BASS (Boater Awareness and Safety System), will have five key elements: Improved signage at public boat ramps; traditional media; web-based media, collateral material such as pamphlets and maps and youth programs.

“For many years now, about 80% of the complaints we get as an Association are related to boat noise, speed, and wake,” said CLA President Bill Hallam, “and while it is up to Transport Canada and the OPP to enforce the law, we certainly have the moral authority to promote safe and respectful boating.”

Charleston Lake is not alone in seeing an increase in faster, noisier boats. And more recently, wake boats have become more common, and when operated close to shore can cause significant shoreline erosion, and damage to wildlife such as Loon nests. The BASS Initiative aims to increase boater awareness of the different Federal and Provincial laws that

govern the use of powered and unpowered watercraft, and build awareness of how operators can enjoy their boats while considering the interest of other users and residents of the lake, including wildlife.

CLA is especially proud that the BASS Initiative was selected from among dozens of applications from across Canada to receive financial support from Transport Canada’s Boating Safety Contribution Program. This contribution will offset a significant portion of the costs of the initiative.

The BASS initiative was developed by a committee of the CLA Board, chaired by John Webster. Other members included Steve Arthur, Bill Hallam, Michael McAdoo, and Rocci Pagnello. Said Webster: “Our committee looked at several different ideas, and then decided that we needed to take a systematic approach that would reach boaters in several ways,” Watch for new signs to go up at the main boat launches and marinas by early Summer, along with more and better information on the CLA Website, as well as at local marinas and shops.

## Charleston Lake

Please enjoy this beautiful lake and respect all of its resources



Within 30m  
of shore



Manage  
your wake



Obey all MNR  
regulations



Keep distance  
from wildlife



Take away  
your garbage



Transport  
Canada

Transports  
Canada



emergency: 911  
613-345-1790



Ministry of Natural Resources

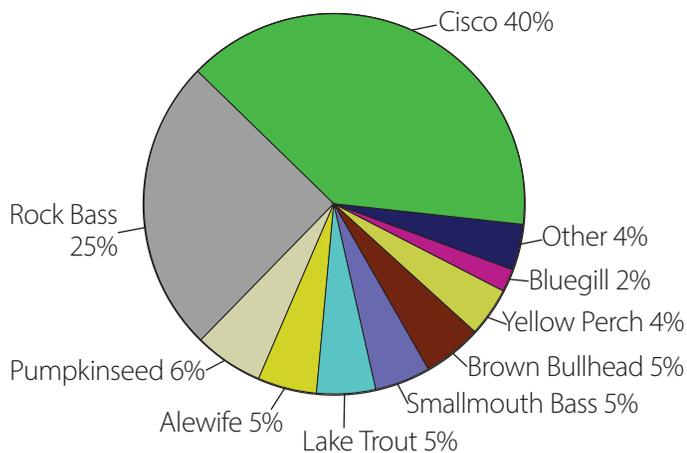


# RESULTS FROM THE 2019 CHARLESTON LAKE BROADSCALE MONITORING (BSM) PROGRAM NETTING ASSESSMENT

For the past fourteen years, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry has been conducting fisheries assessments at a provincial scale as part of its Broadscale Monitoring (BsM) program.

Charleston Lake is identified as a "Trend" lake, to be assessed on a five-year cycle as part of the BsM program, within Fisheries Management Zone 18. BsM provides a snapshot of the entire fish community within a given waterbody, but it is primarily designed to survey either: Lake Trout, Walleye or Brook Trout, and more so, at a zone level (i.e. catches from multiple lakes combined and analyzed).

The following pie chart summarizes the total catch from the large mesh nets in the 2019 BsM assessment conducted on Charleston Lake.



Now that we have 3 individual BsM datasets available, we are now in a position to start making inferences as to changes in the fish community of Charleston Lake (i.e. trends through time comparisons). However, a few changes were made to the distribution of the net sets between Cycles 1 and 2 (i.e. more specifically, in the breakdown in the number of deep vs. shallow water sets), so definitive trend results will not be available until a 4th BsM netting cycle is completed. That being said, notwithstanding the latter or the fact that the 2019 statistical netting precision wasn't optimal, by all indications the Lake Trout population density has possibly decreased from 2014 to 2019, but the relative weight of the fish captured may have slightly increased. The Cisco (aka Lake Herring) population density has definitely increased within the same time span, possibly validating the potential decline in the Lake Trout population density, as the latter's main forage base.

For more details on the results of this netting assessment please consult the Monitoring Bulletin available on Fish Online: <https://www.lioapplications.lrc.gov.on.ca/fishonline/Index.html?viewer=FishONLine>



Photo Credit: Brenda Evers

# PROTECT OUR LOONS

There are loons nesting on at least three rafts in Charleston Lake this spring. Please stay away from the rafts and ask your guests and family to do so. If a loon feels threatened on the nest, she will lower her head towards the water and flatten her body which indicates that she is ready to leave the nest. If the loon is flushed from her nest, the eggs are vulnerable to predation, overheating or chilling. Please back away if you see a loon in this position.

For interesting information  
on loons, go to  
<https://loon.org/about-the-common-loon/>



# GYPSY MOTH INFESTATION

As many of you will have already seen, gypsy moth eggs laid in July 2020 are hatching. Masses of small round eggs are covered in a peach-like fuzz. The larvae climb into trees and shrubs and feed at night. They can strip trees of leaves, weakening them and causing permanent damage if the outbreak lasts over a few years.

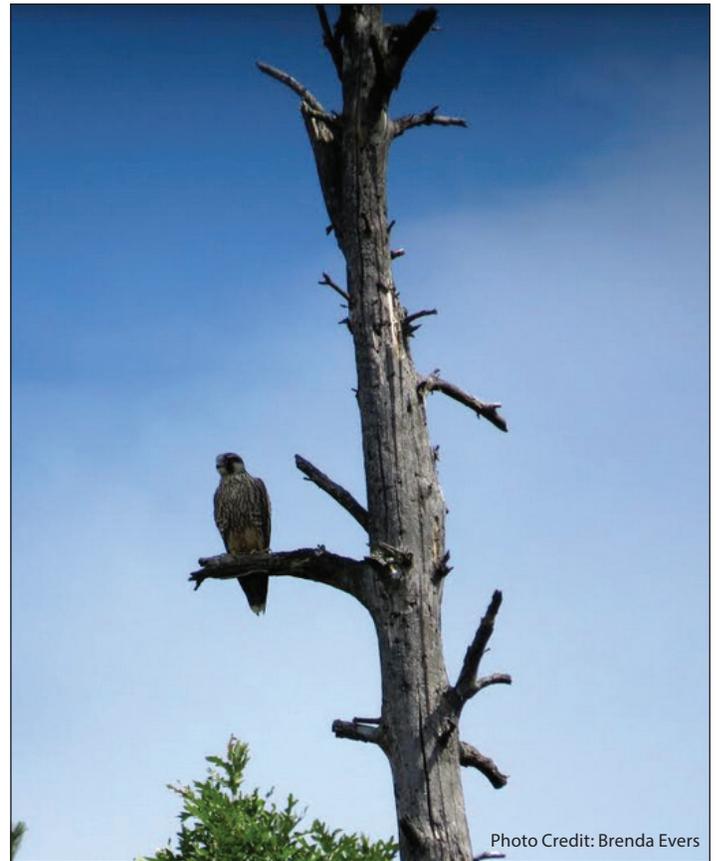
Control measures on your property are possible. When the caterpillars are active in the spring, the trees can be banded with burlap and when the burlap is removed, the collected caterpillars can be disposed of in soapy water.

Between July and the following April, the egg masses can be removed and disposed. The masses appear on trees that the moths fed on, as well as furniture, decks and trailers. Remove the masses by scraping them into a container and destroying them. Do not leave them on the ground as they can still hatch.

Though some birds and small mammals and rodents feed on the larvae, this is unlikely to cause a significant population decline. Most hardwood trees will reproduce after defoliation. Nature will come to the rescue as the moth population is susceptible to both a virus and a fungus.

For information, you can contact: Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry at [info.mnrscience@ontario.ca](mailto:info.mnrscience@ontario.ca) or The Invasive Species Centre at [info@invasivespeciescentre.ca](mailto:info@invasivespeciescentre.ca).

There is also useful information on the Eastern Ontario Model Forest website: [eomf.on.ca](http://eomf.on.ca).



## Youth Summer Camps

Youth Camps will not be held again this year.  
We plan to start camps at Sand Bay again in 2022.

## DOUG HALE MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

**Saturday, August 14th, 2021**

At the time of print of this newsletter and with the continued uncertainty around COVID, we are unable to confirm that we will be able to hold our tournament on August 14th. The key will be the rules around social gathering and the ability of Cedar Valley to conform to the regulations at that time. The safety of all participants will be our primary concern.

We will continue to monitor the situation and if it is possible to hold a tournament, we will announce the plans at our AGM and post these plans on our website.

**Wayne Ashford, Co-Chair**    **Pierre Menard, Co-Chair**  
**613-836-7000**                      **613-617-9669**  
**613-659-4715**

# Thank you

## Paul Johnston

The Charleston Lake Association's Info Centre's foundation had begun to sag due to uneven settling of the foundation blocks. Paul Johnston stepped in and did the work and provided materials at no charge to the Association. Paul said that he felt that the Association did a lot for Charleston Lake residents and he wanted to contribute his services free of charge. Paul has been a general contractor in the Charleston Lake area for many years. If you need some renovation work done, contact Paul Johnson General Contracting at 613-924-9782.

# AGM 2021

We will be holding our AGM virtually on Saturday, July 17, 2021 at 9 a.m. We will be sending out Zoom invitations some weeks before. If we do not have your email contact information and you are interested in joining the AGM, please send your email address to [info@charlestonlakeassociation.ca](mailto:info@charlestonlakeassociation.ca).

Our guests this year are Roger Kelsey Insurance Brokers Inc. They have been long-time partners with CLA in providing our members with competitive coverage and pricing through their exclusive CLA Members Group Plan.

Roger Kelsey's grandson, Matt Ferguson will provide an overview of services provided by their office and will highlight the insurance discounts available to CLA members. Also attending will be Andrew Murray who is the Tax and Estate Planning Specialist for Ontario and Atlantic Canada for Financial Horizons Group and an advisor to Kelsey Insurance. Andrew will be able to answer questions regarding tax and estate planning and presenting ideas and examples of strategies to efficiently move assets on to the next generations.



Photo Credit: Brenda Evers



Photo Credit: Dwayne Struthers

## Charleston Lake Association Directors

- Bill Hallam** - *President*  
billhallam@hotmail.com 613-659-2997
- Wayne Gill** - *Secretary/ Treasurer*
- Dwayne Struthers** - *Fish and Wildlife*
- Rocci Pagnello** - *Fish and Wildlife/ Ontario Youth Summit*
- Robbie Gibson** - *Safety and Law Enforcement*
- Pierre Menard** - *V.P. North / Golf Tournament*
- Jay Kyle** - *V.P. South*
- Mary Mansworth** - *Newsletter/ Youth Programs*

## Charleston Lake Environmental Association (CLEA) Directors

- Steve Arthur** - *Secretary/ Treasurer*
- Wayne Ashford** - *Golf Tournament/ Provincial Park Liaison*
- Roy Angelow** - *Municipal Contact*
- Rob Ross** - *Counties Liaison*
- Sue Willson** - *Website / Golf Tournament*
- Nicole Rozario** - *Boating Safety*
- John Webster** - *Website/ Boating Safety*
- Michael McAdoo** - *Boating Safety*
- Ron Evers** - *Fish and Wildlife*