



est. 1890

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER
2022

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

www.charlestonlakeassociation.ca

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Skip a stone. Take a hike.
Sit a spell. Listen. Daydream.
Just breathe. This is lake living.

-unknown-

How lucky we are to call Charleston Lake home

Summer is finally here and life is getting better as Covid restrictions are being lifted. The spring weather cooperated in allowing for a slow thaw which contributed to normal spring water levels. Thanks to the efforts of Murray Hall and Portage Power of Gananoque who are responsible for the dam at the Outlet, there appears to have been very little ice damage around the lake.

The LDD moth, previously known as the Gypsy moth and now known as the Spongy Moth is making a return. At the time of writing this article, early indications are we may have less damage than last year. Let's hope that we are nearing the end of this cycle.

Our youth summer camps are back and registrations indicate that there will be a good turnout after a 2 year hiatus because of Covid restrictions. The camps are an important part of

what we do at CLA and thanks to Mary Mansworth who is our board director responsible for these camps this year will no doubt be a success.

The annual Doug Hale Memorial Golf Tournament is on again this year on the 6th of August at the Cedar Valley Golf Club. We hope that many will participate as it is a great way for many of our members, family and friends to get together for the social event of the year. Registrations are coming in so please don't wait register your team.

Speaking of events, this year also sees the return of an in person gathering for our Annual General Meeting at Holy Trinity Church. In addition to the usual agenda items and presentations, our guest speaker will be Dr. David Phillip of the Fisheries Conservation Foundation who will make a very interesting presentation on some of the projects they are involved in on Charleston and surrounding lakes. You do not want to miss it!

We hope that you will enjoy the included nautical map which is another product of our Boater Awareness of Safety System (BASS) project. I wish to again thank the team of John Webster,

Michael McAdoo and Nicole Rozario who were the principal members of the committee responsible for this endeavour. Additional maps will be available at a very reasonable price from local marinas, merchants and of course our Information Centre.

Our Information Centre will again be open to the public this year from Thursday to Monday starting on the July long weekend until September long weekend and every weekend in June.

The hours are 9 am to 3 pm. Stop by and say hello to our new Centre manager, Asia McBride, a Charleston Lake resident who is also a student at St. Mary High School in Brockville.

We have a couple of new projects in the works and should be able to provide updates on our next newsletter. You can also visit our website which contains useful and timely information.

Until then, we hope you enjoy this newsletter and we wish you a very pleasant summer making lasting memories at Charleston Lake.

Pierre Menard

- President Charleston Lake Association

YOUR LAKESIDE EXPERIENCE, BROUGHT TO YOU BY...

Behind every great spectacle of the world is something that makes it possible from behind the scenes. Every Broadway musical relies on a crew, every architectural marvel needs designers and builders, and every masterpiece is painted upon a simple white canvas. Nature is no different: every beautiful ecosystem in the world relies on a set of processes that prop it up. In the case of Charleston Lake, these “behind the scenes” processes come from the Leeder’s Creek Wetland Complex, a large group of swamps, marshes, and creek sections that work together for the benefit of all downstream – including the beautiful Charleston Lake.

The Leeder’s Creek Wetland Complex does this important job in several ways. Its many species of plants keep your rural air as fresh as can be. The soft, spongy ground holds hundreds of millions of litres of water, guarding the lake from floods in wet years and trickle-feeding it in droughts. The vast array of wildlife eats up the excess nutrients that cause algal blooms, keeping your water clear and shimmering. And the vast interconnectedness of it provides habitat for the beautiful wildlife that bring life to the lake and awe to our hearts.

The Thousand Islands Watershed Land Trust recognizes the importance of habitats like this and works hard to ensure they can persist for the good of nature and people. To date, we’ve worked with willing landowners to protect over 422 acres of the Leeder’s Creek Wetland Complex – a drop in the bucket of the 5000 total acres we’ve protected since 1993. We are local people who love the land, just like you do, and just like you we want to see the beauty of Charleston Lake preserved for all future generations to come. You can help us in this mission by becoming a Land Trust member or donor. We rely on people like you, who understand the needs of wildlife and the role nature plays in our wellbeing, to enable our work; we truly cannot do it without the community’s support.

If you’re passionate about nature and want to protect Charleston Lake and all of its natural wonder, visit tiwlt.ca or email info@tiwlt.ca to learn more about the Thousand Islands Watershed Land Trust, and join us as a member today!

Calder Schweitzer

B.Sc - Wildlife Biology and Conservation

Executive Director- Thousand Islands Watershed Land Trust



Snapping turtle emerging from gravel nest after laying eggs

Photo Credit: Brenda Evers

2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SATURDAY,
JULY 9, 2022

9:30 AM

Holy Trinity Church,
Oakleaf Road

GUEST SPEAKER:
DR. DAVID PHILLIP

David is the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Fisheries Conservation Foundation and Principal Scientist (emeritus) at the Natural History Survey, University of Illinois. His presentation will involve strategies for innovative conservation for the Bass population into the future.

ALL ARE WELCOME

Charleston Lake Association & Charleston Lake Environmental Association

Comparative Combined Financial Report

Statement of Revenue & Expense

Revenue	2021	2020
Membership Dues	\$23,678	\$18,800
Club \$100 Donations	\$12,800	\$21,200
Other Donations	\$2,192	\$1,624
Interest and Other Income	\$711	\$1,429
Total Revenue	\$39,381	\$43,053
Expenses		
General Administration	\$10,378	\$10,715
Information Center	\$5,442	\$3,814
Safety	\$8,554	\$1,356
Miscellaneous	\$3,344	\$3,879
Total Expenses	\$27,718	\$19,764
Total Environmental Project Costs	\$11,726	\$0
Total Expense & Project Costs	\$39,444	\$19,764
Unexpended Funds Current Year	-\$63	\$23,289
Unexpended Funds Prior Years	\$108,810	\$85,521
Unexpended Funds at Dec. 31st	\$108,747	\$108,810

Balance Sheet at Dec. 31st

	2021	2020
Cash & Cash Invested	\$107,941	\$108,398
Accounts Receivable	\$803	\$4,817
Total Assets	\$108,744	\$113,215
Accounts Payable	\$0	\$4,405
Unexpended Funds	\$108,747	\$108,810
Total Liabilities & Unexpended Funds	\$108,747	\$113,215

Prepared by: **Wayne Gill**
Secretary Treasurer



LEAD-FREE TACKLE INITIATIVE

Most, if not all, residents of Charleston Lake hold dear the sight and sounds of Common Loons throughout the spring, summer and fall. We share the same feelings for loons with lake and river communities across Canada knowing that 94% of the global Common loon population nest and breed in Canada. The Charleston Lake Environment Association has played a key role in protecting and enhancing the loon population on the lake, notably through the establishment of loon platforms to increase breeding success.

Margie Manthey, resident of nearby Wolfe Lake, began a journey to increase protection of loons through the introduction of a lead-free tackle exchange program. The Common Loon is one of the most susceptible species to fatal lead poisoning. Literature reports that the ingestion of even one small lead sinker are fatal to loons. Manthey provides the following link- <http://www.fishleadfree.ca> – as an excellent source of information and insights into the lead tackle issue as it relates to Common Loons and other bird species,

Manthey began the development of a lead-free tackle program on Wolfe Lake approximately 1 ½ years ago. Manthey is a life-long wildlife conservationist as well as a 50 year + avid angler.

Her interests in fish and wildlife on Wolfe Lake spans decades alongside the Wolke Lake Association, naturalist groups, government and private sector partners. On March 31 2022 the Lake Association and their significant collaboration network embarked a lead-free tackle exchange program. This voluntary program provides interested persons to exchange their lead tackle for a voucher to be used to purchase lead-free tackle in participating stores. Manthey has worked hard to provide strong, fact-based issue awareness throughout the lake and has met with success in delivering the program the last two months.

The CLA and CLEA have embarked on understanding the Wolfe Lake experience since program inception in 2020 and have the full support by Manthey to shape a similar program for Charleston Lake for launch in the spring 2023. We will keep lake residents informed of our progress as well collective seek ways to protect Common Loons and other lead poison vulnerable species on our lake.

Ron Evers
- *Fish and Wildlife*



Photo Credit: Brenda Evers

CHARLESTON LAKE LOON REPORT: SPRING 2022

During the spring and summer of 2021 the Association worked hard to strengthen the Common Loon population on the lake. Here are some highlights for our 2021 efforts:

- Usually there are 27-33 adult loons present on the lake in summer months. Not all of the adult loons nest during this time. Loons also tend to be very territorial, also a factor in breeding success. Depending on weather and lake conditions there could be anywhere from 3 to 9 chicks resultant from adult nesting.
- Three loon surveys were conducted during the months of May/June, July and August.
- A total of 9 chicks were observed on the lake in 2021. Of the 9 chicks:
 - Five (5) chicks were produced from successful nesting on introduced loon rafts. The association had 4 cedar rafts and 1 PVC raft in service in 2021. Three rafts produced 5 chicks. One new raft was not used and one failed due to the predation of the nest.
 - Four (4) chicks were produced from the successful nesting on three natural nests. This is the most breeding success in several years as loon nests are often washed out by waves and high water conditions.

There are several lake residents who worked to contribute to the loon program. This included monitoring natural and raft nest sites and reporting movement of the loon chicks after nesting success. We are thankful for their time and efforts!

As we move into the 2022 season we are happy to report the following activities to the end of May:

- The Association had 4 cedar rafts and 1 PVC raft in service last year. Randy Ferguson and Dwayne Struthers built two more PVC rafts to deploy this year. The new rafts have been installed in 2 new locations. The increase in raft use was predicated on the fact that rafts help prevent nests from being washed out and have been a jurisdictional best practices over many years.
- Several loons have been observed on the lake in early to mid-May. These adults may be resting on the lake as they proceed to migrate north.
- Significant activity was observed around the rafts in late May and nesting was observed on a few of the rafts.
- We wish to recognize Katie Baker who has now joined the survey team and is reporting the survey results to Bird Studies Canada. Three surveys are planned during May or June, July and August.

We would ask that residents and visitors to the lake keep away from all rafts and natural nesting sites during nesting season. Loons can abandon the nest or eggs might fail to hatch due to waves, weather conditions and/or predation.

Dwayne Struthers
- Director, Fish and Wildlife



Photo Credit: Brenda Evers

2022 DOUG HALE MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Doug Hale Memorial Golf Tournament is back this year!

Get your team of 4 together for our 9 hole shot-gun start golf tournament on Saturday, August 6th at Cedar Valley Golf Course, 7041 County Road 29 (at Highway 42). A great way to reconnect with your neighbours and friends from Charleston Lake.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and the 9 hole scramble will start at 9:30 a.m. Golf will be followed by a social hour with a lasagna lunch (gluten free options available) beginning at 1:00 p.m. An early wrap up around 2:30 p.m. will allow everyone to enjoy the rest of a beautiful summer day at Charleston Lake. Those who wish to come for lunch only are most welcome!

The costs for the tournament and lunch are:

- Adults: \$50 (Cedar Valley members \$30)
- Youth (under 16): \$40 (Cedar Valley members \$23)
- Lunch only: Adults: \$23; Youth: \$17; Children under 6: \$12
- Golf carts can be arranged directly through Cedar Valley Golf Course.

Let's keep Doug's memory alive by supporting the Charleston Lake Environmental Association! Remember that 100% of all net profits go toward the environmental programs which will help to keep Charleston Lake in pristine condition now and for future generations. So get your teams together as we expect a sell-out!

How to register:

- **By email:** Send team name, 4 team member names with email address and phone numbers to willsonsue@gmail.com. Please indicate any lunch only guests. E-transfer your team payment to info@charlestonlakeassociation.ca
- **By Website:** www.charlestonlakeassociation.ca - fill in the form and e-transfer team payment to info@charlestonlakeassociation.ca
- No payment will be accepted on day of tournament.

For more information, please contact Sue Willson (613-720-7975) or willsonsue@gmail.com

Sue Willson - Golf Tournament Director

CLA PUBLISHES CUTTING-EDGE BOATING SAFETY MAP

The CLA has published a new Official Boating Safety Map of Charleston Lake, as part of its ongoing Boater Awareness of Safety System (BASS) program. The map was developed by a committee of CLA board members, working with professional cartographers and graphic designers.

"Over the years, there have been many maps of the lake, but none that has provided the level of detailed marine and navigational information that boaters need to operate safely on the lake," said Nicole Rozario, who is the CLA lead for the map project. The CLA team has extensively consulted more than 10 existing maps of the lake, published from 1899 to 2005, cross-referencing place names and other features around the lake.

The new map is printed on waterproof and tearproof paper, and shows water depths, shoal markers, and slow speed zones. The back side is filled with useful information on boating safety rules, local wildlife, prominent features around the lake and small businesses.

A free copy of the map will be sent to all CLA members with the Spring 2022 Newsletter. The map will also be available for sale at local marinas and retail outlets.

The volunteer CLA committee included Rozario, Mary Mansworth, Michael McAdoo, Rocci Pagnello, and John Webster. The map project, including cartography, design, and production, was supported by a financial contribution from Transport Canada under the Boating Safety Contribution Program (BSCP).

Michael McAdoo - Boating Safety

SHOAL MARKERS

The shoal markers were put in place in May. Special thanks as always to George and Faith Bellisle for the use of their pontoon boat to set the markers out. Marty Rukavina and myself installed the markers and Chad Blanchard and Cody Johnston helped with the loading and unloading, cleanup and chain replacements.

We are looking to replace twenty old markers and hoping to receive some new solar lights. We also placed some new "Slow - No Wake" buoys in a couple of areas.

Stay safe and enjoy the lake

Robbie Gibson

- Safety and Law Enforcement

CHARLESTON LAKE ASSOCIATION BURSARY

Each year, CLEA provides a bursary to a graduating student at both Gananoque Secondary School and Athens District High School who will be enrolling in an environmental studies or other similar program. The alternative criteria could include a student who has demonstrated an active interest in promoting environmental awareness.

For 2022, we are pleased to announce that Ella Hudson, who has grown up around the lake will be awarded the CLEA bursary for ADHS. Ella will be studying Architecture/Urban Planning at Carleton University.

Congratulations, Ella

Lucky's Adventures



Hatched and Ready To Swim



Lucky's parents were very happy when Lucky arrived safe and sound. The nest was on Muskrat Island and nice people and the turtles protected the nest. Lucky splashed and swam in Webster's Bay on her first day!

Lucky's First Adventure

Lucky was tired after swimming . She went to sleep on the island protected and excited. The next day everyone woke up early. But being a baby chick Lucky wanted to explore! Her parents went into the water ready to teach Lucky how to dive for fish But when they looked around Lucky was GONE!

Watchful Eyes

Lucky was Missing. "Oh NO ! everyone on Oakweb Lane shouted !" Her parents made lots of noise with their beautiful voices to help Lucky find her way to safety but Lucky was hiding really well. Lucky where are you? But then Dwayne, a neighbour bravely set out to the island to find Lucky. Did Dwayne find Lucky?



The "Lucky the Loon" story was written by Oakweb Lane resident, Anne Huot. Anne grew up in Brockville and spent summers on both the St. Lawrence River and Charleston Lake. She and her husband, Guy have been on Oakweb Lane since 2000 and welcome family and grandchildren to the lake. She plans to write more children's stories to help everyone appreciate the treasures of Charleston Lake.

Lucky's Rescue

Muskrat Island was rugged Canadian Shield. There were rocks and trees and slippery slopes. There were water holes that were dark and scary. Lucky's adventure landed her in one of these water holes. She was scared and lonely and did not know how to get out. She was only 2 days old! But all of a sudden a hand reached down into the cold dark water and rescued Lucky. It was Dwayne to the rescue!



Safe and Sound at Last!

Lucky was carefully placed in the lake by Dwayne. Lucky was so thrilled she dove under the water for the first time. She quickly came up and swam to her anxious parents. The rest of the day she swam and dove among the big waves. Lucky loved the lake as long as she could stay away from danger. Lucky was going to stay close to her parents for now. At least until she was a little older!

Oakweb Lane Celebrates!

Lucky was lucky! So are Oakweb Lane cottagers! Charleston Lake is so special. Loons are an important part of the lake experience. Not every lake has loon families. Remember slow down near shorelines & near any loon families. They count on us and we count on them. Lucky will be singing and swimming and fishing for many years. Say Hello when you see her!





Photo credit: Brenda Evers

Charleston Lake Association Directors

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*President
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Boating Safety

Michael McAdoo

Boating Safety

John Webster

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Roy Angelow

Municipal Liaison

Ron Evers

Fish and Wildlife

CHARLESTON LAKE ASSOCIATION WEBSITE

Please take time to go to our website for interesting articles and up-to-date information about the lake and current activities.

www.charlestonlakeassociation.ca

SUMMER CAMPS

There are still a limited number of spots left in the Charleston Lake Association Summer Camps at Sand Bay County Park.

The camps are as follows:

NATURE CAMP - JULY 18-22

ADVENTURE CAMP- JULY 25-29

SPORTS CAMP- AUGUST 1-5

Each camp is from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm each day.

For information, registration forms and liability waivers, please go to the website. Payments can be made by e-transfer to info@charlestonlakeassociation.ca.