



Newsletter

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

Vol. 104, No. 1

Winter, 2004

The Healing Waters of Charleston Lake

By Canon Borden Purcell

I must have been about four or five years old when I first experienced the healing waters of Charleston Lake. I was staying with my grandparents, Ed and Lizzie Purcell at their cottage near Fosters Bay. I trusted my Irish grandmother with all my heart and soul, so when she said, "Borden, I'm going to teach you to swim", I said, "Thanks Grandma". She proceeded to tie a large rope around my waist and the other end to the dock and promptly threw me into the lake. It was one of the best lessons I ever learned and my introduction to the Latin motto of Irish Purcell family: "aut.vincam-aut.periam" – "conquer or perish" or as in my case "sink or swim". This has been my guiding principle for over the past seventy years.

Charleston Lake has been an integral part of my life and the life of my family for as long as I can remember. I will remember my first small boat and its one and a half power outboard motor. It was a day's journey for Bill Johnston and me to go to the Outlet. We would pack a lunch and looked forward to getting an ice cream cone from the store at the other end of the lake.

Another fun trip in the summer was parking the boat at Huckelberry Hollow and climbing up Blue Mountain. This tradition is still an im-

portant part of the Purcell Thanksgiving celebration. The whole family including our grandchildren, who are now fifth generation on the lake, pack a lunch and head off for Blue Mountain, come rain or shine. It has to be one of the great joys of life to reach the top of the mountain on a glorious fall day and survey the magnificent sight of the red and gold leaves and the majestic blue waters of the lake below. It is a great personal joy for me to look south towards Holy Trinity Church, Oak Leaf and behold the fine new steeple with its impressive Celtic cross on top in honour of our Irish ancestors who come to this area almost two hundred years ago. They tried to call it Irish Lake but that didn't stick but they did persist in calling the dense forest around the lake 'Irish Woods'.

However, according to legend, the Irish Celts may have visited this area not two hundred years ago but two thousand years ago! Thad Leavitt, in his History of Leeds and Grenville written in 1879, alludes to one of the great mysteries of this area. "In the Township of Rear of Yonge, County of Leeds, one mile south of the Village of Farmersville (Athens), is the remains of an antique causeway. It emerges distinctly in the swamp opposite the residence of John Wiltse, Esq., and runs southwest in the direction of Charleston Lake, crossing the highway but a little distance from the stream

flowing into Mud Lake (Wiltse). The causeway was evidently intended for a road, being perfectly straight; and, although the fields through which it passes have been under cultivation for a number of years, yet its course is easily traced, being raised about one foot above the surrounding land, and in many places paved with round stones in a way that would have done credit to the ancient builders of military highways, viz., the Romans. When the township was first settled by Benoni Wiltse and Wm. Parish, they questioned the Indians as to the origin of the structure, but could obtain no satisfactory answer. In its construction, considerable engineering skill was displayed, and a vast amount of labour expended, it being sufficiently well for a railway. It may have been the line of communication between two important centres of population, and is probably the vestige of a proud and

once powerful race, whose unwritten history may never be revealed. It is only by careful collection and preservation of facts, minute though they may be in detail, that a sufficiency of data will be gathered from which some future historian may do justice to the earlier inhabitants of this continent, and erect a beautifully proportioned and massive ethnological structure. A curtain is drawn over the past, yet these traces of civilization are indicative of great antiquity – mute but eloquent symbols of nations and tribes, who have left us a legacy and unsolved mysteries of the ages past."

One possible answer to our mysterious causeway is that it may have been built by our Celtic ancestors as they believed that lakes and wells were sacred places of divine healing. There are many such causeways all over Ireland similar in construction to the

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Your Board reports...

President's Message

Our special letter mailed to you in late November provided information on the Property Assessment System. The conclusion drawn being that the higher the market value of your property the higher the taxes. Property assessments have increased for Lake property at a rate approaching 20% annually. These assessments are, however, low when compared to the amounts for which properties have been recently sold. Over the past eighteen months average sale prices have exceeded the assessed value of sold properties by approx 35% on Charleston Lake. Sale prices continue to escalate. This past November three properties were reported sold at an average price of \$369,000.

This trend in rapidly increasing sales prices is wonderful if you consider your Charles-

ton Lake property to be simply an investment---to be sold when the price is right. Those of us who wish to use and enjoy our property and to someday pass it along to our children are troubled by this trend. It is a double edged sword. Escalating property sale prices which in turn fuel escalating assessments and property taxes are, to say the least, a cause for alarm and concern. Conceivably at some future point in time we could be forced to sell our Charleston Lake property because we can no longer afford to pay the taxes.

Your Charleston Lake Association firmly believes that there exist inequities in the property tax system having serious implication for the future of Charleston Lake and Charleston Lakers. These issues must be addressed sensitively and objectively unless

we are prepared to risk unwelcome changes to our quality of life on the Lake.

The perversity of Ontario's property tax system should not be blamed entirely on our Township Councils. Downloading by Provincial Governments coupled with escalating operating and capital costs are making it all but impossible for local townships to maintain property taxes at current levels. The majority of inequities require Provincial Government attention and resolution.

We intend to examine all aspects of property taxes over the coming year with a view to recommending reforms to the process to ensure fairness and equitable treatment for all ratepayers. Currently we are reviewing an excellent study prepared by the Muskoka

Municipal Taxation Task Force dated July 2002.

Please take the time to find out about the property tax system and the Muskoka Task Force report which can be downloaded at www.muskoka.on.ca/taxation-task-f.htm

We will keep you informed on this most important issue and ask that you keep me and your Association's committee, which is studying municipal affairs, apprised of any thoughts which you have on this subject of potential negative and serious impact to our Lake.

Don Curry

Light the night Flotilla & Fireworks Display

The Charleston Lake Association is happy to announce their first annual "Light the Night" flotilla, to be held in conjunction with their annual Freedom Fireworks presentation, Saturday July 3rd, 2004.

In previous years, there have been wonderful fireworks shows, sponsored by the Association and private donations. Performed by Wayne Kelsey and his fireworks crew, this event celebrates both the Canadian and US holidays on the first weekend

in July. This year, we are asking anyone interested in helping to light up the harbor to decorate their boats with lights, to make this an even more spectacular display and celebration of the freedom both countries enjoy.

Voluntary donations to help defray costs will be collected before and after the date, at Dockside Restaurant, Kelsey's Marina, Lake Line Lodge, Restoration Farm and the Associations Info Center.

Gary Baldry, Flotilla Commander, will be there on his beautifully decorated pontoon, collecting any donations you would like to make during the show. Please join in behind Gary's boat after the fireworks are over, for a short tour of the Village end of the Lake.

Decorate your boats and bring the family for an entertaining evening on Charleston Lake!

Judy Kelsey.



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, Ont., K0E 1B0.

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

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.



For your information

Charleston Lake 2004 Event Calendar

Local Events – Summer 2004

- Farmersville Exhibition (Athens) – July 16, 17, 18
- Delta Fair – July 22, 23, 24, 25
- Lansdowne Fair – Third Weekend in July
- Corn Fest (Athens) – August 21
- Turkey Fair (Lyndhurst) – September
- Riverfest (Brockville) July 1-4
- Festival of the Islands (Gananoque) – August 13-22

Summer Events at Charleston Lake

Fireworks Display / Light the Night Flotilla Date – Saturday July 3

Rain Date – Sunday July 4 Time – at dusk
Location – King St., Charleston Village (vicinity of MNR dock) Please see article on page 2.

Donations towards the costs of the fireworks will be appreciated and may be made at the following locations:

- Dockside Restaurant, Charleston Village
- Kelsey's Marina
- Lake Line Lodge
- Restoration Farm, 102 County Road 40
- Associations Info Center, County Road 40
- Twists Store Outlet

Youth Environmental Day Camp

Dates: July 7, 8, 9 Location: County Park, Sand Bay
For children 5-12 years old.

Visit the Info Center for more details and registration forms.

Emergency First Response CPR Course

Date: July 17
Location : Association Info Center, County Road 40
Visit the Info Center for more details and to register.

Swimming Lessons

Dates: July 19-23, July 26-30
Location: County Park, Sand Bay
Visit the Info Center for registration forms.

Pleasure Craft Operators Certification Exam

Date: July 24 (tentative)
Location: Association Info Center, County Rd 40
Visit the Info Center for registration info.

Family Fun Day BBQ Picnic

Date: August 7
Location: County Park, Sand Bay
Chicken BBQ, entertainment, boat rides, Scuba demonstration! Visit the Info Center for more information and to purchase tickets

Star Gaze 2004

With Terence Dickinson Date: August 11
Location: Provincial Park Amphitheatre
Join internationally recognized astronomer and author Terence Dickinson for a night of star watching with powerful telescopes and expert stargazers. 8:30pm.

Water-ski Clinic

Date & Location to be Determined
More info will be available at the Info Center.

Development on Charleston Lake

Edna B. Chant, in her book *Beautiful Charleston*, reports that in 1900 there were 12 cottages on the lake and in the early 1970s, 550 cottages. The results of an inventory completed this past November indicates there are now 816 residences on Charleston Lake. Following is a summary of the inventory results

	Total Residences	Cottages	Permanent Residences	Permanent Residences (6 Months)
Total Lake	816	630	133	53
% of total	100	77.2	16.3	6.5
North End	408	266	106	36
% of Total	100	65.2	26	8.8
South End	256	213	26	17
% of Total	100	83.2	10.2	6.6
Islands	152	151	1	-
% of Total	100	99.5	0.5	-

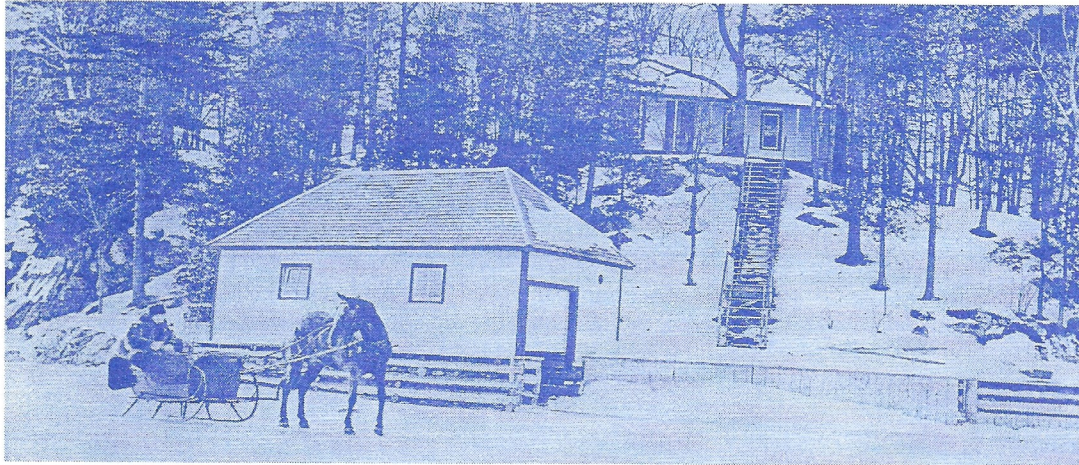
	Total Residences Mainland	Total Residences Islands
Mainland & Islands	664	152
% of Total	81.4	18.6

Lake Plan Committee, November, 2003



Around the Lake...

The Healing Waters of Charleston Lake



J. P. Lamb with his horse and cutter over 100 years ago.

(Continued from page 1)

one here in our area – they lead from one sacred site to another. Did our causeway lead to the healing waters of Charleston Lake? It is well known that St. Brendan the Navigator from Ireland may have landed in Canada around the Gulf of the St. Lawrence over fifteen hundred years ago. The Celtic people were great sailors and travelled all over the North Atlantic in their leather covered boats or coracles. St. Brendan tells us that he and his crew, after a number of years of travelling, explored “a land that is broad and vast, crossed by a wide river and exceptionally bountiful”. How far up the St. Lawrence did they travel? I would love to hear from anyone with a better solution to one of the great mysteries of Charleston Lake. Where is Farley Mowat when we need him? (See his book, *The Far-farers*).

There is another mystery of Charleston Lake, which my wife, Carter, has already solved. Do we enjoy Charleston Lake more in the winter or in the summer? Carter knows the answer! I suppose the obvious answer is summer, but the jury is still out.

As a teenager, our favourite pastime was hanging out in the evenings in the cave on Rock House Island with a wind-up gramophone. Perhaps I should move along with my story...As we married and had our children, we all looked forward to summer holidays and especially shore breakfasts at Buckhorn Point. Ask Hartley Nichol for his recipe for ‘eggsubar’ at the next general meeting. We cooked with one hundred year old utensils made by Foss Earl in Athens, for all the guides on the lake. However, the summer has the potential to scare us with its tornadoes and thunderstorms.

In the early seventies, the Purcell family pitched a tent on Buckhorn and decided to camp out for a couple of days. We borrowed my dad’s (Ted Purcell) fancy motorboat and headed up the lake. We barely had arrived before a tornado hit our campsite. Carter and the children stayed in the tent while I tried to prevent the boat from being smashed to pieces on the rocks. The good news is that we all survived and before long the sun appeared, I knew my mother (Beatty) would be worried sick so I

jumped into the boat and came home to report that all was well. When my mother saw that Carter and the children were not in the boat she thought the worst. In the meantime, my dad and Cam Gibson came looking for us and we missed each other as they came up one side of Democrat Island and I went down the other side – so that when my dad saw the boat and me missing he also thought the worst. Its too bad we didn’t make it into Edna B. Chant’s book “Beautiful Charleston” under her chapter “Near Tragedies”. Alas, our one chance for fame! The good news is that we went on camping for a couple of beautiful days.

After over seventy summers at the lake, I still can’t decide about winter or summer. Winter has many great memories of skating, skiing, snow sledding. Every winter we would come to the lake for a holiday and one nice Toronto friend would ask Carter, “do you have running water?” and Carter would reply, “Indeed we do; Bordie runs down to the lake to chop a hole in the ice and runs back up to the cottage before the water freezes in the pail.”

Please see the picture of J.P. Lamb with his horse and cutter enjoying winter at Charleston over one hundred years ago. To solve this problem of winter or summer – we now live here the year round so that we can enjoy all four glorious seasons on the lake.

It is a great joy for us to have our whole family with cottages on the lake and it has been my privilege to serve on both the Charleston Lake Association and the Environmental Foundation. As reported elsewhere in the Newsletter, the water report sounds encouraging. Charleston Lake is a sacred trust and it is our responsibility to love and care for the ‘Healing Waters’.

Do you remember the character Pig Pen in the ‘Peanuts’ cartoons? He was always covered with dirt and grime. He was cute, but he was a walking sludge heap, filthy and proud of it. He once told Charlie Brown, “I have affixed to me the dirt and dust of countless ages. Who am I to disturb history?” I have done my best to disturb history over my lifetime and enjoyed every minute of it. For all of us who love Charleston Lake, it is our privilege to disturb history and to fight to protect the future of our heritage. A few years ago in my opening prayers at the annual meeting, I told the above story and used the following paraphrase from the opening of the Divine Liturgy;

*“This is the lake the Lord has made - let us rejoice and be ever vigilant”
Amen*



For your information

The Charleston Lake Stream Assessment Project.

Most people are aware by now of the comprehensive approach we are taking to ensuring the health of our beautiful lake. All of the projects funded under the Trillium Foundation Grant are progressing well and many folks will be starting to hear first hand about how their properties impact the lake as the individual shoreline assessment reports start to hit the mail this spring.

The other environmental projects happening at this time include; the historical review of fisheries and water quality data, educational workshops, input to the municipal official plan, endangered species reintroductions, a lake capacity study and eventually a management plan for the lake. It is safe to say that we will soon have all the tools and knowledge at hand to ensure that our lake will be maintained in its pristine condition into the future. What we

actually do with all this information will determine the legacy we are able to leave to our children and their grandchildren.

One of the biggest factors affecting the quality of the lake water is the quality of the streams that feed it. It is a fact of hydrology that it takes an entire watershed of good land management to keep a lake healthy. We are taking the position that we need to give what help we can to our neighbours who make their living from the land and who live beside the creeks that flow into our lake. The Leeds County Stewardship Council assisted by the Charleston Lake Environmental Association is undertaking a methodical assessment of every creek system that flows into Charleston. We are contacting each landowner, assessing the stream on their property, identifying problems and working out

solutions on an individual basis to improve and restore the streams to a healthy condition.

At this time we have completed the review of the Fosters Creek watershed and are ready to start talking to landowners about remediation plans. By next spring and summer we will be fully engaged in the Beales and Leeders creek systems as well. This is a huge undertaking but one that we are committed to doing. The ecosystem mantra that "everything is connected to everything else" has never been more evident; we are in this together. There is no way to fix just one part of the ecosystem with out looking at the rest of it as well.

The good news is that we are moving ahead with all this, we are making Charleston Lake a leader in looking after itself, we are getting great support from most landowners, we are making new friends and educating people along the way, we are employing local young people and we are enjoying every day!

For more information on these projects contact the Lake Association or give me a call anytime at the Stewardship Council office, 342-8526.

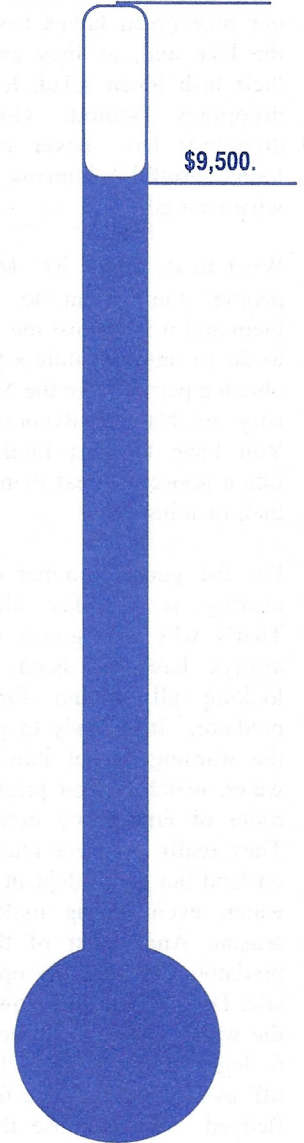
*Gary Nielsen
Stewardship Coordinator,
Leeds County Stewardship
Council*

Pavilion in the Park

Progress with donations to the Pavilion fund:

\$12,000.

\$9,500.



**We're getting closer !
Please help us get
to the top.**

**Please mail donations
to Don Curry, Box 399,
Athens, ON K0E 1B0.**

**A receipt will be pro-
vided for Income Tax
purposes.**

Just a reminder

Your 2004 Membership invoice accompanies this newsletter.

Won't you please send us your membership fee now, while it's fresh in your mind? Of course, if you received an invoice and you've already paid for 2004, please let us know, along with date of payment and cheque number, if applicable, so we can ensure our records are up to date.

We review our paid membership list regularly, and delete names from the newsletter mailing list when we feel we've allowed sufficient time for the membership fee to be paid.

The Directors



For your information...

Geese on your lawn?

Many homeowners and cottagers are bedeviled by Canada Geese who love to invade our nice green lawns beside the lake and, as they enjoy their lush green salad, leave droppings behind. Goose droppings have never been found harmful to humans, but what a mess!

What to do about it? Most people don't want to kill them and it is against the law to do so anyway, unless you obtain a permit from the Ministry of Natural Resources. You have to start thinking like a goose, to beat them at their own instincts.

For the goose, number one priority is to stay alive! That's why one goose will always have its head up, looking all around for a predator. It is ready to give the warning to get into the water, which is their primary route of emergency escape. They really are very clumsy on land but very adept in the water, even during molting season. And, most of their predators are just the opposite, fast on land but slow in the water. Geese also need a 6 degree flight path to take off, even when they are fully fledged. We can use these facts to keep geese from coming onto the lawn - and everyone seems to enjoy seeing them out on the water.

Obviously, they are looking for a nice clean lawn all the way down to the water's edge. This provides fast escape from the fox, fisher or dog. There isn't a problem with access to the salad - it's the escape that is the problem



for the goose. If the situation looks dangerous, the goose won't put itself and the rest of its family in that danger zone.

A waterside margin of low foliage creates such a zone. The object is to tangle up their feet. The 'goose garden' should be at least 1.5 metres (4 feet) wide across your waterfront and doesn't need to be any more than 20 cm (8 inches) high. If you have a big expanse of lawn, they may be able to fly over this low planting. To beat them at this, you simply have to remember that they need a 6 degree clear take off path. So, your planting has to be about 1 foot high for each 10 feet of 'runway'. Native plants do very well for this and they are readily available in various heights.

For low native vegetation try: common juniper, wild iris (flags), Virginia creeper, or-

dinary grasses (that you don't bother to mow), fern or bracken, black eyed susans (rudbeckia) and wild flower seed mix. For higher growth use red osier dogwood, or pussy willows, which you can prune if you want to. Non-native species are to be discouraged because some will become invasive and dislocate native plants.

So that you can access your own waterfront easier, make a path of large flat stepping stones through the 'goose garden' or cut a narrow path at an angle so it isn't obvious

when the geese see it from the water.

You may want an 'instant fix' because you can't wait for this stuff to grow. Buy enough concrete blocks to stand on end, across the waterfront at about 3 or 4 metres apart (10 to 12 feet). Then string a brightly coloured cord through the holes so you have two lines about 15 and 30 cm (6 and 12 inches) above the ground. The geese will stay on the water side of your 'goose fence'. This will also work very well where you can't plant anything, like around your dock.

Another benefit: Regenerating a margin of vegetation between your lawn and the water will protect the lake from runoff of lawn fertilizer and will provide habitat for small amphibians like frogs and salamanders. So you can help to keep the lake healthy too.

For more information see <http://www.canadageese.org>.

Doug Bickerton,
Friends of
Charleston Lake Park.
Home 382 5187,
Cottage 659 2177.

TIP OF THE HAT...

to Charleston Village resident, June Botsford.

From spring to fall, June waters and gives tender loving care to the flowers planted in the cement flower pots situated along King Street in the village of Charleston. The Flowers looked beautiful for the summer of 2003; many thanks June.

Directors, CLA & CLEA



For your information...

Fish and wildlife corner

As I write this column it's early January. The lake has just started to freeze over in some of the bays, it's snowing outside and we are supposed to have a snowstorm. It sure seems like a long time to summer but by the time you read this, we will be a lot closer to those warm summer days.

We hope to finally get our Loon rafts in the lake this year. We have had several delays in getting them installed but they will be in this year for sure. We would like to place the rafts in areas close to where Loons are now nesting, if possible. If we can encourage the loons to nest on the rafts instead of the shoreline, they will have a

better chance of nesting success. When they nest on the shoreline there is a greater chance of nesting failure due to high water levels, wave action and predators. Apparently if they use the raft, they will return to it again the following year. If you have loons nesting near your cottage we would appreciate it if you could advise us of their nesting location.

We hope to hack the falcons on Rube's Rocks again this year. Last year was supposed to be the final year of the three year program. However because we had a bird with a defective wing, the breeder has offered a replacement. MNR has given us its ap-

proval to continue for one more year, if we can raise the funding to buy a sibling or two as company for our replacement. Thanks to the MNR, CLEA, CLA and Friends of Charleston Park, we are off to a good start.

We are working with the MNR to create signs asking anglers to save our native lake trout. These signs will promote proper catch and release methods as well as show a picture of a fish depicting the different fin clips. Lake trout are about 7- 8 years old before they mature so it's very important that we return these mature fish if we want to maintain our future fishery. We also hope (if the funding is available) to have a brochure for your tackle box with catch and release

methods, fin clip photos and other info as to the reasons why we should return these mature fish to the lake.

We are also looking into the possibility of purchasing turtle crossing signs to erect at egg laying sites along the Wiltse Lake roadside. Hopefully if we can get these in time we will have them up for this year's egg laying season.

Read more about this in the next newsletter.

Hope to see you on the lake!

Dwayne Struthers
e-mail dls@ripnet.com
tel. no. 613-275-2321

POLICE SAFETY PATROLS ON CHARLESTON LAKE JUNE to SEPTEMBER , 2002

Constable Sandra Barr , of the Brockville OPP Detachment , reported the following :

- There were 52 patrol hours.
- 137 boats were checked.
- Liquor charges - 13
- Small Vessel Charges -13
 - Warnings - 39

The OPP Save Unit, Kingston Detachment, also did a number of patrols on the lake but to date have not provided any statistics.

In addition to the patrols , the Brockville Marine Unit participated in the Youth Days Programme on Aug.. 21st with talks and provided the children and adults with an opportunity to see the OPP Marine Boat and various equipment on board.

By all reports this was well received.

Glen Cuming
Safety - Security Committee

Our Group Insurance Program

The Association's Group Insurance Program has been, and continues to be, a real success story. Currently, approximately 215 members take advantage of the program and enrolment continues to grow at a rate of 50 new participants annually.

Our group rates continue to be 10% less than our insurers (Optimum Frontier Insurance Company) non-group rates. This excellent savings in premiums is across the board on all lines offered - auto, fire, household insurance,

etc. In addition, association members are eligible, if qualified, for additional benefits; for example, mature age (age or policy years), claims free, building age and multi-lines coverage.

Please take the time to request an estimate under the Charleston Lake's Group Insurance Program. The savings can be substantial.

To arrange for your estimate, please contact Roger Kelsey at (613) 924-9135; fax 924-9004.



Water quality report...

Water quality survey program

The Water Quality Survey Program introduced in the year 1997 as a non professional volunteer activity was again carried out On Charleston Lake during summer 2003 by the professional consulting firm, Ontario Lake Assessments.

The reason for our changing to a professional firm in 2000 was to increase the accuracy and credibility of the reports and to provide further data which we did not have the capability to do.

The survey this year focused on Total Phosphorous, Water Clarity and Coliform (E-

Coli) with sampling at the same locations as in past years.

Ontario Lake Assessments collected the samples at each site on six occasions between June 3rd and September 29th inclusive. Analysis for Total Phosphorous were completed at the MOE Partner Program Laboratories; the E-Coli were completed at the Accutest Laboratories.

Total Phosphorous Levels (more Phosphorous results in more Algae and poorer Water Clarity) for the lake as a whole declined in 2003. The lowest level was recorded for Eastern Waters while the

highest level was recorded for Donaldsons Bay. For a year over year comparison of Phosphorous levels please refer to the Information box.

Water Clarity Levels

for the lake as a whole in 2003 have changed very little. During 2003 the locations at Goose Island and Webster Bay showed the poorest water clarity while the best water clarity was recorded at deep water. For a year over year comparison of water Clarity levels please refer to the information box.

Coliform -E-Coli sampling was undertaken at nine (9) near shore locations including the three inlet sites; Fos-

ters Creek, Leeders Creek, and Beales Creek at Sallys Hole. E-Coli were found present at every site; however the levels continue to be very low. These results confirm previous findings and therefore re-enforce the need to treat water from the lake prior to consumption. Year over year comparisons are shown in the info box.

A message from your Directors ... come on in - the water is fine. Most encouraging is the trend of Phosphorous levels in the lake due to, we believe, a variation in the natural ecosystem and our individual efforts in preventing phosphorous from running off our property into the lake.

Change of Address

Don't miss a single copy of your Newsletter.
Please advise us if you change your address.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Prov. / State: _____

Postal / Zip Code _____

Please mail this information to:
The Charleston Lake Association
Box 609, Athens, Ontario K0E 1B0

or e-mail: bass@ripnet.com
or ashwoods@rideau.net

Membership Admin. Committee

Phosphorous Values (Total Lake)

2000	13.83
2001	13.49
2002	16.86
2003	12.72 ug/L

Water Clarity Values (Total Lake)

2000	4.15
2001	4.51
2002	3.87
2003	4.32 meters

Mean E-Coli Values (Total Lake)

2000	9.5
2001	3.7
2002	7.0
2003	9.7

The complete comprehensive report is available for your review at the Charleston Lake Associations office.



For your information...

Healthy Shoreline Review – wrapping up 2003

The health of the lake begins with and depends on the health of the shoreline. That narrow ribbon of life has so many vital functions. A healthy forest and ground cover of vegetation absorbs and filters nutrient and sediment, retains and cools soil moisture, and cools runoff before it reaches the water, contributing to the overall health of the lake. The transition area between the land and water, out as far at least as where light penetrates to the bottom, affects the life cycles some 90% of the species of animals, including fish, that dwell in the region. The state of the health of the lake affects everyone, and everyone can affect the health of the lake.

The 2003 review team had a head start on their work, building on the experience of the 2002 season. Experience is a good teacher, and the approach in 2003 was refined from the work of the summer before. A standardized data sheet, with spaces for both shoreline development and habitat information, allows for more objective comparisons, so the findings can be easily used by the lake management planners. A hand-

book was written, with 29 topics of interest to waterfront living, and will accompany the individual property reviews. The Biosphere Network, of the Thousand Islands - Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve, has been contracted to do the review work, and carried out a parallel project last summer in the Thousand Islands.

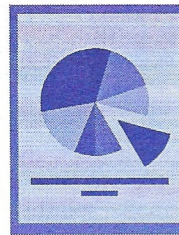
The shoreline reviews are a sort of snap-shot of the lake, documenting the type and state of development and the types and quantities of natural habitats on its perimeter. This past summer, 201 properties were reviewed, mainly in the northwestern sections of Charleston. Many residents met Leanne Hollingsworth and her assistant Brian Gainery as they made their observations from their boat. Respect for privacy and private property was a top priority, and the team did not leave the boat, except at the landowner's invitation.

The observations are summarized in individual reports, noting habitats in general terms and offering suggestions to landowners of ways to enhance shoreline environ-

ments for both wildlife and water quality. Landowners are not identified, and the properties are distinguished only by civic address and assessment number. The re-

views are to be kept at the CLA office, and will be available only to the individual property owner. The reviews have absolutely noth-

(Continued on page 10)



Charleston Lake Association

Statement of Income and Expenses Jan. 1, 2003—Dec. 31, 2003

INCOME

Bank Balance Dec. 31, 2002	\$6,951.96
Membership fees	14,508.64
Bank interest	4.32
Donations	12,054.15
Donations (CLEA)	500.00
Garage sale	610.00
Registration fees (Youth Camp)	660.00
Registration fees (Swimming Lessons)	880.00
Total Income	\$ 29,217.11

Total Operating Funds **\$36,169.07**

EXPENSES

Newsletters	8,087.24
Safety	2,441.23
Youth and social activities	5,138.02
Fish and Wildlife	1,000.00
Membership Promotion/Administration	1,813.43
Environment	9,730.91
General Administration	1,130.76
Annual Meeting	1,361.69
Total Expenses	\$ 30,703.28

Bank Balance Dec. 31, 2003..... **\$ 5,465.79**

*Judy Wyatt, Secretary/Treasurer
January 1, 2004*

"I have reviewed the Financial Records of the Charleston Lake Association and report that this Financial Statement is complete and accurate."

(Original signed by) *Darlene Noonan, A.M.C.T.*

PLEASE ERECT PROPER WARNING SIGNS

**if you create open water on
the ice this winter.**



REMEMBER...
you could be held responsible!

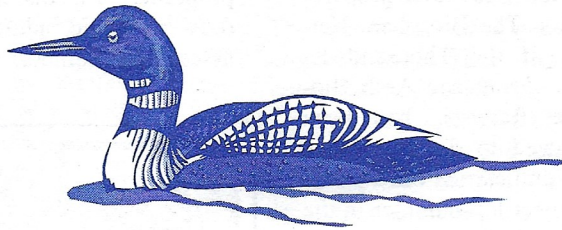


For your information...

NUMBER 1 IN A SERIES

Charleston Lake's Loons

- ◆ Like most waterfowl, loons have a large oil gland on top of the base of their tail to keep their feathers water-repellant and supple. The loon collects the oil with its beak and spreads it over its feathers.



- ◆ Loons also 'shower' to help maintain their feathers. The loon rises out of the water and then splashes the water with its wings. A vigorous body shake then settles all the feathers back into place.

- ◆ Throughout the summer, non-breeding loons gather in groups, usually in early morning or evening. Non-breeding loons include those that do not have a mate, have not found a suitable territory or are too young to reproduce.

- ◆ Loons hunt by sight; therefore they must continually peer under the water while they hunt. When they spot a fish, they dive and chase their prey which is usually caught at a depth of 6 - 12 feet (2-4 meters).

- ◆ The parents feed young loon chicks minnows and other small fish. To stimulate the chick to

eat, the adult dips the fish into the water and makes small splashes with the fish.

- ◆ To facilitate diving, loons have evolved denser and heavier bones which have fewer air spaces than most birds. In addition, loons compress their feathers to force out trapped air just before diving to further reduce buoyancy. These two characteristics help loons dive up to 265 feet!

- ◆ The record diving time for the common loon is 3 minutes, although average diving time is 42 seconds.

- ◆ The increased density of the loon, which favours diving, creates difficulties in getting airborne for flight. Since the wings have such a heavy load to carry, loons must motor across the water in order

to generate the lift for take-off.

- ◆ Once in the air, loons can fly at speeds of 75 MPH. This is quite fast compared with ducks that fly at 45-60 MPH.

- ◆ The foot waggle, the raising of one foot in the air and holding it there or shaking it, is suspected to be a method of body temperature regulation used by the loon. The large surface area of the foot and its well-developed vascular system allows for cooling through evaporative heat loss as the foot is exposed to the warm air.

- ◆ Loons sleep with their heads turned towards their tails and their faces buried in their feathers, leaving the eyes uncovered.

Healthy shoreline review

continued

(Continued from page 9)

ing to do with property assessment, and the information is not available to any such agency.

The team will be on the lake again this summer, with a goal of 250 reviews. They offer a terrific service to lake residents—ask them lots of questions about the lake, your waterfront and observations of your own. Visit the CLA office and ask their advice. With your input, Charleston Lake will continue to be the jewel of the region.

In addition, the review project caught the attention of the Community Foundation of Greater Kingston. They, along with Environment Canada's Habitat Stewardship Program, have provided funds to help landowners at as many as six properties in both the lake and Thousand Islands to do habitat restoration projects. Ideally, these will be done as workshops on volunteered properties, open to neighbouring landowners. The project supplies the planning, labour and equipment, and some materials, and could solve some of your shoreline problems. More details will be in future newsletters.

Don Ross
Science Projects;
the Biosphere Network

Upcoming Charleston Lake Events

- Annual General Meeting - Saturday, July 10, 2003, Charleston Lake Provincial Park.
- Our annual Yard Sale - dates to be announced in next newsletter.