



Newsletter

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

Vol. 104, No. 3

Fall, 2004

Our Annual General Meeting

By Matt Flikweert,
The Mural

The Annual General Meeting of the Charleston Lake Association took place July 10 at Charleston Lake Provincial Park on Reynolds Road. Highlights of the meeting included Opening remarks and president's report by CLA president Don Curry, a presentation by Doug Hale of the Charleston Lake Environmental Association, a presentation by Mike Boysen of the A2A Conservation Initiative, and a panel discussion addressing issues and concerns from members of the CLA. The meeting also included election of directors, a presentation to retiring secretary/treasurer Judy Wyatt and a 'healthy shoreline assessment' package presentation to Charleston Lake summer resident Hugh Segal, who was in attendance at the meeting. "This is the one hundred and **fourteenth** annual General Meeting," stated President Curry, and "I just don't know how many more I'll be able to chair," he quipped. He further welcomed special guests, Councillor Velma Kelsey, Insurance provider Roger Kelsey, Biosphere representative Don Ross (manager of the Shoreline Assessment Program), Mike Boysen (A2A) and Amy Gaines, manager of the CLA Information Centre.

In his opening re-

marks, Curry stated that the CLA is one of the biggest Lake Associations in Eastern Ontario. Number of paid up members last year was six hundred and ten and that number is expected to grow with the increasing popularity of the Shoreline Assessment program. "The association enjoys the reputation of being an effective organization that carries out a wide range of projects that protect and improve the environment and overall quality of life on Charleston Lake."

Curry continued; "We want to preserve Charleston Lake's natural beauty and preserve the overall environment and quality of life for generations to come. "We need to take the long term view and we need to think about our neighbours and our children when we make decisions that affect our soil, our water and our air."

"Next to assessment and taxes, fishing on the bass spawning beds is a major concern on the part of our members", Curry continued, and promised immediate action on the bass fishing problem.

In his report on activities of the Charleston Lake Environmental Association Doug Hale stated that the 'Total Lake Assessment' is now in its fourth of a five year study. Major parts of this



Charleston Lake summer resident Hugh Segal, whose lakeshore property is located on Green Island in Webster Bay, receives a shoreline assessment package from Charleston Lake Environmental Association chairman, Doug Hale. Left to right: Don Ross (Biosphere Project manager), Hugh Segal, Don Curry (CLA) and Doug Hale.

Photo by Matt Flikweert

plan, including the Healthy Shoreline Preservation Project, are being conducted this summer. Other projects are the Lake Capacity Study, the Agri Stream Survey and the

introduction of Friendly Cleaning Products.

In line with the Healthy Shoreline Preservation Project, Hale presented a

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Your Board reports...

President's Message

Greetings from Sand Bay Charleston Lake where the leaves are sporting their fall colours and the loons are gathering together in preparation for their trip South.

Many members have reported that, in their opinion, the lake was quieter this year as compared with previous years. No doubt the poor weather conditions were the major contributor in this regard. Nevertheless on many weekends residents and visitors to the lake were observed having a great time tubing, sailing, fishing and touring the lake.

The pavilion in the County park was ready in time for this years environmental

youth camp and swimming lesson programs. Many thanks to directors Heather Havelock and Irene Ireland for once again making both programs real success stories. For additional information on the pavilion please refer to the article on page 3.

Our Annual General Meeting held at the Provincial Park was attended by over one hundred members. Please see page 1 for a report on the annual general meeting.

Throughout Summer 2004 work proceeded on a CHARLESTON LAKE MANAGEMENT PLAN. This five year plan is unfolding much as it was supposed to with the addition of several new components.

-The visioning exercise is complete. Please see Vision on this page.

-The historical reports on water quality and the historical report of fisheries has been received.

-Shoreline visits for 2003 and 2004 are completed.

-Watershed wide stream assessment and restoration program is in full swing on Fosters, Beales and Leeders creeks.

-The Lake Capacity study has been initiated.

-a study of how phosphorous moves from septic systems to the lake in local soils has begun.

-New bathymetry is being collected for the entire lake. For additional information on bathymetry, please refer to the article on page 7.

Township Official Plans are still arguably the most significant influence on the future condition of the Charleston Lake watershed. For this rea-

son we will continue to stay involved and to work as team with the townships in the development of revisions to their official plans.

This past summer our Municipal Affairs committee has kept the spotlight on the current property assessment and tax systems--which the directors believe are simply not working when applied to waterfront properties. Please refer to the municipal affairs committee report on page 5.

Late this year a meeting will be held with the Ministry Of Natural Resources (MNR) to discuss the health of the lake trout and bass fishery and where required, plans to protect both populations. A

meeting will also be held with the Health Unit to determine the status of their program to inspect all sewage systems on Charleston Lake.

A Tip Of The Hat -To the Charleston Lake Environmental Association for the success of their second annual golf tournament. From all reports everyone had a good time, both on the course and at the awards dinner. For additional information on the golf tournament please refer to the article on page 6

Your directors join with me in wishing you and your families a healthy and happy fall and winter.

Don Curry



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.

Vision for Charleston Lake

The Charleston Lake Association, its partners, lake users and property owners share in the following vision for the future of Charleston Lake. We are committed to maintaining:

- the highest possible water quality,
- pristine landscapes and beautiful vistas,
- all of the fish, wildlife, birds and plants that belong here and the opportunity to see them in nature
- tranquility, peace, privacy and an ambiance that enhances the spirit
- a sense of community, family roots and traditions
- commercial and recreational uses that benefit the local economy without hurting the natural integrity of the lake
- a safe lake with public accessibility for all to enjoy

Our guiding principle is to guarantee the right of future generations to enjoy the natural heritage of the lake as we have, undiminished in any way.



For your information

Peregrines made Charleston summer home

Three of the four Peregrine falcons released on Charleston Lake in July by the Leeds Stewardship Council are being weaned from the food their caregivers have been providing for them.

The group received the falcons from the Canadian Peregrine Foundation on July 6 and released them on July 21. This is the fourth and final year of a project to reintroduce the endangered species to Charleston Lake, a region recorded to have been a breeding area for the birds in the 1920's.

The four birds, three males and a female were housed in a shelter, a hack-box, on a cliff, Rube's Rock, a precipice overlooking Larkin Island

"We're making them hungry, restricting the food at the table," said Gary Nielson, Coordinator of the Leeds County Stewardship Council.

Nielson is pleased the birds have stayed around so long.

Volunteers spent a day at the hack box earlier this month to monitor the birds. Edna C., the only female of the four hasn't been seen for weeks.

After their release the falcons

have continued to be fed a diet of whole quail at their hack box while they are learning to find food on their own. Last week they were down to one quail every three days.

This year's birds were a pleasure compared to last season's birds that disappeared soon after their release and haven't been seen since.

Nielson thinks the odds of the 2004 birds returning to the area may be significantly better this time. No other falcon sightings in the area have been confirmed in the area since the first release in 2001.

*Reprinted from The Review-Mirror
Oct. 7, 2004*



Pavilion in the park

The new pavilion in the County Park at Sand Bay was a real success story this past summer.

The poor weather conditions experienced in July and August posed no problems for our Youth Camp and

Swimming programs; the children and their instructors simply gathered in the pavilion and carried on with their activities.

Of Leeds and Grenville. It is great to observe this objective being met.



Photo by Herb Buehler

Frequently observed at the pavilion this summer were Charleston lake property owners and non property owners meeting and enjoying each others company. A key objective in deciding to build the pavilion was that it would be a major contributor to creating a spirit of community across Charleston Lake and throughout the Townships of Athens, Leeds and The Thousand Islands and the Counties

Additional donations to the pavilion are still welcomed. At this time we are approximately \$1500.00 short in funding due , for safety reasons, to installing a steel ceiling in the pavilion and to paint (stain) its exterior. Donations can be mailed to the Charleston Lake Environmental Association, Box 609, Athens ON, K0E1B0. A receipt will be provided for income tax purposes.

*The County Park
Pavilion Committee*



Around the Lake...

LAST IN A SERIES

Charleston Lake's Loons

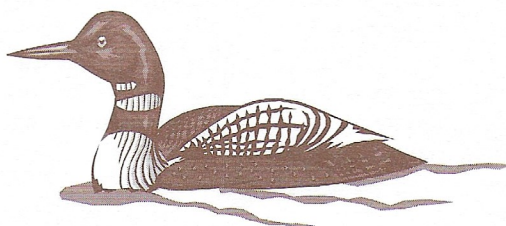
How Loons Communicate:

Loons use both visual displays and calls to communicate with each other. Research using sonograms (printouts of vocalizations) have helped in the understanding of how loons communicate with calls.

The Four Loon Calls:

Tremolo - An alarm call used when the loon or its young are threatened. This call may also be accompanied by agitation and the running to and fro across the water while calling.

Hoot (Short, cooing "t" note) A call used by a loon as it is approaching another in order to announce its presence. It is also used to keep track of each other.



Wail - (ahaa-ooo-oooo'oooo-ooo-ahhh) The call used to lure the chicks away from the nest when they first hatch or to call the chicks to them when they surface with a minnow. The wail is also used when the loon wants company or intimacy.

Yodel - (a-a-who-queuee'queuee- wheoooo' queuee) The call used exclusively by males. Each male has a unique yodel through which his identity can be determined.

From Page one

AGM Report

(Continued from page 1)

complete, partially customized, shoreline assessment package to summer resident Hugh Segal whose lakeshore property is located on Green Island in Webster Bay. Shoreline Assessments are being carried out by manager Don Ross, of the Thousand Islands Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve. Ross is being assisted by students Leanne and Ben Hollingsworth.

Panelists during a panel discussion included: Ben Kelly (Enforcement Officer MNR), Tim Truesdell (superintendent Charleston Lake Provincial Park), Murray Hall (Fortus Ontario), Bill Phillips (4 stroke O/B technology), John Truyens (Leeds and the Thousand Islands), Don Curry (CLA) and moderator Doug Hale. Questions and discussions ranged from 'cell phone reception' and 'illegal fishing,' 'water levels,' and 'noise levels,' to 'graffiti on rocks' and more.

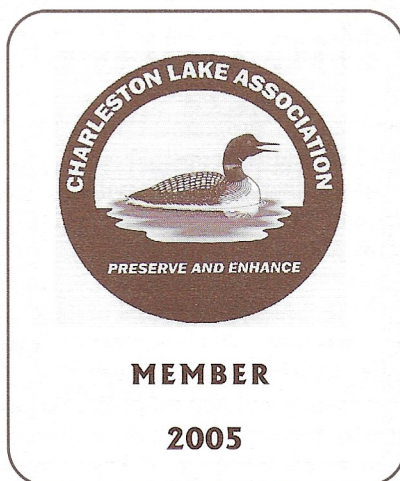
Directors for the coming year are: Yvonne Landon, Bill Hallam, Herb Buehler and John Swift (two years). One year directors: Bill Borger, Don Curry, Dwayne Struthers and Irene Ireland. President will be Don Curry. Sec/treasurer, Herb Buehler. Vice presidents are Irene Ireland and Yvonne Landon.

Reproduced from
The Mural
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Christmas Gift Idea

The new membership decal is now available for members for 2005, and it will be sent to you soon if you have already paid your membership for next year.

Please consider giving a membership as a Christmas gift for friends on the lake, or a member of your family. In fact, a membership in the lake association is a good idea for anyone that has an interest in the lake, and a



desire to keep it beautiful in every way. It entitles them to the benefits of membership,

such as the reductions in insurance for the members group.

Many of our members already give memberships as a gift.

Just send the information to the Association, and a Decal will be sent to you in time for stocking stuffing.

Of course, you can have your own decal sent to you as soon as we receive your membership renewal for next year



For your information

Your assessment notices

Yes you will be getting a Notice of Assessment this year. Probably in the first week of December. Unless you have done something to cause a change; ie the closing of a building permit, there should be no change from the last assessment. **The value assessed as of June 30 2003 is being used for both the taxation years 2004 and 2005.**

If you have submitted a Request for Reconsideration, and received a favourable response after the roll closed for 2004, you also will have

received something called Minutes of Settlement. This will have been accompanied by a request that, if you agree with the proposed revision, you sign and return one copy of that document.

It is important that you do this if you want the revised assessment to be applied retroactively to your 2004 tax bill. By returning this document indicating your acceptance you will be in a position to receive a rebate on 2004 taxes. Upon notification from MPAC of the revised assessment, your township

will contact you to advise of the amount of the rebate on your 2004 taxes.

So, if you have received a reduced assessment that is less than the assessment used to calculate your 2004 taxes you will be entitled to a rebate on your 2004 taxes.

If you did nothing last year but feel that you would like to do something this year, you can submit a Request for Reconsideration (RFR). The form is available from MPAC and can be obtained on the internet (www.mpac.ca) This must be submitted before Dec 31, 2004.

Similarly, if your assessment has changed because of some other action and you wish to contest the change you must submit your RFR before Dec. 31, 2004.

Any changes resulting from these RFR's will apply to the 2005 taxation year.

It is not a simple process to follow and it is important to insure that your assessment is as accurate in relation to similar properties. Otherwise you may be paying more than your share of the tax.

With the continuing soaring of assessments and taxes on waterfront properties we are continuing to work with Waterfront Ratepayers After Fair Taxation (WRAFT) to effect at the Provincial level a more equitable means of sharing the tax burden.

*Municipal Affairs
Committee*

Are you moving ?

Make sure your Newsletter moves with you!

Take a moment to provide us with your new address so that we can ensure uninterrupted delivery of your Association Newsletter.

3 easy ways to do it:

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CLA
P.O. Box 609
Athens, ON
K0E 1B0



*Our Best Wishes
for a very
Merry Christmas
and a Happy
New Year*

The Directors



Around the lake...

2004 Golf tournament a big success

A hundred golfers played a "Scramble" and 130 people attended the Chicken BBQ and Awards dinner recently held at the Village Green Golf Club in Athens. All proceeds from this tournament go to the Environmental Programs supporting Charleston Lake, the neighboring communities and the entire Charleston Lake Watershed.

The attendance and the scores set new records. Overall low team honors went to the team of Jerry Flynn, Daryll Flynn, Tyler Phillips and Don Atkinson for the outstanding score of 59, 13 below par. The team led by Guy Huot and the Canarm Team tied for second place with scores of 64.

In the Mixed Foursome division, the teams of "John Turner, Pat Harrigan, Dr. Ron



2004 Team Champion - record score of 59; 13 below par

L to R: Jerry Flynn, Tyler Phillips, Bill Johnston - Golf Chairman, Don Atkinson, Daryll Flynn.

and Jackie Allen", and "Marlene, Kevin, Jennifer and Doug Hale" tied for first with scores of 66.

The father/son team of Barry & Riley Sexton and Lou & Elias Grecco won the Nine Hole Scramble, played in the

morning. All winning teams were awarded prizes, and the Flynn Team will hold the coveted Champion's Trophy until next year. They intend to defend and numerous challenges have been registered.

Prizes were also awarded for long drives and closest to the pin to Marlene Hale, Brian Nykolasian Jason Maas and Greg Nichol.

We owe thanks to the following sponsors, and support to those that are merchants and businesses: Kelsey's Marina, Judson Funeral Home, Wayne Lawson Construction, Lakeline Lodge & Marina, Wayne Kelsey Construction, Delta Pharmacy, John Taylor Health Care Services, Warner Tim-br Mart, Restoration Farm, Roger Kelsey Insurance, Canarm Limited, St.Lawrence EMC, Performance Printing, G. Tackaberry & Sons, Blanchards Garage, Charlie's TV, Doug Greenham Electric, Bank of Montreal, Cameron Croxall Law Office, Purcell Fresh Mart and the Webster, Brownlie,

Segal, Hale, Nichol, Graham, Nielsen, and W. Johnston Families.

The prizes for the Team, Individual and Dinner Draw winners were kindly donated by the following: Kenny Hotel, Beleza Aesthetics, Stedman's, Farmersville Hardware, Athens Freshmart, Ballantyne's Pharmacy, Athens Restaurant, Peacock Restaurant, Calmity Jane's, Dave Jones, Radford's Outfitters, Custom Decor, Wine Rack, Tincap Restaurant, Main St. Pizza, Autoparts Extra, Trade Winds, Coon's Bath Design, Marnie Purcell Touch Massage, Rita Borger, Walmart, Dave Reid Sports & Flowers, Falcon Security, Canarm Limited and the Hyde, Hale and Freeman families.

The prizes were great and we thank all the donors for their generosity.

Mark your calendars for the 2005 Tournament - 2nd Saturday in August.

Doug Hale

Yes !

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

Enclosed is my/our donation of :

\$ 25___ \$50. ___ \$75. ___
\$100. ___ Other \$ ___

Make cheques payable to C.L.E.A

Mail to:
CLEA, Box 609, Athens, ON
K0E 1B0



Around the lake...

Lake bottom key to capacity

How do you get good information to make decisions? One way is just to keep asking questions. That's the philosophy driving the partners who are conducting a strategic plan for Charleston Lake

Work on the plan began almost three years ago and has included public education, shoreline visits, inventories as well as compilation of historical and current water quality and fisheries reports. The goal of the study is to protect the natural environment around the lake.

Determining the capacity of the lake to handle further development is a question they are trying to answer by determining its size and the shape.

"We have an idea how big the lake is but we want the best information available to

drive this lake capacity modeling exercise," said Leeds County Stewardship Council Coordinator Gary Nielson.

In partnership with the Ministry of the Environment the lake is being measured using bathymetric contouring.

A technician trolls the lake taking measurements to paint a picture of what is unseen from the surface.

Specialized software links measurements from a depth finder with signals from a GIS to make a map of the lake bottom.

"The size of the lake and the number of basins make it more complicated than if it was like a big bowl. The model is a good tool," said Victor Castro, a surface water specialist with MOE.

Finding out the shape of the lake can help predict the effect of concentrations of phosphorus on the health of the lake, an important consideration on Charleston, a highly sensitive trout lake.

Research is also being conducted on how effective waterfront septic systems are in preventing the migration of phosphorus. Small test wells are put into a septic system and monitored after different weather conditions.

"The assumption is even the best septic system lets nutrients into the lake. We want to find out how much," said Nielson.

*Reprinted from The Review-Mirror
October 7, 2004*





Around the lake...

Charleston Lake Association Executive Directory 2004 - 2005

Officers

President • Don Curry
 Vice-President • Irene Ireland
 Vice-President • Yvonne Landon
 Secretary / Treasurer • Herb Buehler

Directors

Bill Borger	Irene Ireland
Herb Buehler	Yvonne Landon
Don Curry	Dwayne Struthers
Bill Hallam	John Swift

Committees

COMMITTEE	CHAIRPERSONS	
Biosphere Reserve, A2A, Friends of Charleston Lake Park, and Conservation Authority	Bill Hallam	659-2997
Environment and Land Conservancy	Bill Borger	924-2809
Fish and Wildlife	Dwayne Struthers	275-2321
Information Centre / Office	Amy Gaines John Swift	924-9630 340-9042
Legal Counsel	Bryce Geoffrey	924-1935
Membership - Administration (Newsletters and AGM)	Herb Buehler Don Curry	326-0106 924-1598
Membership - Promotion	Irene Ireland Don Curry	924-9114 924-1598
Municipal Affairs	John Swift	340-9042
Provincial Park	Yvonne Landon	659-2399
Safety - Security (Fire - Police - Marker Buoys)	Glen Cuming	924-9318
Strategic / Lake Plan	Don Curry Gary Nielsen	924-1598 342-8526
Youth & Social Activities	Irene Ireland	924-9114
Water Levels	Bill Hallam	659-2997

Area Code 613 applies to all telephone numbers.