

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 101, No. 1

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

Winter, 2001

All about docks on Charleston Lake

In this issue of our newsletter we have enclosed an excellent booklet covering, in some detail, the subject of docks. This booklet, which we recommend to anyone who is contemplating expansion, replacement or installation of a docking system has come to us through the auspices of its sponsors. They are Fisheries and Oceans, Canada and Cottage Life Magazine.

While recognising the validity and veracity of the information given we do feel that what is perhaps the best solution for our docking difficulties on Charleston Lake has not been covered as extensively as it might have been. Our purpose in expanding on the information given in the booklet is to provide more information on floating docks and structures.

Floating docks do <u>not</u> restrict water flow, do <u>not</u> disturb fish spawning beds and do <u>not</u> destroy fish habitats. Floating docks are arguably the most environmentally friendly docking system available today.

Floating docks and boathouse structures remain constant in height above the water regardless of the variations in water level that we frequently experience. This creates easier mooring of boats, either by lines or by mooring whips.

Floating docks and structures can be used in any depth of water where there is sufficient depth to assure continued floatation. Floating docks may be installed over any type of bottom.

Floating docks are often of a type which may be left to freeze into the ice over the winter season with little fear of ice damage. Floating docks require fewer approvals and less permit red tape than other types of dock or structure.

Floating boat ports, boat houses and covered slips are available, some

of which can withstand the ice forces of winter. Currently there are at least five such structures of varying sizes and types on Charleston Lake.

There are a large number of manufacturers and sales outlets for different types of floating docks and structures. Tieco Manufacturing, of Thousand Islands Parkway, Rockport Ontario, telephone 613-659-3159, is a member of the Charleston lake Association. Many Charleston Lake property owners have used their services. Tieco

manufacture and sell a type of floating dock which can be left in the water all year round. They also are the manufacturers of a variety of floating boat mooring systems including boathouses.

Radisson Design of 4701, route 117, Sainte-Agathe-Nord, Quebec, telephone 1-800 361-3625 also sells systems as well as various floats and hardware made for docks. These are only two of many sources of floats, hardware and structures of the floating variety.

Should you decide to design and build your own floating docks or structures there are a few points to keep in mind. For stability and safety single section floating docks should be at least 16 feet by 8 feet or be bolted together in the form of a St. Andrews cross to provide stability.

If building your own. do not skimp on the hardware. In our experience most system failures are the result of the use of inadequate or inappropriate hardware. The recommendations given on page 11 of the booklet should be considered to be a minimum. It is easy to build with hardware that is too light yet it is hard to over-spec your hardware. Be sure that any hardware is bolted through your wooden beams using plates on both sides of your beam. Washers tend to be too small and, with wear, will pull through your wood. Think of your wood as pinched between two plates of steel rather than having its hinges and corners merely screwed or bolted to it.

Always follow the manufacturer's recommendations if contemplating leaving your docks to freeze in the ice, and remember to avoid any firm connection between the float-

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YOUR BOARD REPORTS...

A Message from your President

The Directors join me in wishing you and our family a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

I pause from writing this message for a moment to watch a lone gray wolf walking across Sand Bay heading for the county park. Today is New Year's Eve and snow is falling.

All is well at beautiful Charleston Lake...where an old-fashioned type winter is being enjoyed by the winter residents. The weather turned cold in late November and the first snow arrived on December 12th...20 centimetres (approximately 8 inches) before the storm subsided. During the last three weeks in December. snow fell on average once a Cold weather has week. been the norm with Christmas and Boxing Day registering -20C (-4F).

Our loons lingered until the last possible minute. On December 12th a number of loons were observed in Webster's Bay. Joining them were over 100 common mergansers. On December 20th the last loon of the season was observed fishing in Sand Bay. Between December 18th and 24th ice attempted to form on Big Waters but a combination of sun and wind broke it up each day. However, by December 30th the ice won the battle and Big Waters was entirely covered in ice.

During this past fall your Association's Directors addressed a number of items.

The Lake Trout Survey was completed and the results have been forwarded to the

Ministry of Natural Resources (M.N.R.). Please refer to page 6 for additional information.

At the November Executive Meeting the Association's strategic plan was reviewed and updated. For the Year 2001, the plans sets out nine (9) objectives as follows:

- Provide members and the general public with information to enable them to promote stewardship of the land and water as a means of conserving natural resources.
- 2. Work with the Charleston Lake Environment Association, the Ontario Lake Assessments Company and government agencies to maintain or improve the quality of surface water and ground water resources.
- 3. Take every opportunity to encourage members to protect their health and property values by having their septic tanks and holding tanks inspected at least every three years and their wells tested at least once annually.
- 4. Manage water quantity (levels) coordinated with other groups, e.g. Granite Power and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.
- Work with the Ministry of Natural Resources and all other interested parties to enhance fishing opportunities while simultaneously protecting lake trout and bass populations.
- 6. Continue to develop programs that enhance both water safety and

property security.

- Develop additional recreational programs for our youth and all Association members e.g. visits to the fish hatchery, boat safety courses, etc.
- 8. Introduce a program to solidify our relationships with the elected officials of the newly amalgamated Townships serving Charleston Lake. Visualized is a program that communicates the needs of our members to the Townships and the needs of the Townships to our members.
- On a continuing basis, to develop a clear understanding of why it is important to be a member of the Association and to convince everyone who should be, to be a member.

These objectives have been assigned to the Association's various committees and will be met on a continuing basis.

During the winter months we will meet with M.N.R. to

develop a management plan for lake trout. Meetings will also be held with the Charleston Lake Environment Association and the Ontario Lake's Assessment Company to develop a Water Quality Testing Program for summer of 2001. This year special attention will be given to the quality of water entering the lake via creeks and other sources.

Last but certainly not least; we will work with Granite Power in an attempt to ensure spring water levels that do not erode the shoreline nor damage waterfront structures.

By way of summary, the Association's Directors and I, also those of the Charleston Lake Environmental Association, are continually seeking ways to grow and be prepared for change...to forever keep Charleston Lake beautiful in every way. Your ideas and recommendations as to how this may be best accomplished will be both welcomed and appreciated.

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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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

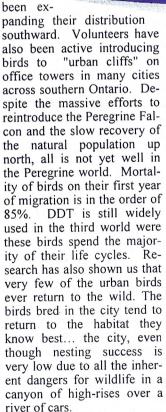
The return of Peregrine Falcons to Charleston Lake

The Leeds County Stewardship Council is pursuing the possibility of bringing the Peregrine Falcon back to its former habitat on the cliffs of our Lake. These magnificent raptors are making a slow recovery from the brink of extinction and experts believe that Charleston Lake can play a vital role in helping these birds re-colonize what is left of their natural habitat in Southern Ontario.

Most people are familiar with the alarming decline that happened to most birds of prey in the 40s and 50s. wide-spread use of the pesticide DDT left trace chemicals in the environment that persisted in the fatty tissues of fish and small mammals. These elements, although harmless enough in the smaller creatures, accumulated through the food chain to the point of toxicity in birds of prey and other top predators. In the case of hawks, ospreys and falcons, the end result was in thinshelled eggs that could not bear the weight of incubating parents. Without the annual recruitment of young birds, populations of many species plummeted.

With the banning of DDT a

WARNING If you create open water on the ice this winter, please erect proper warning signs REMEMBER you could be held responsible! slow around began. small population of birds in the rugged wild lands north of Thunder held Bay on through the worst of the crisis and the offspring of those birds have slowly



The objectives of the Stewardship Council for getting involved in the effort to reestablish Peregrine Falcons are two-fold. Firstly we feel that the birds have a right to be here. We need to have them here and on a philosophical level, we need to know

that we can successfully share our lake with the creatures that lived before here came we Secalong. ondly, we feel that the Peregrine Falcon is a good symbol of environmental health. Biologists call it a flagship species. If the top end of the

shape then the rest of the ecosystem must be all right as

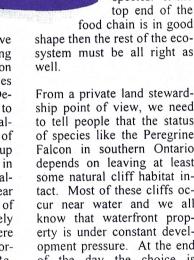
From a private land stewardship point of view, we need to tell people that the status of species like the Peregrine Falcon in southern Ontario depends on leaving at least some natural cliff habitat intact. Most of these cliffs occur near water and we all know that waterfront property is under constant development pressure. At the end of the day the choice is straight-forward; if we want to have wildlife we have to To quote the have habitat. Wildlife Habitat Canada "No habitat...no wildlife...it's that simple".

The Leeds County Stewardship Council is currently gathering the funding and partners to get this project going next spring. We expect to be making improvements to cliffs where the birds are known to have nested at the turn of the cen-We also hope to be coming to a cliff near you to rear some young birds this summer.

If you want to be amazed, watch for Peregrines this summer diving to catch their prey in mid-air over the water at speeds of over 300 km/ hr. If you want to be involved please call Gary Nielsen at 342-8526.

> Gary Nielsen Donaldson Bay

For more information, readers can look up the Canadian Peregrine Foundation Website http://www.peregrinefoundation.ca



All about docks cont'd.

(Continued from page 1) ing structure and the shore to lessen the possibility of damage to the attaching points during the time of year when the water gets far too hard to boat through. Our ice can go out with an almost unbelievable force, given the right, or wrong, wind force and direction. If your dock is allowed to rest through the winter with your ramps disconnected from the shore, there is less chance of damage.

Any of your Charleston Lake Association directors, while pretending to or claiming no particular expertise, would be willing to discuss any docking problem or solution that you might have and may be able to advise you on specific situations. Remember, however, that free advice is often worth what you pay for it. Good luck on any project you may have.

Ron Webster



A LOOK BACK IN HIJTORY

An old view of Charleston Lake

From a memorandum written by a major landowner, Charleston Lake 1952-1964

"The whole area is a paradise for those who enjoy the delights of nature.

Charleston Lake was once a favourite hunting ground of the Indians. It is located in the Frontenac Axis, a narrow southerly extension of the Canadian Shield, which is a great expanse of Pre-Cambrian rock crossing northern Canada and all of northern Ontario. It dips south in a long finger, which ends in the St. Lawrence River as the Thousand Islands. Only a few miles east and west of Charleston Lake the land is utterly different: lowlands, which are soil-rich, adequately drained, and thus well suited to farming. The Frontenac Axis is a rocky wilderness, a small segment

of the Canadian north only a few miles above the U.S. border.

There are many prehistoric sites in the area where the Indians came to Charleston Lake for the good fishing and hunting, but they came only in the summer because of the harsh winter weather. The shores of the lake abound in wildlife not found in the farm country a few miles away: deer, porcupine, raccoons, muskrats and beaver. great northern loon inhabits this southern lake and his bugle calls herald the coming of sundown. In the deep, cold waters are an abundance of bass, northern pike and lake trout. The last is normally found only in far northern lakes. The wild flowers are profuse and there is a fine harvest of wild strawberries, blueberries and raspberries. Dozens of tree

> species are found: hardwoods such as maple, oak, elm and beech; conifers such as white pine, hemlock, white and black spruce, white and red cedar. In almost all of southern Ontario the magnificent white pines have disappeared, but the promontories of Charleston Lake, almost inaccessible by land, contain beautiful specimens standing tall against the skyline, their roots spreading through the thin

soil that lodges among the tumbled rocks and in the ridges of granite cliffs.

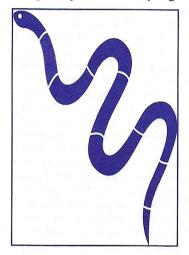
Because of the mosquitoes and black flies we seldom visited the lake in June and July. Activity outside in those months was restricted by the swarms of insects which repellents did little to keep away. Parts of the property were typical dense Canadian rain forest, almost impenetrable in summer because of wild swamps, thick growth of swamp vegetation, and myriads of insects. By autumn the swamps were dry and the mosquitoes gone. There were no snakes except a long, black species along the shores of the lake. They were harmless and friendly, particularly liking to sun themselves on the dock.

Every visit to Charleston Lake was a delight. We tried to go in the early spring just after the ice was gone. Then, because Charleston is a reservoir lake, the water was very high and with the boat we could explore far up into the marshy bays which were inaccessible later on. Occasionally in the spring we saw thousands of pickerel, spawning, swimming right up to the surface of the water.

The spring always smelled so wonderful with the new growth of the vegetation just starting, and the air moistened by the spring rains and melting snow. Charleston Lake is full of islands, mostly densely wooded, but several of the small barren, rocky ones were nesting

places for migratory birds. There was one such islet nearby and the spring mornings were loud with their clamouring.

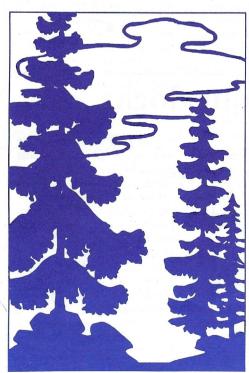
The fall was the ideal time for Charleston Lake. The maples were all in glorious red and gold, the air was crisp with the hint of winter, and the swamps and marshy ravine bottoms were no longer impassable. In spring



and fall there were no visitors to the areas. It was a paradise of solitude.

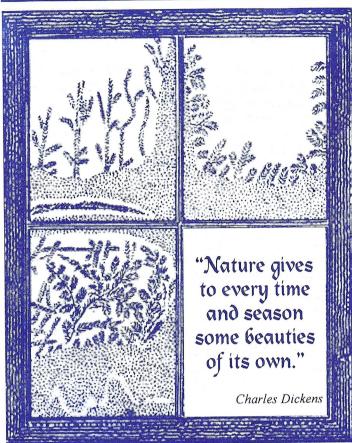
Afternoon explorations by boat therefore usually took us along the Blue Mountain shore or around the east cliffs into Running Bay. Occasionally we packed a lunch for an all-day trip. This usually took us to Larose or Donaldson Bays. The latter was magnificent, a mile-long channel between the highest cliffs on the lake, dropping down sheer into the water and topped by individual pines standing against the sky to remind us that once the Indians stood on these

(Continued on page 7)





FOR YOUR INFORMATION



Environmental Foundation reports generous support

On behalf of our Trustees, thanks to all of you who responded to our recent appeal for operating funds. The response has been most rewarding. As of this writing, we continue to receive more responses each day. breadth of support from many families from every part of the Lake serves to confirm the need for our mission and goals. It will take a while to become a full-fledged and functionally effective Foundation, but we are off to a great start.

The final report from the water quality assessment conducted all last summer and fall will be in our hands shortly and we continue to conclude that water quality is our #1 priority. The report

and its analysis will prescribe a number of follow-up measures as well as programs to assure short and long-term success.

In the interim, we continue to evaluate the next programs to pursue, both major and minor activities of an ongoing nature. Again, environmental programs of the Lake Association and the Leeds Stewardship Council will be supported this summer. We welcome your suggestions; just direct them to our post office box.

Again, many thanks for your generosity and support. It is most gratifying and appreciated.

Doug Hale

Lake Trout egg collection

The Ministry of Natural Resources conducted the Charleston Lake lake trout egg collection from October 29 to November 7, 2000. There were a total of 216 lake trout caught consisting of 36 females and 180 males.

Currently, there are 21,028 eggs incubating at the M.N. R. White Lake fish hatchery. These eggs will be incubated and raised to fingerling size at the hatchery and then stocked back into Charleston Lake in the spring of 2002.

Of the 216 lake trout caught

on the spawning bed, 42% were native lake trout, 27% were native stocked lake trout (i.e. they were collected as eggs from native lake trout in previous years and raised at White Lake Hatchery) and 32% were from stocked lake trout from another strain.

This indicates that the majority of lake trout spawning (69%) is from the native strain in Charleston Lake.

Anne Bendig Ministry of Natural Resources



Charleston Lake Association Statement of Income and Expenses Nov. 8, 1999 - Dec. 12, 2000

INCOME	
Bank Balance Nov. 8, 1999	\$1,081.28
Membership Fees	14,846.78
Bank Interest	59.87
Donations, sponsorships	1,710.39
Grants - MNR	19.571.23
Grant - Lotto Ontario	2.046.00
Grant - Environmental Trust Fund	
BBQ income	
Swimming Lessons	638.00
Total Income	49 438 75
Total Operating Fund	50 520 03
Total Operating Fund	
EXPENSES	
Dock repair and signs	18 506 69
Water Quality testing program	8 145 18
Newsletters	7 290 29
Safety	3 111 53
Youth and Social Activities	2 931 55
Fish & Wildlife	
Membership Promotion	1 161 16
Environment	1 092 10
General Administration	1 011 41
Liability Insurance	710.00
Membership Administration	187 62
Annual Meeting	185.80
Gift, Guest Speaker and retiring directors	75.00
Total Expenses	46 731 68
Total Expenses	
Balance in Bank 12/12/00	<u>\$3,788.35</u>

Members (as at 31/12/00) - 676



ON THE FISHING SCENE

Lake Trout Survey - Summer 2000

During Summer 2000, fifty-two enthusiastic lake trout anglers voluntarily participated in a survey of Charleston Lake trout. This program, sponsored by the Charleston Lake Association and the Ministry of Natural Resources (M.N.R.), was to serve as a tool for monitoring lake trout catches on Charleston Lake.

The survey program will play a crucial role in monitoring the fishery and overall health of Charleston Lake. Cold-water species, such as lake trout, are prime indicators of water quality.

Survey Results

Rod Hours and Fish (Caught
umber of volunteer anglers	52
Number of rod hours	
Number of fish caught	
Number of fish caught well over 50% of the fish caught w	vere

Largest Fish Caught - in Pounds	
Native Lake Trout	15.2
Native Stocked	10.7
Non-Native Stocked	8.8

Fish Caught - by Fin Clip		
Fish Caught	No.	% of Total
Native Fish (No Clips)	354	31.5
Native Stocked (2 Clips)	258	22.9
Non-Native Stocked (1 Clip)	514	45.6
Total Fish Caught	1126	100.0

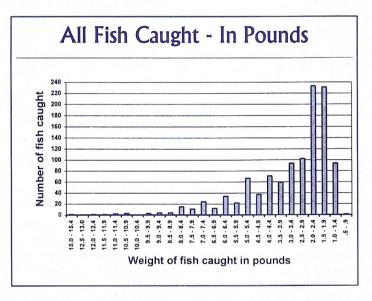
Catch Time Frame - Months		
Fish Caught	No.	% of Total
June	477	42.4
July	228	20.2
August	315	28.0
September	106	9.4
Total Fish Caught	1126	100.0

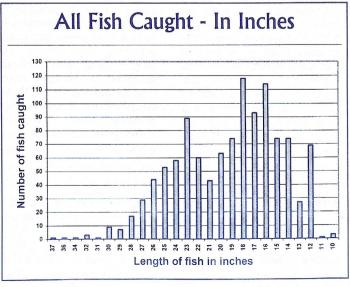
Currently, members of the association's Fish and Wildlife Committee are holding meetings with the M.N.R. to review and analyze our summer 2000 Lake Trout Survey results along with allied studies conducted by the M.N. R. Expected is that these meetings will produce a lake trout management plan for Charleston Lake 2001 & beyond....the goal of the plan to have a natural self-sustaining lake trout population in Charleston Lake.

Details of the lake trout management plan will be reported in a future letter.

We thank the 52 angler volunteers and all others involved in the lake trout study for their time, efforts and a job well done.

The Fish and Wildlife Committee







AROUND THE LAKE

Your ideas welcome

We're always looking for ideas ... your ideas. Particularly, we'd like to know what programs you would like to see carried out by our Social and youth committee.

Please drop a note to the Association, Box 609, Athens, ON K0E 1B0, outlining what we should do in the year 2001. Your ideas will be forwarded to the committee, and considered by the Board.

Upcoming programs will then be included in our newsletter in May.

Of course, we also welcome other comments and ideas for the association as a whole please let us know what are we doing right, where can we make improvements or where we have fallen short of your expectations.

If you are specifically interested in helping out with association programs, then please let us know that as well. Indications of what committee you are willing and able to serve on will be appreciated.

Because of your past and present support, we have a strong association. We need to ensure that we remain active in keeping Charleston Lake beautiful in every way.

The Directors

MNR Boat Launch Ramp undergoes major repair

The following press release was issued in October, 2000:

The Charleston Lake Association announced today that the M.N.R. Boat Launch Ramp, located in Charleston village would undergo major repairs early in November.

The M.N.R. will provide the funding for the project, which is approximately \$18,000.

The Charleston Lake Association has been appointed Project Manager.

T. Wayne Lawson Construction of Athens will carry out the work.

Editor's Note:

The work was completed on Nov. 21, 2000. A much enlarged and improved boat launch awaits your arrival in spring and summer, 2001.

Memorandum Continued from Page 4

Change of Address | heights died the

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 Fax: 613-273-4255 or e-mail: <u>ashwoods@rideau.net</u> <u>or bass@recorder.ca</u>

> Thank you Membership Admin. Committee

(Continued from page 4)
heights. No doubt they paddled their canoes up the bay to a grassy meadow and grove of hardwood trees. We did likewise, charmed by the absence of the usual tangle of rock and undergrowth. It was possible to walk for a mile from the bay up the valley with relative ease, a pleasant change from scrambling over boulders or struggling up cliff faces.

The rocky arm that formed Larose Bay ended in a high knoll bare of trees except for sumacs, a large bush with fiery red fruit.

Part of the great charm of Charleston Lake was its isolation. We could stand still on a ridge, admire the beauty of the forest around us, and not hear a sound. Cruising into a cove we would cut the motor and then just paddle silently along the shore, ob-

serving the vegetation, watching the birds, or scanning the depths for occasional fish. In shallow bays the aquatic growth was amazing. By mid-summer it would choke the water, and then die off in the icy water. On the uplands the grass was tall, thick and green by July, to fade into pale gold by late August."

Editor's note:

This article is based on information taken from a memorandum written by a major landowner on Charleston Lake between 1952 – 1964. Our thanks to the Charleston Lake Provincial Park for making this information available to us. Also our thanks to the Charleston Lake Environmental Association for the following statement:

"Charleston Lake" not a little piece – a big hunk of heaven.



AROUND THE LAKE

Thank-you for asking . . .

Q. What is the Association's position in regard to the new four-stroke outboard motors?

A. The four-stroke is our engine of choice. This motor conforms to emissions standards that will be mandatory in Ontario by 2006. These low emissions motors, now available from most manufacturers, are law in California now and will spread to include all U.S. states and Canadian provinces in future years.

In 2006, all new motors will have to satisfy the law. Up until then, boaters can still purchase the older two-stroke technology but a majority of sales at area marinas are now of the four-stroke variety.

A number of people still like two-stroke technology because of its relative mechanical simplic-The four-stroke technology costs 10 to 15 percent more but a number of people change their minds when they learn about four-stroke technology. If being environmentally friendly isn't enough to make them part with the extra money, the increased fuel economy of the new technology should do it.

In addition to reducing waste fuel, much of which goes into the water with the old technology, fuel savings average 25% with the four-stroke engines.

- Q. Does the Association have any plans to sponsor Safe Boating Courses? It is long past time that safe boating training and knowledge became mandatory. There are far too many inexperienced and uninformed boaters on the waters, everywhere.
- A. Your question is timely; our Safety Committee's Program for 2001 will address Safe Boating Courses.
- Q. What is the Association's position concerning the rate at which too many speeding boats and personal watercraft come too close to shore?
- A. Speeding watercraft endanger people in the water, causes water wear and tear on docks and boats tied up to them. It can also cause erosion to the shoreline, which, in turn, adversely affects water quality and the fishery. Our position is that all boaters on Charleston Lake should adhere to Ontario's province-wide law, which restricts boat speeds to 10 km/h within 30 meters of shore.
- Q. What can be done about property owners and/or their contractors who carry out construction work on the shoreline without obtaining the necessary permits before the work commences?
- A. The Association supports
 Municipal and Conservation Authority regulations whereby a permit
 must be obtained for any
 construction work on the

shoreline and within the 100-foot setback from the shoreline. The permit requirement is not 'a money grab' on the part of these authorities; rather it is intended to protect the shoreline environment, water quality and the bass and lake trout fishery.

Please, whether you are a property owner or a contractor, make sure to obtain the necessary permits before commencing work. Start the process by contacting your Township Building Inspector.

Thanks, Reg

Our thanks to member Reg Latimer for extensive repairs to the stonework on Englishman's Monument and the repainting of the monument on Eagle Rock in Big Water.

Reg declined remuneration for both his labour and the materials involved.

The Directors.

Tip of the Hat



- To the Charleston Lake Environmental Association for funding this year's water quality program and their plans for similar projects in the future. Please make a contribution to this dynamic organization. By so doing you will be assisting in keeping Charleston Lake beautiful in every way.... and you will receive a receipt for income tax purposes.
- To Gary Bellisle and his team for again this year, on a volunteer basis, installing, removing, repairing and storing our shoal marker buoys.

The Directors