



Est. 1890

# NEWSLETTER

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

Winter 2011

Newsletter Co-ordinator: Bill Borger, Box 115, Athens, On, K0E 1B0

E-mail: [borgew@ripnet.com](mailto:borgew@ripnet.com) Tel: 613-924-2809 • For Membership information Call 613-924-2010

## Message from the President

Winter greetings to all our CLA members. Summer of 2010 was a busy summer for our team of directors. A highlight was playing an important role in the purchase of a large parcel of land between Donaldson's Bay and Red Horse Lake. This 650 acre property was recognized by the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) as a priority acquisition due to its many unique qualities. No development of this land will have obvious benefits for its diverse flora and fauna.

The filamentous green algae problem of the last few years seems to have abated somewhat this past summer, a bit of a puzzle as its presence is linked to zebra mussel colonization. Some cottagers seem to think zebra mussel numbers are down while others have seen no decline. The only thing for sure is that this invasive alien species is here to stay, and its long term effects are still uncertain.

At our AGM a number of concerns were raised regarding the nuisance noise mostly from boats on the lake at night. The local bylaw enforcement officer and/or the O.P.P. can be contacted to look into your complaint. A concern I have is with boat wakes, which can cause serious erosion conditions as well as disrupting our nesting loons in early spring. If we want to continue to hear and see loons on Charleston Lake we must stay away from nesting areas, usually on islands in the spring. Boat wakes can wash loons and eggs from their nests. Many of Ontario's loons winter in the Gulf of Mexico. The oil spill there this past year could have devastating effects on their winter survival. We need to do our part to help the loons out when they are here on Charleston Lake.

Water quality studies are ongoing yearly by Reg Genge, Ontario Lake Assessments. His executive summary report: **Water Quality Survey Summary 2010** is included in the newsletter. The improvements from year to year are a direct result of most of our lakeshore property owners who use the information from our Healthy Shoreline Review Handbook, and from farmers who participate in the creek restoration program. The creek restoration program is organized by the Leeds County Stewardship Council which is partially funded by the CLA.

Keeping Charleston Lake beautiful is what, I am sure, we all consider a top priority. Here are some tips from the experts to help us with this goal in mind:

- Make sure your septic system is in good shape. Pump it out when necessary. Stay off the tile field and conserve water.
- Keep your shoreline healthy by leaving it as natural as possible. Keep your lot well treed. Be a safe and responsible boater.
- Visit our Info Centre for some great brochures on a variety of subjects. Try out our Nature Clean products available at various merchants in the area, with a full selection available at the Info Centre.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a healthy and safe 2011

Bill Hallam

Home: 613-535-2621

Cottage: 613-659-2997

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

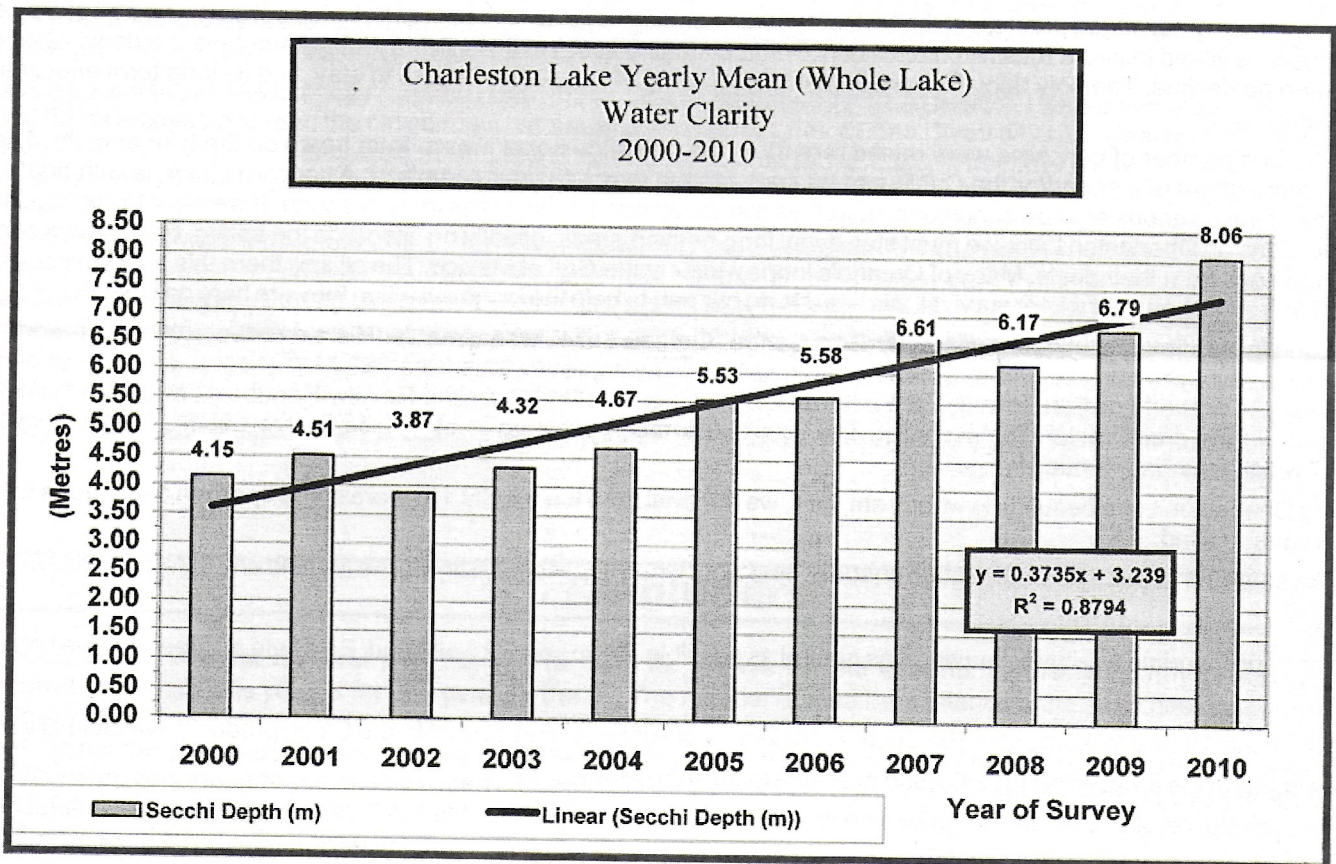
President's Message.....	1	Monument on the Lake.....	5
Water Quality Summary.....	2	Pest Alert.....	5
Water Quality Summary cont'd.....	3	Watershed Land Trust.....	5
Shoal Markers.....	4	Our Loons.....	6
Jobs for Teens.....	4	Soft Bait Concerns.....	7
Our Website.....	4	Final Word.....	8



# Water Quality Survey Summary 2010

A water quality survey was undertaken on Charleston Lake during the period May 17th to November 2, 2010, inclusive. The survey included six sampling dates and included the sampling of Big Water, Runnings Bay - Deep Water, Donaldson Bay, Eastern Water, Goose Island, Southern Water, and Webster Bay. The Charleston Lake Environmental Association provided funding for this work; the Ministry of the Environment Lake Partner Program provided total phosphorus analysis; and Ontario Lake Assessments undertook the field survey work.

Mean water clarity values (Secchi disc depth recordings) for the lake as a whole in 2010 are the clearest recorded for the 11-year period of record with a mean of 8.06 metres (42 recordings). The whole-lake mean values range from a low value of 3.87 metres (2002) to 8.06 metres (2010). During 2010 the location at Donaldson Bay showed the best mean water clarity at 8.90 metres; the lowest mean water clarity was recorded at Southern Water with a mean value of 7.44 metres.



The total phosphorus level for the lake as a whole is a mean value of 9.09 ug/L for 2010; this is lower than any other mean value reported for the years 2000 to 2009 inclusive. When comparing the 2010 results for individual lake basins, the lowest mean phosphorus value is 8.49 ug/L recorded for Goose Island while the highest mean value of 11.60 ug/L is reported for Southern Waters.

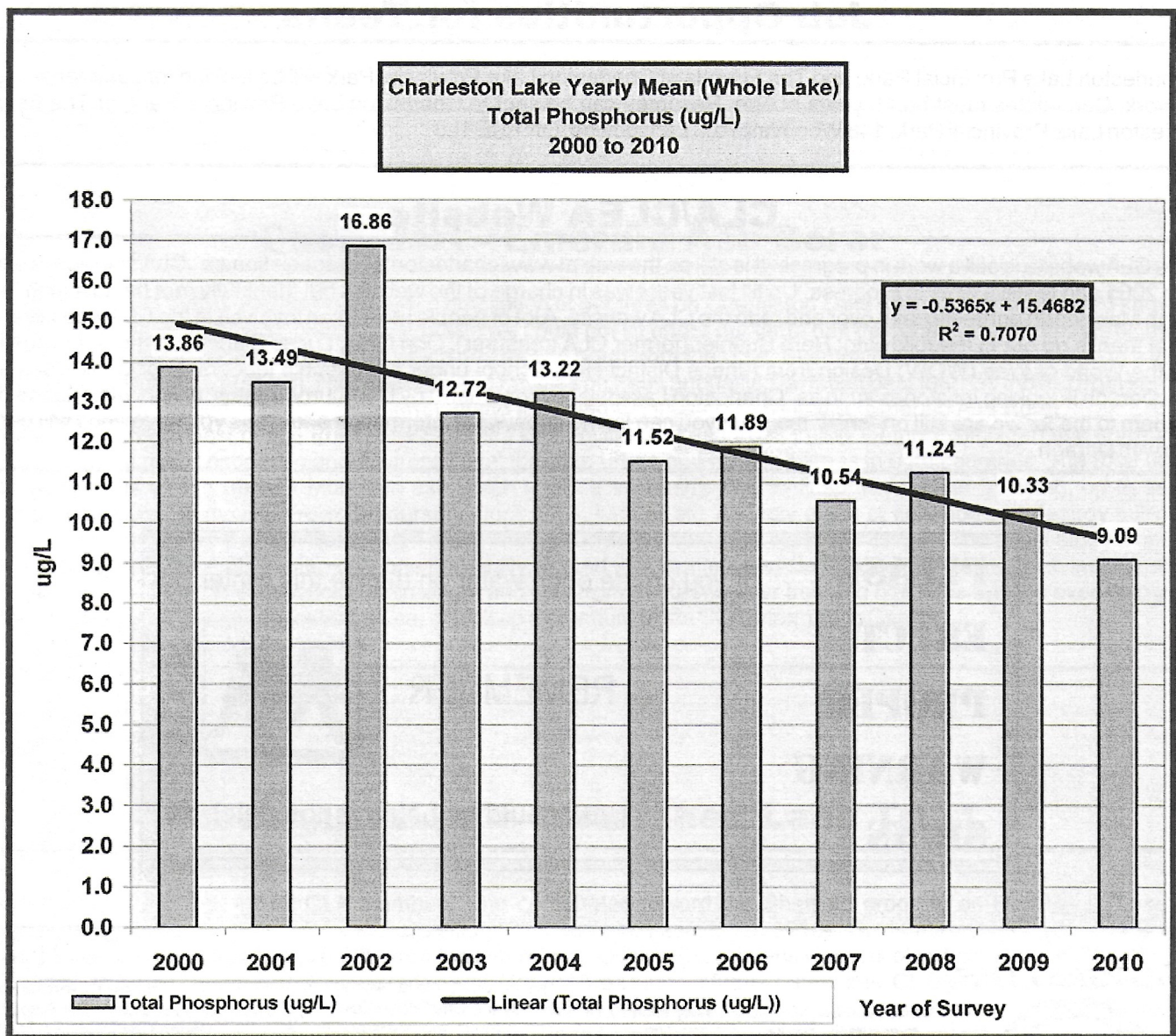
All the mean TP values for the years 2007 and 2008 marginally exceeded the 10 ug/L Provincial Water Quality Objective (PWQO) of 10ug/L for oligotrophic lakes with the exception of Donaldson Bay at 9.954 ug/L (2007). For the year 2009 three of the seven basins had mean TP values below the 10 ug/L phosphorus objective; Big Waters, Donaldson Bay and Eastern Waters all fell below the threshold.



## Water Quality Survey Summary 2010 Cont'd

This is the first year (2010) when the mean total phosphorus concentrations have fallen below the PWQO threshold for six of the seven basins sampled and this is the first year when the whole lake mean TP value (9.09 ug/L) has fallen below the 10 ug/L objective for oligotrophic lakes.

Less phosphorus produces less algae and results in clearer water. For the 11-year period of record, the best whole-lake mean water clarity (8.06 m) was recorded in 2010, the same year that the lowest whole-lake mean total phosphorus value of 9.09 ug/L was recorded.



The efforts of lakeshore property owners and property owners further inland to reduce phosphorus loadings to the lake are evident in the improved water quality in Charleston Lake.



## Shoal Markers on Charleston Lake

Have you ever wondered how those shoal markers appear every spring for your safety? It is thanks to our CLA Director Rob Gibson and his volunteer team this year: Gary Bellisle, Cody Johnston, Bobby Cavaleo and Adam Sargent. Every spring they place the 72 shoal markers back in the water, and every fall they remove them and clean them. During the boating season they fix markers that are broken (sometimes due to boaters) and replace broken markers with new ones which cost about \$250.00 each. Also, they are experimenting with putting solar lights on some of the markers. This year, a light will go on the rock at Hogsback Island. We are very fortunate that Gary Bellisle volunteers himself *and* the use of his pontoon boat every year, and we thank him for his support. Rob and several other members repaired Gary's motor this year free of charge, but if anyone has an older motor or pontoon boat that they want to get rid of, please contact Rob at: 613-924-1393

## Job Opportunities for Teens

Charleston Lake Provincial Park, and The Friends of Charleston Lake Provincial Park will be looking for summer students to work. Candidates must be 15 years of age. Resumes can be sent to Charleston Lake Provincial Park, or The Friends of Charleston Lake Provincial Park, 148 Woodvale Rd., Lansdowne, ON K0E 1L0

## CLA/CLEA Website

The CLA website is still a work in progress. It is still on the web at [www.charlestonlakeassociation.ca](http://www.charlestonlakeassociation.ca). CLA started the web-site in 2005 and is still a work in progress. Up till last year I was in charge of the web site but thankfully (not being a tech "junkie") Daragh Mansworth agreed to take over and redo the CLA website. A lot of people have been involved in the CLA website and very special thanks go out to the following: Herb Buehler (former CLA treasurer), Don Grey, Lucas Blancher (who is still hosting the site), the World of Web (WOW) Design from Athens District High School under the capable leadership of Chris Cook and his team. Daragh is looking for stories such as "Charleston Lake Island Monument" by Don Curry, photos, history etc. **Please** don't e-mail them to me for we are still on "snail" mail, but you can let me know what information and ideas you have and I will get you in touch with Daragh.

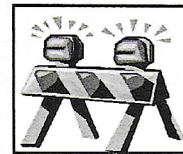
**PLEASE**

If you create open water on the ice this winter,

**ERECT**

**PROPER**

REMEMBER...



**WARNING**

you could be held responsible!

**SIGNS**

## NEWSLETTER



Est. 1890

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.

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, ON, K0E 1B0

**Newsletter Co-ordinator:**  
President : Bill Borger  
Phone Cottage-613-924-2809

E-mail: [borgerw@ripnet.com](mailto:borgerw@ripnet.com)

**For Membership  
Information  
Call 613-924-2010**



## Charleston Lake Island Monument

**T**here is a small rocky island located in Sand Bay. On that island is a monument called the **John Spence and Sir R. M. Jones 1911 Monument**. Mr. Spence (1833 - 1920) was an early settler of Charleston Lake in the Beales Mills area. Robert Jones was a stonemason who emigrated to Canada from Australia. Around 1905, R. M. was hired to brick John's home. Both enjoyed hunting and fishing, and soon became good friends.

In 1911 for a lark, they decided to build a monument. Using a salmon caught from the lake, R. M. made a concrete mold of it. He then studded it with rocks and used a piece of quartz for the eye. They dated it, added their names, R. M. adding "Sir" as a joke. The three rings are thought to be of the Oddfellow lodge.

On September 28, 1920 Mr. Spence became missing, and after 10 days his body was discovered near Sheatown. Dr. John Harte ruled death from exposure. He was buried at Holy Trinity Cemetery, Oakleaf. When R. M. left this area he moved to Flint, Michigan where he became a successful candy maker. He came back to visit the Spence family often, and it was as he was packing for his return to the lake that he died of a fatal heart attack at the age of 75.

Information courtesy of Terry Hollingsworth - Loon Bay Art

Don Curry, Director CLEA

## Pest Alert - Emerald Ash Borer

**R**emember the mid 1980's and early 90's when defoliation of our trees on Charleston Lake was a major concern? I know that in 1987 when our cottage was under construction we could not sit under our large oak tree due to the droppings of insects. The problem was created by the Gypsy moth which had moved north from the USA. Eventually the Gypsy moth, due to a variety of reasons became less of a problem. I still see their egg masses on trees annually. The latest pest that has moved from southern Ontario and has now arrived in parts of Eastern Ontario including Charleston Lake is the "Emerald Ash Borer". The EAB is a highly destructive insect pest of ash trees. The EAB has killed millions of ash trees in SW Ontario, Michigan and surrounding states, and poses a major economic and environmental threat to urban and forested areas in both countries. The EAB attacks and kills all species of ash (except Mountain ash which is not a true ash). The EAB spreads either by flying, up to several kilometres, or by humans moving firewood, nursery stock, logs, lumber etc. A single piece of firewood can destroy millions of trees. The ash infestation will cause destruction much like the Dutch elm disease did in the 1970's. The latest study evaluated three ways of stopping the EAB but the only one that really worked was to inject a systemic insecticide into each individual tree. Ottawa Citizen, Jan 27/11. The insecticide is TreeAzin and cost from \$150-\$300 per tree and has to be applied every two years. For more information visit [www.inspection.gc.ca](http://www.inspection.gc.ca), or pick up a brochure in the CLA Information Centre.

## Thousand Islands Watershed Land Trust

**A** very special thank you for all CLA members who contributed toward the Sheffield property on Red Horse Lake and Charleston Lake. (Provincial Park Land Acquisition, CLA Summer news letter, 2010). The Nature Conservancy of Canada paid over \$1.4 million but it needed \$70,000 from the community. Over 100 donations were received for a total of \$93,450. The remainder of the money will stay with the Frontenac Arch Natural Area fund for future purchases. Charleston Lake Provincial Park has accepted the Sheffield property. People will be able to walk in the woods but one has to canoe to the property. There is no road access. You will be able to cross the 3,000 year-old portage from Donaldson Bay. One can now cross the portage in style thanks to John MacLeod and the Frontenac Arch Biosphere works crew who completed a wooden sidewalk over the muddy areas.

For more information visit their website at [www.tiwl.ca](http://www.tiwl.ca).



## Loons on Charleston Lake

Loons return to Charleston Lake soon after the ice breaks up on the lake. Once returning to the lake, adult loons seek a mate. Contrary to romantic belief, they do not mate for life, and may change mates in the middle of the nesting season. However, most pairs remain together for the summer. For the approximately 200 full time residents on the lake and those early birds who open up their cottage, remember the nesting season for loons begins in May and incubation lasts about a month. Nests are built on the ground right next to the shoreline, so that the adult can easily slide into the water from the nest. They may also be nesting on artificial nesting platforms which have been installed by Friends of the Park (2) and CLA (3). A female will lay 1 or 2 eggs and both sexes will incubate the eggs. Nest sites require low human activity levels, for if disturbed the pair may abandon the nest. Since loons only have one or two chicks per year, every chick counts.

On July 29/10 Dwayne and Nancy Struthers did an informal survey of Loon population on Charleston Lake. They counted 15 single loons, 10 pairs and only 4 chicks. As far as we know we have no record from other years to compare these numbers with but if someone has done a survey before please let us know. Not sure why so few chicks but it could be due to the high water levels from last year. Also, boats can easily kill chicks:

1. Young chicks are not waterproof. They need to be able to climb on their parents' backs to stay warm and dry.
2. Young chicks can't dive. Young chicks are very buoyant and can't dive very quickly or very deep.
3. Chicks tire easily. The presence of watercraft causes chicks to keep swimming instead of feeding and resting.
4. Chicks frequent open water. Loon parents move the chicks out in deeper water to avoid their natural predators in the shallow nesting areas.

An incident that happened in front of our boat house last summer is something I will never forget. Last summer was the second summer in a row that we had two baby loons on Larkin Bay. On July the 11<sup>th</sup> /10, when most football fans were watching the final world championship game from South Africa I was sitting on our dock enjoying a glass of wine and our two baby loons. All of a sudden I could see and hear that the adult male loon seemed to be in distress. We have saved adult loons before who had their neck caught in fishing line with a fish net and the pontoon. With the pontoon and fishing net I went out to save the adult loon who was making a lot of noise and seemed very angry. The closer I got I noticed that the adult loon was in the process of killing one of the baby loons by ripping her wing in shreds and drowning it at the same time. I chased the adult loon away and with the net lifted the baby loon out of the water. It was already dead. We phoned the "bird lady" in Ottawa who always has a bird column in the Saturday edition of the Ottawa Citizen. The first question she asked, "Did we have snapping turtles in the bay"? The answer was yes for we had a huge snapper in the bay. We were informed that if a baby loon was hurt which was quite possible because of the snapper the adult loon will kill the chick. It's mother nature and we have to accept it whether we like or not. It was still a sad day for me.

If you love loons keep your motor speed down, do not go too close, and keep an eye on the loon population.

**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 unin-  
terrupted delivery of  
your Association  
Newsletter

### **3 easy ways to do it**

Phone:  
613-924-2010

E-mail:  
wayne.rose@ripnet.com

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



## **A Closer Look at the Soft Bait Issue By Alex Nagrodski**

### **Background**

In summer 2010, the CLA/CLEA announced funding for a research initiative investigating the effects of ingested soft plastic lures (SPLs) on resident lake trout and smallmouth bass. For those unfamiliar with this issue, SPLs are among the most popular fishing lures used to target freshwater fish species such as bass. Unfortunately, during regular usage, SPLs are commonly released into our freshwater systems either by accident or careless disposal. Generally composed of non-biodegradable materials, SPLs released into the environment tend to become "benthic litter" that has the potential of remaining largely intact for extended periods of time. Oddly enough, while anecdotal reports and ministry led surveys show an increase in the cases of lake trout captured with SPLs in their stomach, very few anglers use SPLs to target lake trout. Thus, there appears to be lack of understanding in explaining the mechanism of how SPLs enter the body of these fish. Furthermore, while some research does exist, science needs to do a better job outlining the implications of ingested SPLs on overall fish health. To this end, our Carleton University based research team has attempted to design experimental strategies that will shed some light on this SPLs issue.

### **Progress to Date**

To date, laboratory experiments have been performed to assess the "swelling" and "decomposition" of ten different brands of SPLs, at two different temperatures. While these experiments are presently ongoing, preliminary data seems to suggest that SPLs held at colder temperatures (~3° C) grow much slower than SPLs held at room temperature (~22° C). Carrying along this line of thinking, this finding may indicate that released SPLs may "swell/grow" much quicker during summer months rather than winter months. Over a period of 11 months, all of our SPLs remained completely intact, as almost every brand of lure exhibited substantial increases in both mass and length. Laboratory experiments are scheduled to conclude March 10, 2011. Once completed, we hope to gain insight as to the "growth rate" of these various brands. Knowledge obtained through this research will allow our team to make rough estimates as to the amount of time each SPL has been in the environment.

During the past 2010 field season, shoreline snorkeling surveys were performed to get a rough estimate as to the density of SPLs in Charleston Lake. During surveying, five randomly selected, ~300m shoreline transects were snorkeled three different times during the year. Snorkeling surveys were conducted: before opening lake trout fishing day (May), mid- season for lake trout fishing (August) and end of season for lake trout fishing (October). In total, our group retrieved 26 SPLs within our five transects, with 15, 4 and 7 SPLs obtained over the respective sampling periods. These findings suggest that throughout a fishing season, SPLs are added into areas where high fishing activity occurs.

### **Future Direction**

In the upcoming 2011 field season, our group plans to lethally sample both smallmouth bass and lake trout to evaluate the health and nutritional condition of fish with and without lures in their stomach (via SPIN sampling). Furthermore, using results obtained from sampling and laboratory experiments, we will experimentally place worms in specific locations throughout Charleston Lake (with appropriate replicates) to identify their fate in the wild.

## **Fire Insurance Update**

A notice was included with the Township of Leeds and the Thousand Islands newsletter stating that this Township has been **Accredited - "Superior Tanker Shuttle Service"**. This means lower Fire Insurance rates for all the homeowners in this Township. This does NOT apply to Athens residents. For the 300 CLA members who have their insurance policies with Roger Kelsey (613-924-9135) this is looked after, but for the other members please contact your Fire Insurance Company. Remember by being a CLA member and having your insurance policies with Roger Kelsey, you receive a discount on your premiums.



## A Final Word

**A Final word from the editor: Bill Borger, CLA Vice Chair (north end of the lake)**

This will be my second last CLA newsletter that I am going to be writing. Many of you already are aware that our "piece of heaven" on Larkin Bay is for sale. Our plans are to move to a 100 acre property in New Dublin, north of Brockville. On the one hand we are very excited about planning a new home, especially with all the "green" technology that is available today but on the other hand we are sad to leave Charleston Lake. We plan for this to be our last move since the lack of time is creeping upon us.

We bought our lot on Larkin Bay in 1984 and Wayne Lawson build us a cottage / house on it in 1987. Blue prints were not necessary, government agencies at all levels were much easier to work with, compared to today, and technology was still fairly simple. Today it's amazing how complicated things have become, for example I applied to have a "pond" dug on our wetland in New Dublin. A year and a half later, and an inch thick of paper work from four agencies, we finally received permission to continue. It's a full time job in planning the construction of a new home today. I therefore, will be resigning as a CLA Director at the Annual AGM on July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011 and also will not be moving over to CLEA.

It has been an honour to participate in the Charleston Lake Association and enjoy the opportunity to work with so many CLA members and directors. It's no wonder that Charleston Lake was awarded the "Canadian Green Cottager Award" by the Cottage Life Magazine in 2009. In the last couple of years, three enthusiastic young directors, Rob Gibson, Daragh Mansworth and Julia Giffin have joined CLA. We are also fortunate to have brought on board our secretary/treasurer Wayne Gill. I am happy to see that the Charleston Lake Association is in excellent hands.

In closing, I would just like to briefly reminisce my 27 years as an owner and a CLA Director. I saved everything of those bygone years. It was enjoyable to read the old minutes, newspaper articles etc. From Edna Chant's book, "Beautiful Charleston", it was on August 6, 1890 that the Charleston Lake Anglers Association was formed. Later it became known as the Charleston Lake Ratepayers Association. Their annual meetings were held in Bob Dickie's garage in the village of Charleston and ended when the mosquitoes took over. I still remember those meetings. In 1994 I was elected as a Director but a problem arose when it was realized that there were 9 directors where only 8 were allowed in the constitution. Wayne Lawson graciously stepped down and I became the 8<sup>th</sup> Director. I had previously been involved with the lake in 1986, when the Provincial Government proposed that Charleston Lake become the "James Auld Provincial Waterway Park". All the Charleston Lake owners were totally opposed to the idea and many meetings were held concerning this issue. At a packed gym at ADHS, I seconded the motion to stop the government's proposal and in 1988 the government accepted our decision. That was my first involvement with Charleston Lake and it has never stopped.

Thank you for all your support over the years. I have enjoyed working for such a great association.

*Bill*

## Reminders

**CLA/CLEA 122<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting will be held as always on the second Saturday in July (according to the constitution) which this year is as last year on the 9<sup>th</sup>.** The number of members attending the AGM has declined drastically over the years. We used to alternate between the north end (Holy Trinity Oak Leaf church hall) and the south end (Provincial Park) where the numbers were always much lower of the two locations. Even last year's AGM with an excellent speaker, the numbers attending were very low. A committee has been formed to look into this issue. For the 2011 AGM it will be held as part of the regular CLA/CLEA directors meeting at 9:30 AM at the CLA information Centre. If you have any ideas on this topic, please contact our president or send an e-mail to the editor.

**Please don't forget to renew your CLA membership.**

### Yes!

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

Enclosed is my / our donation of:  
\$25 \_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_ \$75 \_\_\_  
\$100 Club \_\_\_ (86 members in 2010!)

Make cheques payable to C.L.E.A.

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

*An income tax receipt will be mailed to you*