



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

Newsletter

Vol. 106, No. 1

Winter, 2006

Trees: Beauty and Function

I think that I shall never see A poem lovely as a tree...

This famous excerpt is from a poem written by Joyce Kilmer and is a tribute to the noble tree. By far the most substantial and largest plants in our landscapes, trees provide the greatest benefits—not only for us, but also for birds.

Trees beautify our surroundings. Many offer seasonal interest in the form of flowers, fruits, seeds, or fall color. Trees also help purify the air by manufacturing oxygen. They act as screens for privacy or to block objectionable views, function as glare controls, sound barriers, and wind breaks, offer welcome shade on hot, sunny days, and if planted in the correct location they help save energy. When properly planted and cared for, trees also increase our property values.

Natural climate control

Deciduous trees are ideal for energy control if planted near the house on a west- or south-facing side. When they leaf out in spring and summer, they shield your home from the hot sun, reducing air conditioning costs. When they lose their leaves in fall, they let in the sun's rays, warming the house and reducing heating costs. Evergreen trees also help control temperatures by blocking and deflecting wind, cold air, and sunlight.

If you're interested in saving energy, it's important to place trees near your dwelling, but not too close. Tree roots can cause problems down the line, growing



under and disrupting the foundation of your home. When considering placement, also check for the location of underground utilities and above-ground powerlines. A tree may look small when you first plant it, but think about its height and width at maturity.

Birds and trees

It's easy to see why trees are treasured and appreciated by people, but what about the birds? It turns out that there are plenty of reasons for our avian friends to value trees as well. Most trees, whether pine, oak, elderberry, or maple, provide food, shelter/cover, and nesting sites for birds. Tree branches make fine perches for singing birds trying to attract mates. Tree canopies invite birds to stop in for a rest during the heat of the day, to wait out a rainstorm, or to sleep in at night. Dense foliage also provides excellent hiding places when predators are near. Firm,

forked branches make good nesting sites. Food is provided in the form of sap, flowers, fruits, seeds, and insects that visit flowers or fruits or live beneath tree bark.

Evergreens are perfect for cover and shelter, and the

seeds from the cones of some evergreen trees are eaten by crossbills and siskins. Maples are ideal for nesting robins or vireos, and seeds and buds are eaten by cardinals and grosbeaks. An elderberry might be attractive to a warbler as a nesting spot, and mockingbirds dine on the tasty fruits. Acorns from an oak are feasted upon by jays and woodpeckers.

Dead trees

Even dead limbs and trees are attractive to birds. Insects that tunnel under the bark are important for chickadees and nuthatches. Woodpeckers use old, hollow trees for making nesting cavities; these holes are also sometimes used by bluebirds. Many birds love to perch on the open bare branches of decaying trees to survey the surrounding territory for food or a potential mate. If you don't like the dead look in your landscape, try growing a vine or climber up the trunk.

A good landscaping tree contributes to the beautiful natural setting around your home. **Preserve and cherish the trees that you have and consider planting more**—for your sake as well as the birds. Oh, and don't forget to pass the word along to your neighbors.

*Lynn Hassler Kaufman,
Birdwatchers Digest,
The Backyard Bird Newsletter.*

Reprinted with permission.

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The Board reports...

President's Message

Happy New Year to you and your family.

Since last fall, your directors and I have been busy attending workshops and meetings with local municipal officials. Frequently, at these meetings or in contacts with the local media, I am asked to comment on the Association's efforts to protect Charleston Lakes environment. On each and every contact my message is consistent.

• Four top values are consistent across the Charleston Lake watershed to everyone from commercial operators, to rural residents, farmers, resort owners and waterfront residents. These values are:

1. Water Quality
2. Peace and Quiet
3. Natural beauty
4. Fish and Wildlife.

• No longer can we rely solely on Government Agencies to protect these values. In recent years government cut backs have meant fewer staff to do the leg work.

• The Charleston Lake business community, the farming community, Township Councils and winter and summer residents recognize that as pollution increases, weeds proliferate, fish disappear and water quality declines with

ominous consequences. Property values and the local economy are threatened, as is the long term health of the environment and the Charleston watershed water supply.

• Approximately six years ago the two Charleston Lake Associations recognized that they had a major role to play in protecting the values identified by the residential and business communities. Our goal was, and remains, to connect and involve all the people across the watershed in a Lake Plan that protects, now and in the future, our most precious resource - Charleston Lake.

• Current plans call for the Lake Plan for Charleston Lake to be introduced summer 2006.

What we ask of property owners:

• Don't cut the grass within 30-50 feet of the shoreline. Let native shrubs and bushes grow.

• Don't use chemical fertilizers and pesticides; use of these is like pouring chemicals into your families drinking water supply. Chemical fertilizers and pesticides are harmful for humans, animals and the lake, and will encourage weed growth.

• Don't clear cut trees between the shoreline and your residence. Rather, trim the branches for a better view.

• Do have your sewage system re-inspected every three to five years by a certified sewage system contractor and immediately implement the contractors recommendations.

These days, being a director is a challenging and rewarding experience. Issues unheard of five to ten years ago are now on the front burner. A few examples of these are Assessment-Property Tax problems, removal of water from Charleston Lake for commercial purposes, rental charges for waterfront structures on crown land, ever increasing new development and re-development and light-noise pollution.

As a team, your Directors will, with your strong and continuing support, meet these challenges and those yet to come.

Please note the Point To Ponder item that follows. As a belated New Year's resolution I plan to pass this message along to my children and grandchildren.

Don Curry

A point to ponder - a message from a father to his children

It will never be good enough to just inherit or purchase property on Charleston Lake, pay taxes and enjoy the lake. Almost everybody does that. Rather, you must find a way to make a contribution to the lake. Find a way to protect and enhance Charleston Lake's beauty. You kids have inherited a wonderful quality of life at the lake and you can't take that for granted. Each generation has a responsibility to make a contribution.

Anonymous

Water quality survey results - 2005

- Phosphorus levels continue to decline (Improve). 2005 levels are lower than reported for any of the years 2000 to 2004 inclusive.
- Truly significant is the rate of change in water

clarity, an improvement in the mean water clarity of 0.86 meters in one year. This is directly due to the invasion of zebra mussels. The decline in Total Phosphorus may also be partially attributed to the zebra mussels as some phosphorous gets

tied up in the biomass of this species. The 2005 clarity recordings are in fact clearer than any time in the past 30 years.

- It is anticipated the zebra mussels will reach their maximum density 3 to 5 years from now.

Our new website is www.ashwoods.info/cia/



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.

Newsletter Co-ordinator:

Don Curry, Box 399,
Athens, Ont. K0E 1B0

Production and Design:

Herb Buehler,
Rideau Valley Marketing
4 Argyle Dr., Perth, ON K7H 3G9
E-mail: ashwoods@rideau.net
Tel: 613-326-0106

Website:

www.ashwoods.info/cia/

**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.

The Charleston Lake Association ... working to protect Charleston Lake's environment for the past 116 years.

2000 through 2005 - years like no other

The Charleston Lake Association has experienced unparalleled performance in the years 2000 through 2005. These were truly years like no other, with many new major initiatives in activities and programs

- Lake Management Program-Commenced a six-year total lake assessment to determine the future direction and management of Charleston Lake and watershed areas.
- Initiated extensive state-of-the-art annual water quality testing program.
- Worked closely with the Township of Leeds & The Thousand Islands in developing revisions to the Township's Official Plan.
- Worked as a team with the MNR to stock the lake with 72,000 Lake Trout fingerlings; completed a comprehensive Lake Trout Creel Survey.
- Actively participated in the Osprey Nesting Platform and Peregrine Falcon Rehabilitation projects
- Introduced the Neighbourhood Watch Program across the lake. Commenced a ten year program to modernize the Shoal Marker Program.
- Introduced a Group Insurance Program offering members significant savings in insurance costs.
- Commenced providing all property owners with a Healthy Shoreline Report tailor-made to their property.
- Opened an Information Center to provide members with information and advice. Introduced at the Center, the sale of lake, septic and people-friendly household products.
- Designed and introduced a web-site for use by association members and the general public.

- Provided members with information and advice regarding property assessment and tax issues.
- Introduced highly successful swimming lesson and day camp programs for our youth. Took the leadership role in building a pavilion in the County Park to facilitate these programs.

and on the horizon for 2006 and beyond...

- Continue success orientated 2000 - 2005 programs.
- Introduce, and with lake partners, implement the Lake Management Plan.
- Work closely as a team with the farming community to protect water quality in streams entering Charleston Lake.
- Continue to have Official Plan input and review to guide the Municipalities in environmentally sound development practices.
- With the MNR, consider the establishment of zones on the lake where there are fish sanctuaries until the opening day of the Bass season. There would be no fishing in these zones until the opening day of the Bass season.
- Expand the Youth Program. Consider introducing canoeing, kayaking and sailing lessons.
- Provide members with information on the November 2006 municipal election.

**Your recommendations
concerning future priorities
and programs are welcomed
and appreciated.**

Directors, Charleston Lake Association

For your information...

Waterfront Living — Answers to your questions.

Q Where can I obtain information on state of the art sewage systems? I need to replace mine.

A Sewage Systems: One of the most comprehensive web-sites is <http://www.inspect-ny.com/septbook.htm> which belongs to the Ontario On-site Waste Water Association. Our local Leeds & Grenville Health Unit at www.healthunit.org under the heading Sewage/ Land control is also very good. The Health Unit can be contacted at 613-345-5685-ask for Mark Green or e-mail mark.green@healthunit.org

Q Are there regulations concerning light pollution on Charleston Lake ?

A The issue of " light Pollution " is more of an urban problem but it also exists on the lake. The International Dark Sky Association defines light pollution as " any adverse effect " caused by man-made light including sky glow, glare, light trespass and light clutter. The issue is included under 4.12 in the new Leeds & The Thousand Islands Official Plan. At present no by-laws exist. Please also refer to the article on page 7; 'The Stars At Night'.

Q What can be done to eliminate the aquatic weed E-Milfoil on Charleston Lake ?

A The E-Milfoil is here to stay. It does invade new waters and becomes very prolific but then dies back to some background level. The climax in density may not be reached for 5 to 10 years. The plants will establish everywhere there is enough light to reach bottom and where there is suitable substrate to take root. The native plants have an opportunity to re-establish and create a more stable and diverse aquatic plant community. This background level may not be aesthetically acceptable to many people. There is nothing to be done about it except perhaps, as a community of shoreline owners, to hire a 'weed' harvester to clear areas in front of each shoreline property. This would likely be required at least twice per summer.

Q How much longer must we put up with the Zebra Mussels ?

A Zebra Mussels are here to stay. This invader will dominate for several years (perhaps a decade) and then will decrease in density to a background level. This level may not be aesthetically acceptable to many people but there is little that can be done to eliminate them.

Q What is the Charleston Lake Association's position in regards to future development on the lake?

A Since the value of our environment at Charleston Lake is priceless, the Association's position is that any new development and all re-development must be taken with the utmost respect for the environment.

Waterfront Living— Answers to your questions.

Please submit your Questions to the Association
-by mail to the Charleston Lake Association,
Box 609, Athens On , K0E 1B0 or
by e-mail to don.curry@sympatico.ca

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...

Heritage Society plans to profile Charleston Lake

Township of Athens and Area Heritage Society plans to profile Charleston Lake.

Do you have photographs, letters or other records of the people, homes, hotels, or businesses of Charleston Lake as they were in the past? The Township of Athens and Area Heritage Society would like to hear from you!

For two centuries, the lure of Charleston Lake has captivated settlers, cottagers, campers, naturalists, hikers, boaters and fishermen. Residents with the same family names as those who claimed the original land grants still live beside the lake. The

natural beauty of the lake, its unique terrain and the profusion of fish and wildlife have brought back generations of summer residents, year after year.

The Heritage Society has chosen the heritage of Charleston Lake as its theme for this year's display at the Athens Museum. The display will focus on both the lake's natural history and its early settlers, and also portray the evolution of the lake as a fisherman's and vacationer's haven.

The Society is looking for any documents which will help to portray the rich history of the lake and its peo-

ple. All material will be scanned to create a digital copy, so that the original document can be returned to the owner. Please contact the Secretary of the Heritage Society at info@athensontario.com, or call 613-924-0997, if you have something you are willing to contribute to the display. The Society will also be pleased to arrange a recording session, if you have stories to tell about the Lake and the colourful 'characters' who lived there in the past.

Jean Brassington

*Reprinted with permission
from the December 2, 2005
issue of 'The Mural'.*

2006 is election year

Yes, this is a municipal election year, and judging by your strong and favorable response to our Fall property tax mailing; there seems to be a real interest in just what our municipalities are doing.

We hope that those of you who had concerns about your assessed values have received satisfactory responses to your Requests for Reconsideration.

The elections in both municipalities will be held in November 2006. We will be monitoring developments as the date approaches. As candidates declare themselves we will attempt to see just where they stand on issues as they affect our lake. As the

summer progresses we will try to post pertinent information in the Information Center.

November is an inconvenient time for elections for most lake front property owners. However we can still participate, depending on which municipality we are in.

In December we met with both townships and found out that:

Leeds and 1000 Islands -
This municipality permits voting by **mail**. It is therefore important that you ensure that the ballot is mailed to a location where

you will receive it. As soon as the mailing date is known it will be posted in the information center.

Athens -
This municipality permits voting by **Proxy**. In this situation, if you know someone who would be able to cast your vote; you may give that person your proxy. It is important to note however that any individual can only exercise one proxy.

One last reminder, you must be a Canadian citizen to vote.

*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:

Phone
613-924-1598

●
E-mail
ashwoods@rideau.net

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

For your information...

Photo contest

Attention all amateur photographers ... submit your photographs of Charleston Lake wilderness, wildlife, events, activities etc. Twelve winners are to be selected.

Please send a hard copy, sized minimum 4x6, maximum 8x10, to the Charleston Lake Association, Box 609, Athens, ON K0E 1B0, Attn: Photography Contest.



Maximum number of submissions per person: 6 photos. When submitting your photograph (s), you are providing us with all the rights to use the photographs in Charleston Lake Association publications, calendars and/or other ventures.

No photos will be returned. Deadline for submissions: June 30, 2006

Youth & Social Committee

Sewage re-inspection Program 2005

Below are the results of the 2005 Sewage re-inspection program:

- Number of systems inspected: 177
- Number of systems meeting current regulations : 64
- Number of systems requiring replacement: 15
- Number of systems requiring attention (faulty alarm systems or pump out required): 98

Information concerning the 2006 Sewage System Re-Inspection Program has not yet been released.

Environment Committee -CLA

Charleston Lake Regatta?

Are you interested in having a regatta again on Charleston Lake? Are you interested in becoming a member of a Regatta Committee?

Please contact Amy Gaines at amygaines@cheerful.com or by phone (613) 802-0995 by March 31st, 2006.

All ages and skills are needed for assistance.

Youth & Social Committee

POLICE SAFETY PATROLS ON CHARLESTON LAKE - 2005

Dennis Roberts, of the Brockville OPP Detachment, reported the following :

“The Leeds County Marine Unit conducted the following activity on Charleston Lake in the 2005 season

- 43 Hrs of pro active patrol
- 20 hrs answering calls for service
- 20 charges were laid (1/3 were liquor related)
- 29 warnings issued
- 188 vessels were checked

The above does not include any patrol conducted by the S.A.V.E. unit

We found that there were other bodies of water that required a higher level of patrol then Charleston Lake.

We did not receive a significant number of complaints of speeding boats or PWC's -- fewer than we receive on other bodies of water.

For 2006 -- we plan maintaining our current level of visibility on the lake and will adjust our activities to deal with valid concerns or if our patrols show a problem in the area.”

*Glen Cuming
Safety - Security Committee*

ATTENTION !! ALL GOLFERS

Please mark your calendars for the
3rd Annual Golf Tournament

Saturday, August 12, 2006
Village Green, Athens

Teams of Four Scrambles- 9 Hole
Ladies', Men's, Mixed and Junior teams
LOTS of FUN! Food, Prizes and Golf.
Too good to miss!

**More details in the next newsletter
or at the Information Centre!**

The Stars at Night

We are receiving complaints from members concerning excessive lighting on the lake. Some members complain they no longer enjoy the night sky and that the night vision of boaters is severely limited due to light trespass and light pollution.

The stars at night and lights which provide safety and security can and should be a way of life on Charleston Lake.

The following information examines the problem and provides the solutions.

Light Trespass and Light Pollution

Our eyes always adapt to the brightest light, making the surroundings appear darker. By reducing your ability to see, glare reduces safety and security. Remove the lampshades in your living room and you will experience glare. In towns and cities at night, with street lights, yard lights, lighted signs, lighted houses and buildings and lights of many passing cars, it seems like the night sky is just black, and ends somewhere about the tree tops. Light pollution is such an issue that there are by-laws regulating lighting in cities such as Richmond Hill and Calgary, and there is a popular Dark Sky Reserve at the Torrance Barrens, near Bala, Ontario.

Light trespass is light that shines where it is not needed or wanted. Also referred to as 'light spill', light trespass is light from somebody else's property lighting up your property, shining in your windows, or otherwise interfering with your enjoyment of your property. Light trespass occurs whenever light shines beyond the in-

tended target and onto adjacent property. Light over water isn't absorbed, but bounces off the water. It can severely limit the night vision of boaters, and intensifies the trespass effect to neighbours across the water. It can be reduced or eliminated by using a shielded light fixture and by aiming lights down where the light can be used.

Light pollution, on the other hand, occurs with excessive amounts of light and undirected light. Overlighting results when light levels exceed those needed for the task. Too much light often arises when decks, docks, paths and outbuildings have spotlights trained on them from a distance. More is not always better. Overlighting results in indirect glare, where illuminated objects are too bright compared to their surroundings, and the spill-over overwhelms visibility in the area.

Uplight is, quite simply, wasted light, wasted energy and wasted money – not unlike other forms of pollution. Uplight is a main culprit in reducing the visibility of the night sky, where a special pleasure of being in the country is seeing the sea of stars, constellations, and perhaps shooting stars. It occurs where improperly aimed or unshielded lights emit light above the horizontal. Light that simply goes up into the night sky serves no useful purpose. Uplight is what causes the dome of sky glow over towns and cities, reflecting and dispersing from moisture in the air and

clouds. Typically, lights that cause uplight also cause significant glare and light trespass. Unshielded yard or porch lights, most 'security' lighting, most streetlights, and billboards with bottom-mounted lights are typical sources of uplight, light trespass and glare. Again, using shielded lights that are aimed down so that no light is emitted above horizontal will stop uplight and reduce light trespass and glare.

If the light source itself is more apparent than what it is illuminating, then you have bad lighting. The rule of thumb is that you should only be able to see the light source if you are standing under the light.

Five Easy Steps to Responsible Lighting

1. Ask yourself, "What do I need to illuminate and how much light do I really need?" Outdoor light at night should have a purpose. Just as we do indoors, think 'task lighting'. Determine if you wish light for safety, as a marker (like low-voltage garden path lights) or for aesthetic reasons. Remember your neighbours may not share your taste in lighting aesthet-

ics, any more than you may share their tastes in art and music.

2. Use the right amount of light. More is not usually better. Too much light reduces visibility by creating glare, forming dark shadows and is wasteful of energy. By ensuring smooth transitions from light to dark areas, so that one's eyes can adjust easily, you can avoid deep shadows. This is important for those travelling on the water at night.

3. Avoid letting the light shine sideways or upwards. Use full cut-off, shielded fixtures and aim light downwards where you need it. This avoids glare, which always harms visibility. Never use fixtures that spray light everywhere.

4. Use infrared and motion detectors that turn lights on and off as needed. This improves security and reduces electricity consumption. Use timers to control when lights come on. Less light is needed after 10 p.m. when few people are out.

5. Use efficient lamps: remember, shielded fixtures with good reflectors waste little light, so you can use lower wattage bulbs.

Residential Lights

Magazine articles and web sites have discussed lighting

(Continued on page 8)



PLEASE ERECT PROPER WARNING SIGNS



If you create open water on the ice this winter,

REMEMBER...

you could be held responsible!

Around the lake...

The Stars at Night - Continued

(Continued from page 7)

matters in some detail. A finding was that the worst offenders in terms of types of lights are coach lights and flood lights. Coach lights spread illumination 360 degrees where the intent is generally to light up something

more specific, like a deck or dock surface, walkway or entranceway. The excessive and blinding glare from these lights often makes approaches to or past these places difficult, and most of the light goes where it was not needed – or wanted. Two

solutions are to reduce the wattage from the usual 60 or 100 watt lamps to 25 watt chandelier type; and/or to insert a perf-roll – a perforated cylinder of metal, which directs most light down with some allowed to case a glow around the area.

and half-mirrored or silvered light bulbs (base-up). These directional lamps, as well as soffit lighting, provide good, even, illumination without harmful glare. And since all of the light is directed downwards, you can use a 25, 40 or 60-watt lamp, which minimizes energy consumption. Resist the temptation to buy the brightest bulb available – it just creates and island of brightness, and the adjacent unlit areas seem extra dark in contrast.

Another culprit is the post or wall mounted flood light. There are two issues here: the wattage and the broadcast of the light. While most are rated for 150 watts, that maximum is usually overkill. Finding your way into the area that needed some illumination means squinting your way through a zone that is dramatically darker in comparison. As well, the 'flood' light does just that – it broadcasts light over a greater area than needed. When these are aimed towards docks from the upland, the powerful light bounces across the water to shine into neighbours' cottages. A solution is to replace the bulbs with lower wattage reflective spot-lights, such as 35 watt parabolic-reflector halogen bulbs, and choose a more effective location for these lights, aiming it where really intended. A shield can be placed to prevent light from escaping the intended area.

All in all, you don't have to suffer from a lack of light where it is needed, but on the other hand, your neighbours don't have to suffer from light that is excess or uncontrolled. Lighting can provide both a safe and aesthetic nighttime environment.

Explore the following sites for excellent information.

International Dark Sky Association
www.darksky.org

Sensible Shoreland Lighting;
University of Wisconsin
liebl@epd.engr.wisc.edu

New England Light Pollution Advisory Group
www.harvard.edu/cfa/ps/nelpag.html

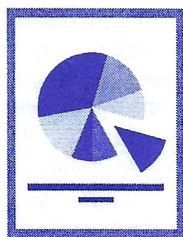
Illuminating Engineering Society of North America
www.iesna.org/

Decorative, motion-sensor fixtures are readily available and turn lights on when needed. To minimize glare, use reflector or director light bulbs (aimed downwards)

New Year's Resolution

Make 2006 the year to participate in the associations Group Insurance Program. You will be surprised and pleased with the substantial reduction in the amount of your annual insurance costs. For more information please contact the Association's insurance agency;

Roger Kelsey Insurance Brokers Inc.
248 Charleston Road, Athens ON, K0E 1B0.
(613) 924-9135



Charleston Lake Association

Statement of Income and Expenses
Dec. 31, 2004–Dec. 31, 2005

INCOME

Bank Balance Forward Dec. 31, 2004	\$ 9,277.19
Membership fees.....	14,337.78
Bank interest.....	6.78
Donations.....	617.60
Grants.....	10,185.00
Youth Program-Registration fees.....	2,695.00
Total Income.....	\$ 27,842.16
Total Operating Funds.....	\$ 37,119.35

EXPENSES

Environmental-Fish & Wildlife.....	\$ 14,202.29
Newsletters	5,662.91
General Administration.....	3,194.23
Youth programs	2,162.48
Safety.....	1,626.22
Membership Administration	1,506.53
Membership Fees, Other Organizations.....	1,312.99
Municipal Affairs-Property Tax Info	1,235.02
Donations	1,174.60
Annual General Meeting	706.54
Information Centre.....	73.87
Total Expenses	\$ 32,857.68
Bank Balance Dec. 31, 2003.....	\$ 4,261.67

Herb Buehler, Secretary/Treasurer
January 08, 2006

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

(Original signed by) **Darlene Noonan, A.M.C.T.**
CAO/ Clerk Treasurer, Township Of Athens,
January 20, 2006