



NEWSLETTER

Vol. 102, No. 1

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

Winter, 2002

Healthy shoreline review

Enclosed with your newsletter is a brochure entitled "I want to protect my shoreline property" which is a simple but effective self help guide to improve Charleston Lake's water quality. Many articles have been written about Charleston Lake's water quality including the findings of the 2000 report, "An Assessment of Water Quality of Charleston Lake". Several of the recommendations deal with "shoreline protection" because your shoreline property is very important to the water quality of Charleston Lake.

Over the centuries your shoreline of dry land and shallow water has become an

effective natural filter and buffer. Pollutants like lawn fertilizers and pesticides running off the land are often trapped and absorbed by vegetation, particularly the cattails just offshore, protecting the water quality of the lake itself. The shoreline plants also act as a buffer against wind, wave, and ice erosion. Well-dressed shorelines can be considered the "kidney" of the lake.

In 1999 the Charleston Lake Association's environment committee introduced for members a **free program** that would review the shoreline of your property. Environmental consultants who do this for a living would charge any-

where from \$200 and up. The procedure is quite simple, a team of 2 or 3 people, of which one is a qualified biologist, comes and walks your shoreline, takes pictures and makes recommendations, if needed, and then writes a report which the owner gets the next spring.

Since 1999 over 100 properties (with the owners permission) have been done. The biologist in the last year has taken a full time job so the committee is running behind schedule with getting the reports to some of the owners. Also, every year the format of the report is changing, trying to make it more meaningful, workable and long lasting.

The committee made a major change this year by calling it "**Charleston Lake Healthy Shoreline Review**". The process has been very positive and has been well received by the property owners. The majority of proper-

ties were just fine and could be improved by making minor changes. For those with some serious problems, the owners could start implementing the recommendations at their leisure.

Some owners who we have contacted would not allow us on their property for fear that we would either find major problems or that we would contact one of the local agencies. **It must be stressed that the report is for the owner and the information stays with the owner.** All recommendations are suggestions to improve water quality for Charleston Lake.

The brochure is a simple check list to help you protect your shoreline to improve water quality on Charleston Lake. Is this not the goal for each and every one of us who use Charleston Lake?

Continued on page 4

As we go to press...

February 1, 2002 - A very thin layer of ice covers most of the lake - except on Big Waters.

On Big Waters, the waves sparkle in the sunlight. In front of the County Park in Sand Bay, five loons spend their days fishing and overhead, two bald eagles soar in the sky.

A continuing lack of ice could mean low lake levels this summer. Evaporation is continuing



when normally everything is frozen and evaporation is not an issue.

A step back in time - Little or no ice in February is not a record. On the last day of February in 1928, Horace Slack rowed his boat from Slack's Gap to Chaleston Village to pick up supplies, and returned back home by boat. The next day the ice arrived and by mid march measured 21 inches in thickness.

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YOUR BOARD REPORTS...

A Message from your President

Your Board of Directors joins with me in wishing you and your family much good health, happiness and prosperity throughout 2002.

The Charleston Lake Association view to 2002 is: Building from a solid base. Five years ago, we embarked on a plan that would see the Association evolve from a primarily problem solver to an innovative, future originated organization. In 2001, we made great progress in meeting this goal.

Great things will happen at Charleston Lake this spring and summer. This newsletter, along with the one enclosed by the Charleston Lake Environmental Association,

Healthy Shore Tips

Dreaming of summer shoreline project?

Start the approvals process now. It can take three to four months to get the go-ahead from the authorities.

You'll need a permit for work involving hard materials, such as replacing a dock. But any project that tinkers with the waterfront should be run by the experts.

Show and Tell: the approvals folks will want to see a sketch of the lay of your land and existing structures, as well as a description of your shore project.

Please see article on page 3.

ciation, highlights the major programs underway or planned for the coming year and years.

The newsletter from the Charleston Lake Environmental Association provides information on the Ontario Trillium Foundation Grant and refers to the preparation of a Lake Management Plan.

The Charleston Lake Management Plan scheduled for completion in the year 2005 will be prepared through a community-based process to identify and protect natural physical and social values that contribute to the "Quality of Life" on Charleston Lake. The purpose of the lake plan is to recognize and protect the unique character of Charleston Lake and to recommend a series of actions to ensure its long-term health and character for present and future generations.

The process to develop a lake plan is as important as the end result. **Essential to the success of the project is that all who enjoy Charleston Lake contribute to and participate in the lake planning process.**

Your recommendations and suggestions concerning the Charleston Lake Management Plan are very important to us. Please take a few minutes to send us any suggestions or ideas that you may have concerning this plan. What is important to you for inclusion in the Management Plan? Please use the envelope enclosed to

forward any information which you feel should not be excluded. It is important that we reflect your views.

thank you for your commitment to and support for the Association's priorities and programs.

Again Happy New Year and

Don Curry



The Charleston Lake Environmental Association received a Trillium Grant in the amount of \$136,700. at the Charleston Dock on Monday, January 7th. The grant will allow the Association to conduct environmental studies and education programs for a period of 42 months. The grant was presented by Bob Runciman, Leeds-Grenville MPP, left, Peter Garvin and Murray Metcalfe of the Trillium Foundation to Don Curry, Charleston Lake Association (CLA) and Ron Webster, Charleston Lake Environmental Association (CLEA).

Photo Courtesy of the Review Mirror



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.



YOUR BOARD REPORTS

NO PAIN AND LOTS OF GAIN

Shoreline management: the approval process defined

It sounds a bit scary, as if you have to stand before a committee and defend your allegiance to healthy-shore management. But, in fact, the approvals process, through careful planning, straightforward paperwork, and expert feedback, simply guides you to the best outcome: a waterfront project that suits our waterfront's needs.

Depending on the nature of the work, you may need to go beyond a plan and make a formal application for a permit, as you would if replacing a dock or tearing out a concrete break-



wall. However, even projects that don't involve "hard" materials, should be shared with the authorities in case a permit is needed. You don't want to contravene the *Fisheries Act*! Here are a few key steps:

1. You initiate the process:

The Onus is on you to make sure that your shore project, whether building a dock or restoring waterfront, doesn't hurt fish habitat. Though fish protection is the ultimate responsibility of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, approval for shore work starts locally, with the Conservation Authority, then, if necessary, the Ministry of Natural Resources and finally, the feds.

2. Present the local authorities with an idea of your grand scheme:

On graph paper, draw to scale a map of your cottage

and outbuildings, shoreline vegetation, and aquatic habitat, such as bass nests.

Indicate high- and low-water lines, prevailing currents and winds, and problem areas, such as eroding banks, a crumbling breakwall, and high-activity areas.

Factor in your desired shoreline project and note which waterfront zones it will affect: littoral, shoreline, riparian, and/or upland.

3. If the folks in the know tell you to make a formal application:

Provide all your contact information, our waterbody's name, location, lot and concession number, and even the Global Positioning System coordinates, if you have them. Photos of your property and work site are also helpful.

Most important, include your hand-drawn lot map, signed and dated, and a full outline of your project, from building details to final goal. The experts will often come back with better ideas, saving you money and time.

4. Submit in fall or winter and be patient:

It takes a few months to hear back from the regulators, who'll either give you the go-ahead or ask you to make changes – ultimately, though, you'll have their blessing on our shore work.

Helpful Contacts:

**Catarqui Region
Conservation Authority**
1641 Perth Road,
P.O. Box 160
Glenburnie, On. K0H 1S0
Phone: (613) 546-4228
Fax: (613) 547-6474

**Ministry of
Natural Resources**
Postal Bag 2002
Concession Road
Kemptville, On. K0G 1J0
Phone: (613) 258-8204
Fax: (613) 258-3920

**Fisheries and
Oceans Canada**
Navigable Waters Protection,
Marine Programs
401 King St. W.
P.O. Box 1000
Prescott, On. K0E 1T0
Phone: (613) 925-2865
Fax: (613) 925-5540

Healthy Shore Tips

If replacing a dock is on your to-do list:

Minimize your new structure's impact on the shore. Floating and pipe docks leave the smallest "footprint" on the lakebed.

Devote only a small portion of your shoreline to dock and swimming areas, and leave the rest for the fish to spawn and the water birds to feed.

Budget for untreated wood, such as cedar or redwood, to construct your dock and other shoreline structures. It's more expensive, but safer for aquatic life.



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Healthy Shoreline continued

(Continued from page 1)

The Living by Water Project is a partnership initiative of conservation and stewardship groups across Canada. The project's aim is to protect, enhance and restore shorelines by marketing an environment and wildlife-friendly waterfront lifestyle.

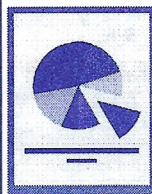
Charleston Lake has a partnership with this organization for we have shared our Healthy Shoreline Review information with them. If you are interested in having your shoreline reviewed please contact the committee.

*Bill Borger
Environment Committee*

Coming Events - 2002

- Grand opening of the new CLA / CLEA information centre.
- An exciting youth program for the children of Charleston Lake.
- Pleasure Craft Operators certificate course.
- Joint venture programs with the Charleston Lake Provincial Park.
- Yard Sale 2002—Your trash may be someone else's treasure.

Complete details about these events will be provided in our May, 2002 Newsletter.



CHARLESTON LAKE ASSOCIATION Statement of Income and Expenses Jan. 1, 2001—Dec. 31, 2001

INCOME	
Bank Balance Jan. 1, 2001	\$3,788.35
Membership Fees	14,365.48
Bank Interest	21.51
Donation	50.00
Donation (CLEA)	5,817.00
Donation (re fireworks)	1,299.88
Total Income	\$ 21,553.87
Total Operating Funds	
	\$25,341.84

EXPENSES	
Water quality testing program & environment	7,164.63
Newsletters	7,007.40
Safety	1,563.46
Youth and social activities	1,802.34
Fish and Wildlife	812.23
Membership Promotion/Administration	981.55
General Administration	762.25
Liability Insurance	1,080.00
Annual Meeting	906.42
Lake Plan	56.44
Gifts to guest speaker & retiring directors	30.00
Total Expenses	\$ 22,166.72

Bank Balance Dec. 31, 2001

*Judy Wyatt, Secretary Treasurer
1 January, 2002*

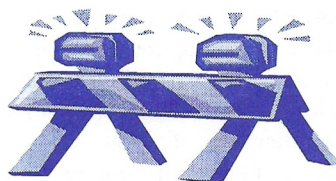
"I have reviewed the Financial Records of the Charleston Lake Association and report that this Financial Statement is complete and accurate."

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

WARNING

If you create open water on the ice this winter,

**PLEASE ERECT
PROPER
WARNING SIGNS.**



REMEMBER...
YOU COULD BE HELD RESPONSIBLE!

Healthy Shore Tips

This year, why not get rid of that crumbling break wall and create a softer shoreline?

When the ground thaws, regrade the slope behind the wall to 25 degrees or less.

Line the bank with geotextile filter cloth to prevent the soil from washing away. Then either remove the breakwall or pound it into rubble-size pieces.

Add a layer of stones, called rip-rap, and plant shrubs such as dogwood and sweet gale in it. The vegetation will help to resist erosion and attract wildlife.



ON THE FISHING SCENE

Charleston Lake –

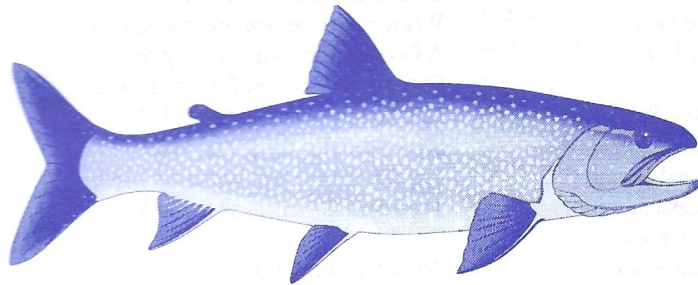
Lake Trout Egg Collection - Fall 2001

The Ministry of Natural Resources conducted the Charleston Lake lake trout egg collection from October 29 to November 5, 2001. There were a total of 250 lake trout caught and 91 sampled (total and fork length measured, fin clip recorded, sex recorded, age structure collected (scales). There were

10 females that were ripe at the time of capture. A total of 44,000 eggs were successfully collected from these 10 females. This was an increase from 22,000 eggs collected in 2000. The eggs were collected from Crozier Is. shoal (#8), Leeder Creek shoal (#6), County Park shoal (#9) and Loon Bay shoal. The

greatest number of lake trout were caught at the Crozier Island shoal. Currently, there are 38,000 eggs incubating at the Ministry of Natural Resources White Lake fish hatchery. There has been a loss of 6,000 eggs due to mortality in the first month. These eggs will be incubated and raised to fingerling size at the hatchery and then stocked back into Charleston Lake in the spring of 2003.

native lake trout in previous years and raised at White Lake Hatchery) (this was an increase from 27% in 2000) and 27% were from stocked lake trout from another strain (this was a decrease from 32% in 2000). This indicates that the majority of lake trout spawning (73%) are from the native strain in Charleston Lake which is an increase from 69% in 2000.



Of the 91 lake trout sampled on the spawning bed, 42% were native lake trout (this was the same percentage as in 2000), 31% were native stocked lake trout (i.e. they were collected as eggs from

Note: We appreciate that the Association left the shoal markers in place during this process.

*Anne Bendig
Biologist, MNR*

Change of Address

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Prov. / State: _____

Postal / Zip Code _____

Please mail this information to:

THE CHARLESTON LAKE ASSOCIATION

Box 609, Athens, Ontario K0E 1B0

or Fax: 613-273-4255

or e-mail: bass@recorder.ca

or ashwoods@rideau.net

Thank you

Membership Admin. Committee

Healthy Shore Tips

Ease your lake's life this summer by cutting your cottage phosphorus output:

Upgrade your leaky old septic system to minimize the leaching of nutrients.

Forget fertilizer. Washed into the water, it fuels an overgrowth of algae and weeds.

Switch to no- or low-phosphate liquid detergent and soap.

If you run a dishwasher at the cottage, use on half the recommended amount of powdered detergent – it has a high phosphate content.

MEMBERSHIP DECALS

Your Board of Directors made the decision this year to have the membership decals produced so that they could be applied to windows and doors from the inside, away from the weather.

Although the cost was slightly higher, we had many requests to produce the decals in this format, and hope that you will agree they are an improvement.

They adhere by 'friction' and are easy to apply. They are just as easy to remove, and leave no residue. Look for yours with your membership payment receipt.



▲ BIT OF HISTORY

The Legend of Charleston Lake

When spring time frees the fippling rills,
And flowers spring bright on all the hills;
The warm sun in the Easter sky
Awakes a flush and climbing high,
A thousand sunbeams send to make
The fair isles green on Charleston Lake.
Here, ages past, the legend goes,
When Indian fought with Indian foes,
And ringing echoes answered nought,
But war-cries as the redmen fought;
Or for a time the hatchet hid,
The young braves played on High Rock Ridge;

One starry night a young moon threw
Her glances o'er fair Charleston's blue;
To break the waters saw no isles,
No island trees waved back her smiles,
No island flowers sought rest at night,
Beneath her pale beams, silver white;
But on the shore a maiden strolled,
And smiled as tiny ripples rolled
To kiss her naked, shapely feet,
Tanned by the summer's wind and heat.
In War her father led a band,
The finest warriors in the land;
Charleston their home by right of quest,
Her shores by every spirit blest.

And now beneath the moon's faint flare,
The maid, Win-o-na, here and there,
With careless steps among the flowers,
Wandered alone the peaceful hours.
Her dark hair o'er her shoulders fell,
In passing, from the wild-wood bell,
Dashed dew-drops to the grass below,
All green alike to friend or foe.

Her leathern dress by her own hand,

With shells she gathered from the sand,
Was fashioned from a young fawn slain,
While feeding on an upland plain,
And gathered close to keep her warm,
Disclosed a maiden's perfect form.
Her eyes were dark, but soft and mild,
And playful laughed when e'er she smiled;
As Princess at her father's side,
She was his one, his greatest pride;
A chieftain's daughter, nobly true,
And nought to fear Win-o-na knew.
She gazed across the pretty lake,
And thoughtful gave her head a shake,
For not an island broke the view,
With shadows dancing on the blue.

Win-o-na saw the pale moon light,
Flash on the ripples, sparkling white,
She raised her eager eyes and sought
The moon to grant her wistful thought.
Child of the wood, she only knew,
What taught her wisest men as true,
That spirits ruled the land and air,
And some were dark and some were fair,
And offerings to the good she made,
When Evil Spirits havoc played.
Her innocent mind oft sought to know,
From tribesmen wandering to and fro,
More of the one, their Manitou,
Above the sky of pretty blue.
To her, the moon of silver light,
Was a Goddess guarding o'er the night;
And now she sought it's kindly aid,
And her request to it she made.

That when the morning burst aglow,
And all was life on earth below,
Loved Charleston's waters here and there,

Would broken be by islands fair.
Win-o-na's simple faith was strong,
And humming lightly on a song,
Sprang from the shore and dashed away,
To the tent wherein her father lay,
And gentle as a wild-wood rose,
She dreamed her dreams in sweet repose.

But still the lake of rippling blue,
Remained unbroken to the view,
'Til as the stars were growing dim
The moon had dropped behind the rim
Of distant hills and broken crags
Where roved the bear and stalwart stags,-
A Goddess, bright as morning dew,
Gathered the choicest flowers she knew,
And passing over Charleston Lake,
She scattered in her loving wake,
The flowers she held within her hand,
The fairest flowers in all the land.

As each flower touched the quivering blue,
A pretty island sprang in view,
And green grass and the stalwart trees,
Waved softly in the morning breeze.
Win-o-na, early to the shore,
Saw all the islands and once more,
She blest the moon of light and love,
And the great Manitou above.
But her pure heart and princess mind,
Thanked most the Goddess that so kind
Had tossed the flowers where isles now grew,
As over Charleston Lake she flew.

And when Win-o-na passed away,-
The flowers were young and bright that day,
Through all the land this legend went,
How Charleston's many isles were sent.
And though long ages now have passed,
And Indian tribes are vanishing fast,
This simple legend on the isles,
Is told with thankfulness and smiles.
And may Win-o-na, happy, blest,
An Indian princess find a rest,
With her spirits of Light and Love,
And the Great Manitou, above.

By **L. Glenn Earl - Dec. 1909**

L. Glenn Earl (1890-1952) was an Athens resident and spent his summers at the family cottage in Moonfish Bay. In 1912 he purchased Olmstead I, which was formerly known as Humstead. He is responsible for preserving Charleston's Native Legends in verse form.

WINTER 2002 RESOLUTION

"This weekend I will identify my VISION of the future of Charleston Lake and its values."

Perhaps the best way to get started will be to identify:

Specific Places - "My special place on Charleston Lake is..."
General Values - "One of the most important values of Charleston Lake is..."
Memories - "I remember a time when..."

Please forward your VISION of the future of Charleston Lake and its values in the envelope enclosed with newsletter.

Charleston Lake Environmental Association

(A Charitable Trust Foundation)

and the

Charleston Lake Association

(Established 1890)

The Charleston Lake Association and the Charleston Lake Environmental Association jointly invite you to participate in the preparation of a long range **Strategic Plan** for **Charleston Lake**.

There is general agreement that **Charleston Lake** remains beautiful in every way right now. We are however challenged with the task of preserving the Lake, as an ecological treasure, an inheritance for our children and grandchildren into this new century.

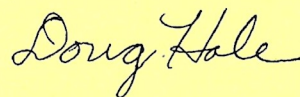
Your Lake Associations are united in their agreement that this challenge can, in fact must, be met by the implementation of a long range **Strategic Plan** for **Charleston Lake**. Our goal must be the sustaining and protection of the very fragile ecosystem which surrounds and includes **Charleston Lake**. All users of the Lake will benefit from this by unpolluted water, protected human health, improved angling and fishing, a strong and growing local economy and the protection and enhancement of local property values. This long range **strategic plan** will have a life expectancy of at least twenty-five years and should be reviewed and updated every five years.

Your recommendations and suggestions concerning this long range plan are important to us. Please take a few minutes to send us any suggestions or ideas that you may have concerning this plan. What is important to you for inclusion in the long range **Strategic Plan**? We will be formulating our approach over the winter of 2002. Please use the envelope enclosed to forward any information which you feel should not be excluded. It is not necessary for you to identify yourself to us. However, you may wish to do so. It is more important that we reflect your views.

Our thanks in advance.



Don Curry
President
Charleston Lake Association



Doug Hale
President
Charleston Lake Environmental Association