



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

Newsletter

Vol. 106, No. 2

Spring, 2006

A Charleston Lake Plan

After five years of effort, involving dozens of volunteers, hundreds of hours of effort, the commissioning of weighty background reports, the involvement of professional consultants, the contribution of government experts, and with the assistance of the Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve and many other partners we finally, at long last, have a **Charleston Lake Plan**.

The tale that our plan tells is one of caution and even controversy. It is thorough and yet it is concise and to the point. It provides a sobering assessment of the current state of affairs, an analysis of trends, changes and impacts we are having, and a finally, a "call to action" with 21 separate Action Plans for us to sink our teeth into. Those who have read it are quite impressed and we would encourage every lake resident and lake user to get a copy this summer to see what they think.

A Review of the Process

The process started in 2001 with an application for funding from the Trillium Foundation. With significant additional financial support from the Charleston Lake Environmental Association, the planning process progressed pretty much on track over the five year period.

Phase One involved getting input from lake residents, lake users and local businesses about why they like the lake and what they be-

lieve the most important issues are.

Phase Two was an information gathering stage that involved the production of reports on water quality, fisheries, a natural resource inventory, new bathymetry, and an in depth review of the entire shoreline of the lake.

Phase Three included the synthesis of all of this background information into two documents, a **Lakeshore Capacity Model for Charleston Lake** and the **Charleston Lake Plan**.

Phase Four is the implementation of the plan, a process that actually started three years ago with the Leeds County Stewardship Council/Leeds Federation of Agriculture partnership project to rehabilitate and restore of all of the streams flowing into Charleston Lake

The **Lakeshore Capacity Modeling** exercise was carried out by staff from the Ontario Ministry of the Environment to basically assesses the ability of the lake to sustain more development. Not surprisingly, the lake was found to be "At Capacity". The simplest way to state the case is to say that Phosphorus levels were found to be significantly above provincial water quality objectives and Oxygen levels were found to be below Lake Trout Habitat objectives in all basins except Deep Waters by late summer every year. Too much of one and too little of the other!

The Lake Associations have accepted the findings at face value as "the best science available today" and have

agreed to work with both provincial and municipal governments as they adjust their
(Continued on page 3)



*Charleston Lake? ... The future's so bright,
I've gotta wear shades!*

Inside this issue

President's message -----	2
Info Centre hours -----	3
Waterfront Living - Q & A -----	4
Healthy Shoreline review -----	6
Municipal/Provincial Affairs -----	7
Lake Trout stocking -----	8
AGM notice -----	10

President's Message

Greetings from Charleston Lake where year to date all goes well as it did in 2005. Our water quality enables us once again to do all the things we love to do at the lake. Alas, this was not the case at another lake in Ontario summer-fall 2005.

IT HAPPENED LAST SUMMER --Three Mile Lake in the Muskokas made the news last fall as the most recent example of what happens when Cyanobacteria (Blue Green Algae) goes on a bender.

While other freshwater algae cause a nuisance by making water murky, cyanobacteria can poison people and animals, making lakes temporary off limits for most human activities and menacing property values. Beyond the health threat, the stuff is repulsive. At times the scum was accompanied by a stench like garbage that has been sitting out too long.

At Three Mile Lake Health Unit staff assisted by Firefighters went door to door distributing notices advising cottage owners against swimming and other water sport activities, and using lake water for drinking, showers, laundry, dishwashing--virtually everything but flushing the toilet.

Cyanobacteria (Blue Green Algae) is present in small numbers in most Ontario lakes. Warm balmy weather prime it for rapid growth. Its only additional need is for phosphate and humans do a good job in supplying it. Phosphorous comes from

human and animal waste, lawn fertilizers, and what ever ends up in septic systems, including automatic dish washer detergents and household cleaners. We also help nutrient get into the lake by clearing land and replacing the tangle of shoreline vegetation with lawns and imported beaches.

The Three Mile Lake bloom is the first confirmed cyanobacteria scum in the Muskokas and it clearly indicates the link between development, phosphorous and algae.

SO WHAT ABOUT CHARLESTON LAKE -- how do we prevent the disaster that our fellow cottagers experience on Three Mile Lake? First of all we need to identify that scum floating on the water.

Recognizing Cyanobacteria – Blue-Green Algae

In its early stages, only a specialist with a microscope can sort out what's what, so when an algal bloom turns the water green and cloudy, the safest approach is to stay out of the lake (and keep your pets away, too). Here are some tips to help you tell what is – and what isn't – cyanobacterial.

A cyanobacterial bloom is

- Most notable for the way it covers the water with a fluorescent blue-green paint-like scum.
- Often redolent of fresh grass clippings, must, mould, or decaying vegetation.

- Usually blue-green (almost a bright emerald or teal, not Kelly or forest green) but may have brown or reddish tinges.
- Often likened to pea soup.
- Most likely to occur in mid-to-late summer (July, August and September).
- Made up of small colonies (the size of a pinhead or smaller) that are hard to pick up and hold on a stick.

A cyanobacterial bloom is not

- ◇ A subsurface cloud that's bright green (this is likely green algae) or brown (likely chrysophytes or diatoms, both other types of algae).
- ◇ Yellow, powdery stuff floating on the lake. (This is tree pollen.)
- ◇ Anything with root-like or leaf-like structures. (Duckweed is a small floating plant sometimes mistaken for blue-green algae.)
- ◇ Guilty of releasing a sickly sweet odour. (Blame chrysophytes for that.)
- ◇ Long and stringy when you pick it up with a stick. (These are usually colonies of green filamentous algae.)

Finally, when you see algae in the lake, it's best to err on the side of caution. Even if the bloom doesn't look blue-green, that doesn't mean there

aren't blue-greens around.

Next, and vitally important: How can we stop Charleston Lake from turning blue-green ?

- Scrap the lawn in favour of natural groundcover. Don't use fertilizers or pesticides.
- Help keep nutrients out of the water by maintaining natural vegetation along the shoreline (on land and in the water) and keeping your property well forested.
- Use phosphate-free detergents and cleaners. (Be

(Continued on page 5)



Newsletter

This newsletter is published regularly by the Charleston Lake Association for its members and those persons interested in Charleston Lake. Comments and/or submissions are welcome, and should be forwarded to The Secretary, Charleston Lake Association, P. O. Box 609, Athens, Ont., K0E 1B0.

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**For Membership
Information,
Call 613-924-2809**

While the Association makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of information contained in this newsletter, it cannot accept responsibility for errors and omissions. Readers are urged to obtain professional advice before acting on the basis of the material contained in this newsletter.

The Board reports...

Charleston Lake Plan - Continued

(Continued from page 1)

policies accordingly. We were told clearly and it no uncertain terms by you, at the outset of this process, that protecting water quality in Charleston Lake is the most important job we have. The recommendations going forward from this report appear to be that further subdivision of lots on the lake not be permitted and that development within in 300 meters of the lake should be closely controlled as to reduce further impacts on water quality.

The **Charleston Lake Plan**, while being the end point of one exercise, is simply the beginning of another. In it, the issues affecting our lake are grouped under nine headings and under each one is a series of "Action Plans". It is important to stress that the actions proposed in this plan are grassroots initiatives. They do not come from an outside authority and although they have benefited from a great deal of outside expertise, **the action plans are ours and ours alone**. These plans are a place to start, they are subject to change, addition, modification and inventiveness. At the end of the day, the actions we take, to address the issues we face, will only be as good as the people who decide to get involved. With this in mind, we have a bright future ahead of us.

Just to give readers an example of the practical, do-able, common sense recommendations the plan contains, the following Strategies and Tasks represent one Action Plan and are listed under the Issue of Safe Boating and Personal Watercraft,

Action Plan: Initiate a Boating Awareness Program.

Objective: To make boaters more aware of the impact of their activities on others and to promote safe boating habits.

Tasks and Strategies:

1. Encourage more frequent patrol of the lake by OPP to enforce boating regulations.
2. Work with the Canadian Power Squadron to create a code of ethics, etiquette and boating safety program for Charleston Lake
3. Prepare a pamphlet as above to be accompanied by a lake map identifying sensitive shorelines, wetlands, loon nesting sites, etc to be distributed to the membership and available at retail outlets, launch and marina locations.
4. sponsor workshops to certify boaters for their operator cards
5. post signs at narrow channels indicating "no wake" zones

6. continue the program to modernize and maintain shoal markers

The other Action Plans are listed under the following topics raised by you as Issues back in 2002 at the beginning of the exercise.

- Protecting Water Quality
- Maintaining Healthy Fisheries
- Controlling and Planning for Future Development
- Restoring and Protecting the Shoreline (Littoral Zone)
- Responsible Boating
- Keeping Ecosystems Healthy
- The role of Charleston Lake in the Surrounding Landscape
- The role of Charleston Lake People in the surrounding community
- Supporting Our Lake Association

Your association is currently considering ways and means

of making the complete plan available to everyone. Among other things, a special newsletter is being developed which will feature further detail about the Lake Plan and how to get your copy. The Charleston Lake Plan will be officially released at the 2006 Annual General Meeting.

**We have looked to the future.
We have done our homework
We have set out a vision.
We know what we have to do to get there.
We know we have to do it together.
We hope that you will do your bit to help get us there.**

*Article submitted by
Gary Nielsen
Leeds County Stewardship
Council,
Charleston Lake Association
Lake Planning Committee,
and
Lake resident on Beaver
Cove, Donaldson Bay*



The Charleston Lake Associations
Information Centre
109 County Rd. 40 (Charleston Rd.)
Tel: 613-924-0149



Hours of Operation:

May & June: Saturday, 10 am. to 12 noon.

July & August:

Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 10 am to 12 noon & 1 pm. to 3 pm.
Sunday 10 am. to 12 noon.

Holiday schedule:

Monday July 3, Aug. 7 & Sept. 4 10 am. to 12 noon.

For your information...

Waterfront Living — Answers to your questions.

Q. What does poison ivy look like?

A. Poison ivy is a three-leaved plant that can grow on the ground as a vine or shrub and can also climb trees.

Leaves may be glossy or dull and can vary in colour from red to green to yellow to brown. Leaf edges may be smooth or notched (but never serrated).

Poison ivy can cause a rash in all seasons, even when it is dead. Animals like your pet dog are not affected by poison ivy, but can carry the plant's oils on their fur and pass it on to people. The best advice? Leaves of three, let it be! In areas with poison ivy, keep your dog on a leash.

How can I get rid of it?

Poison ivy growing on your property is very difficult to remove. Hand removal, mowing, and burning can be risky because of the potential contact with oils (even in smoke). Chemical herbicides are often successful in safely removing the plant.

For more information check the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs fact sheet at <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/facts/99-015.htm>

Q. Twice when cleaning lake trout last summer I found a strange creature in the trout's stomach. It looked like a white golf tee. What is this strange creature?

A. The strange creature is a ling. Some years ago the MNR had a program to get rid of the ling even though they have coexisted with lake trout since the last ice age. It stands to reason that small fish (young ling, suckers, etc.) provide a good forage base for lake trout.

Q. I feel quite helpless watching the folks across the bay blast the shoreline and rip up trees at the waterfront. Why does our Municipality not have a permit system for shoreline development to protect water quality and habitat.

A. In January of this year the Township of The Lake of Bays became the first municipality in Ontario to have such a permit system. Under this system, lake property owners must get approvals before removing vegetation or

make any site alterations – including blasting, filling, grading, and clear cutting trees – within a shoreline buffer of 30 metres from the shoreline. The permit system also sets out a shoreline activity area including boathouses and docks, this is now limited to 25 percent of a property's frontage, to a maximum of 23 metres. Contravening the by-law can earn a fine of up to \$25,000 - plus you will likely have to replant vegetation.

At this time, the Charleston Lake Association is reluctant to see introduced more and more rules and regulations imposed on the lake. Instead the association's efforts have, and continue to be, to educate our members on the Keys to Success in protecting Charleston Lake's shoreline and overall environment. The Healthy Shoreline Binder, which is currently being delivered to all property owners on the lake, provides all the information and advice needed to keep Charleston Lake beautiful in every way. However, please do not feel helpless if you see a Charleston Lake property owner doing all the wrong things. Report your concerns to your township office or to the Charleston Lake Association's Information Center. Your report will proceed in a confidential manner.

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

Welcome New Neighbours

Have you got a new neighbour at the lake? Contact us and we'll be glad to welcome them with useful information on the lake and the area.

Contact the Charleston Lake Association's Info Centre at 924-0149 or drop in at the Centre at 109 County Road 40.

Around the lake...

President's message *continued*

(Continued from page 2)

especially vigilant if you run an automatic dishwasher, since most of the detergents are high in phosphorus. Use phosphate-free products like Nature Clean.) Never use any soap or shampoo in the lake itself.

- Maintain the septic system and have it pumped regularly. Avoid bleaches and anti-bacterial soaps, which disrupt septic-system function.
- Minimize boat wake. Try not to churn up lake sediment.
- Reduce hard surfaces around the cottage to cut

storm-water runoff. Opt for more permeable stone and gravel instead of concrete and asphalt. Choose meandering routes for paths or lanes. Incorporate swales and 'rain gardens' (depressions with moisture-loving plants) to swallow rainwater and help it infiltrate the soil.

A full range of Nature Clean products is available at the associations info center

Yes it is true, you have read these what to do recommendations in past newsletters. But if you and your family do not consistently practice them, please make this the year to do so. At Charleston Lake we must never encoun-

ter and suffer from a disaster like the one that struck our fellow cottagers on Three Mile Lake summer-fall 2005.

Year to date, your directors have been busy. At our directors meetings in April and May we set our priorities for 2006 and developed plans to address them.

These priorities include:

- continue to push for a new property assessment system, also for a new municipal property tax system,
- closely monitor the proposed changes to fishery regulations to ensure they are in the best interests of our fish populations,
- support continuance of the Township-Health Unit Sewage Inspection Program,
- expansion of our highly successful youth programs ,
- providing members with important information regarding the November municipal elections etc., and, most important of all:
- introduction of the Charleston Lake Plan - a plan that will clearly identify the steps which must be taken by all lake stake holders to make sure that Charleston Lake stays beautiful in every way for this generation and for generations to come.

Your directors join with me in wishing you and your families many wonderful times at the lake this summer.

We look forward to meeting you once again this year at the Annual General Meeting.

Don Curry

Buckle up on the water

Lif jackets for a cruise in a boat should be as automatic as seatbelts for a drive in the car.

A four-year old girl was tragically lost on a lake when her paddleboat collided with a motorboat. None of the four people in the paddleboat was wearing a lifejacket.

Canadian law does not require anyone to wear lifejackets or personal flotation devices, only that such equipment be on board.

Yet parents and supervising adults should take it as their responsibility to make sure children wear either a personal flotation device or a lifejacket. Adults can show a good example by wearing them as well. Even the strongest of swimmers can get

in trouble in the right – or wrong – conditions. Some of the newer flotation devices are even quite comfortable to wear.

People need to recognize that lifejackets are indispensable. Just as a child who is not buckled into a car seat stands little chance in a collision, a toddler who falls into deep water without a flotation device will likely die.

It doesn't matter whether it's a rowboat or a big cabin cruiser. Anytime children are near water, the potential for accidents is always there. Hundreds of Canadians drown each year, but it doesn't have to be that way. We need to take more care to prevent more tragedy.

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

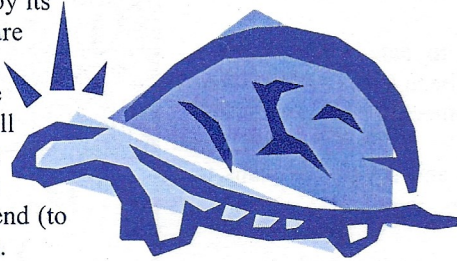
●
Mail
CLA
P.O. Box 609
Athens, ON
K0E 1B0

For your information...

Help a turtle cross the road

Watch for traffic! Make sure it is safe for you to pull over and help the turtle. Move the turtle in the direction it's going. If you don't, it will probably turn around and try again.

Don't lift a turtle by its tail. Turtles are heavy and you could dislocate vertebrae and kill the turtle. Lift turtles by the shell, at the back end (to avoid being bitten).



Be careful with snapping turtles – they have very long necks and sharp beaks! If using a shovel to move a turtle, keep it very low to the ground in case the turtle moves.

Help a turtle cross the road. Protect some wetland. If we don't help, the turtles are doomed.

Just Arrived at the Info Centre... a new series of information pamphlets for members.

- State Of The Art Sewage Systems (3 Pamphlets)
- Fish Habitat Care
- Fish Habitat & Shoreline Stabilization
- Fish Habitat & Building Materials
- Fish Habitat & Controlling Aquatic Plants
- Fish Habitat & Docks, Boat Houses & Boat Launches
- Fish Habitat : More Than Meets The Eye
- Fish Habitat& Building A Beach
- Fish Habitat& Dredging
- Homes For Fish Colouring Book

Pick them up at the info center while supplies last.

Info Center Committee

A Bright Red Canoe

You can win a 16' (Deep Model) Kevlar Canoe, complete with paddles (\$1,000. value) and support the Charleston Lake Regatta.

Tickets are available at the Info Centre and from CLA Directors. Tickets are \$2.00 each, or 3 for \$5.00.

Winning ticket will be drawn at the Regatta
on August 6th, 2006

Charleston Lake Healthy Shoreline Review Handbook update

During the past four years over 800 property shorelines where reviewed for both CLA members and non members free of charge on Charleston Lake. We are special for we are not aware that this has occured on any other lake of this size in Ontario.

You have received a binder with your shoreline information and a detailed Appendix explaining "information and issues that relate to waterfront living, water quality and wildlife habitat". It's the intention of the CLA to update the Appendix with changes, new information and support you the owner on how to improve your shoreline and property for the benefit of Charleston Lake's water quality.

This will be done by including notices in our CLA news letters and update sheets for the Appendix, that can be picked up at the CLA's office during the summer. Please don't file your CL Healthy Shoreline Review Handbook - keep it handy... but more important, use it. The water quality of Charleston Lake depends on what and how you treat your property and shoreline.

If by some chance you did not receive a Healthy Shoreline Review Handbook or have questions regarding the Handbook or about your property, please

contact the Association and we will try to follow up. Questions have come up, already, dealing with "Shoreline Buffer Plantings" especially for native varieties of plants and what nurseries carry this stock? Several of the sources mentioned do not exist anymore so this page will be updated.

But the following sources do exist for native plants:

1. Old Field and Wild Flower Garden Nursery at 2935 Porter Rd., Oxford Station, ON, KOG 1T0, 613-258-7945 and website www.oldfieldgarden.on.ca
2. Ramble Shrubs at PO 348 Merrickville, ON, KOG 1N0. 613-258-3797 and website www.rideauwoodland.com
3. The web site for the Ferguson Forest Centre in Kemptville is www.seedlingnursery.com
4. Kiwi Gardens in Perth, 267-7384 www.kiwigardens.ca
5. If a lawn is still necessary (please, not up to the water edge) the best grass seed which grows just about anywhere is Dutch White Clover but very difficult to find. The Dixie Feed store on County Road #29 at Addison carries it.

*Your Environmental
Committee*

The Board reports...

Municipal - Provincial Affairs

The following letter was forwarded in May to the Finance Minister of Ontario, the mayors of both local townships, the local provincial government member and the federal government member and to the Honourable Senator, Hugh Segal, Senate of Canada.

The Honourable Dwight Duncan
Minister of Finance, Province of Ontario
7 Queens Park, 7th Floor, Frost Building S,
Toronto, ON, M7A1Y7

Dear Mr. Duncan,

The Ombudsman has brought into focus one of the principal contributing factors in the level of discontent throughout the province with respect to Property Taxes.

However no amount of juggling of assessment values will correct what is inherently a flawed system of taxation. To fund such costs as Welfare, Subsidized Housing and Ambulance; for which there are provincial standards, based on property values is unsupportable. Education is now clearly a provincial responsibility and in no way relates to property values.

A case can be made to have Social Programs managed and funded at more local levels. If that be the case the appropriate taxing authority such as municipal income or sales tax should be authorized to provide the funding and accountability. However our preference is that Social Programs and Education be funded by the provincial sales or income tax.

Further, the removal of the category of Seasonal Residence from tax rolls has placed a significant and unjustifiable burden on many owners of secondary property, forcing them to sell or rent properties for no other reason than to pay taxes. The reinstatement of this category would permit municipalities to deal fairly with their seasonal residents and provide accountability to the electorate.

We are of the opinion that placing a freeze on tax increases is only a stop gap measure at best and that we have a duty to contribute to the solution of the greater problem.

We would therefore suggest that while there is an apparent willingness on the part of the Government of the day to make changes and with the media spotlight which is and will continue to be focused on this issue, we strongly advocate the presentation of long term measures such as those mentioned above.

Yours truly,

Don Curry
President, Charleston Lake Association

In addition, covering letters, on CLA Letterhead, were sent with a copy of the letter to Mr. Duncan, to the following. These covering letters stated:

"The attached letter is for Council's information and any appropriate support action you wish to initiate."

Letter addressed to:

Mayor Herb Scott,
Township of Athens

Mayor Harold Grier,
Township of Leeds and the Thousand Islands.

Also, copies of the letter to Mr. Duncan with covering letters with the following text:

"The attached letter is for your information and any support action you may wish to initiate." were sent to:

Bob Runciman,
MPP, Leeds & Grenville

WRAFT--Attn Bob Topp

Additional letters with the following text in the respective covering letter read: "While an Ontario Provincial matter, I believe the attached letter will be of interest to you."

Letters were addressed to:

Honourable Hugh Segal
Senate of Canada

Gord Brown,
MP, Leeds & Grenville

*Municipal-Provincial Affairs Committee
Charleston Lake Association.*

Around the lake...

New Recommendation by Ministry of Natural Resources

Lake Trout Stocking In Charleston Lake

The Ministry of Natural Resources initiated an experimental lake trout stocking program in 1987 on Charleston and Big Rideau Lake in order to try and boost the native lake trout populations. Lake trout eggs were collected from the native fish on the spawning beds, raised in the MNR fish hatchery for 1.5 years and then returned to the lake. This program was rotated between Charleston Lake and Big Rideau Lake. In alternate years the 2 lakes were stocked with non native lake trout. This program was evaluated by conducting netting programs, periodic angler surveys (creel surveys) and monitoring the lake trout on the spawning beds. The results of monitoring the spawning beds since 1980 show that in spite of this stocking with yearlings raised from eggs collected from Charleston Lake, the native population continues to decline and the non native population continues to increase. This is illustrated in Figure 1. It is particularly disconcerting to see this on the spawning bed. The results of the netting programs and the angler surveys also show this decline of native lake trout.

There is concern that if the decline of native lake trout continues, the native lake trout will be replaced with non native lake trout. This can lead to a lake trout population that no longer can reproduce and sustain itself. Instead the lake becomes dependent on stocked lake trout populations. This has occurred on Loughborough, Redhorse and Silver lakes. Recent fishery research has shown that it is better not to stock in lakes that have native self sustaining populations. The native stock will survive

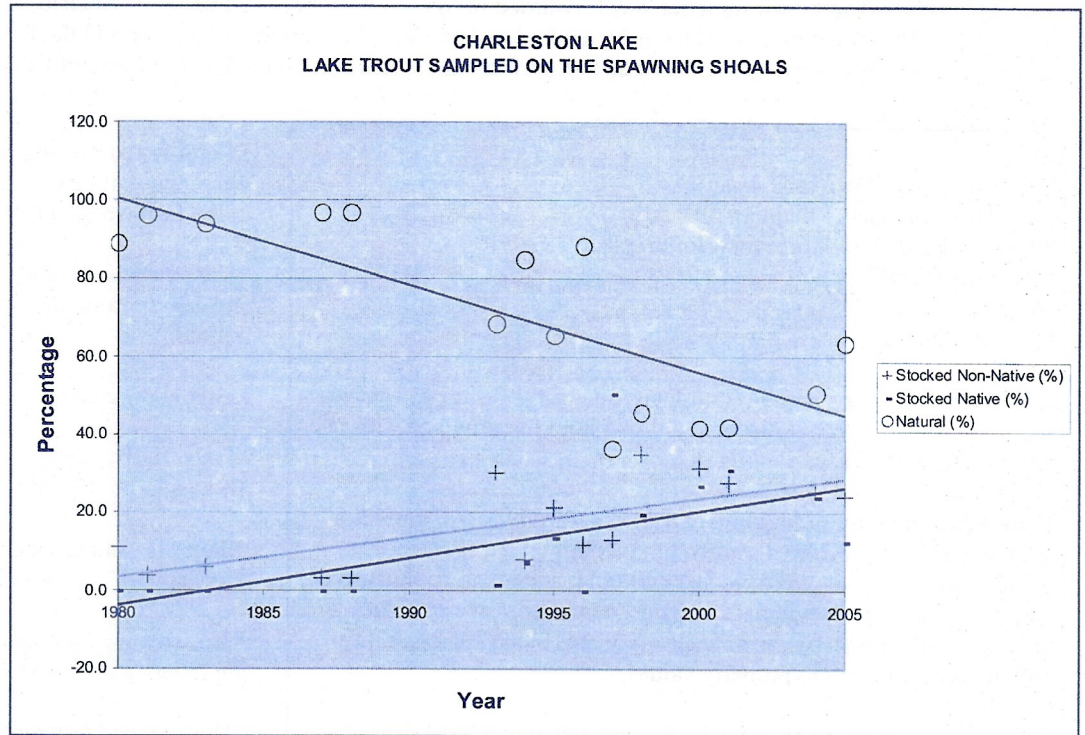


Figure 1: Lake trout sampled on the spawning shoals of Charleston Lake 1980 -2005.

better and increase in numbers if there is no stocking on top of the native populations. This has been demonstrated on several lake trout lakes in Ontario. Lake Rosseau which is a well known lake in the Muskoka area had a long history of being stocked with non-native lake trout on top of a native lake trout population. The stocking was discontinued in 1990 and now the lake trout population is fully supported by native fish. The stocked non-native fish declined from 25% to 7% in the netting program. This was followed by an increase in natural lake trout into the population and an increase in angler catch (2-3 folds higher) despite less angler effort. There was also a history of stocking non-native lake trout on top of a native population in Bernard Lake in the Haliburton area. Stocking was ceased in 1996 and the netting programs showed

an increase in natural lake trout from 15% in 1995 to 38% in 2000. In addition the overall number of lake trout increased slightly in only 4 years.

These examples and others have demonstrated that stocking can actually replace rather than enhance native (wild) lake trout populations. In addition, the stocking maintains high fishing pressure which increases the harvest on the native population. Smaller lake trout are harvested from stocked lakes because the fishing pressure is higher and the fish are harvested before larger sizes are reached. Harvest rates were found to be higher in natural reproducing lake trout lakes where no stocking occurs.

Another factor to consider is that stocked lake trout reduce the genetic diversity or

adaptability of the native populations. This is an important factor to consider with all the increasing stresses on our lake trout lakes. Currently the stresses on Charleston lake include high fishing pressure, development pressure from increased numbers of cottages/retirement homes, declining oxygen levels (which are critical for lake trout to survive), increasing phosphorous levels (from faulty septic systems, fertilizing lawns and agricultural practices on the tributaries) and global warming resulting in higher water temperatures. Lake trout are very sensitive to low oxygen levels and high water temperatures. Lake trout require water temperatures of 15.5°C (60°F) or cooler and dissolved oxygen concentrations of 4ug/L or greater for survival. Science has shown that native populations will adapt

(Continued on page 9)

Around the lake...

Lake Trout Stocking - continued

(Continued from page 8)

to a changing environment better than stocked fish. Stocked fish will prey on smaller natural fish and suppress natural reproduction. Stocking lake trout can mask the health of the native lake trout population. There is often a high level of lake trout harvested from the stocked lake trout giving the perception that the lake trout population is doing well, while the native lake trout population may actually be declining.

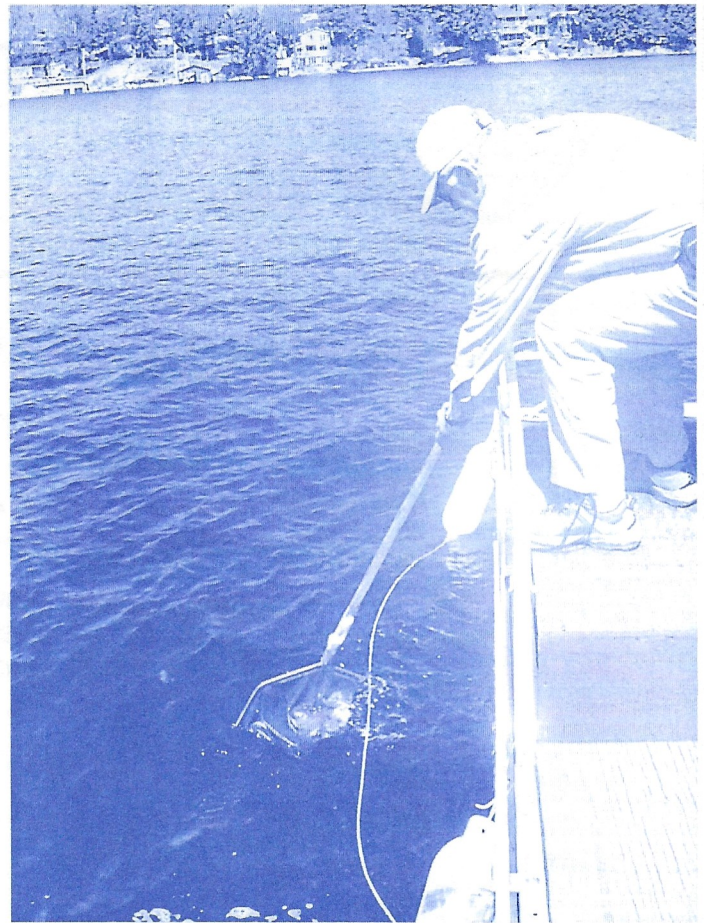
New information gained in the last decade on stocking fish has led MNR to promote naturally reproducing fish communities based on native fish populations. Recent MNR stocking guidelines recommend no stocking of fish in waters where native populations are greater than 15% of the population which is the case in Charleston Lake. Since MNR is responsible for managing the fish populations on a self-sustaining basis, MNR is recommending that lake trout stocking on Charleston Lake should be phased out. Since there are currently 2 years of young lake trout in the MNR hatchery from previous egg collections, it is recommended that these fish be stocked in 2006 and 2007. Following this, it is recommended that there not be any further stocking of lake trout into Charleston Lake. To evaluate the results of this change, a monitoring program should be maintained for several years. This program should include a continuation of the netting program, as well as monitoring the spawning beds and periodic angler surveys.

Charleston Lake is a valuable lake trout fishery and is especially important when one considers the lack of high

quality lake trout lakes in Southern Ontario. It is our objective to ensure native lake trout populations in Charleston Lake continue to survive and be enjoyed by future generations.

The Ministry of Natural Resources is planning to have an Open House on this topic for the public on July 15 (the same day as the CLA AGM, at the Holy Trinity Church Hall, Holy Trinity Road, between Lower and Upper Oak Leaf Roads) from 2:00 – 5:00pm. There will be a display and staff available for discussion.

On May 5th, CLA Directors Don Curry and Dwayne Struthers along with volunteer Vince Dokis assisted MNR and White Lake Hatchery staff transfer 28,000 Lake Trout into Charleston Lake.



For your information...



Notice of Annual General Meeting

Saturday, July 15, 9:30 a.m.

Holy Trinity Church

Holy Trinity Road, (Between Lower and Upper Oak Leaf Roads)

AGENDA

- Minutes of last meeting
- President's Remarks
- Treasurer's Report
- Guest Speaker
- Election of Directors
- New Business
- Adjournment

Guest Speaker

Gary Nielsen

**on the launch of the Charleston Lake
Management Plan**

OPEN HOUSE

The Ministry of Natural Resources is having an Open House on the Fish restocking program on July 15 (the same day as the CLA AGM, at the Holy Trinity Church Hall, Holy Trinity Road, between Lower and Upper Oak Leaf Roads) from 2:00 – 5:00pm

There will be a display and staff available for discussion.