



Est. 1890

NEWSLETTER

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

Summer 2009

CLA is Number One in Canada for 2009

The Charleston Lake Association was honoured with the "Canadian Green Cottager Group Award," for 2009 in March by the Cottage Life Magazine at the Annual Spring Cottage Life Show in Toronto . Bill Borger, on behalf of the CLA/CLEA directors and all its members , accepted the honour on March 28th at the Show. Our last CLA/CLEA newsletter mentioned that we had applied for the award and had been informed by Cottage Life that we had been selected as one of the finalist. To win such a prestigious award it takes the effort of everyone to make it possible. It is like winning the Stanley Cup of Lake Associations. Managing Editor, Michelle Kelly , stated that the CLA proposal blew the judges out of the water ,for everything that had been accomplished by them on Charleston Lake. "Our judging panel selected the award recipients for their exceptional leadership in launching initiatives that not only lighten our impact on cottage-country lakes, shorelines, and forests but also increase awareness about living in harmony with inspiring natural landscapes and wildlife." *Cottage Life May 2009.*

The CLA initiatives were so many that the judges were astounded by such items as providing the 'Charleston Lake Healthy Shoreline Review Handbook' for all owners on the lake, producing a detailed, and with input from many stake holders, a comprehensive 'Charleston Lake Plan', detailed water quality monitoring which led to 'stream restoration' with great support from the farming community, creel census data collected to maintain a healthy fishery, septic system reinspection to control the phosphate levels in the lake and many more. The judges were overwhelmed.

The full story can be found at www.cottagelife.com at Green Cottager Awards or in the May 2009 edition of Cottage Life. The Award itself is hanging in the CLA/CLEA office which is located at 109 Charleston Lake Road. Many of the local newspapers such as Brockville, Athens, Gananoque and Kingston carried the story.

It's a great honour and a right to celebrate for CLA/CLEA and its members for winning the 2009 the Cottage Life Green Award and making us # 1 in Canada. Once the celebrating is over we cannot afford to sit on our laurels but must continue with our, "Vision for Charleston Lake", as stated in our Charleston Lake Plan which we are committed to maintaining:

- Highest possible water quality
- Wildlife and plants in a natural environment
- A sense of community
- A safe lake with public accessibility for all to enjoy.
- Pristine landscapes
- An ambiance that enhances the spirit
- Uses that benefit the local community
- without hurting the natural integrity of the lake

Mother nature is always there to throw us a curve ball, like at the present, "What effect are the zebra mussels having on the lake?" We must all be vigilant, at all times, which the Directors are committed to fulfilling. This can only be done with your support and anyone else who enjoys Charleston Lake.

Directors

Bill Borger

Bill Hallam

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President's Message

This past winter was enjoyable at Charleston Lake. While quite cold we did not have too much snow. The lake froze over on January 3rd and the ice quietly disappeared on April 3rd. Our Loons returned the week of April 6th. The month of March is one that I will never forget. We were awarded the Green Cottager Award. (Please refer to the article on page one of this newsletter). Thank you members for making this award possible through your commitment and stewardship efforts in protecting the overall environment of Charleston Lake and the shoreline of your property.

What more can you do to protect the lake's environment? If you have done so consider this. Over 90% of all life that occurs within a Waterbody is born and reared with in a near-shore environment. Thus it is vitally important that you protect your shoreline. There is a wide range of plant communities such as trees, shrubs and long grasses that act as sufficient buffers between private property and near-shoreline environments. It is important to have plants that have a dense root system. Short grass found on mowed lawns does not provide sufficient protection from run-off and other external pressures.

The secrets to success in making your property environmentally friendly. (1) Frame your property with shrubs to a height that does not restrict your view but offers privacy. (2) Eliminate / reduce the use of fertilizers. (3) Pump septic and holding tanks regularly and (4) Replace 20 to 30 feet of your mowed lawn between the shoreline and your residence as in (1).

Boating Safety remains a top association priority in 2009. **Lights are a must when on the lake at night.**

Activities for your family's enjoyment this year include the Environmental Camp for children, the Swimming Lesson program, the Annual Regatta, and the Doug Hale Memorial Golf tournament. Please refer to page 7 of this newsletter for information on these activities.

Enjoy Summer 2009 at beautiful Charleston Lake and plan to attend our Annual General Meeting.

Don Curry

President - Charleston Lake Association & Charleston Lake Environmental Association.

Heads Up Alert

Ontario's Cosmetic Pesticides Ban now in effect

Pesticides cannot be used for cosmetic purposes on lawns, vegetable and ornamental gardens, patios, driveways or in parks. Complete information on the Pesticides Act and its exceptions can be found at <http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/en/land/pesticides/index.php#>

Work Wanted

NEEDDED: 1 or 2 properties to undergo a Pilot Project Shoreline Rehabilitation and subsequently act as models for others who might be interested in making some changes. CLA/CLEA would provide the expertise, help with the work and provide some funding. Interested parties should contact:

Bill Borger	613-924-2809
Bill Hallam	613-535-2621 (Home)
	613-659-2997 (Cottage)
Steve Page	613-547-4112 (Home)
	613-659-2991 (Cottage)

Aiding the Bald Eagle

Seeing a Bald Eagle is an amazing experience. A special project in Charleston Lake Provincial Park is hoping to make this a more common sight.

On a cold, November day in 2008, two artificial Bald Eagle nesting platforms were erected in the park (along Slim Bay and on Democrat Island), with the aim to hopefully encourage Bald Eagles to nest on Charleston Lake. Historically, Bald Eagles have nested on Charleston Lake, but there have been no nesting pairs here since the 1960s. However, Bald Eagles are now seen fairly regularly around the lake and nearby area in the fall, into the winter until the lake freezes over, and again in early March. It is hoped that a pair will take up summer residence and nest on the lake.

Unfortunately, Bald Eagle numbers declined substantially during the latter half of the 20th century, as a result of chemical contamination (e.g. DDT) and habitat loss. However, since then the Bald Eagle has increased substantially in Ontario, and is making a comeback in northern Ontario, where its designation has improved from Endangered to Special Concern (although it is still designated as Endangered in southern Ontario). Hopefully this encouraging trend will continue in the years ahead.

The installation of the two eagle platforms in the park was a collaborative effort between several groups and agencies including the Leeds Stewardship Council, the Bald Eagle Platform Partnership, St. Lawrence Islands National Park, and Charleston Lake Provincial Park, with two volunteers from Hydro One erecting the actual nest platforms. The platforms were put in two tall White Pine trees and then "naturalized" by adding sticks and other natural materials.

These two artificial eagle nesting platforms are not the first to be erected in the area, but are a continuation of the work of the Bald Eagle Platform Project. An artificial platform was erected in 2005 along the St. Lawrence River near the village of Rockport, and another on Red Horse Lake (which is adjacent to Charleston Lake) in 2007. While no eagles have nested on these platforms, a pair nested on an artificial Osprey platform on the St. Lawrence River in 1999 and 2001, before settling into a natural nest in a White Pine tree. As of 2008, there were 3 pairs of Bald Eagles nesting along the St. Lawrence River in the Thousand Islands area, two on the Ontario side and one on the New York side, with a total of 18 eaglets having hatched since 1999.

The Thousand Islands are not far from Charleston Lake (as the eagle flies), and it is believed that this lake supports favourable eagle nesting habitat. The Ivy Lea area nearby (by the international bridge crossing to the United States) is well known for having over-wintering Bald Eagles, with as many as 100 individuals some winters. Bald Eagles typically select potential nest sites in the winter, and in Ontario their nests tend to be found near the shoreline of lakes or large rivers. We hope that some of these eagles, or those seen on Charleston Lake in the fall, early winter, and early spring, will choose to nest on Charleston Lake.

Last November, on the day the nesting platforms were erected, two adults and one immature Bald Eagle were seen. The two adults put on an incredible display, locking talons together and performing a cartwheel and tumbling, free-fall spin down toward the water, before releasing talons about 30 feet above the water and flying off together. Hopefully this amazing and spectacular courtship display is an indication of things to come. We'll just have to wait and see!

Following the Eagles

A number of the eaglets that were raised in nests along the St. Lawrence River were fitted with transmitters to track their movements. Using Bird Studies Canada's online "Eagle Tracker" (www.bsc-eoc.org/regional/ondesteagle.html#) you can follow the ranging movements of Spirit and Phyllis, two of the eagles born in the Thousand Islands Region.

Article Courtesy of Charleston Lake Provincial Park.

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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.

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:
Don Curry, Box 399
Athens, ON, K0E 1B0

E-mail: don.curry@sympatico.ca
Tel.: 613-924-1598

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

Reminder

CLA/CLEA has two main documents that have been produced at thousands of dollars;

1. Charleston Lake Healthy Shoreline Review Handbook.
2. Charleston Lake Plan.

To maintain our high water quality on Charleston Lake which protects our wildlife, our pristine shorelines, our health, our safety etc. every one must read/review these two documents so that every one knows what has to be done to keep Charleston Lake #1 in Canada. If you still have the 2 documents please review them for they are of no use sitting in a cupboard collecting dust. If you have lost either one of the documents or it went with the cottage when sold (CLA did request that the documents stay with the property) we can in most cases provide you with new documents. For those who have already informed us with your 2009 membership dues, that you would like another copy we have that on file but for those who would like a new copy, please contact one of the CLA/CLEA Directors or mail your request with your 2009 membership renewal if you have not done so yet.

RIPARIAN ZONE

No, this is not a new region in space discovered by the Hubble Telescope. It is, however, the shallow water, wet edge and the first 10 - 15 metres of shoreland around all lakes, rivers and streams. Ninety percent of all life in Charleston Lake is raised, born or fed here. Obviously this is an extremely important and sensitive area. CLA encourages that this zone be left as natural as possible. A passive approach to shoreline naturalization is to not mow grass or pull weeds and to maintain a no cutting zone of at least 4 - 5 metres. CLA thru funding from CLEA has purchased a small amount of grass seed (Ecogross) that contains native species and could be used as a first step in shoreline naturalization. It needs no cutting, no fertilizer and grows to less than a metre in height. We are hoping to purchase a native wildflower mix that can also be planted with the Ecogross. This is sown at the rate of 1 1/2 lbs to 1000 sq ft and will be offered free on a first come first serve basis to CLA members with suitable shorelines.

For more info: Bill Hallam 613-535-2621 (Home)
613-659-2997 (Cottage)
Bill Borger 613-924-2809



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The Charleston Lake Associations Information Centre

109 County Rd. 40 (Charleston Rd.)

Tel.: 613-924-0149

Hours of Operation:

May & June:

Saturday, 10:00 am to 12:00 noon

July & August:

Thurs, Fri & Sat - 10:00am to 12:00 Noon, and 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Sun - 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Holiday Schedule:

Mon, Jul 1, Tues, Jul 2, Mon, Aug 4, Mon, Sep 1
10:00am to 12:00 Noon



Charleston Lake Association & Charleston Lake Environmental Association

2008 Combined Financial Report

Statement of Revenue & Expense

<u>Revenue</u>	<u>CLA</u>	<u>CLEA</u>	<u>Total</u>
Membership Dues	\$20,452		\$20,452
Club \$100 Donations		\$10,773	\$10,773
Golf Tournament		\$9,252	\$9,252
Other Donations		\$1,541	\$1,541
Interest Income	\$541	\$772	\$1,313
Other Revenue	\$51	\$58	\$109
Total Revenue	\$21,044	\$22,396	\$43,440
<u>Expenses</u>			
General Administration	\$4,423	\$929	\$5,352
Information Center	\$4,187	\$643	\$4,830
Miscellaneous	\$1,582	\$1,337	\$2,919
Safety	\$2,048		\$2,048
Total Expenses	\$12,240	\$2,909	\$15,149
Creek Restoration		\$10,000	\$10,000
Water Testing		\$3,698	\$3,698
Creel Census		\$3,460	\$3,460
Zebra Mussell/Algae Study		\$2,000	\$2,000
Gananoque Watershed		\$1,000	\$1,000
Total Environmental Project Costs	\$0	\$20,158	\$20,158
Total Expenses & Project Costs	\$12,240	\$23,067	\$35,307
Unexpended Funds in 2008	\$8,804	-\$671	\$8,133
Unexpended Funds Prior Years	\$16,044	\$24,854	\$40,898
Unexpended Funds at Dec.31, 2008	\$24,848	\$24,183	\$49,031

Combined Balance Sheet at Dec. 31, 2008

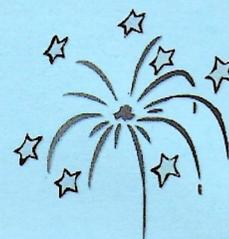
	<u>CLA</u>	<u>CLEA</u>	<u>Total</u>
Cash	\$22,768	\$21,283	\$44,051
Accounts Receivable	\$2,080	\$4,900	\$6,980
Total Assets	\$24,848	\$26,183	\$51,031
Accounts Payable	\$0	\$2,000	\$2,000
Unexpended Funds	\$24,848	\$24,183	\$49,031
Total Liabilities & Unexpended Funds	\$24,848	\$26,183	\$51,031

Prepared by: *Wayne Gill*
Secretary Treasurer CLA & CLEA

FIREWORKS DISPLAY AND BBQ



**Sunday evening on June 28th
at the Charleston Lake Dock
at 7:00 pm**



Display organized by the
Charleston Village Fireworks Committee

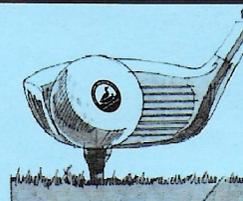
Wood Skates, Groceries and Wolves

My grandfather had five miles to go for groceries. In the winter he'd skate up the lake from Woodvale, a hamlet north of the Outlet to Charleston Village. He'd put on a pair of skates that were all wood with just a little steel bottom to run on the ice. This night, he was skating home after getting the groceries. There were a bunch of wolves-timber wolves. They got after him on the lake. It was glare ice. The wolves were just about to catch up with him. He turned quick to go in the other direction. The wolves couldn't really stop and on the glare ice and he beat the whole bunch. Finally the wolves got tired, turned around and left. He skated more than five miles that night -but he got home with the groceries.

Paul Slack

We were children then.....

Doug Hale Memorial Golf Tournament



Please plan to attend the Doug Hale Memorial Golf Tournament Saturday August 8th at the Village Green in Athens. For information about entry forms, Tee Marker Sponsors or prize donations please contact Ed & Sharon Ristan 13-924-2522 or sharonristan@yahoo.ca.

**ARE
YOU
MOVING
?**

**Make sure
your
newsletter
moves with
you!**

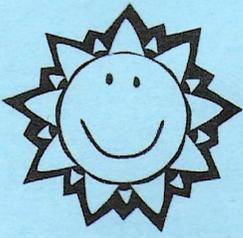
Take a moment to provide us with your new address so that we can ensure uninterrupted delivery of your Association Newsletter

3 easy ways to do it

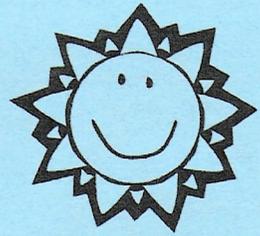
Phone:
613-924-2010

E-mail:
wayne.rose@ripnet.com

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



SUMMER FUN



2008

**Charleston Lake
Association
Summer Programs**

Youth Camp

Swimming Lessons

Date: July 20 - July 31

Time: 10 am—2 pm

Entry fees:

- \$50 for Members of CLA
- \$55 for Non-Members
- Location: Sand Bay County Park

2-Week Aqua Quest Program

Located at Sand Bay County Park

Lessons run in 1-hour sessions

All children are invited to participate.

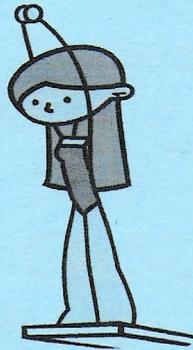
All ages and abilities are welcome.

****Register on or before July 18****

For more information on these events please contact:

**Charleston Lake Association:
613-924-0149**

**Tara Vanderlinden / Sarah Bowen
613-498-2090**



Date: July 8, 9, 10

Time: 10 am—3 pm

Entry fees:

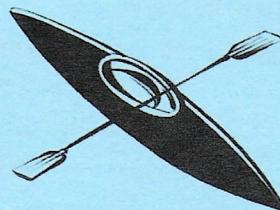
- \$40 for Members of CLA
- \$50 for Non-Members
- Location: Sand Bay County Park

Charleston Lake Youth Camp offers an outdoor education program designed to raise environmental awareness and water safety among area youth. It is a wonderful opportunity to meet new friends and enjoy the beautiful lake environment.

Each day includes guest speakers, journals, games, crafts, swimming & nature walks. Events are supervised by experienced counselors. Please bring a favourite summer photograph (5x7) of yourself doing something that you enjoy outdoors.

Registration forms for all events are available at:

**Lakeline Lodge & Marina
&
Charleston Lake Association
Info Centre**



Come to the 3rd Annual Charleston Lake Regatta! This new take on an old event—the fun starts at 1:00 pm with various games, contests, and races for kids of all ages.

Watch our water ski / wakeboard show, beginning around 3pm.

REGATTA

Date: Sunday, August 2

Start Time: 1:00 pm

Location: Sand Bay

Please remember your safety equipment! Lifejackets are required for all boating events at the Regatta.

Volunteers welcome!

Please call Amy Peterson
613-802-0995

FOR YOUR INFORMATION



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Notice of Annual General Meeting

Saturday, July 11th. 9:30 a.m.

Holy Trinity Church

Holy Trinity road
(Between Lower and Upper Oak Leaf Roads)

AGENDA

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

Guest Speaker

Paula Norlock

OMNR Biodiversity Species At Risk Biologist

Topic: Species At Risk

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting!

*The Directors,
Charleston Lake Association*

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