

# NEWSLETTER

Vol. 101, No. 3

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

Fall, 2001

## CHARLESTON LAKE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSN.

# Great things are happening at CLEA

And it's going to get better. Much better! Of prime importance is we have three new Directors. Peggy Nichol, John McMahon and Dave Wyatt have been elected and join the founding Directors. All three bring a wealth of experience to contribute to our growth and development. And they all have a passionate love for Charleston Lake. Welcome and thank you for being willing to serve.

Next, is a brief review of this past summer's activity. Our major task of learning all that we could about water quality was continued. Extensive testing was conducted on many of the creeks leading into the lake. We have spent almost \$ 6000 on this program this year and will receive the report of results in early 2002. We have also participated in the Osprey nest constructions, Peregrine Falcon project and the Stewardship Council's Shoreline preservation program. We continue to assist the Lake Association in all their environmental activities.

Now for the future. We engaged Reg Genge, Principal of Ontario Lake Assessments, to lead us in preparation of an application to the Ontario Trillium foundation. We have

applied for funds to support several major projects over the next five years. Initially we will develop a Strategic Plan, with a framework of achievable goals and projects, leading to development of a Lake Management Plan. This plan to be suitable for discussion and inclusion in the Municipalities official plans. This five year program of events is a major undertaking and will contribute heavily toward accomplishing our Mission. We will keep you posted as development and approval is received. In a few words, we are taking actions to keep our lake from becoming like all those lakes that didn't take these actions. A number of Directors of both Associations as well as a number of Assn. Members worked often and diligently to prepare our submission.

Plans are also underway to establish a physical facility near to the Lake, with a target date of April '02 for occupancy. This facility will be a Communications, Administrative and Information Center for all future Environmental programs. It will fill the needs of both association's for office, data collection, educational and committee meetings. There is a need for each of us to learn all the

ways we as individuals can help keep the lake and neighbourhoods environmentally healthy. The numerous projects mentioned above will require coordination and there is ample opportunity for members to volunteer their time and talents. We will keep you informed of progress on this objective.

Lastly, we need your help. All these projects, and more suggested by some of you, require money to complete. I believe we are showing that we deserve your support, that this is a cause whose results are beneficial to every lake user. Last year, our initial request for year-end donations produced responses from 80 persons. We thank you again, and ask you to repeat this year. I also implore more of you to join in supporting this work. Everything we do will provide for better

recreation for you and for generations to come, as well as protect and even enhance your property values. Our tax rates are sufficiently high to make charitable donations most economical. This is the time of year to take advantage. All contributions will be acknowledged and you will receive a receipt for submission with your tax return.

Please send donations to: Charleston Lake Environmental Association, P.O. Box 609, Athens, Ontario, K0E 1B0. The Directors are contributing funds as well as their time and talents. This is more evidence of the merits of these endeavours. I thank you all in advance, and thanks to President Don for this front page space.

*Doug Hale,  
President, CLEA*

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## YOUR BOARD REPORTS...

# A Message from your President

Summertime at beautiful Charleston Lake this year has to rank among the best ever.

Day after day Charleston residents and all lake users enjoyed sunny, warm weather. As well as enjoying the weather, anglers reported good luck fishing for lake trout and bass.

Summer 2001 saw Charleston Lake become a celebrity. The lake received extensive media and web site coverage due to the introduction of two exciting projects; the installation of two osprey nesting platforms and the re-introduction of peregrine falcons to the lake. Please refer to the article on page 4, 'A Tip of the Hat' to the many people involved with these projects.

Summer 2001 also brought good news in regards to two Association priorities. The Water Quality results - year 2000 were released indicating that Charleston Lake remains healthy overall. This was followed by more good

news; the results of Lake Trout Studies conducted by the M.N.R. and the Association during 2000 were released and are encouraging. Please refer to the report on page 6.

The annual general meeting held this year at the Provincial Park was well attended. Guest speaker Reg Genge, who carried out the Water Quality Testing Program in 2000, expanded on the results and provided a number of recommendations as to how property owners can protect the lake's water quality.

On the social scene, the Association's July 1<sup>st</sup> fireworks display was reportedly the best ever. Thanks to Wayne and Brett Kelsey, and Doug Latimer for a job well done in managing the fireworks display; also to the Athens and District Business Community and to the general public for their donations towards the cost of the fireworks. Another successful social event was a trip to the fish hatchery responsible for

Charleston's Lake Trout Stocking Program. Additional information on the hatchery trip can be found on page 5.

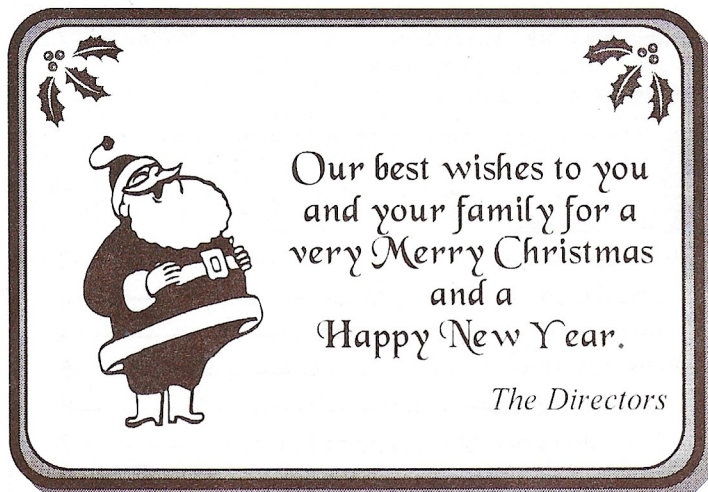
As the year 2001 draws to a close your Association finds itself at a crossroad. Over the past five years we have initiated studies, carried out various programs, conducted tests, etc, to determine the health of the lake. At this point in time there is general agreement that Charleston Lake remains beautiful in every way ... however the challenge is how do we keep it that way for our children and grandchildren, for the next 50 - 100 years.


This challenge is already being addressed through consultations with the Charleston Lake Environment Association (CLEA), and also the Leeds County Stewardship Council, Ontario Lake Assessments and others. We are unanimous in our agreement that a long range plan should be undertaken with the goal of pro-

tecting and sustaining the ecosystem around and including Charleston Lake for future generations. All users of the lake will benefit by way of unpolluted water, open swimming beaches, protected human health, good angling opportunities and the protection and enhancement of property values. **Additional information on the proposed long range plan will be featured in future newsletters.**

The bottom line is - we all love Charleston Lake and wish to protect it; however we are all increasingly affected by the threat of water pollution and over development of the lake. The environment is a constant, and so is our commitment to it. Improving our environmental performance will remain a permanent item on our agenda and a core value for our Association.

*Don Curry*





## 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.



# YOUR BOARD REPORTS

## CLA Annual General Meeting

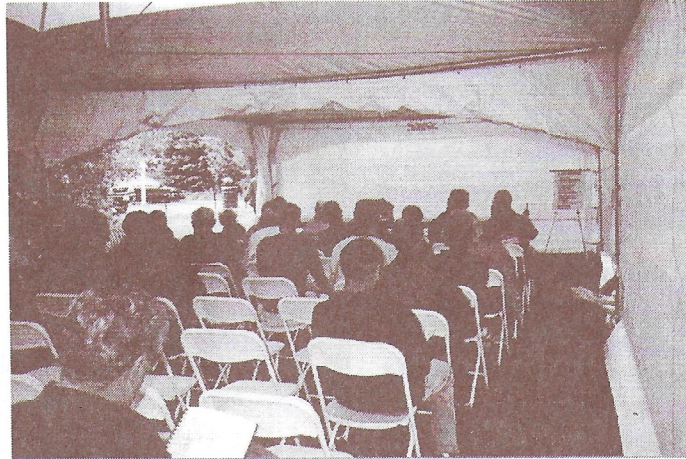
President Don Curry called the meeting to order and provided an overview of the past year, and the future of the Association.

During the year, achievements included:

- ▶ Release of trout fingerlings
- ▶ Erection of Osprey Nesting Platforms
- ▶ Water Testing with emphasis on streams and creeks feeding the lake
- ▶ 145 non-member property owners were invited to join – and new memberships are coming in
- ▶ A business directory has been distributed around the lakes in the area
- ▶ Neighbourhood Watch is being introduced to the islands.

Future plans include:

- ▶ An active youth program - #1 priority
- ▶ 3 loon nest platforms
- ▶ Protection of bass on the spawning beds
- ▶ Meetings with Townships continue
- ▶ Peregrine Falcon program proceeding with strong support from CLEA, Leeds County Stewardship Council and MNR.
- ▶ The top priority will be



*Seating in the tent filled up quickly as 72 people attended the AGM held on July 14 at Charleston Lake Provincial Park.*

the protection and enhancement of the lake's environment.

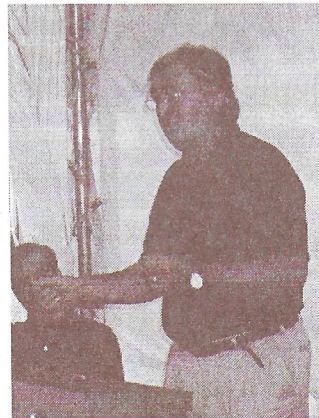
The Treasurer's report was presented and showed a bank balance at the end of 2000 of \$3,788.35, after expenses of \$28,224.99 and income of \$30,932.06. The current balance in the bank as of May 31, 2001 was \$9,000.

Guest speaker, Reg Genge, provided an enlightening report of the water testing program. His report included the findings, recommendations, what's happening this year, and future strategy.

Tests conducted six times at six sample locations dealt with lake clarity, chlorophyll levels, phosphorous levels and oxygen levels. The lake's water (hard water) is not affected by acid rain but the calcium level is high to make the lake ideal for the spread of zebra mussels. Bacteria levels were good overall,

higher at the outlets, and water should always be treated before drinking.

Recommendations for the future included education



*Guest Speaker Reg Genge, Ontario Lake Assessments*

workshops, re-naturalization, focused look at the tributaries, work with the municipalities to make recommendations for their official plan, and to maintain a water sampling program.

It was noted that care and capacity assessment are very important to assess how many cottages and residents

the lake can handle before problems escalate, and to determine how many the lake can maintain.

Doug Hale presented a report from CLEA, pointing out that much has been accomplished by a small group. Donations are always welcome, and the members were encouraged to consider CLEA in wills, as insurance beneficiaries, etc.

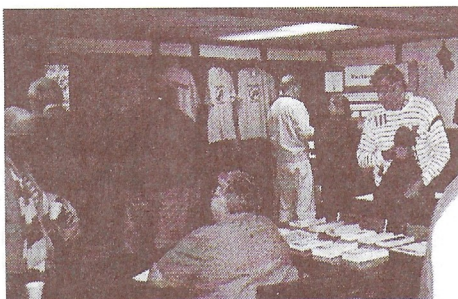
The Board of Directors was introduced, and the election of the Board for the next year followed Canon Borden Purcell's words of spiritual guidance. Elected were: Bill Borger, Don Curry, Yvonne Landon, Joan Barnell, Irene Ireland, John McMahon, Dwayne Struthers and Judy Wyatt.

A constitution change was presented and approved.

New business and questions from the membership provided discussion on:

- ▶ Planting materials for shoreline restoration – native trees available from MAPLE.
- ▶ Information should be provided to area Councillors to educate them regarding planning, building and development on the lake, and to make sure they understand the importance.
- ▶ Regulation should include a buffer for all new building.
- ▶ Councils should be shown what has been done via a tour of the lake, barbecue, etc.

Dwayne Struthers reported on the success of the Peregrine Falcon program to conclude the meeting.



*Refreshments and social hour prior to the meeting afforded members an opportunity to view displays and obtain information.*



# ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

## ONE BIRD IN BIG APPLE

# Falcons spread their wings

They've left the nest.

Four peregrine falcons raised by the Leeds Country Stewardship Council on Charleston Lake, have spread their wings and are on their own, says Dwayne Struthers, a leader of the Peregrine Falcon Restoration Project.

The birds, which had been fostered in a nesting site on Rubes Rocks this summer for introduction, into the wild are feeding on their own and are out in the wide world. The birds have been seen at places from Slack's Bay on the lake to as far away as Manhattan.

"You sort of feel like a parent whose kid has just started college," said Struthers. "It's sort of a catch 22 because when you don't see them you're worried about them. And they can't phone home and they can't write.

"But then again, that's what's supposed to happen."

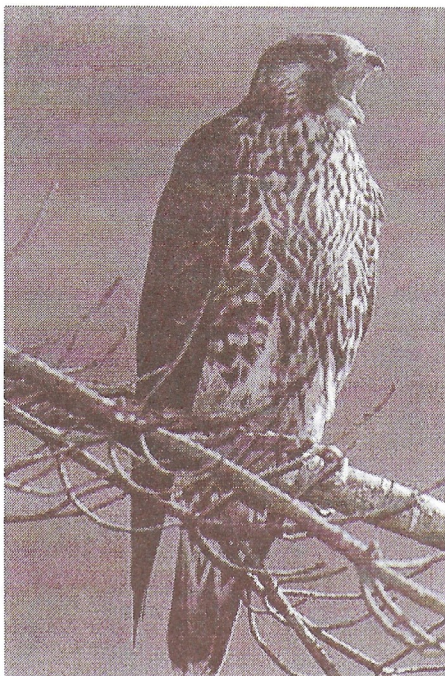
The \$30,000 program had purchased four peregrine falcon chicks in the first program supported by the Canadian Peregrine Foundation in a natural setting. Other programs are in city settings where the birds have adapted to high rises and take advantage of the availability of fat, slow pigeons.

The foundation's national program was es-

tablished because the use of DDT here in the 1940s and 50s caused the bird's eggs to develop with soft shells, so brooding mothers cracked them. Ontario's population was eliminated by the 1970s and the Canadian population dropped to under 200. The bird is currently listed as a provincially endangered species.

Local birds were raised in a nesting or "hack box" on property owned by Brian Hollingsworth. The hope is that the birds will migrate, and later return with mates to recolonize the lake.

Biologists with the Canadian Peregrine Foundation are also trying to learn more about the migration patterns



Athena perched on a favorite branch near the hack box.

Photo by Bill Pratt



Two of the Peregrines pose cleverly right behind the sign indicating their presence.

Photo by Bill Pratt

of the birds. They have placed a satellite tracking collar on one of the birds. They want to learn more about where they spend the winters and how they get there.

Like other programs associated with the peregrine foundation, the project was also designed to raise public awareness about the endangered birds. Area residents could watch the progress of the birds through a security camera set up inside the nesting box, which transmitted pictures once every 30 seconds.

Crews of volunteers spent about two weeks, feeding the chicks and monitoring the birds this summer to ensure they kept out of trouble while learning to fly. They named the birds

Ruby, Charlie, Athena and Webster following a contest held in the community.

Food was gradually reduced so instinct could take over and the birds would begin to hunt on their own.

Ross Struthers, site coordinator of the project, said the birds stopped taking food from the nesting box on July 20 and that's when organizers assume they became independent from the team of volunteer mothers formed to help foster them. They haven't been seen around the nesting site since August 18.

Local residents saw them in the Athens area August 21 and 22, where one of the birds took a woodpecker for lunch.

(Continued on page 8)

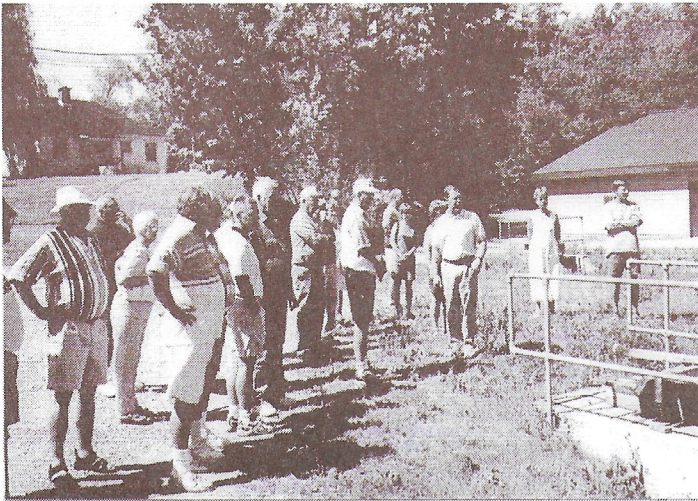


## ON THE FISHING SCENE

# Fish Hatchery visit

Early in the month of August a group of fishermen and their wives took part in a very

interesting and informative visit to the White Lake Fish Hatchery near Sharbot Lake.



*Lake Association members and guests visit fish hatchery*

The visitors, members of the Charleston Lake Association and their guests, had a close look at the complicated workings of a fish raising operation.

Thousands of fish fry, including walleye, lake, rainbow, speckled trout and others are hatched every year at the facility. The Charleston Lake anglers were on hand to view the fry that were developed from spawn taken last fall from shoals in their very own lake.

According to Dwayne Struthers, Fish and Wildlife Chairman of the Association, the entire process is fascinating. The spawn, he explained, was collected last fall with help from the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) and transferred to the fish hatchery where they were fertilized and raised in tanks. Every thing is made to mimic realistic lake conditions; from sub-

dued light levels, to water temperature. From approximately 25,000 eggs that were collected, 15,000 fry have survived.

Plans are in place to release the fish, back into Charleston Lake, early next spring. This fall the fish will spawn naturally in the lake. The process of stocking the lake with a native species is practiced every second year.

In a management plan developed in conjunction with the local MNR, lake trout from other lakes are also used to "stock" Charleston Lake and are suggested as "catch & release" fish.

By stocking the lake in this manner, the local fish population is certain to thrive and can avoid the risk of being over fished.

*Courtesy of The Mural,  
Cathie Whittaker*

## 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

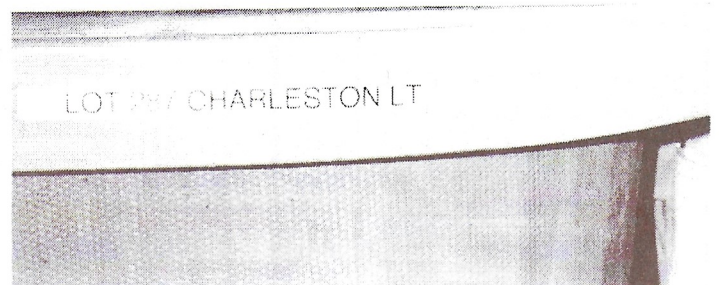
Box 609, Athens, Ontario K0E 1B0

or Fax: 613-273-4255

or e-mail: [bass@recorder.ca](mailto:bass@recorder.ca)

or [ashwoods@rideau.net](mailto:ashwoods@rideau.net)

*Thank you  
Membership Admin. Committee*



*The home of 15,000 Trout fingerlings awaiting their release into Charleston Lake in the late spring, 2002.*

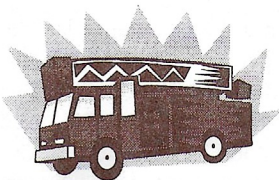


# ON THE FISHING SCENE

## ON THE SAFETY SCENE

### Cottage Access

This was a very dry summer, and several fires have occurred. Residents are reminded that if the fire trucks can't get through your roads, they can't respond to the fire.



A minimum 12 foot canopy is required for the various pieces of equipment to get through.

Also, in winter, roads need to be kept plowed and cleared of any debris, such as fallen tree limbs and branches.

### Police Patrols

During the summer, the OPP Leeds County Marine Unit did a number of patrols on the lake.

S/C Dennis Roberts of the Gananoque Detachment reports that they did 54 hours of patrols, resulting in 164 vessels being checked.

There were 28 warnings issued and 9 charges laid.

In addition, the Perth Marine Unit was also on the lake.

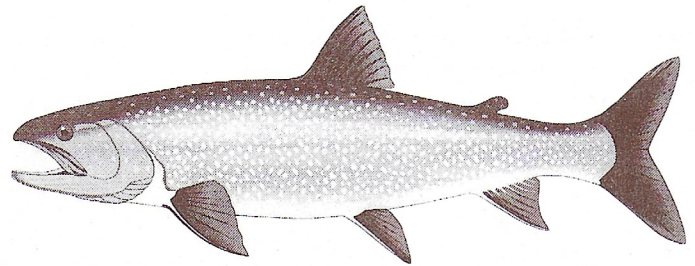
## LAKE TROUT

# Survey results released

The Association's Fish and Wildlife Committee met with the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) late in August to review the results of two lake trout studies carried out in year 2000.

Reviewed was a report on the spring littoral index netting for lake trout in Charleston Lake (SLIN) conducted by the MNR from April 23<sup>rd</sup> to May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2000; and the Association lake Trout Survey, involving 52 volunteer fishermen, carried out during the years 2000 trout season.

The results of both studies indicated that the Charleston Lake trout population has remained relatively stable over the past several years and that fish in the various size classes have remained the same. The abundance of stock fish caught in the MNR study (91%) indicates that the stocking efforts on Charles-



ton Lake have been effective. There is some cause for concern that such a low percentage of non-stocked native trout appeared in the survey.

At this time the MNR see no reason(s) to change their strategic plan for Charleston Lake's Trout Fishery. The 'key-stone' of this plan is to have a natural self-sustaining trout population in Charleston. For the foreseeable future, the MNR will continue to alternate between stocking one year with native strain and the next year with non-native strain. Over time it is hoped that the native strain will have increased to ade-

quate levels so that the natural population will be totally self-sustaining and not require non-native stocking. Charleston Lake is one of the heaviest fished lake trout lakes in Ontario. Such pressure, unless carefully monitored, could place the lake trout in a high stress situation. It was agreed that both the MNR and the Association will consider increasing the frequency of their studies to every two-three years.

At the August meeting the stocking program was reviewed. For the year 2002, 15,000 native lake trout fingerlings (3-4 inches) will be stocked in Charleston Lake.

## Charleston Lake Environmental Association

(A Charitable Trust Foundation)

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



### The Board of Directors:

**President:**  
Doug Hale

**Secretary/Treasurer:**  
Ron Webster

### Directors:

Borden Purcell  
John Brownlie  
Hugh Segal

Peggy Nichol  
John McMahon  
Dave Wyatt

*"Leading the challenge to protect and sustain Charleston Lake's natural environment."*



# FOR YOUR INFORMATION

## Charleston Lake Management Planning

Ontario Parks, South Eastern Zone has begun Management Planning for Charleston Lake Provincial Park. The purpose of this planning project is to protect Charleston Lake Provincial Park's outstanding

natural and cultural heritage, and to guide the park's management, use, development and operation for a 20-year period. Issues to be addressed include zoning, clarification of policies and man-

agement for permitted uses, management of cultural and natural resources, and access.

agement planning process.

An Invitation to Participate was sent in August of this year to individuals, groups and businesses on our mailing list. This mailing list has since been updated to reflect only those who responded to the Invitation to Participate, and those on the revised list will continue to be sent information about the process. If you did not receive this invitation and want to be added to the mailing list, or have not yet responded and wish to stay on the list, please contact our office at the address below. New requests to be included in the mailing list and comments are welcome at any time during the planning process.

Notices of the various stages in the planning process will be posted on the Environmental Registry of the Environmental Bill of Rights at the following website address [http://204.40.253.254/samples/search/Ebrquery\\_REG.htm](http://204.40.253.254/samples/search/Ebrquery_REG.htm). The following web link leads to an index page providing planning documents for the project, including the Terms of Reference, for downloading <http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/MNR/clpp/>. Paper copies of documents associated with the process are available from the Ontario Parks, South Eastern Zone office.

Contact Person:  
Jim Peets, Park Planner  
Ontario Parks,  
South Eastern Zone  
51 Heakes Lane  
Kingston, Ontario  
K7M 9B1  
Telephone: (613) 531-5722  
Fax: (613) 531-5730  
e-mail:  
[Jim.Peets@mnr.gov.on.ca](mailto:Jim.Peets@mnr.gov.on.ca)

Comments are invited on any aspect of this management planning project. The Background Information, Issues and Plan Alternatives document is currently being prepared. At this time we encourage anyone to pass along knowledge they may have about the park that would help with this project, and to identify issues they would like addressed by this man-

*Article supplied by  
Susan Grigg,  
Assistant Park Planner  
Ontario Parks*

### Fireworks - Charleston Lake

Thank you for your contribution towards the costs of our Annual Canada Day Fireworks Display.

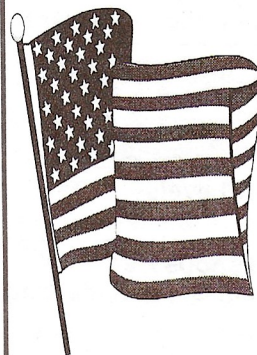
*The Directors, Charleston Lake Association*

- Athens Computers
- Athens District Chamber of Commerce
- Athens Foodtown
- Bank of Montreal  
(Athens & Lansdowne Branches)
- Blanchards Garage
- Burt Hudson Real Estate
- Carriage Factory
- Charleston Lake Auto
- Charleston Lake Chippery
- Charleston Lake Storage
- Charlies T.V. Sales & Service
- Dockside Restaurant
- Geo. Tackaberry & Sons Construction
- Howards Bus Service
- Kelsey Insurance Brokers Inc.
- Kelseys Marina
- Lake Line Lodge & Marina
- Lawson's Texaco
- MacEwen Petroleum (Athens)
- Min Com Real Estate
- Reid's Flowers
- Restoration Farm Antiques  
(North & South Stores)
- Rideau Valley Marketing
- Riverdale Kennels
- Second Time Around Book Shop
- Stuart Bawn Bldg. Services
- T. Wayne Lawson Construction
- Township of Athens
- Township of Leeds & 1000 Islands
- Twists Outlet Store
- Wayne Kelsey & Son Construction



**Dedicated to keeping  
Charleston Lake Beautiful  
in Every Way**

### A Note to our American friends...



September 11, 2001. It was a day that will long be remembered by all Americans, and their friends and families in other countries.

We want you to know that your concerns are shared by your Canadian neighbours and friends. Our thoughts and sympathies are with you.

*Your friends and neighbours on  
and around Charleston Lake.*



# FOR YOUR INFORMATION

## Falcons Continued

(Continued from page 4)

Ruby, the bird fitted with the transmitter, is now believed to be on her migration route, since she has travelled into New York State. The transmitter last pinpointed her on the south shore of Long Island. She has also visited several places in New York State, travelling up to 180 kilometres in a four-hour period. She has been through Rome, Utica, Laurens, Stamford, Fleischmann's and Roscoe, Marcel Gahbauer, an official with the Canadian Peregrine Foundation's "Project Track 'em" said by e-mail.

While the group is now working on its final report for the Ministry of Natural Resources and corporate donors, Struthers said the stewardship council is already thinking about ways to improve the project next year when it fosters its second group of chicks.

The group hopes to add another camera to the exterior of the nesting platform so people can watch the birds if they're out of the hack box.

The program is still looking for donations. Anyone who wishes to help out can phone the Leeds County Stewardship Council at 342-8526.

*Courtesy of  
Brockville  
Recorder & Times,  
Mark Calder,  
Staff Writer*

## Charleston Lake Association 2001 - 2002

### Officers

President • Don Curry  
Vice-President • Irene Ireland  
Vice-President • Yvonne Landon  
Secretary / Treasurer • Judy Wyatt

### Directors

Joan Barnell  
Bill Borger  
Don Curry  
Irene Ireland  
Yvonne Landon  
John McMahon  
Dwayne Struthers  
Judy Wyatt

### Committees

COMMITTEE	COMMITTEE MEMBERS	
<b>Alliance of Cottage Associations, Conservation Authority(s)</b>	<b>Bill Borger</b>	<b>924-2809</b>
<b>Charleston Lake Environmental Association</b>	<b>Don Curry</b> Ron Webster	<b>924-1598</b> 345-2866
<b>Environment - Land and Water</b>	<b>Bill Borger</b> Richard Cook Bill Hallam Duane Dillman Jim Dwyer Tom Beaubiah ( <i>Biologist</i> )	<b>924-2809</b> 924-1423 659-2997 659-4108 924-1064 546-4228(X 240)
<b>Fish and Wildlife</b>	<b>Dwayne Struthers</b> Dave Reilly Dave Wyatt	<b>275-2321</b> 342-4919 924-1640
<b>Membership - Administration / Promotion</b>	<b>Judy Wyatt</b> Joan Barnell Herb Buehler	<b>924-1640</b> 924-9630 273-2758
<b>Municipal Affairs</b>	<b>Don Curry</b> <b>Bill Borger</b> Ron Webster John Swift	<b>924-1598</b> <b>924-2809</b> 345-2866 850-0954
<b>Neighbourhood Watch</b>	<b>Dave Wyatt</b> Joan Barnell Mike Boysen Kevin Wheeler	<b>924-1640</b> 924-9630 659-3953 924-1906
<b>Provincial Park</b>	<b>Yvonne Landon</b>	<b>659-2399</b>
<b>Safety - Security (Fire - Police - Marker Buoys)</b>	<b>Glen Cuming</b> Gary Bellisle	<b>924-9318</b> 924-2051
<b>Strategic Plan</b>	<b>Don Curry</b> All Directors	<b>924-1598</b>
<b>Youth &amp; Social Activities</b>	<b>John McMahon</b>	<b>924-1001</b>
<b>Water Levels</b>	<b>Don Curry</b> Ron Webster	<b>924-1598</b> 345-2866
<b>Workshops / Annual General Meeting</b>	<b>Irene Ireland</b> Joan Barnell Pat Blanchard Karen Cook	<b>924-1081</b> 924-9630 924-9050 924-1423
<i>Area Code 613 applies to all telephone numbers.</i>		<b>Name in Bold indicates Chairperson</b>