



Est. 1890

# NEWSLETTER

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

Winter 2007

## SENATOR SEGAL REFLECTS ON THE LIFE OF DOUG HALE

It is hard to believe that he is gone, he cared so much for Charleston Lake, for his fellow cottagers and friends - for the water and soil and trees and air we share. Doug Hale symbolized for so many what neighborhood and community really means. He was a builder, he was a leader, and he defined the true meaning of the volunteer spirit.

To meet Doug Hale in his post retirement life (Donna and I met him in 1984 when we came to the Lake) was to meet a warm, friendly and gentle businessman, who had led at Black and Decker in Brockville for years, and who always knew the names and circumstances of every employee on the factory floor. Whether at the restoration farms antique shop on the Charleston road or at ratepayers' or environmental association meetings, Dougie was always there, pulling more than his weight, and looking ahead.

He was the driving force behind the creation of CLEA (Charleston Lake Environmental Association) and made the early financial commitments that made it and its programs real. Lake surveys, watershed work, employing high school students, golf tournaments to help pay for it all, contacting government, finding a volunteer board - he did it with a loyal band of volunteers inspired by him, his leadership, his dedication, his spirit, his infectious and utterly decent personality.

To buy antiques from Doug was to experience the true meaning of business integrity...he told you all he knew...he always charged fairly or less, and wanted to make sure the customer was happy. He was impossible not to like and to like him was to respect all for which he stood. His emails and calls about the Lake connected us to the water, air, history and people we would miss between thanksgiving and the Queen's birthday. And, whatever Doug needed or wanted, it was never for him or Peggy, always for the lake and its future.

We were not surprised to know that when he was down in Florida during the winter, he helped senior's homes with their financial and accounting tasks. We all know the blue herons that circulate around our Lake, landing on this perch, that big branch or the other rock. They seem to be on constant patrol...to make sure the Lake is right, clean, and safe.

Doug Hale did that for decades, as a volunteer, as a leader, as a neighbour and friend to us all. But, I know full well, that in one of the quiet meeting rooms of heaven, there is a small group meeting chaired by you know who, beginning to ask whether they might do more, just a little more to make sure the local heavenly environment might be improved and protected for present and future arrivals. And I am sure that even the almighty could not find a better volunteer chair for the initiative than our Dougie Hale.

Hugh, Donna and Jacqueline Segal have been Charleston Lake cottagers since 1984.

## FAREWELL - HERB BUEHLER

Following a short struggle with cancer, Director and Secretary-Treasurer of the Charleston Lake Association Herb Buehler passed away on November 13th, 2006. The directors of both lake Associations, are quick to extol the invaluable contributions Herb Buehler has made for our Associations and all associates. Since the early 90s Herb has been an integral and valued part of the enormous growth, success and achievement the Associations have come to be known for. Not all of our members knew Herb, but everyone connected with the lake has benefitted from his involvement. He has either contributed, or at least participated to some degree in every aspect of both Associations' growth and development. He is a team player extraordinaire.

Whatever Herb did, from Publishing ( all functions required ) of the Newsletters to building and maintaining databases, to creation of the Website and everything in between, it was done with effectiveness, efficiency and on time and in budget. Herb will be missed. Herb, we hope that the view where you are, permits you to watch us prosper from your larger than life contributions.

Doug Hale, Don Curry

November 27, 2006

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This edition of our newsletter is dedicated to Doug Hale and Herb Buehler who passed away late last Fall. Both Dougs and Herbs Contributions to Charleston Lake , two numerous to cover in this message, will continue to have a positive impact on the lake for years to come.

The Directors of both Charleston Lake Associations will constantly remember Doug and Herb with much fondness and we are committed to fulfilling their dream; to keep Charleston Lake beautiful in everyway for generations to come.

*Don Curry*

Charleston Lake Association  
Charleston Lake Environmental Association

NOTE: Memorial contributions in Doug's and Herb's memory mailed to:  
CLEA  
Box 609, Athens, ON K0E 1B0

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### NEWSLETTER



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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

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

# ASSOCIATIONS RE-ORGANIZE

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Through the past summer and into the early fall it became obvious to the officers of both organizations that while there were a number of problems existing with each of the two organizations the need for change and succession was most evident in CLEA.. Both the President, Mr. G. Douglas Hale and the Secretary/Treasurer of CLEA, Mr. Ron Webster expressed a desire to pass their responsibilities in that organization on while remaining for a time Directors of CLEA. At the same time or shortly thereafter. Directors Mr. John Brownlie, Mr Andrew Graham and Senator Hugh Segal asked that their resignations from the Board be accepted.

CLEA was originally formed from the Charleston Lake Association because of the requirement of the Ontario Trillium Foundation to only fund those organizations which were authorized by the Canada Revenue Agency to issue charitable receipts . The Constitution and By-Laws of the Charleston Lake Association were such that it was impossible to incorporate this ability to it. CLEA was established in early 1999 and was granted a Charter in October of that year. The founding Directors were G. Douglas Hale, Ronald Webster, Borden Purcell, Hugh Segal and John Brownlie.

The number of Directors for CLEA , an organization with no members, was, and remains, fluid and the terms of office for those Directors appointed by the Board was not limited save by the provision that all Directors served at the pleasure of the Board. By contrast the number of Directors of the Charleston Lake Association is limited by the Constitution and By-Laws of CLA to eight, four of whom are elected annually for a two year term. By a motion made and passed unanimously at the last Joint Directors meeting elected CLA Directors will also serve as Directors of CLEA for the terms for which they have been elected. Additionally Mr. Ed Ristan and Mr. Wayne Gill were appointed as CLEA Directors. Mr. Ristan will be primarily responsible for the organization of the very successful Golf Tournament and Mr. Gill, in January 2007, will assume the duties of Secretary/Treasurer for CLEA. Mr. Don Curry has been appointed as President of CLEA as well as his continuing as President of CLA  
**Note:** Since this article was written, Doug has passed away and Mary Purcell and Peggy Nichol have resigned as CLEA Directors

Ron Webster

## *Charleston Lake Environmental Association* (A Charitable Trust Foundation)

### **Mission Statement**

The Charleston Lake Environmental Association, (CLEA) is a separate and distinct organization from the Charleston Lake Association (CLA).

The principal function of CLEA is to act as the fund-raising wing or component of CLA and to assist that organization, and others, which engage, or may engage from time to time, in programs relating to the ecological environment of the Charleston Lake area and watershed.

CLEA will seek individual donations and grants of funds which will be passed on, as directed by the Board of Directors of CLEA and as mandated by the Federal Government Offices of Customs and Revenue. CLEA is authorized, under it's Constitution and By-Laws, to acknowledge any receipt of gifts by issuing receipts for the purpose of Tax Deductions.

A secondary function of CLEA is to assist in the development and physical maintenance of the "Conference Centre and Offices" to serve both organizations, CLEA and CLA.

# OUR LAKE MANAGEMENT PLAN

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DEAR MEMBERS,

We love this Lake and we know You do too !

This day and age, everyone knows there are many Federal and Provincial government ministries, agencies and interest groups out there who have a say in what we do with our water, our shorelines, our wetlands and our properties in general. Most of the rules and regulations they promote are like medicine, sometimes hard to swallow but generally good for us in the long run.

The Lake Management Plan which will be delivered to you this Summer is something completely different. It is about the stewardship of our lake. It is about doing things right so that our kids and our kids kids can enjoy the lake as we have. It is about swallowing a little medicine now when we have a choice rather than leaving it to our kids to face major health issues in the future. It is about keeping our lake beautiful in every way.

The Lake Management Plan has been written by us and for us , as property owners and users of the lake. The tale that our plan tells is one of caution and maybe even controversy. You will find the document to be thorough and yet concise and to the point. It provides a sobering assessment of the current state of affairs , an analysis of trends, changes, and the impacts we are having collectively , and finally a call to action with 21 separate action plans for us to sink our teeth into.

We encourage you to read this plan and to take the time to understand the issues we face. **We encourage you to ask questions, to challenge the assumptions, and even to propose alternative ways of addressing the issues if you see something you do not agree with.** We need you to be involved, we need you to talk to your neighbours and we need you to pitch in however you feel best able to . The plan is a working document which will be updated and revised as necessary as things change.

As Einstein famously said, *we will not solve problems we face today by continuing to do the same things that led us into those problems.* Some changes to the way we do things is required——you can help by being part of the solution,

THE Directors

Charleston Lake Association

Charleston Lake Environmental Association

## CHARLESTON LAKE WATER QUALITY SHOWS SLOW RECOVERY

Some of the project efforts of the CLA, CLEA, inland property owners and the shoreline residents to reduce phosphorus concentrations appear to be paying off. The survey results for the years 2005 and 2006 show lower values than any of the previous five years. The indication is for a continued slow decline in TP (Total phosphorus.) We must remain diligent in our efforts as Charleston Lake remains above the Provincial Water Quality Objective for phosphorus of 10 ug/L (parts of phosphorus per Litre.) The mean value of 42 samples collected over the summer was 11.87 ug/L . During the mid-1980s the total phosphorus values for the various basins ranged from ranged from 15.0 to as high as 20 ug/L. This proves that if everyone does their part a slow recovery is possible.

It takes not only the efforts of the residents in the watershed but also the cooperation of the agencies and Municipalities to bring about a full recovery. Without the projects to date and the efforts of the Leeds County Stewardship Council, Municipalities and you the shoreline residents the TP concentrations would be increasing and reflective of values twenty-five years ago.

The change in water clarity is evident lake wide. For the seven-year period 2000 to 2006 this past summer was the clearest on record. The 2006 whole lake average Secchi depth value for 42 recordings was 5.58 metres; the mean value for the year 2002 was 3.87 metres. Average Secchi depth values in the mid-70s ranged from 3.5 to 4.0 metres in depth. This much improved water clarity can only be partially attributed to the decline in phosphorus values. As you may recall, less phosphorus results in less algae and therefore improved water clarity. While it would be opportune to credit the TP reductions for this rapid increase in clarity, the invasion of zebra mussels complicates the relationship. The zebra mussels filter out phytoplankton (algae) and zooplankton and therefore influence water clarity as well.

The good news is thanks to the diligent efforts of all, the water quality of Charleston Lake is moving in the right direction.

## WEEDS - ALGAE AND CHARLESTON LAKE

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This past spring, shortly after ice out many large air mattress size floating mats of algae were present and wide spread on the lake. A similar condition but not as severe took place in 2005. A complaint was filed with the Ministry of the Environment and the following information relates their findings.

### Site Description and Observations

The public docking area is situated at the outlet of Charleston Lake. Charleston Lake supports a lake trout population. Charleston Lake is designated as an at-capacity lake and is moderately sensitive to loss of the remaining optimal lake trout habitat as a result of additional nutrient loadings. Charleston Lake is experiencing development pressure. Large clumps of algae mats approximately 8 cm thick were observed in close to shore in the docking area. There was a moderate amount of growth. Greenish clouds were also observed in the shallow water near the shoreline.

### Conclusions

The results received from the Biomonitoring Section concluded the masses of green material were predominately the widespread filamentous green algae *Spirogyra*. The sample also included a small amount of *Mougeotia*, *Fragilaria* and *Melosira*. Other species of diatoms were present. Pine pollen, caddisfly larva, rotifers, fungi, bacteria and debris were also observed.

In early spring it is not uncommon for a spring burst of diatom activity to occur. The increase in sunlight is the main reason for this burst in growth as water temperatures are still quite low. This spring burst in growth is usually dominated by one species, diatoms. Factors such as duration of ice cover, snow depth and insulation dictate the development of phytoplankton growth and species composition in the spring.

The spring burst of diatom growth is followed by a smaller development of green algae. Summer populations vary in relation to the nutrient enrichment of the lake. Since diatoms are usually followed by first green algae and then by blue-green algae, these lakes require as a general rule, a reasonably sustained loading of phosphorus. The ministry has documented incidents of blue-green-algae blooms in Charleston Lake which are attributed to excessive nutrients in the system.

The Ministry of the Environment's opinion is that the algae growth observed at the outlet of Charleston Lake is naturally occurring, however, increased nutrient loading from increased shoreline development can be contributing to this event and residents could expect that this is likely to occur again. For the Ministry of the Environment

Laurel Grills

Many lakes in Ontario and other provinces are experiencing algal problems some of which make the lake completely unusable ie: swimming, drinking or even touching the water are not advised. Nutrient loading is the main culprit and this can come from a number of sources including shoreline degradation, faulty septic systems, use of fertilizer near the waters edge and agricultural run off. In our Lake Management Plan water quality was identified as being priority number one. To maintain water quality in Charleston Lake everyone must continue to do their part to put in place environmentally sound practices in and around their cottages in order to insure that Beautiful Charleston stays that way. Contact the CLA for more information on this matter and make sure that you have a copy of the Charleston Lake Management Plan.

Submitted by Bill Hallam

## CLADOPHORA MAKES ITSELF KNOWN

The algae clinging to the shoreline and shallows of Charleston Lake summer 2006 is called '**Cladophora**'. It is native to Charleston Lake. **Cladophora** until a year or so ago has been kept under control by other vegetation which is now being consumed by **Zebra Mussels**. **Cladophora** is now enjoying uninhibited growth as a result.

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## MANY THANKS TO:

George Bellisle and his crew Robbie Gibson, Wade McBride, Sean Veley and their friends, for the placement and removal, servicing and storing of our shoal markers each year.

Performance Printing in Smiths Falls, for donating the printing costs of over 1000 copies of our new Lake Management Plan.

Your CLA and CLEA Directors, all volunteers, who donate many hours to ensure that you enjoy your times at the lake and that the lake remains beautiful in every way for your children and their children.

*Don Curry*  
President, CLA & CLEA

### MEET YOUR NEW TOWNSHIP COUNCILS

#### TOWNSHIP OF ATHENS

##### MAYOR

John Conley

##### COUNCILLORS

Darin Alguire

Yeurgen Beck

Karen Cook

Don Curry

Bob Green

Gary Sheffield

TO CONTACT YOUR MEMBERS OF COUNCIL,  
PLEASE CALL: 613-924-2044 or forward your  
letter to:

1 Main St. West, Athens, ON K0E 1B0

E-mail: [athens@ripnet.com](mailto:athens@ripnet.com)

#### TOWNSHIP OF LEEDS AND THE THOUSAND ISLANDS

##### MAYOR

Frank Kinsella

##### COUNCILLORS-WARD ONE

Jeffrey Lackie

Tom Lawler

Geraldine Dickson

##### COUNCILLORS-WARD TWO

Velma Kelsey

Charlie Kellington

TO CONTACT YOUR MEMBERS OF COUNCIL  
PLEASE CALL:

613-659-2415, TOLL FREE-1-866-220-2327

or forward your letter to:

1 Jesse St., Lansdowne, ON K0E 1L0

E-mail: [jtheriault@1000island.net](mailto:jtheriault@1000island.net)

## 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

## **PROPERTY ASSESSMENTS / TAXES**

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Your Association is a member of the Waterfront Rate Payers After Fair Taxation - WRAFT. Currently this organization consists of roughly 800 rate payer, municipal and senior groups. In terms of individuals under their umbrella, WRAFT represents close to one million Ontario voters. The Charleston Lake Association asked WRAFT president Bill Topp to provide a report on the progress of his organization to date and its future plans. Excerpts from Mr. Topp's report follow.

As we promised last year we spearheaded the formation in April of a province-wide alliance of coalitions, the Coalition After Property Tax Reform (CAPTR). Founding members were WRAFT, FOCA and three urban coalitions, two in central Toronto and one a province-wide urban group. Once CAPTR was established, we sat down with our new partners and reached agreement on a simple reform proposal.

- Annual assessment increases under our proposal would be capped at 5%, a rate equivalent to the long term average increase in residential real estate values in Ontario. This cap would remain in place until sale of a property on an arms-length basis at which time the assessment would go to current value. This assessment cap does not mean a 5% tax increase. It simply means, for example, that if the average assessment increase in a municipality was 3% and your increase was 10%, it would be capped at 5%.
- Properties on "hot" real estate markets across the province have already experienced substantial tax hikes and we believe these need to be offset either through an earlier cap or through some other leveling mechanism.
- All Ontarians concerned with property tax reform, agree that social service costs should be removed from property tax. The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) estimates this cost at \$3.2 billion. It contributes to making Ontario's property taxes as a share of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the highest in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).
- Shortly after CAPTR was formed, the United Senior Citizens of Ontario (USCOO), a 300,000 member group joined forces with us. I'm pleased to announce today that the Retired Teachers of Ontario, a 54,000 member group, has just confirmed that they are joining CAPTR. The property tax system has been causing financial grief for great numbers of Ontario seniors. This fact is evident to both Ontario opposition parties who are developing reform proposals to provide relief not just for seniors but for all Ontarians.
- What do we have to show for our efforts, and what are our plans for the year ahead, the year leading up to the next provincial election in October 2007? First of all, in terms of what has been accomplished to date, the most tangible outcome from WRAFT and CAPTR lobbying as well as the efforts of others has been the two-year moratorium put in place by the Liberal government in July, and ending with renewal of assessments in 2008 affecting taxes in 2009. This freeze will, we estimate, if previous trends continue, produce an average waterfront saving of 24% of current taxes over the two year period. The other development, for which we and you (association) can take some credit is the efforts of both the PC and NDP parties to establish their policies on property tax reform. The PC Private Members Bill on capping assessment increases, and the NDP Task Force call for a permanent freeze on assessments, both indicate the direction those parties are moving in and a recognition again that the CVA-based system for distributing property taxes is not working. Finally I cannot say enough about the impact of the Ombudsman's report in bringing the flaws in the assessment process front and centre and making strong and effective recommendations for reform. He observed as well in his report some of the fundamental problems with the use of the volatile assessment system for distributing property taxes. He correctly recognized that these problems were outside his jurisdiction and could only be fixed by the politicians.

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•What we have not achieved so far is an admission by the Liberal government that reform is necessary together with a commitment to carry out that reform during the moratorium. It makes no sense, other than political sense, to have a two-year freeze and use the time just to fix MPAC and then be hit with even greater volatility in 2009. We have conveyed this message very clearly to the office of both the Premier and the Finance Minister and hope they are listening. There are signs that this is the case. Mr. McGuinty for months has been acknowledging that an overhaul is needed. Until recently Mr. Sorbara has been silent but in response to the NDP task force recommendations a few weeks ago he did say "we are looking at changes....to make the system fairer, more transparent and more equitable". This is a positive sign and perhaps some movement is underway. Let me simply say that we are all aware that the election is less than a year away.

I would like to thank your association and your members who have written to local councils and members of Parliament about their property assessments and property taxes. Please encourage your members who have not written a letter to do so. Believe me it makes a difference. In closing I want to reiterate that we are not going away until the property system is fixed. What better time to make the necessary repairs than now, during the assessment freeze. Under the present regime, all Ontarians are vulnerable. And we at WRAFT believe that all Ontario political parties are recognizing the need for change.

Bill Topp

To Members CLA

If to date you have not made your views known, please make it a New Year's resolution.  
To do so - Contact:

Robert Runciman,  
MPP-Leeds & Grenville  
243 Perth St, Brockville On, K6V 5E7

Gord Brown,  
MP-Leeds & Grenville,  
27 King St, E, Brockville On, K6V 3P7

Mayor Frank Kinsella  
Township of Leeds and The Thousand Islands,  
1 Jessie St, Lansdowne On, K0E 1L0

Mayor John Conley  
Township of Athens,  
1 Main St, W, Athens On, K0E 1B0

Municipal Affairs Committee

END NOTE

The CLA & CLEA Directors join with me in wishing you and your family a happy, healthy and prosperous new year. We look forward to enjoying with you Summer 2007 at beautiful Charleston Lake.

*Don Curry*



## TRIVIA QUESTIONS

1. A naturally occurring rock and tree formation in Moonfish Bay shows a profile of the Guardian of Charleston Lake. What is this landmark known as?
2. How many miles of shoreline does Charleston Lake have?  
50, 75. or over 100 ?
3. How many islands are there on Charleston lake ?  
58, 86, or over 100 ?
4. In 1816 Charleston Lake was referred to as:  
(A) A lake called Gananoque or  
(B) A lake of Shining waters
5. How many monuments have been erected on the lake ?  
3, 5 or 6 ?
6. The first monument was built in 1877 on a shoal south of Rock House Island. What is its name ?
7. In 2001, Rubes Rocks was the site for the reintroduction of what endangered species ?
8. The first Charleston Lake regatta was held on September 1st of what year?  
1878, 1898 or 1910 ?
9. The first regatta had two races. The first was a sailboat race. The second using rowboats. What were these rowboats known as ?
10. What year was the Lake Association founded ?

**Answers to the trivia questions follow:**

## TRIVIA ANSWERS

- Answers to trivia questions
- (1) Indian head.
  - (2) Over 100.
  - (3) Over 100.
  - (4) A lake called Gananoque.
  - (5) 6.
  - (6) Englishmans Monument
  - (7) Peregrine Falcons
  - (8) 1898
  - (9) Skiffs
  - (10) 1898

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YOU  
MOVING  
?**

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moves with  
you!**

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**Winter 2007**

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