



# Newsletter

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

Vol. 102, No. 3

Fall, 2002

## Lake Associations have new offices

By MARK CALDER  
*Brockville Recorder and Times*

They had the grants, the programs, and the volunteers. But they didn't have a headquarters to coordinate them – until now.

The Charleston Environmental Foundation and the Charleston Lake Association held an official opening in August for their new office at 109 County Road 40. A ribbon-cutting was held to mark the occasion and honour local benefactor George Tackaberry, who donated a \$10,000 portable classroom for use as the facility.

"The bottom line is that before we had no place to call home," said Doug Hale, foundation president.

The new building will serve the office and administration needs of both the 750-member association and the foundation, he said.

"We're running five or six major environmental projects on the lake and we needed space for administration, for our computer databases, and our office



*George Tackaberry, left, receives a plaque from Charleston Lake Environmental Association president Doug Hale in recognition of Tackaberry's donation to the foundation and other groups committed to the betterment of the Charleston Lake area.*

MARK CALDER/THE RECORDER AND TIMES

needs. We also plan to use it to hold seminars on shoreline preservation, phosphates, use of fertilizers, and teaching people the things we all can do to preserve the environment."

The foundation has secured \$138,000 in grants from the Trillium Foundation to conduct several studies in the lake area on

water quality, shoreline preservation, and development capacity. The foundation hopes to use the in-

formation gathered to suggest a management plan for the lake to allow sur-

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## Your board reports...

# A Message from your President

Dear Members:

Fall greetings from the Directors and the many volunteers who worked with our Association this past summer.

What a wonderful summer it was at beautiful Charleston Lake. The weather was spectacular and from all reports good times were enjoyed by all.

Year to date the Directors and I have found the workload formidable, challenging and very satisfying. Thanks to our many volunteers, the Charleston Lake Environmental Association and other organizations who work with us, much has been accomplished as follows:

### Township Official Plan

The Township of Leeds and the Thousand Islands asked us to submit recommendations concerning revisions to their Official Plan. In our submission to the Township we stated that our recommendations have as a guiding principle the need to maintain and, in some situations, improve water quality, the fishery and lake aesthetics. It is our view that the key to maintaining or improving water quality is to protect the shoreline and near shore areas through buffer strips and by imposing strict but common sense controls on development, redevelopment and on the conversion from seasonal to permanent residential use.

### Charleston Lake Management Plan

As we go to press, the recommendations received from members, the business

community, government officials and the general public are being summarized into a report to be entitled *Charleston Lake Management Plan - Stakeholder Input Summary*. This report will be included along with your winter (Feb., 2003) newsletter.

### Peregrine Falcon Program

This past summer Peregrine Falcons were again re-introduced to Charleston Lake. Please see the article on page 4.

### Lake Trout Stocking

This spring the MNR stocked 14,275 native trout. Plans for year 2003 are to stock approximately 32,000.

### We Now Have A Home

Please refer to the article on page one. The Office and Information Centre for both of our Lake Associations opened late in June. During the summer the centre was professionally managed by Director Joan Barnell and a team of volunteers who provided a variety of information and coordinated the Youth Programs. In July the centre was used for the Boaters Certification Exams and has been the location for many meetings. Late in August the centre was used in support of the Township of Athens drinking water testing program.

### Beautification

The Charleston Lake Association partnered with the Athens District Chamber of Commerce and the MNR to place flower pots along King Street in the Village of Charleston and flower pots and a bench on the main dock. Thanks to Charleston

village volunteers the flowers were beautiful all summer long.

### Fireworks Display

Form all reports, this year's display was the most spectacular ever. Once again our thanks to Wayne Kelsey and his team of volunteers for a job exceedingly well done. Also our thanks to the Athens-Charleston Lake Business Community, Association members, and the general public for their donations to the fireworks program.

### Swimming Lesson Program

Director Irene Ireland, with the help of instructor Dawn McGurrin, organized and managed this program. Twenty-four of our youth participated and were presented with achievement badges. There was unanimous agreement that this program is excellent and should be held annually.

### Charleston Lake Youth Days

This was a first ever program for the Charleston Lake Association. Involved was a three-day camp for children 12 years of age and under. Twenty-four children participated and enjoyed a valuable learning experience. The program was designed and managed by Director John McMahon and his wife Teri. Their efforts were supported by the Charleston Lake Provincial Park, the OPP, and many others too numerous to name. Thanks to everyone for an excellent effort. The parents of the children who participated are unanimous in their agreement that the

program is excellent and should be held again next year.

### First Annual Garage Sale

Another success story. Proceeds from the sale were over \$700.00 and are to be used for Youth Programs. Thanks to all who donated items for the sale and to all who purchased these items. Also thanks to Richard and Karen Cook for letting us use their building as the location for the sale and to the Association members who managed the sale.

### Aquatic Weed Growth

A number of members have expressed their concern re-

*(Continued on page 4)*



## 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.



## For your information...

# A G M Report

The Charleston Lake Association Annual General Meeting took place July 13, at the Oak Leaf Trinity Church Hall. Guest speakers were Mark Green of the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark Health Unit and Gary Nielsen of the Leeds Stewardship Council. Special guests were Deputy Reeve Velma Kelsey, Councillor Douglas Mackintosh, Peter Fraser and Mike Boysen.

In his opening remarks, Association president Don Curry shared and relived several 'wonderful' happenings and achievements in the affairs of the association of the by gone year. A \$136,700 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation and the procurement of an independent office and info centre were milestone happenings in the history of the 112- year old association.

The Charleston Lake Environmental Association and the Leeds Stewardship Council helped to obtain a Trillium grant, which will be used to develop a Lake Plan for Charleston Lake. The new office/info centre building is at 109 Charleston Rd.

The building was donated by the George Tackaberry Family and Tackaberry and Sons Construction Co. Ltd.

Other happenings in 2001/2002 included a request from 'Leeds and the Thousand Islands' to sub-

mit recommendations concerning planned revisions to the Township's Official Plan. The Association asked Council to take an environmentally sensitive approach in the update of their plan with the highest priority placed on the protection of water quality and shorelines. At the same time, the Association requested that Council impose strict but reasonable controls on development, redevelopment and the conversion of existing seasonal uses to permanent residential uses, along with the creation of committees to address septic tank inspections, agricultural run off and the use of environmentally friendly alternatives for pesticides, herbicides and lawn fertilizers.

Guest speaker Mark Green answered many questions on the five different types of Sewage Systems. "Septic system inspections, before you buy property, are not compulsory but recommended," he advised and "septic tanks should be cleaned every three years."

Hugh Segal, spokesman for the Charleston Lake Environmental Association, stated that his group have been active in: the development of a strategic plan, watershed resource inventory, a water quality survey, a shoreline stewardship program and educational workshops.

Gary Nielsen addressed

the meeting on the development of the official Lake Plan. "Our Lake is limited," he stated and "we want to take a snapshot in time." For example, he said, "our lake is over-fished," and we should be asking ourselves, "how much can our lake take." Other major issues are septic systems and weeds. He concluded by saying, "we should be prepared

for hard decisions in the future, and we have to identify trends and pressures that will exceed the lake's capacity to remain healthy."

Directors appointed for the coming year were Joan Barnell, Bill Borger, Don Curry, Irene Ireland, Yvonne Landon, John McMahon, Dwayne Struthers and Judy Wyatt.

## Lake Associations have new offices *continued*

*(Continued from page 1)*

rounding municipalities to find the best development policies to preserve the lake's health.

The headquarters also serves as a place that visitors and property owners along the lake can drop in to find out information. The centre has pamphlets, maps, details on environmental projects sponsored by the groups, and hints on sustainable development practices.

Hale originally approached Tackaberry, owner of Tackaberry Constructions, about donating one of the old portable construction site offices his business

owns. Tackaberry did the Association one better and found an old portable classroom in the Stittsville area, bought it, and transported it to a property Hale donated for use as an office site.

"People are giving me a lot of credit, perhaps more than I deserve" Tackaberry, a resident of the lake, said of his support. "But we're just so lucky to have this lake. I just want to help keep everything looking nice."

Following the ceremony the association hosted a reception for Tackaberry, municipal officials, and others associated with the environmental groups.



## For your information...

# 2002 Peregrine Report

Last year the Leeds County Stewardship Council and the Canadian Peregrine Foundation hacked four falcons (Ruby, Athena, Charles and Webster) in a hack box, 130 ft. up on Rubes Rocks. One

of the falcons (Ruby) was fitted with a satellite transmitter and tracked on her migration to Long Island New York for the winter and then back this spring to our area. She finally ended up at the

Trenton Air base where she was captured by the falconers who patrol the airport for nuisance birds. They contacted CPF and received permission to remove the transmitter, as the batteries were getting weak. We then transported her to Landon Bay Estates where we released her near some high cliffs.

a few minutes and established the record for the longest initial flight. He flew across the channel over Big Deer Island down to the top of Runnings Bay then back north past Captains Gap back over the end of Deer Island and continued west right over the tree line on top of Rubes Rocks inland. Within a couple of hours Aedin and Horus also flew over the tree line inland as well. The falcon team watched an empty box for the rest of the day, another first. Last year it was weeks before they flew inland.

### Presidents message - continued

*(Continued from page 2)*

garding the aquatic weed growth summer 2002 and are of the opinion that the invasive weed species, Eurasian Watermilfoil, appears to have established itself at Charleston Lake. Early in August we asked Tom Beaubiah, a biologist with the Catarauqui Region Conservation Authority to assess the lake's weed populations and to provide recommendations in regards to effectively managing these populations.

Tom's report along with additional information will be provided in a future newsletter.

#### Looking Ahead To 2003

We will:-

- Continue to improve on our environmental performance which will remain a permanent item on our agenda.
- Seek out and implement social and recreational programs which promote a spirit of community on Charleston Lake.

The Directors join with me in thanking you for your strong continuing support and in wishing you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy Safe New Year.

*Don Curry*

We were advised not to bring her back to the hack box area as she might interfere with this year's release. The falconer who captured her said she must be a good hunter because she was in terrific condition.

This year's release was totally different from last year. Last year we had two males and two females. This year we had three males named Aedin, Horus and Talon. Last year when the birds were released, their initial flights were only a few hundred yards from the box and it was several days before they all left the box Charlie being the late bloomer. Even then they still returned to the box for food and used the box as a flight deck to chase each other or harass any other birds that flew by.

This year was totally different. First we had to delay the release a couple of times and then when release day finally arrived we discovered that the falcons had a throat infection called thrush. Our Veterinarian advised us that we would have to keep them contained for another five days and treat them with an oral antibiotic every day. Needless to say these falcons were more than ready to get out of that hack box when release day finally came.

When the hack box was opened Talon took off within

The next morning Aedin returned to be followed by Horus that night but it was several days before they all returned to the hack box regularly. However several days later we recaptured Horus and fitted him with a satellite transmitter. Unfortunately, we are having trouble with it and we are trying to contact the satellite company to verify whether it is the problem or if Horus is in trouble. Talon and Aedin are now independent and were seen in the area towards the end of August and should now be on their migration route. The good news is that falcons are being seen in the area. One was spotted this spring and photographed at the Big Rideau Lake (possibly Webster - black band) and recently another was photographed on a light standard at Dupont. So get out your binoculars and keep an eye on the cliffs around the lake next spring.

For more info and pictures on this or last years project visit [www.peregrine-foundation.ca/tops/leeds.html](http://www.peregrine-foundation.ca/tops/leeds.html) and click on photo gallery.

*Dwayne Struthers*

### **POLICE SAFETY PATROLS ON CHARLESTON LAKE JUNE TO SEPTEMBER, 2002**

Constable Sandra Barr of the Brockville OPP Detachment reported the following:

***There were 52 patrol hours.***

***137 boats were checked.***

***Liquor charges - 13***

***Small Vessel Charges -13***

***Warnings - 39***

In addition to the patrols, the Brockville Marine Unit participated in the Youth Days Programme on Aug. 21st, with talks and provided the children and adults with an opportunity to see the OPP Marine Boat and various equipment on board. By all reports this was well received.

*Glen Cuming, Safety Committee*



## For your information...

# A letter to all lake users

### Lights Can Prevent Tragedies, Nightmares

"On Sunday, September 1, 2002 at 9 p.m. I was enjoying a night-time boat cruise when near tragedy struck.

Returning to our cottage, I had planed off and was not going too fast when I was suddenly thrown forward. Our boat had come to an abrupt stop in the middle of Loon Bay and all was quiet. I ran to the back of the boat to discover an upside-down kayak with a hole in bottom caught in the lower unit of our motor. No one surfaced; it was a terrifying moment.

Then a man burst up from under the overturned kayak. A second kayaker nearby said that there were only two, she and her Dad. Relief! All were accounted for.

The dad's main concern was, "I can't see". As a nurse, my immediate thought was: head injury. What else?

I hauled him into our boat, unsure if his body had been mangled, as well, from our prop. Fortunately, it was bruises only and he couldn't see because his glasses were in his life jacket.

Cottagers and all boaters, please make sure that all watercraft on the lake have proper lights at night.

Thank God and my lucky stars that we were only bruised and not killed that night. Night-time cruises have been the most relaxing and quiet time on the lake throughout my life. Now, this pleasure is gone for me.

Thank you to Roger Kelsey

and family who come to our rescue and towed us all in.

Be safe. Use lights. Everyone can enjoy our beautiful lake with peace of mind. "

Pat Blanchard

Thankfully a fatality did not occur. We encourage all who use kayaks, canoes, rowboats, rowing shells - in fact any water craft - on Charleston Lake to consistently follow the safety equipment requirements which are:

**Navigation equipment:** a sound signalling device or a sound signalling appliance.  
**Navigation lights that meet the applicable standards set out in the Collision Regulations if the pleasure craft is operated after sunset or in periods of restricted visibility.**

**Personal protection equipment:** one Canadian-approved personal flotation device or lifejacket of appropriate size for each person on board.

One buoyant heaving line of not less than 15 m. in length.

**Boat safety equipment:** one manual propelling device or an anchor with not less than 15 m. of cable, rope or chain in any combination.

One bailer or one manual water pump fitted with or accompanied by sufficient hose to enable a person using the pump to pump water from the bilge of the vessel over the side of the vessel.

Safety Committee.

Information courtesy of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Coast Guard

## Cottager fined for dumping sand

A Brockville-area man has been fined \$500 for placing sand in the water at his cottage property on a lake near Charleston in violation of the Public Lands Act.

The cottager illegally put two truckloads of sand into the lake, which is located in the Township of Leeds and the Thousand Islands.

The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) investigated after receiving a complaint from the municipality.

Justice of the Peace V. Carmichael heard the case in

Brockville court on September 18.

The Public Lands Act provides for the protection of public lands, and provincially owned lake bottom fronting private property. The public is advised to contact their local MNR office before any work is undertaken in or around water.

**The Ministry of Natural Resources encourages the public to report natural resource violations to Conservation Officers or to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).**

## 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)

Membership Admin. Committee



## For your information...



Our best  
wishes to  
you  
and your  
family  
for a very  
Merry  
Christmas  
and a  
Happy  
New  
Year.

*The Directors*

# Charleston Lake Association 2002 - 2003

## Officers

President • Don Curry  
Executive Assistant • Richard Cook  
Vice-President • Irene Ireland  
Vice-President • Yvonne Landon  
Secretary / Treasurer • Judy Wyatt

## Directors

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

## Committees

COMMITTEE	CHAIRPERSONS	
Alliance of Cottage Associations, Conservation Authority (ies)	Bill Borger	924-2809
Charleston Lake Environmental Assoc.	Don Curry	924-1598
Environment - Land and Water	Bill Borger	924-2809
Fish and Wildlife	Dwayne Struthers	275-2321
Information Centre / Office	Joan Barnell	924-9630
Membership - Administration	Judy Wyatt	924-1640
Membership - Promotion	Joan Barnell	924-9630
Municipal Affairs	Don Curry	924-1598
Newsletters	Herb Buehler	273-2758
Provincial Park	Yvonne Landon	659-2399
Safety - Security (Fire - Police - Marker Buoys)	Glen Cuming	924-9318
Strategic / Lake Plan	Don Curry Gary Nielsen	924-1598 342-8526
Youth & Social Activities	John McMahon Irene Ireland	924-1001 924-9114
Water Levels	Don Curry Ron Webster	924-1598 345-2866
Workshops / Annual General Meeting	Irene Ireland	924-1081

*Area Code 613 applies to all telephone numbers.*