



# NEWSLETTER

WINTER  
2020

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

[www.charlestonlakeassociation.ca](http://www.charlestonlakeassociation.ca)

## President's Message

It is hard to believe another year has come and gone. Time flies when you are having fun and enjoying Charleston Lake.

After reviewing some of the newsletters from the past it is interesting to note that our core objectives have not changed. Consistently over the years our aim for Charleston Lake has always been:

1. Water Quality
2. Peace and Quiet
3. Natural Beauty
4. Fish and Wildlife

Lets take a look at #1, Water Quality. Without this, the other three are unachievable. Water testing over the last twenty years has shown that Charleston Lake still boasts excellent water quality and in fact has moved into the Oligotrophic range. This is good. How we maintain this should be everyone's goal.

Some tips to help keep Charleston Lake beautiful

- Don't cut grass within 30-50 feet of the shoreline. Let native shrubs and bushes grow. Do not rake leaves into the lake.
- Don't use chemical fertilizers and pesticides anywhere near the lake. Use of these is like pouring

chemicals into your family's drinking water supply. Chemical fertilizers and pesticides can be harmful for humans, animals and the lake, and will also encourage weed growth.

- Don't cut trees between the shoreline and your residence. Rather trim the branches for a better view.
- Do have your sewage systems re inspected every 3-5 years by a certified Sewage System Contractor and immediately implement the contractors recommendations.

As always, CLA/CLEA directors are committed to keeping Charleston Lake as great as it is.

Although the Shoreline Challenge has been set aside for 2020, we will instead be partnering with

Watersheds Canada in a shoreline restoration program called The Natural Edge. Look for more information on how you might take advantage of this program in this newsletter.

If you thought you spotted a Bald Eagle soaring high above Charleston Lake this past summer, you weren't dreaming. We now have a confirmed pair nesting on one of our many islands and they have successfully raised young.

The MNR has completed another Broad Scale Study this past fall. This will give us a scientific picture of the variety and health of the fish in Charleston Lake. Interesting and noteworthy, a 50 inch 36lb Northern Pike was caught and released this past fall. We still have some big ones!

Ontario Lake Assessments (OLA) has been conducting our Water Quality Testing for the last 20 years or more. Reg Genge who owns and operates this company has done in-depth quality work on Charleston Lake for all these years. Reg will continue for one more year and then will be retiring. We thank Reg and his wife Anne for all the years they have spent monitoring Charleston Lake water quality. We are actively looking for a replacement for 2021. This is definitely priority #1 for all of us who love and enjoy Charleston Lake.

### **Upcoming for 2020:**

- Golf Tournament August 8th
- Student Bursary Program
- Ontario Youth Summit
- Summer Youth Programs – Sign up now

Have a safe and healthy winter. Looking forward to seeing you at the lake in the spring .

**Bill Hallam**

# THOUSAND ACRE CHALLENGE and TIWLT

Nature in the Charleston Lake area is paramount to the ecological and economic success of the region; the unique plants, animals, and landscapes that characterize this area are loved by the locals and tourists alike.

The Thousand Islands Watershed Land Trust (TIWLT) has been protecting the natural landscapes of the Thousand Islands watershed for 27 years. TIWLT has conserved over 5,000 acres of land to date, from hayfields that support threatened bird species, to the wetlands that clean and control our water, to the forests that provide homes for the many species at risk in the area. TIWLT has done a lot for this area, and is about to do more with the launch of their latest initiative: The Thousand Acre Challenge.

The Thousand Acre Challenge will conserve a thousand key acres of precious and vital natural landscapes, strategically located to have the maximum impact on local ecosystems.



Whitetail deer, Hill Island – Don Ross

Natural spaces are our reservoirs and security against wild swings of flood and drought. They lock away carbon from the atmosphere, are habitats critical to wildlife, and clean our air and water. These natural processes are called ecosystem services. A 2009 study calculated that in Ontario, every acre of forest provides ecosystem services worth \$2,200 every year. For an acre of wetland, that number goes up to \$7,600, and each acre of river provides a whopping \$28,000 in ecosystem services each year.



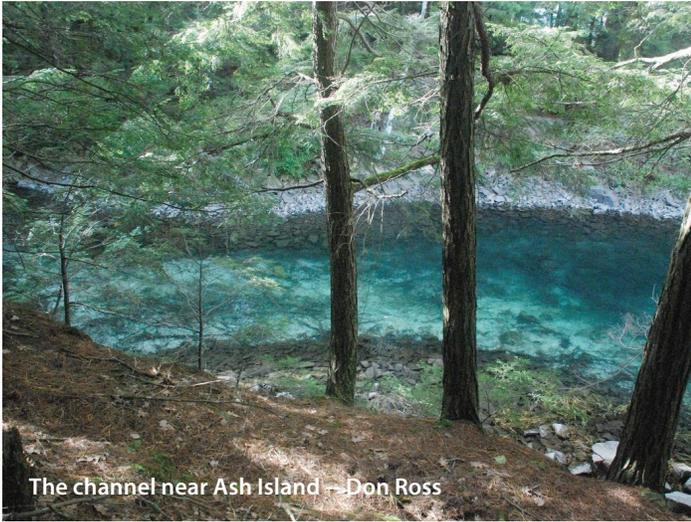
Drone image by Allen Tian

*Part of the Leeder's Creek wetland complex, as seen from above. Each acre of wetland provides ecosystem services worth \$7600 per year. These services include water level control, air and water purification, and carbon sequestration.*

Hard to believe, but only about 5% of land from Kingston to Brockville to the Rideau is conserved in all of the parks, conservation areas, and land trust lands. Science says that a very minimum to protect species and ecosystem services is 30%.

Thankfully, we're fortunate here. Our landscape has great natural potential, thanks to many landowners, through love of their land. In 27 years of conservation work, TIWLT has worked with dozens of local heroes — landowners putting the interests of the community first. But our natural spaces are quickly dwindling, lost to insensitive development, invasive species, and pressures from climate change.

The Thousand Acre Challenge aims to conserve and protect forever eight special properties in the region. Each of these properties holds its own ecological value and is strategically placed to create a network of protected spaces throughout the watershed. A keystone purchase is a 206-acre property where Leeder's Creek begins and trickles through wetlands absorbing, storing, and cleaning trillions of liters of water flowing into Charleston Lake. Several landowners along this creek have already committed to contributing conservation easements on their lands. The cleaned and controlled water coming from Leeder's Creek flows downstream through lakes and rivers to the Thousand Islands. There, the Challenge includes a channel near Ash Island and some 20 island acres sheltering a nursery for endangered fish and turtle species. All are natural spaces with beauty that stirs your soul.



The channel near Ash Island – Don Ross

Land in trust is forever. The Challenge today is conservation for future generations. The Thousand Acre Challenge will forever connect already conserved lands, creating a natural spaces network of habitat for the hundreds of species of plants and animals of the area, many rare and endangered. Conservation matters, from the smallest of the Thousand Islands to properties of hundreds of acres, from the River to the top of the watershed.

To learn more about the Thousand Acre Challenge and how you can get involved, visit TIWLT's website at [tiwlt.ca](http://tiwlt.ca) and watch the new Thousand Acre Challenge video.

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## WATER QUALITY SUMMARY – 2019 SURVEY

Water clarity is recorded at each of the seven sample sites on the lake on six dates between May 1st and the end of October each year. There is an extensive database on Charleston Lake for this parameter extending back into the mid-1970s. Since the year 2000 the seven basins of Charleston have been monitored for water clarity, phosphorus and calcium concentrations and periodically surface to bottom water column oxygen and temperature values. These are reported on annually.

For those who may not be aware, when water clarity recordings are made, the on-site weather and water conditions are also recorded due to the influence that these have on light penetration in the water column. Secchi disc depths

are dependent on the incident light striking the lake surface travelling down to the Secchi disc and then reflecting back up through the water column to the surface. Water clarity values should ideally be recorded only from mid-morning until mid-afternoon when the sun is overhead and always recorded from the shaded side of the boat.

Along with the Secchi depth, the date and time, the estimated percent of cloud cover, whether it is sunny or dull, surface water conditions, including wave height and/or ripples, estimated wind strength and the water colour (is it greenish or brown coloured) are all recorded. Having this field information assists with the interpretation of the clarity data.

For 2019 the water clarity data was recorded beginning May 22nd and ending October 25th. In addition to the site conditions there are annual changes in the lake that influence clarity. During ice-on periods there is no mixing within the lake due to wind action, and light penetration is much reduced. Much of the algae population declines and/or dies and settles to the bottom where it decomposes and releases nutrients to the water column. During the spring mixing period, roughly late April and May, water temperatures increase and the accumulated nutrient supply from the bottom greatly increases. These factors cause a bloom in diatoms and phytoplankton.

As a result, spring water clarity values are typically poorer than later in the summer and fall. On Charleston the average clarity value for the May readings was 5.86 metres. During the summer and early fall, as the plankton communities utilize the available nutrients, there is a continuous loss of plankton and nutrients to the hypolimnion beyond the depth of light penetration, and as a result the water clarity on oligotrophic lakes like Charleston improves. The average clarity value for the October recordings was 8.03 metres. The average whole lake clarity value for all 42 recordings (2019) from spring to fall was 6.415 metres; very little change from previous years and still representative of an oligotrophic lake.

As of the writing of this article, the phosphorus and calcium analytical data for the summer of 2019 is not yet available from the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks.

*Reg Genge - Ontario Lake Assessments*

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**AGM 2020**  
**SATURDAY, JULY 11<sup>th</sup>**  
**Holy Trinity Church, Oak Leaf Road**

# THANKS FOR ASKING – HOW CAN WE MAKE BOAT TRAFFIC SLOW DOWN?

*In this column, we answer questions sent in by our readers. Do you have a question for us? Send an email to [info@charlestonlakeassociation.ca](mailto:info@charlestonlakeassociation.ca) and your question could be answered in the next edition of our newsletter.*

***“My cottage is located on a highly trafficked area of the lake and we often have boats drive right past our dock at fast speeds. I am constantly worried about swimmers off our dock, as well as the damage to our docks, watercraft, and shoreline from the large wake that these boats create so close to shore. Is there anything that I can do to get the boat traffic to slow down?”***

That is a great question, and one that we frequently hear from property owners on Charleston Lake.

Being at the cottage is all about having fun with friends and family, whether that be swimming off the dock, or enjoying a boat ride. However, it is important that we all exercise safe and courteous boating practices when we are out on the water. This means taking responsibility for the wake that our boats create and following safe boating rules.

On most Ontario waterways, it is illegal to travel more than 10 km/h within 30 metres (100 feet) of shore. This speed limit is designed to minimize the risk to people in or on the water near shore, reduce wake damage, and minimize noise disturbance. Boaters that violate the speed limit can face penalties up to \$500.

All boaters are also required to operate their vessels with safety in mind and can be charged with “careless operation” under Canada’s Small Vessel Regulations and fined up to \$10,000 if they are boating in an unsafe or careless manner.

The wake from boats that travel too close to shore can have several undesirable side effects. Along with potentially damaging property, boat wake can also cause erosion and swamp or destroy the nests of loons and other birds that nest along the shores. By following the 10 km/h speed limit and being aware of our wake, we can all do our part to ensure that we are minimizing the damage caused by boat wake.

The boaters in front of your cottage might not realize the effect that their speed and wake is having on you and your guests. If possible, you should go and talk to them and explain your concerns. Another option you may wish to consider is to post signs on your property, reminding boaters to slow down.

We have seen these around the lake and, while not legally enforceable, they may cause some boaters to re-consider their speed.

Ultimately, if you feel that the boating behaviour in front of your cottage is becoming dangerous, you can always contact the OPP.

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Dear Charleston Lake Association,

***“As a property owner on Charleston Lake, I am concerned over the postings at the Sand Bay County Park this past summer of high bacteria levels and that swimming was not recommended. I keep reading about the improved water quality of Charleston Lake but these postings point in the other direction. Please explain.”***

Response from CLA/CLEA

The Health Unit monitors the water conditions at Sand Bay County Park each Monday throughout the summer. Five samples are taken and then averaged. On week 9, bacteria levels hit 338 e.coli bacteria per 100 ml of water. This required posting as results over 200 e.coli bacteria per 100 ml of water requires notification. CLA contacted the Health Unit obviously concerned with this high count.

There are a number of factors at play and can contribute to high counts: rainfall can wash fecal matter into the lake, water and ambient air temperature, water fowl, industrial waste discharges, storm water outflows, faulty septic systems and agricultural run off. None of these factors seem to have been at play here at Charleston Lake. The Health Unit thinks that in our case high winds and resulting wave action brought up sediment from the lake bottom thus bumping up e.coli levels. It should be noted that the week before this high count the e.coli checked out at 10 and the week later 63 e.coli bacteria per 100 ml of water, both very acceptable levels. Over the last 5 years, out of 55 tests, there has only been 2 high readings, 1 in 2017 and 1 in 2019.

The majority of the readings have been below 20 e.coli per 100 ml of water.

Goose numbers, however, are on the rise and are contributing factors in beach closures across the province. Hopefully they will find Sand Bay County Park not to their liking.

# SUMMER STUDENT – JOB OPPORTUNITY

The Charleston Lake and Charleston Lake Environmental Associations will require a summer student to manage our information centre and also perform the duties of camp counsellor during the three weeks of our summer youth camp.

The job will be from Monday, June 29th until Sunday, August 30th. Prior to the completion of the high school year some weekend work will also be required. You will find below the details of the job responsibilities and the requirements of the successful candidate.

## Job Title – Information Centre Manager and Youth Camp Counsellor

**Reports to the** – Secretary Treasurer of the Charleston Lake Association

### Job Responsibilities

1. General office duties
2. Interaction with the public visiting our information centre
3. Sale of environmental products and CLA merchandise, including petty cash management
4. Membership correspondence
5. Assist with the annual golf tournament
6. Youth Camp Counsellor

**Hours of work** – 6 hour day (10 am-4 pm), including ½ hour paid lunch

**Work week** – 5 days per week, off Tuesdays and Wednesdays  
During the three weeks of youth camp this job will be 7 days per week

**Rate of Pay** - \$14.00 per hour, plus 4% vacation pay less statutory deductions

### Job Requirements

1. Must have successfully completed at least grade 9
2. Must possess excellent personal computing skills
3. Must demonstrate good organizational and communication skills
4. Previous experience in an organized youth camp would be an asset

### Application submission

The application deadline will be Sunday, April 26th, 2020. If you are interested in applying for this position please forward your completed resume to:

**Charleston Lake Association**  
PO Box 609, Athens, ON K0E 1B0

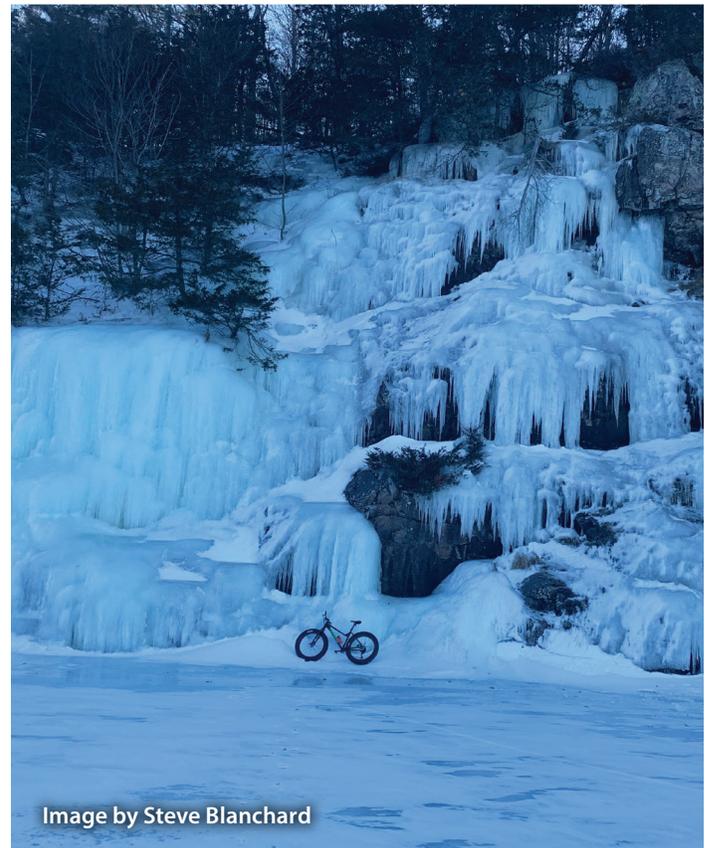


Image by Steve Blanchard

## 2019 DOUG HALE MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Another year and another sell out! A field of enthusiastic golfers enjoyed a fine morning of golf, a social hour and a tasty lasagna lunch. A big "Thank You" to everyone that participated in the event and a special thanks to those who contributed, either as a hole or prize sponsor or donated an item to the Silent Auction. A special item this year were a pair of hockey tickets, directly behind the Montreal bench, donated by the Molson brothers. Altogether, over \$5000 was raised towards the many environmental activities of the CLEA.

We look forward to another great tournament in 2020, so mark your calendars now for another fine morning of golf at Cedar Valley on Saturday Aug 8.

A listing of all other sponsors is attached. Please support our sponsors whenever possible.

Committee Co Chairs

**Pierre Menard & Wayne Ashford**

## DOUG HALE MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT 2019

### SILENT AUCTION, PRIZE SPONSORS

Andrew Newman, KPMG  
Camalor Manufacturing  
Cedar Valley Golf Course  
Charleston Lake Association  
Dwayne Struthers  
Hale Family  
Lansdowne Freshmart  
Mel & Susan Magalas – Redfish Cottages  
Michael McAdoo  
Metroland Media  
Nancy Brewer  
Randy Sexton  
Rocci Pagnello  
Roger Kelsey Insurance  
RBC, Brockville  
The Molson Brothers  
Wayne Gill

## TEE MARKER SPONSORS

Athens Pharmasave  
Blanchard's Garage  
Burt Hudson Real Estate Ltd  
Canarm Limited  
G. Tackaberry and Sons Construction  
Judson Funeral Home, Greg and Kelly Judson  
Henderson Printing  
John Simzer Tree Service  
Lakeline Lodge and Marina  
Kelsey's Marina  
Lyndhurst Home Building Centre  
Mary Jane Manley  
Margaret Hale & the Hale Family  
Miller General Repairs & Service  
Riverstone Surfaces  
Roger Kelsey Insurance Brokers Inc  
Shelley Samson, Remax  
Strader Ferris International Limited  
V-Mech Plumbing Services  
The Village Store  
The Webster Family

## CONTEST SPONSORS

Charleston Lake Auto Service  
Willards Bakery  
The Friends of Charleston Lake Park

## OTHER SPONSORS

Performance Printing, Smith Falls

## URGENT WATER QUALITY TESTING

CLA/CLEA is currently looking for someone to take over Water Quality Testing, starting in 2021.

Reg Genge, our current contractor retires this year after 20 years.

Please contact CLA President, Bill Hallam if you can help us to find a replacement.

# 2020 CAMP REGISTRATION

## Participant Information

Name:	DOB:	Address:
Parent(s)/Guardian(s):	Summer #: Cell #: Email:	Emergency Contact & Phone #:
Doctor and Phone #:	Health Card #:	Medical Conditions (allergies etc)
Authorized individuals to reclaim your child:		Other information:

*\* Charleston Lake Association is committed to our youth and subsidizes all youth programs. If you are currently not a CLA member, please consider, the annual family membership fee is \$40.00. Camp programs are subject to a maximum # of participants, register early!*

*Payment for camp can be made by cheque or paypal. Cheques can be post dated to July 1st accompanied by the form and should be mailed to CLA, PO Box 609, Athens. ON K0E 1B0. Paypal can be accessed through the CLA Website, and the form can be mailed or scanned to [mmansworth@truespeed.ca](mailto:mmansworth@truespeed.ca)*

## 2020 CAMPS

Please check each session your camper would like to register for:

		CLA Member	Non-Member
Week 1 : July 6-10	Nature Camp	\$80	\$120
Week 2 : July 13-17	Adventure Camp	\$80	\$120
Week 3: July 20-24	Sports Camp	\$80	\$120

TOTAL FEES \_\_\_\_\_

### Liability Waiver

*I agree not to hold the Charleston Lake Association, its officers, directors, employees or its agents liable for any accidents, injuries, losses or damage which may occur as a result of named participants involved in planned activities. I also understand that misbehaviour will not be tolerated and will result in being removed from the program at the discretion of the Camp Director.*

Signature of Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# 2020 SUMMER CAMPS

## SAND BAY COUNTY PARK, CHARLESTON LAKE

**ALL CAMPS** are held from 9 am – 3 pm and are for children from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 5.

### NATURE CAMP – JULY 6-10, 2020

Nature Camp incorporates games, crafts and water activities , with an emphasis on the environment and outdoors.

### ADVENTURE CAMP - JULY 13-17, 2020

Adventure Camp concentrates on activities which allow children to explore and enjoy an adventure filled camp.

### SPORTS CAMP - JULY 20-24, 2020

Land and water sports to develop fitness and fun.

Registration form is attached to this newsletter and available on the CLA website.

## CAMP COUNSELLORS

Please submit your application to be a Camp Counsellor or to be a Camp Volunteer by March 31 to [mmansworth@truespeed.ca](mailto:mmansworth@truespeed.ca)



# CHARLESTON LAKE TRIATHLON



On the morning of Sept.1, 19 enthusiastic Charleston Lake athletes jumped into its pristine waters to begin a triathlon that included a 300 m swim to Sand Bay and a 24 km bike ride up to Athens and Upper and Lower Oak Leaf Rds. Finally a 4.2 km run concluded the challenge after about 2 to 3 hours of constant movement. Tess Johnston-lafelice hatched the idea and assembled dedicated volunteers and spirited supporters to give Labour Day a totally new meaning. A post activity buffet of tasty treats fuelled a quick recovery for all those involved. Sunny and cool weather made this event a perfect launch for next year's challenge.

**Jim lafelice**



## Charleston Lake Association Directors

**Bill Hallam - President**

**613-659-2997 billhallam@hotmail.com**

**Wayne Gill – Secretary/Treasurer**

**Dwayne Struthers – Fish and Wildlife**

**Robbie Gibson – Safety and Law Enforcement**

**Pierre Menard – VP North/ Golf Tournament**

**Wayne Ashford – VP South/ Golf Tournament**

**Rocci Pagnello – Fish and Wildlife/Ontario Youth Summit**

**Jay Kyle – Natural Edge Program**

# NATURAL EDGE PROGRAM 2020

As many of our CLA members are aware we have been recognizing some outstanding developed and undeveloped lakefront properties over the last 7-8 years.

For 2020 we are changing our focus slightly and partnering with The Cataraqui Regional Conservation Authority to sponsor the Natural Edge Program. The goal of this program is to protect our lake by establishing “natural shorelines”.

A team of environmental experts will do a site inspection of a lakefront property, make some recommendations for specific plants based on your land characteristics and height preferences, create a site plan and then place an order for the healthy plants and materials. The CLA will also be looking at subsidizing the costs of the plantings and materials.

If you have a property on the lake that you would like us to consider for this new project please contact CLA Director Jay Kyle and we will do a site inspection to consider your request.

I can be reached at [jay.kyle0213@gmail.com](mailto:jay.kyle0213@gmail.com)



## Charleston Lake Environmental Association Directors

**Roy Angelow – Municipal Contact**

**Rob Ross – Counties Liaison**

**Mary Mansworth – Newsletter/Youth Programs**

**Sue Wilson – Website**

**John Webster – Website**

**Michael McAdoo – Director at Large**