



est. 1890

NEWSLETTER

WINTER
2016

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

www.charlestonlakeassociation.ca

President's Message

Winter greeting from beautiful Charleston Lake.

Your directors have been kept busy with many projects and events. Here are some updates.

Ottawa Hydro has purchased Fortis Generations interests in the Gananoque Watershed. This means that the Outlet Dam, Marble Rock Dam, Gananoque Dam and the 600kw Generator in Gananoque are now under the control of Ottawa Hydro. The good news is that Murray Hall, Fortis's former manager has moved over to Ottawa Hydro and has said that nothing will change for Charleston Lake.

The MNR dock in Charleston Village has seen some \$4000.00 in repairs in November. Some work still needs to be done but users will find it quite improved. Persistence by a CLA director has paid off and MNR finally took a look at the dock in July and agreed to pay for the cost of repairs. MNR took control of this facility (originally built around 1917) many years ago and is responsible for its safety and repair.

A Charleston Lake icon, Indian Head, has been recognized by the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) as an area of special interest. After much negotiation and fund raising, primarily by the Thousand Islands Watershed Land Trust (TIWLT), about 120 acres including most of the shoreline will be spared from development. CLA contributed \$10,000.00 towards the purchase. TIWLT is still hoping to raise funds to add 8 additional acres to the Indian Head purchase.

CLA/CLEA sponsored two area youth, Emily Taylor and Clare Baker, at the Ontario Nature Youth Summit in Orillia, Ontario. This weekend program concentrates on important environmental issues. We plan on continuing this sponsorship in 2016.

CLA/CLEA also provided a \$350.00 bursary each to two graduating area students, one from Athens High School and one from Gananoque Secondary School. These students must be continuing their education in some form.

A membership committee has been started to investigate some remedies to our decline in membership over the last five years. Approximately 100 members have not renewed their 2015 membership.

Water quality was identified as the number one priority for residents and users of Charleston Lake during the development of our CLA Management Plan. CLA/CLEA commits over \$5000 a year to Ontario Lake Assessments to do a comprehensive water quality study on Charleston Lake. See 2015 results in this newsletter. A key ingredient to water quality is healthy shorelines. In an effort to show case the importance of shorelines CLA/CLEA introduced the "Shoreline Challenge" program. Please take a look at the article in this newsletter and consider registering your shoreline for 2016.

Once again CLA/CLEA will be sponsoring the very successful Youth Programs, Golf Tournament and Regatta. See details in this newsletter.

Please plan to attend our Annual General Meeting Saturday July 9, 2016.

CLA/CLEA always welcomes your input.

We wish you a great winter and hope to see you in the spring.

Bill Hallam

~ BILL BORGER ~

Bill Borger, long time supporter and director of the Charleston Lake Association passed away in December. Bill's tireless pursuit of keeping Charleston Lake Beautiful helped us to produce the Charleston Lake Management Plan. We have all benefitted from Bill's environmental and municipal endeavours. He will be sadly missed by all. Our condolences go out to Rita and family.

Thank You for Asking

I have noticed goose numbers increasing on Charleston Lake and to add insult to injury cormorants are more numerous as well. What if anything can we do? I know cormorant's excrement can kill off plants and trees on property they inhabit.

A Charleston Lake Resident

ANSWER

In Ontario numbers of Canada Geese are increasing exponentially due to suitable habitat. Geese favour short tender lawn grasses with a view of open water. To discourage geese allow the growth of naturally occurring vegetation along the shoreline. To be effective, vegetation needs to be 60cm (24 inches) high and dense enough to keep geese from seeing through.

In many areas cormorants are becoming a problem due to the destruction of vegetation in their nesting and roosting areas. Culls are taking place on some Ontario Lakes and in the United States. CLA/CLEA is consulting with the Ministry of Natural Resources on this issue as to what we can do on Charleston Lake. If cormorants are causing damage on privately owned property, action can be taken by the owners.

Living with Cormorants

Cormorants are fish-eating birds that prey on abundant or easy-to-catch species.

Ontario's double-crested cormorant population has increased dramatically over the past 30 years. This rapid population growth has resulted in cormorants now being found throughout the Great Lakes and up to James Bay.

On the Great Lakes, cormorants typically nest on islands or peninsulas to avoid predators. Both male and female birds share in building the nest, incubating eggs, and feeding the chicks. Cormorants lay an average of three or four eggs each year.

In all seasons, cormorants need suitable places for night roosting and daytime resting. These sites are often exposed places such as rocks, sandbars or trees near preferred fishing sites.

Where cormorant colonies can be reached by land, young cormorants may be preyed upon by raccoons, coyotes, and foxes.

Conflicts happen

Cormorants prefer island and peninsula properties and may come into conflict with landowners when nesting or roosting.

Please keep in mind...

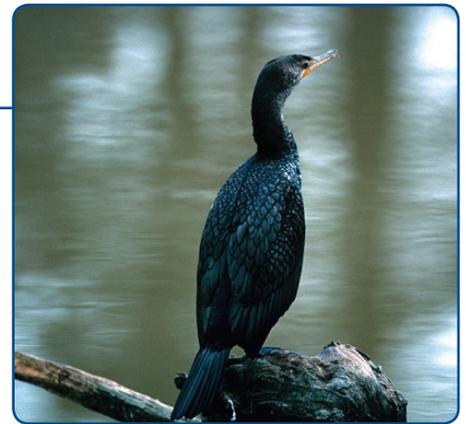
Wild animals have the same basic needs as humans – food, water and shelter. Sometimes, humans and wild creatures come into conflict when animals are trying to meet their basic needs. Often, conflicts can be prevented if we're willing to make small changes to how we think and act.

People and wild animals live side by side in Ontario. We all share responsibility for preventing and handling human-wildlife conflicts. If you must take action against wildlife, please consider all your options and follow all relevant laws and regulations.

For more information and assistance...

To locate a local wildlife control agent...

- Speak with your neighbours, family, and friends. Look for "animal control" in your phone book or online.



For information on cormorants...

- Call your local Ministry of Natural Resources office or the Natural Resources Information Centre at 1-800-667-1940.
- Check out Project WILDSPACE - <http://wildspace.ec.gc.ca/intro-e.html>.
- Canadian Wildlife Service - http://www.on.ec.gc.ca/wildlife/factsheets/fs_cormorants-e.html
- Ministry of Natural Resources - http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/STEL02_196676.pdf

Did you know?

Research suggests that cormorants eat mostly fish species that have otherwise low cultural or economic significance.

Charleston Lake Cisco (Lake Herring) Biological Study

As a follow up to the 2014 Charleston Lake fisheries assessment which was part of the provincial Broad-scale Monitoring (BsM) program, MNRF's Kemptville District conducted a study of the lake's main Lake Trout forage base. The objective of this study was twofold, to further assess the status of the lake's Cisco population by biologically sampling specimens that were captured during the BsM assessment, in an effort to potentially determine predator-prey interactions with the Lake Trout population; and to establish a Cisco population baseline dataset to potentially compare with the previous BsM netting assessment, and/or future ones, as a potential tool to assist in monitoring the health of the lake's Lake Trout population, and the fish community in general.

A total of 144 Cisco were captured

during the assessment and a sub-sample of 91 fish was biologically sampled.

In terms of study results and conclusions, it was quite apparent from the composition of the Cisco captured during the assessment, that there is a good level of population recruitment occurring, with many age classes present (n=8 males, n=10 females), even though for the most part, the younger (< age 5), smaller size (< 180 mm) fish were not captured by the netting gear. In combination with the calculated annual mortality rates, these two observations would suggest that an abundant population of Cisco is present in the lake.

The mean size and age of Cisco was similar to zone averages, but the current catch rate of 3.3 fish per net would categorize the lake's Cisco Population to

be of relatively high abundance level, in comparison to the zone's (i.e. Fisheries Management Zone 18) mean catch rate of 1.4 fish per net.

Ciscos were never captured in any nets set shallower than approximately 12 m deep. Lake Trout were captured in 75% of the net sets when Cisco was also captured, within the latter species' summer depth strata ranges of 12 to 75 m. And where present within a given lake basin, both species were always captured within one and more nets set in the said basin, which strongly suggests that Cisco is definitely a main forage base for the species.

Joff Cote

**Management Biologist – Ontario
Ministry of Natural Resources**

Membership Committee



**CHARLESTON LAKE ASSOCIATIONS
CLA/CLEA**

"Dedicated to Keeping Charleston Lake Beautiful in Every Way"

- Management Plan Alive & Active
- Protecting Water Quality Through Testing
- Maintaining Healthy Fisheries
- Restoring And Protecting Our Shorelines
- Shoal Marker Placement
- Youth And Family Lake Programs

www.charlestonlakeassociation.ca

*Supported Through Membership
Membership Driven
Join Our Membership*

A new membership committee consisting of Irene Ireland, Yvonne Landon, Wayne Gill and Pierre Menard has been formed for the CLA. We are working towards achieving more awareness of our Association, its successful mandate and its Mission, dedicated to "Keeping Charleston Lake Beautiful in Every Way".

We will achieve this goal through new and informative signage at various high traffic areas around the lake and through increasing flyer and newsletter distribution in key areas. We all need to share

this information with our new and established neighbours at the lake. We will develop a welcome package for new members, which will highlight membership benefits. There will be new displays at the CLA building, including upcoming events and photos of the lake.

By working together, we can continue to have a strong, award winning association and be fortunate to enjoy our beautiful Charleston Lake.

Irene Ireland - Membership

2015 Doug Hale Memorial Golf Tournament

On Saturday August 8th, the Cedar Valley Golf Course was again host to our annual tournament. 46 Golfers enjoyed a beautiful morning on the course with an additional 17 family members joining for a great buffet lunch. Thanks to your support over \$3500 was raised to support the many environmental activities of the CLEA.

This tournament would not be possible without the participation of our dedicated

sponsors who continue to support us year after year. A listing of all our sponsors is enclosed; please provide your support to our local businesses whenever possible.

We look forward to another great tournament in 2016, again to be held at Cedar Valley on Saturday, August 13.

Committee Co Chairs
Pierre Menard, Wayne Ashford



TEE MARKER SPONSORS

Burt Hudson Realty
Canarm Limited
Doug Greenham Electric
G. Tackaberry and Sons Construction
Greg and Kelly Judson
Jim Nichols
Kelsey's Marina
Lakeline Lodge and Marina
Lee Easter Construction
Lyndhurst Home Building Centre
Mansworth Family
Mary Jane Manley
Margaret Hale & the Hale Family
Purcell's Freshmart

Roger Kelsey Insurance Brokers Inc
Strader Ferris International Limited
V Mech Plumbing Services
Wayne Kelsey Construction
Kroeger Inc.
The Webster Family
John Simzer Tree Service
Rolling Bank Lane

CONTEST SPONSORS

Athens Pharmasave
Charleston Lake Service Centre
Willards Bakery
The Friends of Charleston Lake Park

OTHER SPONSORS

EMC, Performance Printing, Smith Falls

SILENT AUCTION, PRIZE SPONSORS

Camalor Manufacturing
Cedar Valley Golf Course
EMC
Lansdowne Fresh Mart
Marks Work Warehouse
Roger Kelsey Insurance Brokers Inc
Royal Bank (Brockville)
Sports Experts, Brockville
Wayne Gill
Rocci Pagnello
Dwayne Struthers

Get Ready for the Challenge:

CLA/CLEA are once again sponsoring the Healthy Shoreline Challenge to all Charleston Lake residents.

The purpose is to recognize the many beautiful natural shorelines on Charleston Lake. Is yours one of

them? If so, you will want to register your property and have a chance to win one of two beautiful pieces of artwork.

Shorelines are the ribbon of life for any lake and are key in keeping Charleston Lake beautiful. Our Healthy

Shoreline Handbook sent out to all CLA members provides recommendation for

shoreline improvements and

helps guide the landowner to make changes where necessary.

It is easy to enter. Just fill in the attached form and mail in; drop off at the CLA office or enter online. Although

you do not need to be a member of the Charleston Lake Association, it would be appreciated if you were.



(Above) CLEA Director Brian Hollingsworth (centre) presents artwork to Category 'B' Winners of The Healthy Shoreline Challenge 2015 - Bill and Francois Crosby. The framed limited edition print is of the original painting named "Tomahawk Rock Charleston Lake" by local artist Sheila Ballantyne

Healthy Shoreline Challenge

How Healthy is Your Shoreline?



SHOAL MARKERS

This year, many thanks to our shoal marker team, including Gary Bellisle for the use of his pontoon boat and his great navigation skills. Also, thanks to the team of Cody Johnston, Tyler Reuvers, Jason Coon and Rob Gibson. 10 new solar shoal markers and 3 "Slow - No Wake" buoys will be arriving in the Spring of 2016. The new solar lights installed at various shoals met with positive feedback all summer.

Robbie Gibson

There are two categories: **Category A** for those shorelines where little or no development has occurred and **Category B** for shorelines that have had some lake friendly alteration or rehabilitation.

Are you up for the challenge? Please register your property below and mail to : Charleston Lake Association, PO Box 609, Athens Ontario K0E 1B0 ; or register online www.charlestonlakeassociation.ca ; or drop off at the CLA office.

One prize winner from each category to be awarded at the CLA Annual General Meeting July 9th, 2016.

I wish to enter **Category A** _____

Category B _____

Property Location:

Landowner Name:

Address:

Phone number: _____

Email address:

- Deadline to register June 24th 2016
- Nominate a friend or neighbour's property (with permission)
- All properties submitted in the past two years of the challenge will be included in the 2016 Healthy Shoreline Challenge.

Water Quality Summary from 2015 Survey

The Charleston Lake Association has worked with CLEA to monitor and protect the water quality of Charleston Lake over the past sixteen years. During the summer of 2015, forty-two samples were collected over the period May 29th to October 10th inclusive; six samples from each of seven basins in the lake. This work is a continuation of the yearly monitoring effort for water clarity and phosphorus concentrations. In addition this year marked the 6th year beginning with and inclusive of the year 2000 when surface to bottom oxygen and temperature recordings were completed at each of the sample basin locations. The sample locations are at the deepest sounded point for each basin; the sample sites are located in Big Water, Deep Water (Runnings Bay), Donaldson Bay, Webster Bay, north of Goose Island, Eastern Waters and Southern Waters.

A detailed report inclusive of all the recorded values will be completed for the Association before spring. A brief synopsis is presented here. Whole-lake mean water clarity continues to be very good at 5.73m but continues to show a decline from the high values in the range of 8 metres achieved in the years 2010 through 2013 inclusive; clarity values for 2015 are lower

than those recorded in 2014. For the year 2015 the clearest water column was found in Webster Bay at 6.264 m while the least clear water was found in Southern Waters with a mean value of 5.275m. The decrease in water clarity in 2014 and 2015 may be a result of a decline in zebra mussel densities; this invasive species is known to reach climax population levels and then decline to a lower density once a new equilibrium is established. Zebra mussels filter planktonic algae and zooplankton out of the water column and make the water clearer. Zebra mussels first appeared in 2004 and density levels climaxed in the period 2009 to 2013. From discussions with lake residents and nearshore observations the past summer, it is evident that the zebra mussel population has declined.

Phosphorus concentrations in the lake continue to be low with a whole lake mean value of 9.43 ug/L (2015). Donaldson Bay once again had the lowest mean value of 9.07 ug/L and Southern Waters had the highest mean value of 9.70 ug/L. The good news is that the whole lake mean value of 9.43 ug/L for Charleston Lake continues to fall in the oligotrophic category; lakes in this category are typically clear, dilute and have low phytoplankton densities and rarely experience nuisance algal blooms.

Oxygen and temperature recordings were completed at each site on August 28th, September 10th and again on October 10th, 2015. These profiles are completed late in the summer and before the fall overturn because the poorest oxygen concentrations and poorest habitat conditions for lake trout exist at this time of year. The data and graphs for the 21 profiles will be included in the spring report to the CLA. Southern Water continues to manifest the poor oxygen conditions expected for a basin of this size and depth; the 2015 results confirm findings from previous years with no indication of any change.

When the findings from 2015 are compared with those collected in the years 2012, 2009 and 2007 there is little change if any. For the September profiles recorded in each of the above years Big Water has 12 metres of water column with optimal habitat for lake trout remaining. Likewise, for each of the other sites there is ample habitat remaining late in the season and there are no indications in the data that poor oxygen concentrations or increased hypolimnion temperatures pose a stress to the lake trout population.

Reg Genge
Ontario Lake Assessments

AGM Saturday, July 9, 9:30 am at the Holy Trinity Church

Charleston Lake Association Directors

Bill Hallam - President

Cottage 613-659-2997 billhallam@hotmail.com

Wayne Gill - Secretary/Treasurer

Hartley Nichol - Environment

Robbie Gibson - Boating safety/Shoal Markers

Julia Woito - Youth Programs

Wayne Ashford - V.P South / Golf tournament

Dwayne Struthers - Fish and Wildlife Coordinator

Pierre Menard - V.P. North/ Golf Tournament

Charleston Lake Environmental

Association Directors

Irene Ireland

Daragh Mansworth

Rocci Pagnello

Roy Angelow

Brian Hollingsworth

Mary Mansworth

CLA Summer 2016 Registration Form

Participant Information

Name:	DOB:	Address:
Parent(s)/Guardian(s):	Summer #: Cell #: Email:	Emerg. Contact & Phone#:
Doctor & Phone#:	Health Card#:	Medical Conditions (Allergies etc):
Previous Swimming Level:	Authorized individuals to reclaim your child:	Other Information:

***Charleston Lake Association is committed to our youth and subsidizes all youth programs**
~ Camp and swim programs subject to a maximum # of participants, register early! ~*

2016 CLA SUMMER OPTIONS:

a) Camp ONLY b) Camp + Swimming

Please check each session your camper would like to register for:		Members	Non-Members	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Week 1: July 5 - 7 Leadership Camp	\$50	\$60	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Week 2: July 11 - 15 Nature Camp	\$50	\$60	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Week 2: July 11 - 15 Swimming Lessons	\$25	\$30	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Week 3: July 18 - 22 Sports Camp	\$50	\$60	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Week 3: July 18 - 22 Swimming Lessons	\$25	\$30	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Week 4: July 25 - 29 Adventure Camp	\$50	\$60	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Week 4: July 25 - 29 Swimming Lessons	\$25	\$30	_____

TOTAL FEES: _____

Liability Waiver

I agree not to hold Charleston Lake Association or any of its agents responsible for any accidents, injuries, losses or damages which may occur as a result of named participant involved in planned activities. I also understand that misbehavior will not be tolerated and will result in being removed from the program at the discretion of the individual in charge.

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

2016 CLA SUMMER PROGRAM

SAND BAY COUNTY PARK

• Leadership Camp - July 5 – 7 (9am-3pm)

For youth completed grade 5, 6, and 7. If you want to build your leadership skills, environmental awareness, train to become a volunteer or future counsellor, and have some epic fun – this camp is for you!

• Nature Camp - July 11 – 15 (9am – 3pm)

For children completed JK to those completed grade 5. Games, crafts, swimming, and excitement, all while exploring the amazing things at Charleston Lake.

• Sports Camp - July 18 – 22 (9am – 3pm)

For children completed JK to those completed grade 5. Land sports, water sports, fitness, and games, all while having fun with friends at the lake!

• Adventure Camp - July 25 – 29 (9am – 3pm)

For children completed JK to those completed grade 5. Come discover, explore, and create at this adventure-packed camp!

ANNUAL FAMILY REGATTA AND BBQ - SUNDAY, JULY 31ST 1-4pm

For the whole family! A great time to connect with your Charleston Lake community. Come celebrate the Civic holiday while enjoying local Jazz music, games, activities, and races for every age group, and BBQ. FREE ADMISSION!

2016 CLA SUMMER STAFF OPPORTUNITY

SAND BAY COUNTY PARK

Camp and Regatta Director

July 5 – July 31

A motivated, organized, and energetic individual is needed to direct, program, and supervise the 2016 camp programs and regatta event. Qualified individual should be at least 21 years of age, have substantial leadership and camp counselling experience, and be willing to attend meetings and program during the spring months. First Aid and CPR required. Email julia.woito@gmail.com for further information. Closing date: April 15, 2016.

Camp Lifeguard

July 4 – July 29

Must have lifeguarding qualifications. Supervise camp swimming and water activities. Help with first aid as needed. Act as camp counsellor when not on lifeguarding duty. Please send resume and cover letter to julia.woito@gmail.com by April 15, 2016.

Counsellor

July 4 – July 29

Must have completed grade 8. Self-motivated youth with developed leadership skills are needed to supervise children and lead activities. Preference will be given to those with camp volunteer and/or camp counselling experience. Please send resume and cover letter to julia.woito@gmail.com by April 15, 2016.

Camp Volunteer

July 11 – July 29

Must have completed grade 6. Enthusiastic youth with developing leadership skills are needed to assist with camp activities. Preference will be given to those who participate in the CLA Leadership Camp or other leadership opportunities. The volunteer schedule is flexible. Please send resume to julia.woito@gmail.com by June 3, 2016.

Registration Information:

www.charlestonlakeassociation.com

or send applications to:

Charleston Lake Association.

Box 609, Athens, Ont. K0E 1B0