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NEWSLETTER

SUMMER
2019

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

www.charlestonlakeassociation.ca

President's Message

Greetings from the Charleston Lake Association and the Charleston Lake Environmental Association

Welcome back to beautiful Charleston Lake. If you are a user of this great body of water, you know what a great place it is to swim, boat and fish. The treed shoreline, rocky vistas and many islands makes it a little piece of heaven. It is our responsibility to try and keep it like this for own enjoyment and that of future generations. Your team of CLA and CLEA directors is dedicated to working with individuals, businesses and local governments to promote and protect Charleston Lake.

Some things are like clockwork, like the installation of our shoal markers, already in place for the 2019 boating season. Your CLA dues of \$40.00 help to cover the cost of this important program and keep our lake safe. Thanks to Robbie Gibson, Cody Johnston, Sheldon Fournier and George Bellisle.

I am pleased to inform you that the current Provincial Government, according to correspondence from our local MPP, will not be going ahead with Schedule 10 of Bill 66 which would have seen the setting aside of Environmental Protection for our lands, lakes and rivers.

Water quality testing, always a top priority, will take place once again for 2019. Six samples from each of the seven basins in the lake will be taken each month starting in the spring. Ontario Lake Assessments will continue to do it until 2020. Reg Genge has done a great job in tracking water quality and answering a lot of our questions over the last 20 years. We will have to find another company to monitor water quality after 2020.

Garbage being left at boat launch sites is becoming a problem. Please remember if you are out on the lake to bring your garbage home with you. It is unsightly and a health hazard if it is discarded on shore.

Please consider registering your property for our Shoreline Challenge Program. There are great prizes and also it is good for the lake. See info. in the Winter newsletter and on the website regarding registration.

Good news from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) regarding the announcement that Charleston Lake will receive another Broad Scale Assessment in September of 2019. This program provides data on the numbers and types of species of fish in Charleston Lake. Not all lakes receive this beneficial program so thanks to MNRF and also our CLA's

Fish and Wildlife Directors who have pushed for this program to continue.

Bird Studies Canada has concerns about loon populations in Ontario. No immediate issues with population crashes but loon numbers have diminished over the last 30 years. Habitat destruction, water levels and excessive boat activity are cited by Bird Studies Canada as big concerns for loon numbers.

Upcoming for 2019:

AGM July 27th, 9:30 am, Holy Trinity Anglican Church

Golf Tournament August 10, Cedar Valley Golf Course.

Student Bursary Program - We provide annually a bursary to each of the area High Schools for students pursuing post secondary Environmental Studies.

Ontario Youth Summit - CLA/CLEA pays for 2 students to attend the Ontario Nature Youth Summit in Orillia, Ontario each fall.

Fireworks Saturday, June 29th with the rain date June 30th

If you are interested in joining our team of directors, please contact us.

Have a great summer.

Bill Hallam

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOURS - AN INTRODUCTION TO THE TURTLES OF THE CHARLESTON LAKE AREA

The lands and waters of Charleston Lake and the surrounding area are blessed with healthy ecosystems, wonderful views and an amazingly diverse representation of waterbodies, wetlands, geology and wildlife. Amongst the many species of animals supported by this landscape are a number of turtles. They inhabit Charleston Lake and surrounding wetlands and other lakes and even venture onto the adjacent land sometimes. They have been living in this landscape for millenia and are, by definition, your neighbours. It is time to be properly introduced.

There are five species of turtle in your neighbourhood. Some are very tied to the water, while others are a bit more mobile within the landscape. Some are inhabitants of larger waterbodies. Others are less fussy and will take up residence anywhere there is a healthy, water-based ecosystem such as a pond, wetland or even abandoned gravel pit or quarry. All but one of the five are considered by the Province to be a species at risk. The fifth is considered to be at risk by a national body. They all could use our understanding, compassion and help. Let's start with the introductions.

Possibly the one most often seen by residents on the lake is the Northern Map turtle, so called because the markings on the carapace (upper shell or 'back') resemble the contour lines on a topographic map. This is a turtle of larger lakes and rivers. They are often seen in the spring and summer basking in groups around the shore and islands of the lake on rocks, logs and deadheads. They are sensitive to water quality and the fact that they are in healthy numbers on Charleston Lake and associated aquatic ecosystems is a testament to the quality of these waters. The Map Turtle is probably the best swimmer of the five turtles in our area. It has large, webbed hind feet which propel it strongly through the water. As adults, females are much larger than males at nearly twice the size. Their diet consists of molluscs (clams, snails), crayfish and sometimes fish and invertebrates. The Northern Map Turtle is designated as a Special Concern Species.

Another species readily observed is the Midland Painted Turtle – often called a 'painter'. A medium sized turtle, it is recognizable by the bright red markings along the margin of its shell and on its legs and lower neck. It will inhabit the shallower, quiet

margins of larger lakes such as Charleston as well as smaller wetlands, streams, beaver ponds and even ditches. It is a bit of an omnivore – eating both plant and animal matter such as algae, insects, aquatic plants, fish and tadpoles. They prefer water with abundant, submerged vegetation. They too can be seen basking singly or in large numbers especially in the spring while waters are still cool. They can be seen basking with other species of turtles as good basking structures can be at a premium in some water bodies and wetlands. They tend to be less shy than our other turtles and are therefore spotted regularly while out boating, canoeing or hiking. While not considered to be a species at risk by the Province, the federal committee, COSEWIC, has determined this species to be of Special Concern.



Photo © James Paterson

Seen more often along a roadside than in the water is our largest turtle, the Snapping Turtle. Full grown it can reach 30-45 cm. and can weigh 16 kg. This is the one people often refer to as having a 'mossy' back. Because most of their time is spent in water the carapace supports a growth of algae giving it a greenish, 'mossy' look. A very aquatic turtle it is rarely seen basking except for early spring. The sight of one of these large turtles splayed out along a log or stump in what appears to be a purely blissful experience is an eyeful one does not forget readily. The Snapping Turtle has a very long tail with a number of triangular shaped scales that look like spikes on a dinosaur. They can be found in virtually all aquatic and wetland environments and prefer quiet, shallow

waters with soft bottoms. You are most likely to see or encounter one when females are out along roadsides either trying to cross the road to reach suitable nesting habitat or attempting to lay her eggs in the gravelly substrate of the road shoulder. They are at high risk of being struck by a vehicle at these times and road mortality is one of the main threats to this and some of our other turtles. When out of the water the Snapping Turtle can be quite defensive. This is often interpreted as being aggressive but is simply a means of defense since the species has a very small plastron (lower shell) which does little to protect her from predation. When in the water the usual means of defense is to swim away to deeper water or get down into the muddy bottom. The Snapping Turtle eats both plant and animal matter and will even eat fresh carrion. This turtle is considered to be a species of Special Concern in Ontario.

Looking like a miniature Snapping Turtle is one of our smallest turtles, the Eastern Musk Turtle or 'Stinkpot'. Both names refer to the strong odour it sometimes releases under stress. Although anyone who has handled a Snapping Turtle would consider a similar moniker to be applicable to it. The "Stinkpot" is full grown at about 9-12 cm or about 4". This species also has a very small plastron, narrow carapace, two yellow lines along the side of its head and little fleshy protuberances or tubercles on the underside of its chin. It is a poor swimmer, getting about by walking along the bottom and foraging often at night for insects and molluscs. During the day it can be found basking in shallow, heavily vegetated waters just below the surface often resting on top of submerged vegetation and under cover of a lily pad. The Musk Turtle lays a small number (2-5) of eggs in a variety of substrates including decaying vegetation, muskrat lodges or "push-ups", or bare soil or even in shallow crevices on granite bedrock. They are never far from water since the species is extremely prone to desiccation and can't venture for any length of time away from its aquatic environment. Look for it in the weedy, shallow bays of Charleston Lake. A good way to meet one is to go snorkeling with a mask on a warm day in such an area – perhaps around your dock. Peering into the weeds while kayaking quietly, with a good pair of polarized sunglasses, might prove successful. The Eastern Musk Turtle was at one time considered a Threatened Species but was recently reassessed as a species of Special Concern.

With some exceptions, all of the above turtles spend the majority of their time in one water body and other than for the purposes of laying eggs rarely or infrequently venture onto land. The last of the five species found in and around Charleston Lake, the Blanding's Turtle, is a bit different in that

regard. Blanding's Turtles are found in a number of wetland types. They can be found in marshes, fens and swamps. The preference is for shallow, heavily vegetated wetlands with soft, organic bottoms. They have been reported for some of the shallow bays of Charleston Lake and some of the surrounding wetlands. An interesting fact regarding this species is that it is capable of and often makes overland trips from one wetland to another in a given year or from year to year. Some individuals utilize several wetlands within a year on a regular basis travelling across the terrain to get from one to another or using connecting watercourses as travel corridors. They have been known to travel in excess of 5 km. This is a large turtle reaching carapace lengths of up to 25 cm or more. It has a highly domed carapace which has been likened to a baseball cap in outline or an old World War II German helmet. They have a bright yellow throat and chin and the mouth shape gives it a 'permanent grin' look. An extremely wary and shy species, the best way to get a peek at one is to haunt wetlands in April when the weather first starts to warm up and search stealthily with a pair of binoculars. Blanding's Turtles are omnivorous eating frogs, crayfish, insects as well as plant material. The Blanding's Turtle is considered a Threatened Species in Ontario.

Well, now that the introductions are over there are a number of neighbourly actions we can implement to help these species we share the lake with. There are a number of factors that have put these and other turtles in Ontario at risk. Some of these factors we can help with.



1. Road mortality. Possibly one of the most serious threats to many of Ontario's turtles. What can you do? Be vigilant when driving particularly during the nesting season from late May to mid to late June. Watch for the turtles on the edge of, or crossing, the road. Slow down a bit along

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY OF CANADA

The Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) plays a key role in the protection of habitat for species-at-risk across the country. NCC contributes to these species' well-being through on-the-ground actions, such as monitoring species and improving their habitat, researching and planning what habitat needs to be conserved and by participating in the development of species-at-risk recovery strategies.

Below are some of the species-at-risk listed in Eastern Ontario:

- Cerulean Warbler (*Setophaga cerulea*)
- Eastern Whip-poor-will (*Antrostomus vociferus*)
- Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)
- Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)
- Eastern Pondmussel (*Ligumia nasuta*)
- Monarch (*Danaus plexippus*)
- Eastern Prairie White-fringed Orchid (*Platanthera leucophaea*)
- Blanding's Turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*)
- Gray Ratsnake (*Pantherophis spiloides*)
- Eastern Ribbonsnake (*Thamnophis sauritis*)

road stretches near wetlands, rivers and lakes. If you see a turtle attempting to cross a road you can assist it off the road to safety. Large snapping turtles can be challenging if not intimidating for most people but can be ushered gently (with considerable effort) in a safe direction with the help of a large stick. Smaller species can be handled with relative ease and safety by picking up by the rear margin of the carapace. Always consider the safety of yourself and other drivers before making this decision.

2. Water quality. The health of many of our turtles as well as other species in the ecosystem including us, are dependent upon clean and healthy water in their environment. Keep doing what you are doing in the Charleston Lake watershed. Engage in good practices and actions that keep our waters clean. Maintain natural shorelines. Avoid using chemicals and fertilizers that will affect water quality. Think about these sorts of things beyond just the scope of the lake but include this philosophy when conducting activities around wetlands and even surrounding lands. Everything winds up downstream eventually.

3. Habitat Loss. Draining of wetlands and removal of aquatic plants results in a direct loss of habitat not only for turtles but many species including fish and birds. It can also have major impacts on water quality of adjacent or downstream systems.

4. Maintain a natural shoreline. This provides habitat for foraging, basking, nesting and shelter for turtles and other fauna.

5. Keep an eye out for nesting turtles. If you have a turtle nest on your property, take note of where she nested and if possible avoid disturbing the site or permitting activities that would destroy the eggs through compaction or other means. There are nest protectors that can be easily constructed and put into place to protect the eggs from predation by raccoons or other predators.

There is a wealth of information regarding our turtles if you want to learn more about them, what things affect them and how you can help or be a good neighbour. A couple of good sources of information are:

Ontario Nature at ontarionature.org, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry at ontario.ca, or Leeds Grenville Stewardship Council at lgstewardship.ca

Shaun Thompson
Leeds Grenville Stewardship Council

2019 HEALTHY SHORELINE CHALLENGE

Our Healthy Shoreline Challenge is taking place again this year –still time to get your entries in by June 30.

There are two categories:

Category A

for shorelines where there is little or no development

Category B

for shorelines where there is some ecofriendly alteration or rehabilitation

You can register online at www.charlestonlakeassociation.ca or email jay.kyle@gmail.com

LIFE AT THE OASIS

We're very lucky, here in our oasis. Charleston Lake on the Frontenac Arch is within a five hour drive of 53% of the population of Canada, and an easy day's drive for 85 million people. And they often joke about best kept secrets – maybe not a bad thing, after all.

Our little oasis is more than a jewel-like beauty – it's a part of an international natural treasure-house. The UNESCO Frontenac Arch Biosphere was designated to celebrate the natural and cultural significance of this special place in Canada, to the world. This is where two of the continent's major landforms – the Frontenac Arch and St. Lawrence Valley – intersect. The Frontenac Arch is a north-south migration landbridge from the boreal forest of the Canadian Shield to the forest regions of Appalachia. The St. Lawrence valley is a corridor from the Great Lakes heartland of the continent to the forest region of the Atlantic coast. This is, on a grand scale, a great crossroads of the continent. The natural inhabitants of those far-flung regions meet and merge here – unlike any other place in North America.

The smallest forest region in Canada is called the Mixedwoods Forest Plain, reaching from the tip of southwestern Ontario to just east of Montreal, along the Lake Erie, Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence shorelines, inland less than 100 KM. It's just 2% of Canada – but is the most biologically rich area of Canada. The Frontenac Arch Biosphere is a tiny piece of that ecoregion – but hosts 17% of that ecoregion's forests. This has become a critical refuge for nature. Some 30% of all of Ontario's species at risk have refuge here.

But what role does this refuge play? We've moved from realizing climate change to realizing that there's a climate crisis playing out across the world, and close to home. With nature intact, nature's services are in place. Wetlands not only filter runoff water – they also are vast storage and recharge areas. They hold back and slow runoff from these increasingly severe rain and ice events, but are slow release valves in years of drought that help keep groundwater levels from dropping. Forests slow heavy winds, filter air and store carbon dioxide – a global warming culprit. And nature, if healthy, is key to our own health.

What role do we play? A very important role, here in this oasis. In the past couple of decades, the Charleston Lake Association has shone on that stage. It led the way to

recovery of the health of the lake. It's been a key partner with the Thousand Islands Watershed Land Trust in conserving wetlands and forest lands around the lake, creating a buffer for the qualities of the lake, and region. It sets an example, and perhaps the bar, for municipalities that have the ultimate say in well-being of this oasis for the future.



The Thousand Islands Watershed Land Trust (TIWLT) will continue to partner with the CLA in years to come. Just this spring, TIWLT has accepted the donation of another property at the lake, this time a 56 acre property that conserves a swamp wood through which Fosters Creek flows into that developed corner of the lake. This brings lands that TIWLT has helped conserve around that lake to nearly 2,000 acres. It's all done with the help of willing landowners who are your neighbours, and perhaps yourselves as donors, as well as a collaboration with other partners. It means refuge for wildlife, wetlands protecting the lake's fabulous qualities and forests that green our oasis.

The Thousand Islands Watershed Land Trust needs to have your individual help in keeping the oasis green into the future. Once a part of a land trust, it's forever a fixture in the conservation story of the lake, the province, and of Canada on the world stage. See tiwlt.ca for the whole story. You have the power to do what governments may not.

Don Ross

Thousand Islands Watershed Land Trust

Charleston Lake Association & Charleston Lake Environmental Association

Comparative Combined Financial Report Statement of Revenue & Expense

Revenue	2018		2017
Membership Dues	\$19,560		\$20,160
Club \$100 Donations	\$10,475		\$10,700
Golf Tournament	\$4,999		\$4,522
Other Donations	\$1,964		\$1,105
Interest and Other Income	\$1,713		\$1,340
Total Revenue	\$38,711		\$37,827
Expenses			
General Administration	\$9,823		\$10,914
Information Center	\$6,665		\$11,161
Youth & Social Programs	\$8,378		\$4,480
Safety	\$1,958		\$1,625
Miscellaneous	\$2,325		\$3,774
Total Expenses	\$29,149		\$31,954
Total Environmental Project Costs	\$7,552		\$6,967
Total Expense & Project Costs	\$36,701		\$38,921
Unexpended Funds Current Year	\$2,010		-\$1,094
Unexpended Funds Prior Years	\$81,307		\$82,401
Unexpended Funds at Dec. 31st	\$83,317		\$81,307
Combined Balance Sheet at Dec. 31st			
	2018		2017
Cash on Hand	\$23,469		\$23,283
Cash Invested	\$58,807		\$57,654
Accounts Receivable	\$5,013		\$1,395
Total Assets	\$87,289		\$82,332
Accounts Payable	\$3,972		\$1,025
Unexpended Funds	\$83,317		\$81,307
Total Liabilities & Unexpended Funds	\$87,289		\$82,332

Prepared by: Wayne Gill
Secretary Treasurer CLA & CLEA

DOUG HALE MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT 2019

2018 was another sell-out – please register early!

Get your team together now for our 9 hole golf tournament on Saturday, August 10th at the Cedar Valley Golf Course, 7041 County Road 29 (at Highway 42). We begin with a putting contest at 9:00 AM, followed by a 9 hole scramble start at 9:30 AM.

Golf will be followed by a social hour with lunch beginning at 1:00pm. An early wrap up around 2:30pm will allow everyone to enjoy the rest of a beautiful summer day at Charleston Lake. Those who wish to come for lunch only are most welcome.

Keep Doug's memory alive by supporting the Charleston Lake Environmental Association! Remember 100% of all net proceeds go toward the environmental programs which will help keep Charleston Lake in pristine condition, now and for future generations.

Please complete the attached registration form and forward it to us with your team cheque. Payment by cash, cheque, pay pal or by e-transfer to info@charlestonlakeassociation.ca

Advance payment will ensure a quick registration process on Aug 10th

Thanking you in advance.

Wayne Ashford 613-659-4715

Pierre Menard 613-617-9669

Golf Tournament Co-Chairmen

Charleston Lake Environmental Association

PO Box 609, Athens ON K0E 1B0

**ATTENTION
MONTREAL
CANADIAN FANS!**

**There will be a very special
Silent Auction item at the
Golf Tournament which
should not be missed!**

Charleston Lake Environmental Association - 2019 Doug Hale Memorial Golf Tournament Registration

**Saturday, August 10th, 2019 at the Cedar Valley Golf Club
7041 County Road 29 at Highway 42 (613) 342-2158**

All Proceeds go toward our Environmental Association Projects

Entry Fee Includes:

Golf * Door Prizes

Buffet lunch

* Golf Prizes

Lots of Social Exchange

* Putting Contest

<u>Teams of Four Scramble (Shotgun Start)</u>	<u>Fees</u>	<u>Cedar Valley Member</u>	<u>Lunch ONLY</u>
Registration begins at 8:30 am			
9 Hole Golf Teams at 9:30 am	\$50	\$30	\$20
Youth (under age 16)	\$40	\$20	\$15
Child (under age 12) (Golf Carts are extra, to be arranged at the Pro Shop, 613-342-2158)	\$20	\$10	\$10
Team Name: _____		CEDAR VALLEY	EXTRA LUNCH
Name (Players) _____ Address _____		Y/N	
1. _____		Y/N	
2. _____		Y/N	
3. _____		Y/N	
4. _____		Y/N	
* Tee Assignments at the Pro Shop 1/2 hour prior to the Shotgun Start			

Please Make Cheques Payable to CLEA | Mail to CLEA, PO Box 609, Athens, ON. K0E 1B0

Or deliver to: CLEA Office, 109 Charleston Lake Road, open Thurs to Mon 10:00am-4:00pm

Note - also pay through pay pal or e-transfer to info@charlestonlakeassociation.ca

To Register by Phone or for More Information, Please Contact:

Wayne Ashford 613-659-4715

Email: bev.wayne@gmail.com

Pierre Menard 613-617-9669

Email: psmenard@hotmail.com

BOATING SAFETY/ LAW ENFORCEMENT

With another boating season up and going, I checked in with the OPP and spoke to Constable Brian Johnston. He advised me that policing will be enforced as in previous years and that there will be an OPP presence on the lake on a frequent basis. He stated that no alcohol is permitted on any floating vessel - this will be enforced as an Open Container offence and DUI charges can be issued. He also mentioned that blow up water toys, holding 8-10 people plus drinks, can be considered as vessels, even if they are tied off a dock.

Most importantly, police will be looking for valid Boating Operator cards with you, safety equipment on board and life jackets. Life jackets now have a date of manufacture stamped inside. At this time there is no expiry- however, take good care of them as they can be deemed not useable if they have deteriorated, faded, been repaired, or if buckles and zippers do not function correctly.

Shoal markers are in, the weather is warming up, so here's to a safe and happy boating season.

Rob Gibson

CHARLESTON LAKE PROVINCIAL PARK AMPHITHEATRE

Birds of Prey

Saturday, July 20
1:30 pm

For event details visit their website.

Live Animal Show

Wednesday, August 14
1:30 pm

CLA SUMMER CAMPS

We still have some room in the three Summer Camps at Sand Bay, Charleston Lake. Information and Application forms are available on the website.

Nature Camp

July 8-12

Adventure Camp

July 15-19

Sports Camp

July 22-26

CANADA DAY CELEBRATIONS IN CHARLESTON LAKE

Saturday, June 29th

Breakfast on the Main Dock

Poker Run 8.am - 12 noon. \$10 per hand
50/50 Winner Split

FIREWORKS!!! 9:45.PM

Charleston Lake Village | Rain Date: Sunday, June 30

2019 AGM

SATURDAY, JULY 27th at 9.30.am

Holy Trinity Church, Oak Leaf Rd.

Charleston Lake Association Directors

Bill Hallam - President/Environment

Cottage 613-659-2997 billhallam@hotmail.com

Wayne Gill - Secretary/Treasurer

Dwayne Struthers - Fisheries and Wildlife

Robbie Gibson - Boating Safety / Law Enforcement

Wayne Ashford - V.P. South / Golf Tournament

Pierre Menard - V.P. North / Golf Tournament

Rocci Pagnello - Fish and Wildlife/ Ontario Youth Summit

Jay Kyle - Shoreline Challenge

Charleston Lake Environmental Association Directors

Roy Angelow - Municipal Contact

Daragh Mansworth - IT

Rob Ross - County Contact

Mary Mansworth - Newsletter/ Youth Programs

Michael McAdoo - Director at Large

Charleston Lake Association Information Centre

109 Charleston Lake Road

The Information Centre is open every weekend in June from 10.am - 4.pm. and in July and August from Wednesday - Sunday 10.a.m- 4.p.m

QUALITY ENVIRONMENTALLY SAFE PRODUCTS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE INFORMATION CENTRE
Using these products significantly reduces lake and groundwater pollution, maintains healthy septic systems and minimises our exposure to dangerous toxic chemicals.

www.charlestonlakeassociation.com

We now accept e-transfers!

info@charlestonlakeassociation.ca

**We are supported through membership.
Please encourage your friends and neighbours to join.**