



# NEWSLETTER

SUMMER  
2024

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

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

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear CLA Members,

Welcome to Summer! Boats are in the water, seasonal cottages are open, and we are seeing a lot more human activity on and around the lake.

I would like to start by recognizing an important milestone: The **Charleston Lake Environmental Association (CLEA)** is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. Founded in 1999 and established as a Registered Charity, CLEA has undertaken multiple initiatives over the past quarter century to materially improve the environment of Charleston Lake and its watershed. Examples include the Stream Rehabilitation program, the Old Baldy nature reserve (in partnership with the Nature Conservancy of Canada), and multiple projects with the Thousand Islands Watershed Land Trust which have placed 100s of hectares around the lake into permanent conservation. Bravo CLEA, and we look forward to the next quarter century!

If you deeply care about the natural environment of our lake, consider joining CLEA's Club 100. This is a group of **100 donors who each agree to donate \$100 to CLEA to support its activities.** And

remember, this \$100 (or more!) is considered a Charitable donation, and you will be issued a tax receipt by CLEA upon receipt of your donation, which can be made on-line at [www.charlestonlakeassociation.ca](http://www.charlestonlakeassociation.ca), or by cheque.

In recent weeks and months, your volunteer CLA and CLEA directors have been very hard at work on a range of initiatives including three I would like to call out here:

- Sustaining our **Shoal Marker program.** CLA director Robbie Gibson and his team installed some 75 Shoal Markers all around the lake. This year we replaced 26 buoys and exchanged or added 35 solar-powered lights. We extend our thanks to Robbie and his on-board and on-shore team of **Marty Rukavina, Jordan Gibson-Banks, and Brody Knapp**, who made it possible. You help make Charleston Lake a safer place for us to enjoy.
- Maintaining and installing **Loon Nesting Rafts.** CLA director **Dwayne Struthers** and his team maintain 7 rafts at different locations around the lake. A first for this year, our rafts now feature digital video cameras. Our Social Media team will post images from

time to time on our Facebook and Instagram pages. And please do not approach the nesting rafts. We don't want the adults to flee the nest, leaving it vulnerable to predators.

- Supporting the **Canada Day Celebration.** The July 1st celebration (this year being held on Saturday, June 29), is a highlight of the social calendar around the lake. This year, CLA is proud to support a **live music venue at the Main Dock.** Come on by and tap your foot to the sounds of a great local band, and meet and greet fellow Charleston Lake families.

As always, let me conclude by once again thanking you, our paying CLA members. Without your support, year after year, we could not do what we do. We are always looking for ideas and volunteers, so if you are passionate about something around the lake and want to work on it, do reach out to me or one of our Directors.

Yours in preserving and enhancing  
Charleston Lake,

**Michael McAdoo**

President

Charleston Lake Association

# NEW 2024 REGULATIONS FOR CHARLESTON LAKE: SPAWNING SANCTUARIES

There are now two spawning sanctuaries in Charleston Lake that went into effect this spring. The new regulations and the descriptions of the sanctuaries are included in the OMNRF's official 2024 Fishing Regulations. What is a spawning sanctuary? They are seasonally designated areas within a lake where all forms of fishing are prohibited during the critical period when fish such as largemouth and smallmouth bass are spawning and guarding their young. For the next two years, the no fishing regulations go from April 15 through the Friday before the first Saturday in July (in 2024, this will be on July 6).



The sanctuary boundaries in Charleston Lake where no fishing is allowed until July 6th are marked in the shaded areas on the map. White signs have also been placed along the shoreline within the sanctuaries to mark the areas.

## How can you learn more?

To download a brochure and one-page fliers with the maps above, go here:

<https://fishconserve.org/spawning-sanctuaries-info/>

To learn more about the science behind spawning sanctuaries and why they can help our fish populations, go here: <https://arcg.is/jGPuz0>

Or scan the following QR Codes:



Scan to learn more



Scan to download  
Brochure and Maps.

# 2023 LOON SURVEY SEASON



Photo credit: Joshua Burch

During the 2023 season, three loon surveys were conducted between May and August. The largest presence observed was 6 chicks (loonlets) and 33 adult birds. Happily, all chicks observed survived the season. The survey was reported to Birds

Canada in September to help advance our understanding and conservation of these beautiful creatures.

In late March 2024, we began to hear reports of the first loons returning to their breeding grounds on Charleston Lake. In the weeks since, many more loons have been spotted. The first report of loons calling at night was on April 1 from a CLA member at the south end of the lake. This is early for our local loons and the nesting rafts had not been prepared or placed. Soon after, Dwayne Struthers was able to secure all of the rafts with help from a volunteer, Jeff Roddick. The wooden rafts of past years have a tendency to become waterlogged and heavy to move, so this year there is only one wooden refurbished raft. All the other rafts are newly fabricated or refurbished by Dwayne and Jeff, using PVC material. Seven rafts have been decorated with cedars and marsh grasses and one has a new canopy to protect from raptors. The most exciting news is that two of the rafts now have cameras to keep us informed of their nesting success. These have been supplied, installed and monitored through Joshua Burch with the company Reolink, which is located in the UK. We will have more to report in our next newsletter.

With loons returning and nesting season beginning, now is the time to discuss loon nesting habitat and the behaviours loons manifest to indicate that they need more space while on the nest. During the incubation period, loons will hold their heads upright when they feel relaxed. In contrast, when feeling threatened, they will flatten their bodies low over the nest and angle their heads toward the water. This helps minimize their appearance to hide from the threat and allows them an easy getaway into the water. If you see a loon in this position, please give it more space in order to ensure that it does not flush off the nest. If you accidentally flush a loon off its nest, leave the area immediately. Usually, a loon will return to its nest shortly after the perceived threat leaves the area.

Late June / early July is the peak hatch time for loon chicks on Charleston Lake. If you frequently visit our lake, keep your eyes peeled. You may get lucky and see one! If you do see a loonlet (chick), please let me know. I am always scouring the lake for new loon families, but would appreciate the extra eyes watching for them. You can email me at [katiebaker3@hotmail.com](mailto:katiebaker3@hotmail.com).

**Katie Baker - Fish and Wildlife**

## Save Some Green!

In 1789, the great Benjamin Franklin wrote “...in this world nothing can be said to be certain except ... **death and taxes**” As we all know, that insight remains as true today as ever. And with the **Inclusion Rate for capital gains tax soon going up**, we might be paying more tax when we sell a cottage property or other investment.

But if you are reading this, then there is a very good chance you live in eastern Ontario and appreciate the spectacular abundance of unique nature here. And there are ways you can help **protect this exceptional natural environment *and* save on taxes.**

The Thousand Islands Watershed Land Trust (TIWLT) area is the southern half of a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve. Five different forest regions overlap only here. This is one of the most important migration routes in all of North America for millions of animals including birds, butterflies and mammals.

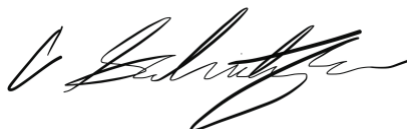
Over some 30 years, TIWLT – a registered charity – has developed some powerful tools that can help you both protect our local natural environment *and* save on capital gains and income taxes. These tools and techniques are anchored in Canadian and US law. Leveraging property, cash, stocks, or bonds to support TIWLT’s conservation work with landowners can also generate **tax relief** for you. On top of all that, you’re saving the land you love, and dealing directly with today’s most serious global issues – climate change and loss of biodiversity.

To help you better understand these tax-saving and nature-saving tools, we are presenting the **Save Some Green** workshop. There’s no cost to you. This event, co-hosted by TIWLT and the Charleston Lake Association, will feature tax and legal experts, plus conservation ‘how-to’ people to ensure you understand your possibilities and opportunities.

**Date & Time:** Saturday, June 22 from 9:00 am until 12:00 noon  
**Location:** Holy Trinity Anglican Church Hall, Holy Trinity Lane (off Lower Oak Leaf Rd)

Please confirm your attendance on our News & Events section on our website at <https://tiwlt.ca/event/save-some-green/>, or contact us at [info@tiwlt.ca](mailto:info@tiwlt.ca) for more information. We look forward to welcoming you.

Yours in conservation,



Calder Schweitzer, Executive Director  
Thousand Islands Watershed Land Trust



Michael R. McAdoo, President  
Charleston Lake Association

# WATER QUALITY 2023 FINAL RESULTS

Charleston Lake Association has been sampling water for over 20 years. Again in 2023 summer, forty-two phosphorus samples and water clarity recordings were collected over the period May 23th to October 23th inclusive; six samples from each of seven basins in the lake.

The 2023 total phosphorus from the MOECP Lake Partner Program showed a mean average of 9.14 ug/L compared to the average of the previous 5 test periods (2017-2022) of 9.07 ug/L. These levels are below (better) than the Provincial Water Quality Objective of 10 ug/L, and have been for over 10 years. The period of 2000-2004 had a whole lake mean value of 14.027 ug/L, so the last 10 years have shown a remarkable improvement. A big part of the initial improvement was the result of the zebra mussel colonization of the lake, but that appears to have been stable and/or declining for a number of years and the results continue to be stable. The mean values (2023) for the various basins are 8.24 Donaldson Bay, 8.91 Goose Island, 8.93 Eastern Water, 8.95 Webster Bay, 9.14 Big

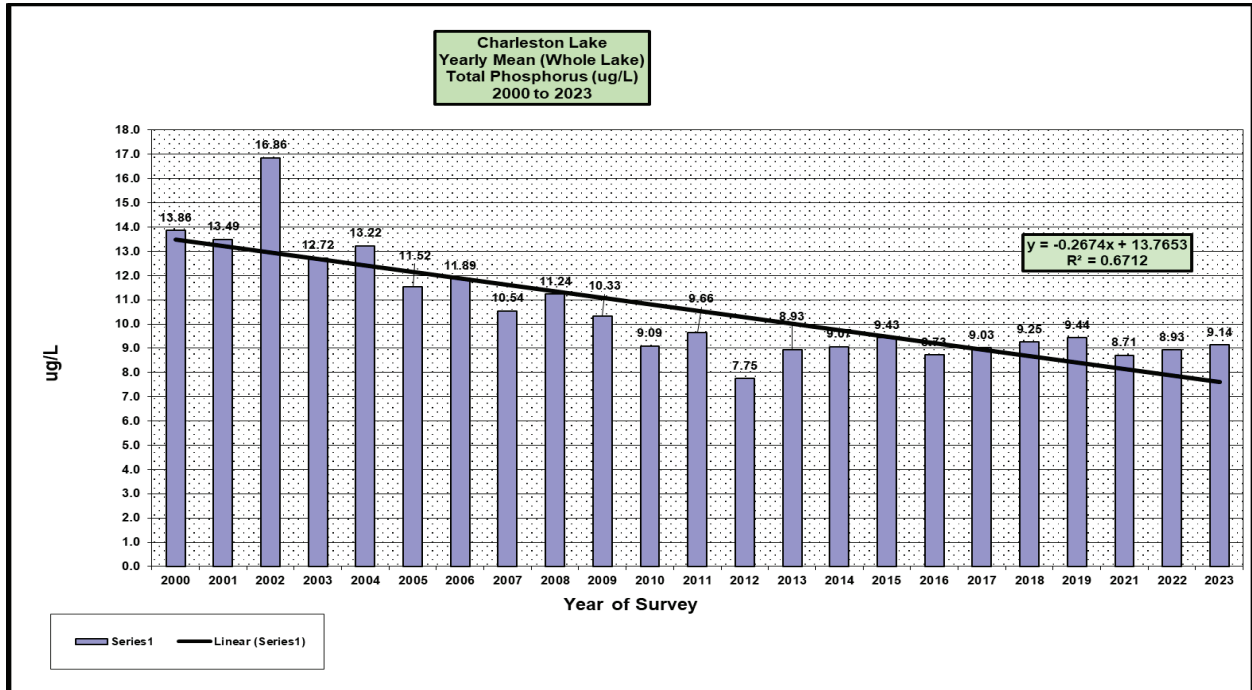
Water, 9.71 Deep Water (Runnings Bay), 10.11 Southern Water

Charleston Lake has reached a steady-state equilibrium with respect to total phosphorus concentration for the period 2009- 2023 inclusive that clearly places Charleston Lake in the oligotrophic category for this parameter.

As reported in the last newsletter 2023 water clarity continued to improve with an average Secchi depth of 8.30m. Donaldson Bay had the highest average clarity at 9.37m, ranging to Southern Water at 7.42m average. Oligotrophic lakes have a water clarity > 5.0 metres.

The final 2023 report with more detailed results is posted on the website. Through a combination of good luck and good management we have seen Charleston Lake return to near pristine conditions from where it was a generation ago. We can't take it for granted but we can enjoy the result and do what we can to make sure it further improves.

*John Willson and Gary Nielsen*



	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2021	2022	2023
	TP	TP	TP	TP	TP	TP	TP	TP	TP	TP
	ug/L	ug/L	ug/L	ug/L	ug/L	ug/L	ug/L	ug/L	ug/L	ug/L
Big Water	9.067	9.283	9.567	8.483	9.50	9.30	9.32	9.12	8.85	9.14
Deep Water	9.233	9.100	9.600	8.650	9.24	9.90	9.50	8.60	8.79	9.71
Donaldson Bay	9.300	8.417	9.067	8.167	7.30	8.72	9.22	7.97	7.98	8.24
Eastern Waters	8.800	8.900	9.583	9.233	9.07	9.18	9.17	8.46	8.92	8.93
Goose Island	8.883	9.717	9.367	8.317	9.95	8.75	9.38	8.76	9.56	8.91
Southern Water	8.800	9.167	9.700	10.250	10.02	9.82	10.18	9.79	9.48	10.11
Webster Bay	8.450	8.900	9.117	7.983	8.10	9.08	9.28	8.28	8.95	8.95

## STUDENT BURSARY

Every year, Charleston Lake Environmental Association awards a bursary for students graduating from high school and intending to pursue post-secondary studies with a focus on environmental studies, natural resource management, land use planning or similar programs. Eligible students are family members of CLA in good standing. Deadline is June 30, 2024. Visit our website to apply.

## ONTARIO NATURE'S YOUTH SUMMIT for MOTHER EARTH

Ontario Nature is again providing an in-person leadership summit for youth interested in environmental issues. The Youth Summit for Mother Earth will be held on September 13-15, 2024 at Tawingo Outdoor Centre in Huntsville/ Muskoka on the traditional territories of the Ojibway, the Chippewa, the Algonquin and the Odesa.

In past years, we have sponsored students of high school age to attend by covering registration and gas. Please find further information on their website. [ontarionature.org/youth-summit](http://ontarionature.org/youth-summit).

## DOUG HALE MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Saturday, August 10, 2024

The Doug Hale Memorial Golf Tournament will be held on Saturday, August 10. Get your team together for our 9 hole shotgun start tournament at Cedar Valley Golf Club. It's a great way to reconnect with your neighbours and friends from the lake.

Registration starts at 8.30 a.m. and the 9 hole scramble will start at 9.30 a.m. Golf will be followed by a social hour and a lasagna lunch beginning at 1 p.m. (Gluten free options available). Those who wish to come for lunch only are welcome.

Fees are as follows:

Adults \$65 - golf and lunch    Youth \$40 - golf and lunch  
Lunch only - \$32 adults and \$20 youth

Register your team on the website:  
[charlestonlakeassociation.ca](http://charlestonlakeassociation.ca). Payment can be made by  
e-transfer to: [info@charlestonlakeassociation.ca](mailto:info@charlestonlakeassociation.ca)

Keep Doug's memory alive by supporting Charleston Lake Association! 100% of all net profit goes towards environmental programs which will keep the lake in pristine condition now and for future generations.

For more information, contact Sue Willson  
613-720-7975 or [willsonsue@gmail.com](mailto:willsonsue@gmail.com)

## BOATING SAFETY

At the start of a beautiful summer on the lake, boating safety should be foremost in our minds. The tragic accident at Bob's Lake on the May long weekend reminds us all that safe boating practices are very important.

Wearing life jackets or PDFs, conducting our boats in a safe manner and avoiding speeding as well as ensuring that we are especially careful after dark and have sufficient proper lighting are all things about which we should be diligent. And of course, avoiding boating while under the influence of drugs or alcohol. The legal speed limit is 10 kmh within 30m of shore.

## BOAT NOISE REGULATIONS

Current Transport Canada regulations require that a boat must be five nautical miles offshore to operate without a muffler. There is nowhere on Charleston Lake where a boat can legally operate without a muffler.

A proper muffler system blows exhaust from the engine through the propeller hub under the water.

The fine for operating a boat without a muffler is \$500.

## LET'S GET THE LEAD OUT

CLEA is working hard again this year to "Get the Lead Out" of our beautiful lake. Lead is a deadly neurotoxin to fish, loons and other wildlife and is found in much of the fishing tackle used by anglers. Go to [www.charlestonlakeassociation.ca](http://www.charlestonlakeassociation.ca) to learn more. Watch the website during the summer for information about opportunities to attend information sessions and lucky draws.

*Let's all work together to "Get the Lead Out"*

## CHARLESTON LAKE ASSOCIATION INFORMATION CENTRE

109 County Road 40, Athens. K0E 1B0

Information Centre is open on weekends  
until the end of June.

During July and August, it is open from 9:00 a.m-3:00 p.m.  
daily. It is closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

**Charleston Lake Association &  
Charleston Lake Environmental Association**

**Comparative Combined Financial Report**

**Statement of Revenue & Expense**

<u>Revenue</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Membership Dues	\$24,640	\$23,720
Club \$100 Donations	\$16,918	\$19,200
Golf Tournament	\$5,298	\$5,600
Other Donations	\$2,406	\$2,822
Interest and Other Income	\$3,059	\$1,408
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$52,321</b>	<b>\$52,750</b>
<u>Expenses</u>		
General Administration	\$12,779	\$11,715
Information Center	\$6,720	\$8,240
Youth & Social Programs	\$4,914	\$3,956
Safety	\$3,031	\$433
Miscellaneous	\$3,414	\$1,778
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$30,858</b>	<b>\$26,122</b>
Total Environmental Project Costs	\$22,215	\$3,542
<b>Total Expense &amp; Project Costs</b>	<b>\$53,073</b>	<b>\$29,664</b>
Unexpended Funds Current Year	-\$752	\$23,086
Unexpended Funds Prior Years	\$131,833	\$108,747
<b>Unexpended Funds at Dec. 31st</b>	<b>\$131,081</b>	<b>\$131,833</b>

**Balance Sheet at Dec. 31st**

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Cash & Cash Invested	\$128,055	\$124,287
Accounts Receivable	\$4,125	\$9,046
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$132,181</b>	<b>\$133,333</b>
Accounts Payable	\$1,100	\$1,500
Unexpended Funds	\$131,081	\$131,833
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Unexpended Funds</b>	<b>\$132,181</b>	<b>\$133,333</b>

Prepared by: **Wayne Gill**  
Secretary Treasurer



**LEEDS 1000 ISLANDS FIRE SERVICE  
FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION  
1233 Prince Street P.O. Box 280,  
Lansdowne, ON K0E 1L0**

## OPEN-AIR BURNING

Did you know that you need a permit to Open Air Burn in the Township? Permits are free to all residents of Leeds 1000 Islands Township. Permits need to be renewed each year and expire on December 31. Please visit [lti.burnpermits.com](http://lti.burnpermits.com) to register online or stop by the Township Office at 1233 Prince St. Once you have obtained your permit call (613) 704-1812 on each day you would like to burn to activate your permit for 24 hrs.

## ISLAND 911 ACCESS

During a Life-threatening emergency seconds count especially with water access only properties. Being able to quickly identify your cottage from the water is crucial for first responders. Please ensure that your 911 number (blue Blade sign) is always visible from the water. Either attached securely to the end of your dock or posted at the main access point for your property. Please contact Amanda Werner-Mackeler at the Leeds 1000 Islands Township Office if you require a sign.

## WHAT3WORDS

Have you ever been lost and tried to give someone directions to where you are? Emergency responders everywhere are encouraging the public to download the wat3words app to their phone. The what3words app replaces complicated GPS coordinates with 3 simple words. If you're ever in trouble open the app and simply give the emergency responders the 3 word combination for your specific location, example (denying.handrail.expert) and dispatchers can accurately locate your position. Visit [www.what3words.com](http://www.what3words.com) for more information.

## THANK YOU FOR ASKING

To CLA/CLEA,

Could someone tell me if we have sighted Water Soldier in Charleston Lake. A friend told me of efforts to control it in Red Horse Lake. Is it another invasive species like Zebra Mussels.

*Resident Webster's Bay*

### Answer

Water Soldier is an invasive aquatic perennial plant, native to Europe and Northeast Asia.

There are populations of this plant in the Trent-Severn waterway, Black River near Sutton Ontario and Red Horse Lake north of Gananoque. This is a bad news plant that is difficult to control. It is often used as an ornamental plant in water gardens and disposing of these plants into lakes is the most likely source of introduction. Once established, offsets (new shoots) produced by mature plants can detach from the main plant to produce new colonies. Water Soldier floats in the water and can form dense floating mats very quickly. Its leaves resemble those of a pineapple, floating above the water, bright green, sharp spines and sometimes white flowers with three petals.

Water Soldier can hinder recreational activities such as boating, angling and swimming.

There is an active crew that will be testing for and removing Water Soldier in Red Horse Lake this summer. Adjacent lakes – Singleton, Lyndhurst, Upper and Lower Beverly and Charleston Lake to be monitored this summer. No Water Soldier in Charleston Lake yet but its DNA has been detected.

There is a canoe portage between Red Horse Lake and Charleston Lake but not well used and according to OFAH and MNR+F is not a likely source of contamination.

The main way to control this invasive plant has been by pulling or digging it as it does not root well like other plants.

**Answered by Charleston Lake Environmental Committee**

### American Bittern



*Photo credit: Brenda Evers*

## CHARLESTON LAKE ASSOCIATION DIRECTORS

**Michael McAdoo** - *President*  
*pres@charlestonlakeassociation.ca*

**Wayne Gill** - *Secretary/Treasurer*

**Bill Hallam** - *V.P. South, Provincial Park*

**Rocci Pagnello** - *V.P. North, Ontario Youth Summit and Bursaries, Fish and Wildlife*

**Robbie Gibson** - *Safety and Law Enforcement*

**Sue Willson** - *Website, Golf Tournament*

**Dwayne Struthers** - *Fish and Wildlife*

**Mary Mansworth** - *Newsletter, Youth Programs*

## CHARLESTON LAKE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSOCIATION DIRECTORS

**Roy Angelow** - *Municipal and Government Liaison*

**Katie Baker** - *Fish and Wildlife*

**Ron Evers** - *Fish and Wildlife*

**Linda Whitmarsh** - *Director at Large and "Get the Lead Out" program*

**Kristin Ireland** - *Director at Large and Information Centre*

**Fred Milko** - *Director at Large and Information Centre*

**Clayton Gray** - *Director at Large*

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024

**SATURDAY, JULY 27**

**9:30 AM**

**Holy Trinity Church, Oak Leaf Road**

Guest speakers:

Nick Sterling- Water Soldier Invasive Species

Doug Richardson - Fire Prevention Officer,  
Leeds 1000 Islands Fire Service

– *All welcome* –

## SUMMER CAMPS 2024

Spaces are still available at Nature Camp (July 8 -12)  
and Sports Camp ( July 22 -26).

Please see the website for more information.



## 25 YEARS OF CHARLESTON LAKE

### ENVIRONMENTAL ASSOCIATION!

#### *A Cause For Celebration*

Charleston Lake Environmental Association (CLEA), a division of Charleston Lake Association, was established 25 years ago.

In the intervening years, CLEA has been working hard to preserve and improve the environment and water quality of our lake. This non-profit can issue tax receipts for donations.

Join us in acknowledging the invaluable contribution CLEA has made to our much loved lake.

**Thank you, CLEA**



**Thank you to Athens Township for the repairs to the public dock at Charleston Village.**

**These improvements will help everyone to have a safe and enjoyable experience at Charleston Lake.**