



SPECIAL EDITION NEWSLETTER

Special Edition

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

June, 1999

To Members, Charleston Lake Assoc.



We have received many inquiries concerning the new Boating Regulations and how to deal with the Gypsy Moth infestation.

This special edition Newsletter provides information on these subjects and other

information we believe will be of interest to you.

Our thanks to the Ontario Government / Ministry of Natural Resources for funding this special edition Newsletter.

The Directors - June 1999

New Boating Regulations

The new boating regulations regarding operator licencing and safety equipment has been passed into law and do show some considerable changes from their first inception. They have publicised the regulations and included with this newsletter is the O.P.P. Marine Safety Awareness Handbook which goes into the regulations in detail.

These few points are particularly important.

- ◆ If you are less than sixteen years old, operating a Personal Water Craft is illegal for you.
- ◆ Floating seat cushions are no longer considered an approved Life Saving Device.
- ◆ A "Floating Heaving Line" that is at least 15 metres in length is mandatory equipment on almost every type of water craft.

- ◆ Operating a powerboat with an engine that does not have noise muffling equipment in use within five miles of any shore is illegal.

A more thorough listing of all of the pertinent regulations is published in the "SAFE BOATING GUIDE" by Fisheries and Oceans, Canada, and The Canadian Coast Guard.

Copies of this guidebook are available at most Marinas and Gasoline outlets or may be obtained from the Coast Guard at 1-800-267-6687. This 800 number is good in Canada.

In the U. S. A. or elsewhere, the number is 1-613-991-1313.

Ron Webster

Gypsy Moth

Our Spring, 1999 Newsletter provided information on the Gypsy Moth.

Enclosed with this Newsletter is a booklet which provides you with additional information on the Gypsy Moth and suggests ways that individuals and property owners can protect the health of their trees.

Substantial Savings

Members are reporting substantial savings under the Association's new group Insurance program.

To obtain a cost quotation for coverage on your home / cottage, watercraft, recreational vehicles and on cars and trucks, please contact Roger Kelsey, Roger Kelsey Insurance Brokers Inc., 248 Charleston Rd., 613-924-9135



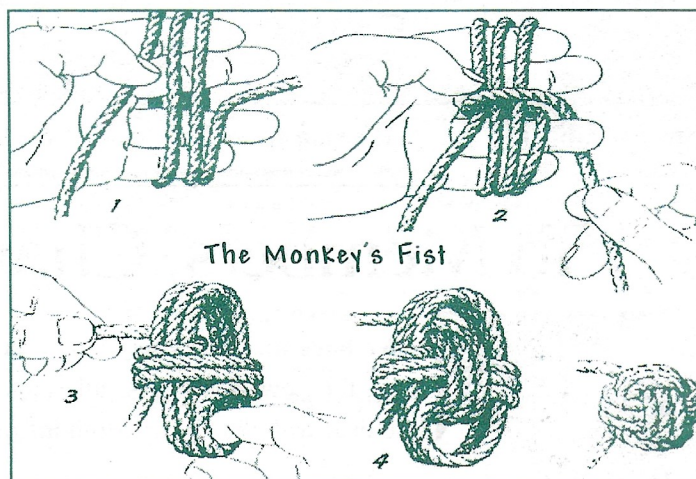
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Make Your Own Heaving Line

The new Coast Guard regulations require a buoyant heaving line of not less than 15 metres in length as safety equipment for most boats. Both powered and non-powered boats require this line. Only a very few commercially available heaving lines can be found and most of the prices that we can find were exceedingly expensive. Making your own is, however, very easy.

It will first be necessary to make a knot called a **MONKEY'S FIST**. A ¼ inch floating line (either braided or twisted) can be used. To add weight, we insert a small stone or nut or other weight into the knot before we tighten it. Start with about thirty or forty inches of line and do not try to tie your knot too tightly until it is formed. Then we can tighten it to be quite hard. Good Luck.

Ron Webster



Bacterial Water Testing 1999

During the 1999 summer season, four different series of testings will be done. Two will be completed in July and two in August. Each test will comprise five samples and the test criteria will be an examination of these samples for faecal coliform bacteria and for total bacteria by a private lab in Ottawa.

The sites tested will be the main dock in Charleston Village, the beach at Sand Bay (Counties Park) and the pool just above the outlet dam. The other two locations at each test may be moved from test to test. These moveable sites will be used to investigate areas where our members have suggested their suspicions of a pollution problem.

None of the tests last season suggested any need for concern. Contacting the office of the Medical Officer of Health to report any findings was not necessary. Some tests were done immediately after heavy rainfall and did show some trace of bacterial contamination due to run off. No tests, however, were sufficiently high to justify further action.

In 1999 I will again need volunteers to help with the water testing. If you are able to help please telephone me at 613-345-2866.

Ron Webster



Please Attend! Annual General Meeting Saturday, July 10th, 10:00 a.m. Charleston Lake Provincial Park

Woodvale Rd., between Lyndhurst and The Outlet (no Park admission fee.)

AGENDA:

- ◆ Minutes of the last meeting
- ◆ President's Report
- ◆ Special Award
- ◆ Treasurer's Report
- ◆ Guest Speaker
- ◆ Committee Reports
- ◆ Election of Directors
- ◆ New Business
- ◆ Adjournment

ALSO:

- ◆ **Guest Speaker: Peter Frazer, Park Supt.**
- ◆ Insurance company officials available for consultation
- ◆ Come rain or shine... we have a tent
- ◆ Park Tours will be conducted
- ◆ Come early for refreshments

We look forward to meeting you. *The Directors*



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Water Levels - Questions and Answers

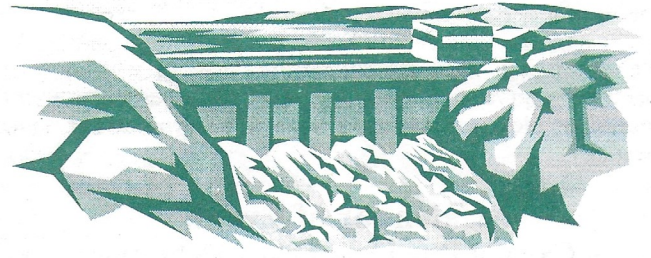
Was the water higher this year? No. For several years in the recent past the water has been as high or higher.

Why was there so much damage to docks and boathouses this year? Several factors contributed to the damage this year. The meltdown and fill under the ice before breakup was very rapid. The ice went out accompanied by a severe wind from the north that veered to the east.

Did the Outlet Dam play any part in the damage? Before we can discuss the effect of the dam we have to understand all that the Dam does and what the Dam cannot and does not do. The Dam helps to maintain the water level at a level that is best suited to most users and protects the spawning beds from freezing and from drying out. Charleston is a lake with a granite and limestone bottom. It is very much like a basin in that there is only one outlet. Natural factors such as drought or heavy rains play a far more significant role in the water levels than does the Dam. Last year the water was very high through the third week in July. This year, because of the lack of rain, the level is perhaps three inches lower than normal at this time of year (mid May).

What would happen if there were no dam? This would affect the lake levels severely. We would still have extremely high water in the spring. We would have very low levels much earlier in the summer.

Why would there continue to be high water levels even if there were no dam? During the last twenty to thirty years each year has brought high water levels. A large swamp or bog on Wiltse Creek causes this. This swamp is between the Outlet and the Marble Rock dams. This swamp has grown every year and continues to grow. It causes a water back up of such size that sometimes the water in the creek runs backwards over the dam into the lake. During the run off this year, all of the logs were out of the dam. Effectively, this means there was no dam. The water was as high on one side of the dam as it was on the other.



Can anything be done about this swamp? Yes. We could channel and deepen the swamp to provide a greater outflow for the water. This operation would be very expensive. Some years ago the progenitor of the Granite Power Corporation in Gananoque had estimated that the cost would have been no more than \$20,000. They offered to pay 25% of this cost. They suggested that the remaining portion of the cost be born by our governments. Today the cost would be well more than \$100,000. This is only for the physical engineering work and does not take into account any environmental study costs or legal fees that we would require today. No doubt there would be considerable vocal opposition to any plan and the cost could conceivably run to well more than \$1,000,000.

What can we do to resolve the problem? We should continue to encourage and lobby with all levels of government, and the Granite Power Corporation, to seek some practical solution to resolve the problem. We should recognise the reality of the problem and the difficulty in finding any solution. We should encourage anyone contemplating building or replacing any docks or boathouses to consider the floating alternative to fixed structures.

Who is ultimately responsible for water levels on Charleston? The responsibility rests with the Provincial Government and their Departments and Agencies.

Ron Webster - 1999

Waterfront Improvements

A permit is required for construction work on Charleston Lake's waterfront. This includes additions or changes to existing structures.

The permit is designed to promote a healthy lake eco-system by ensuring the use of proper, ecologically sound practices for work on the waterfront. Please do not carry out work without a permit.

Failure to comply with the various rules and regulations could result in a maximum \$5,000. fine for each offense. In addition, the courts may order you to restore the site to its original condition at your cost.

To arrange for a permit for work on the waterfront, contact:
Catarauqui Region Conservation Authority,
P. O. Box 160, Glenburnie, Ont., K0H 1S0. 613-546-4228



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Youth and Social Activities

Our lake is a beautiful retreat and playground that we all enjoy. We have arranged a variety of lake events keeping in mind family as well as childrens activities. Whatever your interests, you're sure to find something to fulfill a summer day.

We're certainly open for suggestions and, as you know, all functions require volunteers. If you have a particular area of interest or ideas to express, I hope to see you at our annual meeting.

Calendar of Events: Canada Day Fireworks Celebration:

July 1. At dusk in the Charleston Village Harbour. Honk your horns - 2 short blasts at the end of the fireworks would be a nice gesture of thanks for the fireworks staff.

Swimming Lessons at County Park, Sand Bay

8-week program (2-week sessions) July 5 to August 27. Cost per child - \$40.00 up to 2 children. Additional children per family - \$20.00. A small additional charge of \$1.50 per child will apply for a book and a badge.

Registration will take place on Sat., July 3rd, 9 to 12 at the Hanson Memorial Undenominational Church, Charleston Village. If a minimum number per class is not registered, some classes may be re-scheduled.

To register in advance, or for more information call: Pam McGarrin, Instructor, at 613-345-7894, write to her at R.R. 2, Addison, ON K0E 1A0 or send the following registration form to the Charleston Lake Association at Box 609, Athens, Ont., K0E 1B0.

Charleston Lake Association Swimming Lesson Registration		
Please register the following for swimming lessons this summer:		
Name		Age
Weeks preferred:		
Name and address of Parent/Guardian:		
Name		
Address		
City	Code	Tel. #
Registration will be confirmed and is subject to sufficient registrants for the weeks requested. Re-scheduling may be necessary.		

Bus Trips from Charleston Village to Charleston Lake Provincial Park Amphitheater.

July 17. An evening event - Legends and Lores of Charleston Lake Shore. A musical tribute by singer / songwriter David Archibald to the fascinating history and happenings around Charleston Lake. The bus will accommodate 48 people. Departure: 7:30 p.m., return: 10:30 p.m. Cost: \$4.00 per person - includes bus and entrance fee.

August 16. Join internationally known astronomer, Terence Dickinson for a family tour of the universe. You'll see great slides of celestial sights, find out what to look for in the night sky and even try a battery of powerful telescopes trained on planet, galaxies and a ring nebula or two.

Departure 7:30 p.m., return 11 p.m. Cost \$4.00 per person.

Family Picnic Day at Charleston Lake County Park, Sand Bay August 8

Approximate time: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The day's events include:

- 1. Picnic Lunch**
- 2. Childrens Program and a supervised hike** to be provided by the Charleston Lake Provincial Park staff. Learn the basics and important concepts of making your hikes safe and eventful. A hike to "Sallys" will conclude the instruction.
- 3. Snorkeling Anyone?**
Learn from the experts how to snorkel the fun and safe way. Robert (Bob) Lighthart will be providing this event.

Thanksgiving Weekend Blue Mountain Hike (more details to follow)

At the Annual General Meeting, all events will be confirmed and further information will be provided. Summer fun in the Sun.

All volunteers or any member with some suggestions, please contact:

Irene Ireland at 613-924-2981.

Thank You

Thank you for being a member of the Charleston Lake Association. Your financial support and ideas have enabled us to accomplish much over the past two years.

Please have a happy and safe summer 1999.

The Directors