



Newsletter

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

Vol. 104, No. 2

Spring, 2004

Falcon Project in flight again

By **MARK CALDER**
Staff Writer
Brockville Recorder & Times

While the Leeds County Peregrine Falcon Recovery Project was supposed to have ended last year, a combination of factors from a free chick to replace a lame bird received in 2003 to continued support from environmental groups will have it soaring again in 2004.

Gary Nielsen, Leeds County Stewardship coordinator, said the impetus for the extension was an offer by the Wainwright, Alberta supplier of falcon chicks of a free bird, Nielsen said. The offer prompted organizers of the program to see if they couldn't run it just one more year in hopes of improving their success rate.

"We also wanted to end the whole program on a high note," said Nielsen. "There were a few problems and disappointments for our volunteers last year.

Also, our defining goal is to have a breeding pair come back to our cliff (on Charleston Lake), but that simply hasn't happened yet."

The program began four years ago when the stewardship council, in partnership with the Canadian Peregrine Foundation, began raising the chicks at Rubes Rocks in an attempt to restore the provincially endangered species to



MARK CALDER/THE RECORDER AND TIMES

Gary Nielsen, Leeds County stewardship coordinator, with two stuffed peregrine falcons

Charleston Lake, once fertile habitat.

Since then, 10 birds have come through the program, with one being killed by an owl, the other sent back to Wainwright with a lame wing. Eight are believed to have survived.

The long-range hope is the birds will return to the area with mates and re-establish their numbers not only on Charleston, but also in the South Lake and Landon Bay area.

The biggest problem the volunteers encountered last year was a problem with thrush, a sometimes fatal throat infection that also

struck the other three birds purchased last year. The birds were treated but could not be released until they were 57 days old. They are usually released at 42 days old when

they are still young and learning to fly. At this age they take tentative flights, allowing them to return to the man-made nest or hack box² set

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Your Board reports...

President's Message

On behalf of the directors, greetings and welcome to more great times at beautiful Charleston lake Spring-Summer 2004.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the numerous volunteers, businesses and organizations who support many of our programs and projects with their time and donations. A shining example of this volunteerism is the beautiful new pavilion in the County park at Sand Bay. Please refer to our thank you note on page five.

Reflecting back on 2003, the Charleston Lake Association with strong support from the Charleston Lake Environmental Association continued to make progress towards achieving its goals of keeping Charleston Lake beautiful in every way while at the same time creating a spirit of community across the lake. Our membership continues to grow and in 2003 members elected to renew in record numbers. I believe this speaks to the value of Charleston

Lake Association membership. Going forward, our goal is to maintain this value and to look for more ways to keep Charleston Lake beautiful and to provide relevant services for our members.

As outlined in this newsletter many exciting programs are planned for this Summer. New this year is training on Primary Care which includes CPR. Taking a CPR course could not only help you save a life. It could also improve the heart attack survivors chances of living well long after recovery.

Work leading to the introduction of a Lake Plan in year 2006 is on schedule. The Shoreline Assessment program continues this summer, please take advantage of this excellent program to make your property even more environmentally friendly. Also associated with the lake plan is the Lake Capacity study which will be underway this summer. Many studies of our water quality and our fisheries have been carried out be-

tween 1968 and 2003. The results of these studies are being summarized and are currently under review by your associations. I will have more information from these studies in our next newsletter.

Leeds Stewardship Council, with financial assistance from your two lake associations, have taken on a major project which will extend over the next several years and will assist farmers and landowners to do rehabilitation on the creek beds in the Charleston Lake watershed.

On the fish and wildlife scene special focus is being placed on the preservation of Charleston's native lake trout. All who fish for lake trout will be asked to help preserve our native lake trout--to voluntarily release fish with no fin clips. Brochures and signs will carry this message along with tips for catch and release.

Whether a permanent or seasonal resident of Charleston Lake, living on the lake is a wonderful experience ---with one major exception. I refer to the Assessment and Property tax systems which your directors have concluded are broken when it comes to applying them to waterfront properties. We were prepared to go it alone in appealing to the Ontario Government for changes to both systems, however given that there is strength in numbers we instead have joined WRAFT (Waterfront Ratepayers After Fair Taxation). This group is an Ontario wide coalition of waterfront associations to fight for assessment and property tax reform. Recently WRAFT sent a submission to

all Ontario MPPs and met with Finance Minister Gregory Sorbara to call for change. I will keep you informed on WRAFTs progress in future newsletters.

While your directors are of the opinion that the current property assessment and property tax systems are broken as they pertain to waterfront properties, credit must be given where credit is due. The Councils of the Townships Of Athens and Leeds And The Thousand Islands are to be commended for their efforts under the current property tax system. The Township Of Athens has the lowest tax rate in the whole United Counties; The Township Of

(Continued on page 5)

Don't Forget the AGM !!

Please see notice on page 11
and plan to attend.

Participate in discussion on
important Lake issues.



Newsletter

This newsletter is published regularly by the Charleston Lake Association for its members and those persons interested in Charleston Lake. Comments and/or submissions are welcome, and should be forwarded to The Secretary, Charleston Lake Association, P. O. Box 609, Athens, Ont., K0E 1B0.

Newsletter Co-ordinator:

Don Curry, Box 399,
Athens, Ont. K0E 1B0

Production and Design:

Herb Buehler,
Rideau Valley Marketing
4 Argyle Dr., Perth, ON K7H 3G9
Tel: 613-326-0106

E-mail: ashwoods@rideau.net
Website: www.ashwoods.info

For Membership Information, Call 613-924-2809

While the Association makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of information contained in this newsletter, it cannot accept responsibility for errors and omissions. Readers are urged to obtain professional advice before acting on the basis of the material contained in this newsletter.



For your information

Charleston Lake 2004 Event Calendar

Local Area Events:

- Farmersville Exhibition (Athens) – July 16, 17, 18
- Delta Fair – July 22, 23, 24, 25
- Lansdowne Fair – Third Weekend in July
- Corn Fest (Athens) – August 21
- Turkey Fair (Lyndhurst) – September
- Riverfest (Brockville) July 1-4
- Festival of the Islands (Gananoque) – August 13-22

Summer Events at Charleston Lake:

Youth Environmental Day Camp

Dates: July 7, 8, 9

Location: County Park, Sand Bay

For children 5-12 years old.

Visit the Info Center for more details
And registration forms.

Emergency First Response

CPR Course

Date: July 17

Location Association Info Center,
County Road 40.

Visit the Info Center for more details
And to register.

Swimming Lessons

Dates: July 19-23, July 26-30

Location: County Park, Sand Bay

Visit the Info Center for registration
forms.

Pleasure Craft Operators

Certification Exam

Date: July 24

Location: Association Info Center,
County Rd 40.

Visit the Info Center for registration
info.

Family Fun Day BBQ Picnic

Date: August 7

Location: County Park, Sand Bay
Chicken BBQ, entertainment, boat
rides, Scuba demonstration!

Visit the Info Center for more infor-
mation and to purchase tickets

Star Gaze 2004

With Terence Dickinson

Date: August 11

Location: Provincial Park Amphi-
theatre

Join internationally recognized as-
tronomer and author Terence Dickin-
son for a night of star watching with
Powerful telescopes and expert star-
gazers. 8:30pm.

Waterski Clinic

Date & Location to be Determined
More info will be available at the
Info Center.

A POSSIBLE DISAPPOINTMENT

It is with a great deal of disappointment that we are forced by circumstance to cancel our participation in the **Canada Day Fireworks**. The firm carrying our liability insurance has declined to afford us coverage of any event involving fireworks. No other insurers were available to us at this late date except at great cost. Your Association has reviewed all the options open to us and come to the decision that we, as an Association, could not ask your directors to expose themselves to any personal legal liability in the unlikely event of any disaster. We are sorry to have to make this announcement.

While the **Athens Chamber of Commerce** offered to sponsor the fireworks program under their liability insurance coverage, they were advised by their insurance provider that the Chamber's insurance policy does not cover involvement in fireworks displays.

The Directors.



Around the Lake...

Falcon Project

(Continued from page 1)

up at Rubes Rocks. There they are fed and cared for by the council's volunteer falcon watch² program until they are ready to fly away. The

goal is to gradually allow them to learn how to hunt, feed and fly in hopes they are better prepared to deal with the world when they fly off for good.

Last year, since the birds were mature at 57 days they simply flew off and the volunteers don't really know how they are faring.

The program has had some

success. Ruby, one of the females released in the first year of the program, did return to Canada, having been found at Trenton Air Force base in the spring of 2002 and then re-released in the Gananoque area.

However, none of the eight surviving birds released so far has returned to the area with a mate, as volunteers had hoped.

Nielsen cautions it takes at least two years before a bird will take a mate for breeding, so last year was the first real year the birds could have returned.

He hopes by raising at least three more birds in the area this year they will extend the chances of a pair returning to the area to mate.

Groups already contributing to the effort include: the Friends of Charleston Lake at \$1,000; the Charleston Lake Association, \$500; the Charleston Lake Environmental Association, \$500; the Community Wildlife Involvement Program, \$4,000; and the provincial Species at Risk Fund, \$4,000.

The council is also hoping to acquire support for the program from a local Internet provider and a security company, so it can run a program allowing people to log on and see how the birds are doing through a video camera in the hack box. Anyone who wants to help contribute to the program or volunteer with it is asked to phone Nielsen at 342-8526.

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Healthy Shoreline Review

2004 will see the third summer for the Healthy Shoreline Review for Charleston Lake. The CLA, through funding by the Trillium Foundation, intends to examine the state of the lake's health over a four year period. The CLA realizes that the health of the natural habitats along the shore is critical to the health of the lake. A healthy forest and ground cover of vegetation absorbs and filters nutrient and sediment, retains and cools soil moisture, and cools runoff before it reaches the water, contributing to the overall health of the lake.

The information, gathered through observations from the water by boat, attempts to quantify the types and extent of development around the lake, and notes habitat types, natural features and species. The two-person crew does not go ashore except at the invitation of the landowner. Even though the details are what are simply observed from the lake, collectively it will give a picture of the opportunities and challenges that face the Association's drive to work with landowners in improving the quality of Charleston Lake.

The goal for this summer is to complete an addition 250

reviews, bringing the total to date to about 530. From the data sheets done in the field, a two to three page property report is written. These reports summarize the shoreline developments and natural features, and offers suggestions to the landowner of ways to overcome problem areas as they relate to habitat health and water quality issues. Reports completed in the last two years are available, only to the individual property owners, at the Charleston Lake Association office. They are organized by assessment number for the property, and do not show any ownership information.

The review work has been contracted to the Biosphere Network of the Thousand Islands - Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve, of which the CLA is a member. The Network is doing a parallel review in the Thousand Islands, funded by Environment Canada. The project caught the attention of Environment Canada's "Habitat Stewardship Program" after the first year's work on Charleston.

This summer, that program will match funds with a grant from the Community Foundation of Greater Kingston that

will see a number of shoreline restoration projects carried out both on the lake and in the islands. A crew from the Biosphere Network will provide the planning, labour, equipment and some materials for a total of 10 to 12 projects. The objective is two-fold: to work with landowners who want to restore at least some of the natural character and functions of their shoreline; and to actually conduct the restorations as a series of mini-workshops that could be attended by neighbours. There is no cost to the landowners, for labour or planning, but the landowner may be asked to contribute the cost of some materials such as native plants.

The shoreline review and restoration work benefits everyone on the lake. It's a positive step in improving the health of this jewel of lakes. If the reviews or restoration projects pique your interest, if you would like to know more of what's been done or planned for this summer, or would like to contribute in any way to the projects, please contact the CLA office.

*Don Ross
Biosphere Reserve*



For your information

County Park Pavilion

The County Park in Sand Bay now features a beautiful pavilion overlooking Big waters to Blue Mountain.

Construction of the pavilion was made possible by the strong and generous support of:

Mayor Herb Scott, Township Of Athens who initially endorsed the pavilion concept.

The United Counties Of Leeds And Grenville Council- who supported both the pavilion concept and provided the site for its construction.

To The Contractors who donated their labour:

Paul Johnston, Ken McLintock Construction, Cottage Care Plus, Ron Alguire and Terry Knapp Excavating.

To The Volunteers who assisted the contractors:

George Johnston, Lloyd Allinotte, Richard Cook, Bob Croxall and Jeff Runham.

To The Suppliers Of Materials- for their generous discounts on the cost of materials:

1000 Island Concrete, George Tackaberry & Sons Construction, Bob Perkins Steel and Warners Building Supplies.

To The Business Community and Organizations for their donation of funds:

Athens District Chamber Of Commerce, Athens Lions Club, Blanchards Garage, Brockville Copy Shop, Dupont Canada, Howard Campbell & Sons, Judsons Funeral Home, Kelseys Marina, Lake Line Lodge & Marina, The Mural Newspaper, Restoration Farm Antiques, Riverdale Kennels and the Second Time Around Book Shoppe.

To The Many Residents of

Charleston Lake, Charleston Village, and Athens and District for their generous donation of funds.

Our Thanks For Your Generous Donations towards the construction of the pavilion in the County Park. We believe the pavilion will enhance the Spirit Of Community which exists across Charleston Lake and throughout the Townships of Athens, Leeds and The Thousand Islands and in the Counties Of Leeds And Grenville.

We were pleased to be involved with the pavilion project from start to finish.

Directors

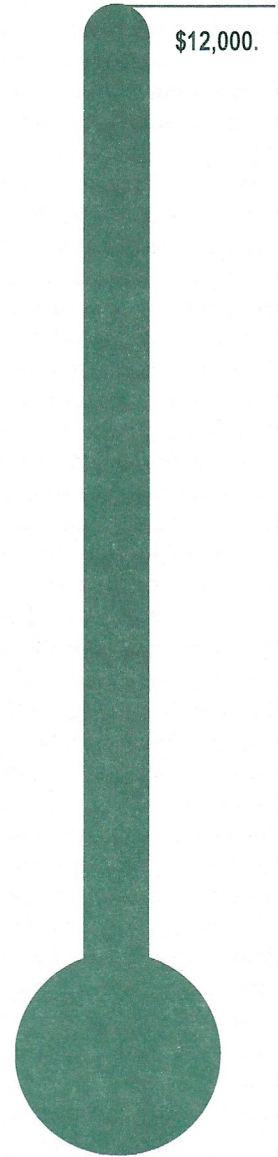
Charleston Lake Association

Charleston Lake Environmental Association

Pavilion in the Park

We made it !

\$12,000.



Additional donations are still welcome.

Please mail donations to Don Curry, Box 399, Athens, ON K0E 1B0.

A receipt will be provided for Income Tax purposes.

President's Message Continued from page 2

(Continued from page 2)
Leeds And The Thousand Islands the second lowest. Enclosed with this newsletter is a memo from The Township Leeds And The Thousand Islands outlining 2004 budget highlights for the portion of the Charleston Lake Community situated within their boundaries.

Enjoy spring -summer year 2004 at the lake and mark

your calendar to attend our Annual General Meeting on July 10th. By popular demand the meeting will feature a panel of experts to address topics of interest to all property owners. Topics will include water levels, septic systems, township operations, the Provincial park, conservation officer coverage and more.

Additional information con-

cerning the AGM is included in this newsletter.

Last but not least the ice left Big Waters on Saturday April 17th in the pm. A day or two earlier the loons were back at the lake as were the Ospreys perching on their nesting platform on Little Bluff Island.

Don Curry



A bit of history...

Once upon a time

Newspaper Article in *The Cornwall Freeholder*-
Oct 28, 1892

(Author Unknown)

Charleston Lake -- a days fishing at a little known fishing resort.

For years Brother A---has been telling me about Charleston Lake and its many attractions by way of scenery and fish but I could not believe that both these attractions, in such unlimited quantities, could be found within a few hours of home. The Thousand Islands and the Bay of Chaleur and the Adirondacks all rolled into one, it must be according to his description---how was it that no one else in Cornwall knew anything about the place, or if they did they kept it to themselves? Perhaps it was because it was a suburb of Brockville; and could anything good come out of Brockville? Anyway, hearing A---talk so much about Charleston Lake made me think at last it must be worth seeing, and the chance of joining a Prescott party who had been there before and knew the ropes. Turning up opportunity, I packed a bag of old clothes and boots. took my split bamboo rod from its box and was at the station one day last week in time for the midday train going west. The Grand Trunk being late that day, it took a mad gallop across the suburbs of Brockville to catch the B&W Road, which consisted of an antiquated coach attached in rear of a lot of freight cars. After an hour of bumping over a rough track, the tedium of

which, however, was relieved by a pleasant conversation with a Brockville banker, also bound for Charleston waters, we were,

Landed at Athens,

Formerly and more appropriately known as Farmersville, a sprightly little town with fine churches and schools, a live little paper, The Reporter, and a lot of jolly good fellows, foremost among who is W.G Parish, a merchant and private banker and patron of every kind of clean sport. Armstrong's Hotel is our half-way house and Adam Armstrong, well known of fishermen and hunters who frequent these parts, bids us a hearty welcome. His cordial shake of the hand is to be remembered --perhaps by some kind of mind reading he recognized a brother Liberal--for we didn't say any politics as the late lamented PP used to remark, but judging from the fact that the Globe was on file in the hotel and there were two framed pictures of George Brown on the walls, I should fancy that Adam is a Grit. In a few minutes a sparkling pair of greys was hitched to a light carriage, and away we went in the darkness. For five miles we drove in the darkness and hauled up at the

CEDAR PARK HOUSE, also owned by Mr. Armstrong, and situated in a dense grove of cedars. In front stretched Charleston Lake, and from the lights here and there and glimmering over the water, we could tell there were inhabited islands in the foreground. The Prescott party had been on

the ground a day or two beforehand, having driven through all the way, and a few minutes later we were in the thick of them around the supper table, where callops of salmon and bass were disappearing rapidly. Jolly good companions every one they; and how the room did ring with laughter as they told of the eating match between the man of beer and the fruit man, of the sea monster that carried off the line and smashed the rod of the druggist; of the two Jonahs who had toiled all day and caught nothing; and of the regularity with which the Jerker of lightning sent his loving messages to friends at home.

What was the use of the porter mistaking the printers room for that of the banker and banging away at 6

o'clock; that was too early for an October morning. But he did it and there was no rest afterwards.

FISHERS THEY WERE, these Prescott fellows, but to start out before 9 was not part of their reckoning. However by dint of a little exertion they were lined up, and two men in each boat, with a lusty oarsman, we were soon out on the water. It was a trifle cold at first, but the sun came out from under the clouds and the rest of the day was perfect. Dodging among the islands, we got into a bay where the fish were supposed to congregate, and putting out the lines rowed hither and dither close to the shore. Once in awhile a yell could be heard, and a hurried reeling up. a dip of the landing net and

(Continued on page 7)

Be sure to take advantage of the

CPR Course

being offered on July 17th.

The focus of the course will be on CPR and the Heimlich manoeuvre.

Please see the Events Calendar on page 3 for more information.

You could save a life !



A bit of history...

Once upon a time - continued

(Continued from page 6)

A WRIGGLING THING COULD BE SEEN,

lifted into the boat. But this was from a distance, for truth compels the confession that when we were gathered on an old campground for dinner this chronicler was obliged to look into another fellows boat to see what a salmon trout looked like.

Good cooks were the oarsmen, and while we explored the island they prepared a meal in which a couple of salmon, a whitefish and a bass were the leading constituents, not to speak of broiled chicken, camp tea, and sundry bottles of Bass--the liquid kind. The dinner disappeared the way it usually does in the woods; and again we were on the water. This time luck changed a little, and by the time we

reached the wharf in the twilight three salmon and a couple of bass had come out of the wet and were safe in the fish box of the printers boat. The total catch of the party that day was about a dozen salmon, whitefish and other small fry, but when the Captain came up with 18 salmon to his own rod, we felt rather small.

SIXTY IN A WEEK, did the Captain take, a good score it was. It should be said that though the law allows fishing for salmon at the end of the season, it is a mistake; in fact a positive sin. The fish are on the spawning beds and in killing one female many thousands in prospect are sacrificed. Besides, they are not in prime condition and do not fight so hard as would be expected of them. A change in the law which would do

away all together with the Fall catching of salmon would be eminently desirable, and it is hoped by the Anglers Association that such a change may be brought about. The lake is now partly

EFFECTIVELY PROTECTED

and netting is visited with severe punishment. If it can be prevented altogether, there is no reason why the fishing should not improve every season. As it is, large catches of salmon can be made in the Spring and during the Summer black bass are taken in great quantities. This season 230,000 salmon fry from the Ottawa hatcheries were deposited in the lake.

The scenery about the lake is really fine. With a length of seven miles and a breadth of four, the coastline is no less

than 97 miles in length, so irregular the outline and so many deep bays. The water is of great depth, several hundred feet in some cases and there is no feeder, all the water comes from springs in the depth. There are no less than 140 islands, most of them small, but some over a 100 acres in extent. They are all for the most part rocky, reminding of the Thousand Islands. Most of the islands are wooded, but the timber is small. Minerals of all kinds are to be found on the islands; and on one or more are

PHOSPHATE DEPOSITS which some day become valuable. Here and there is to be seen a summer cottage, and in the summer season white tents are frequent. The Cedar Park Hotel has accommodation for 70 or 80 guests and has been full with American families during July and August since it was built four years ago. It is a comfortable hostelry and the situation is most picturesque, for there any number of boatmen, and one can hire their services at a moderate price, or if desired can hire a boat and do their own rowing.

Being so fancy, Charleston Lake should be better known than it is. One could leave Cornwall at noon on a summer day and be on the lake easily by 6 o'clock with a couple of good fishing hours before him, and the expense for a weeks outing would be trifling.

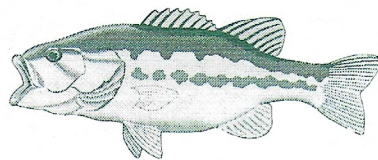
This article has been reproduced as it was originally written.

A Message from the fish of Charleston Lake:

The future of our lake's fish resources is your responsibility.

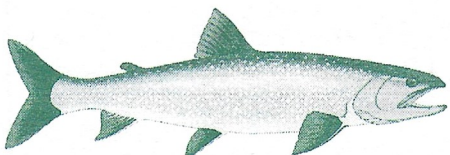
Please don't fish for bass during the spawning season... and encourage your friends to do the same.

Practice selective live release fishing. Catch your limit... but limit your catch



Large adult bass and trout are an extremely important component of the spawning population.

Pick up some brochures on the subject at the Associations' Information Centre, and help us provide grandchildren for your grandchildren.





For your information...

Compost tumblers a good choice

- Compost tumblers are nice looking. Neighbours and family members won't complain about an ugly homemade compost pile.
- Compost tumblers are pest resistant. Dogs, squirrels, raccoons or rats won't get into your compost.
- Compost tumblers are easy to keep aerated. You don't need a pitchfork or a composting tool. You just turn the composter or flip it over and your compost gets mixed.
- Compost tumblers stay closed. In hot weather, the compost stays damp longer and won't dry out. In wet weather, the compost does not get too soggy. Any smells stay inside the tumbler (although compost should not smell bad if you are doing it right).
- Compost tumblers are simply more fun. Let's face it, it's kind of fun to go out and turn the compost when you keep it in a tumbler. Even the kids may want to help. It feels like you are accomplishing something, yet it is not hard work.
- Compost tumblers make compost fast. But

to be honest, if you make a giant pile of compost, keep it well stirred and aerated, you can get compost from a pile just as fast, but who has time for that? Using a tumbler make the whole composting process easier.

Compiled by the Environmental Team of the Township of Athens Community in Blooms Committee.

Volunteers are needed

This will be the third year for the Information Centre to be in operation. There will be much activity going on this summer.

Volunteers are needed to continue the success of the centre. Your help and support will be much appreciated.

If you can volunteer some time to this cause, please contact Joan Barnell at 613-924-9630



The Charleston Lake Associations

Information Centre

is now open

109 County Rd. 40 (Charleston Rd.)

Tel: 613-924-0149



Hours of Operation:

May, June:

Saturday, 12 noon to 4 pm.

July & August:

Wednesday through Saturday, 10 am to 4 pm.

Sunday 10 am. To 12 noon



Around the Lake...

Water Levels - The Outlet Dam

The dam at Outlet was first commissioned in 1886 and then upgraded in 1963. Although not large it has raised water levels about 4-5 feet. The dam has three vents thirteen feet wide and water levels are controlled by adding or removing square logs (22 in total).

Water levels are highest in the spring and lowest in the fall. The dam is now owned by Eastern Ontario Power (April 2003) which is a Fortis Ontario Company. 600kw of power is generated in Gananoque by the combined flow of all the waters that feed the Gananoque River. This is enough power for approximately 25-50 houses.

Usually, depending on rainfall, the lake is maintained at 3' 7" to 4' for the summer season (ie. lake is full according to hydrologists) and no power is generated. The exception to this rule was last year during the Black Out when power was generated (some logs removed) for 4-5 days. Please see the Power Companies Management plan as outlined below.

December 31- the scale on the dam should be 3 feet 6 inches (3.6)

January to February- water is drawn back from 3.6 to 2 feet to allow for spring run off

March of each year- water level allowed to increase to 4.0 by mid April and held between 4.0 and 3.7 until the week after Labour Day. This is considered optimal for summer recreational requirements.

Sept to Oct15- water drawn down to 1.6 and no more in order to maintain conditions for trout spawn. This is man-

dated by the Ministry of Natural Resources

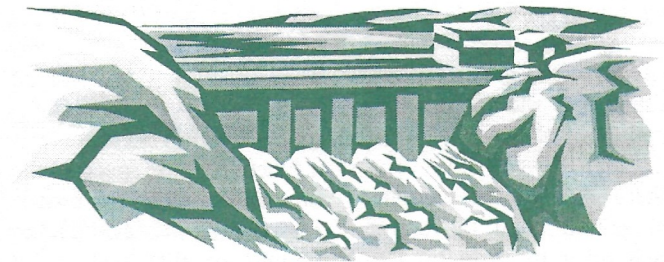
Nov.-Dec 31- The water level is allowed to increase to 3.6.

All of the above are subject to change depending on Mother Natures whims. For further information contact Bill Hallam (Charleston Lake Association Director Concerning Water Levels) at (613) 535-2621 home, (613) 659-2997 cottage.

Thanks to Murray Hall at Fortis Power for providing the above information.

Volunteer Needed

Eastern Ontario Power (Fortis) would like a cottager near the Outlet Dam to allow them to install a depth trans-



ducer which will facilitate monitoring of water levels. There would be NO cost to cottager.

Conditions required are:

- 4'-5' of water
- need cement or rock shoreline
- must have phone line (will not affect cottagers phone)

The equipment in the water includes a transducer (like a microphone cord) and on shore a transformer (smaller than a toaster)

Anyone interested should contact Bill Hallam at the above listed phone number.

Suggested Budget Highlights that affect the Charleston Lake Community

For the portion situated in the Township of Leeds and the Thousand Islands

In Summary, the Township 2004 Budget primarily concentrated on two important issues:

1. To increase the visibility of the benefit of the casino revenue to the residents of the Township of Leeds and the Thousand Islands.
2. To consolidate the tax rate of Ward 2 (former Township of the Rear of Leeds and Lansdowne) with the merged tax rate of Ward 1 (former Township of the Front of Leeds and Lansdowne) and Ward 3 (former Township of the Front of Escott).

Both of these initiatives will benefit the Charleston Lake Community.

Council has approved \$1.4 million in capital projects financed primarily from casino

revenues. Most visible to the Charleston Lake area residents will be resurfacing of Lower Oak Leaf Road.

The tax rate from residential property in Ward 2 has been dropping since amalgamation. It will be reduced finally this year another 26% to merge with the lower rate experienced in Wards 1 and 3. That means a total reduction of 34% since amalgamation.

What this means is that on a property assessed at \$10,000 the local property tax levy will go from \$453.90 in 2003 to \$335.00 in 2004.

This consolidated tax rate is the second lowest tax rate in the whole United Counties.

For further details contact the municipal office at Lansdowne and speak to the Treasurer, Eileen Watson or the Clerk-Administrator, John A. Trudgeon (johna@1000island.net).



Around the Lake...

Stay A Wake

More and more we are seeing bigger and faster boats on the lake. For the most part these are being handled responsibly and with consideration for others.

There are, however, some things we need to remind each other of from time to time.

Boat wakes can be both bad for the ecology of the lake and they can be a real nuisance to property owners if not paid attention to.

There are numerous areas on the lake that are both narrow and highly trafficked. Some of these are populated areas and have swimmers and docks to think of. Excessive wakes in these areas are not only annoying to the people who get splashed but contribute significantly to erosion of the shoreline.

Boat wakes are not directly related to speed or size of boat. Each boat has an optimum operating attitude in which it will create a minimum wake. This attitude is a function of the speed of the boat and the load the boat is carrying; as well as the positioning of the load. All boats are designed to operate best in a certain position on the water. In that optimum position the boat will produce a minimum wake.

Wake results from the water being pushed out of the way by the boat as it passes over it. Obviously the more water the boat is pushing the more power is being consumed doing just that. **PUSHING WATER.**

So what are we saying? Well it seems that it is in our own self-interest to minimize our wakes for several reasons. Better fuel con-

sumption. Reduced erosion. Happier neighbours.

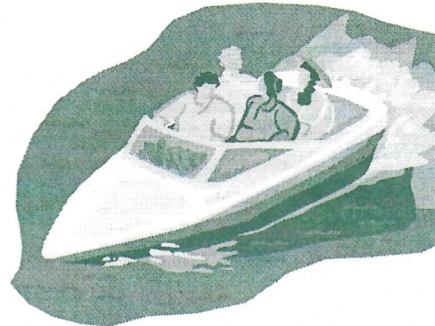
How do we do it? Each boat is different. It doesn't take much to figure which speeds yield the best results for the boat we are driving at the time. Having the boat in its 'at rest' position is usually a good start. So after everyone is on board, if the bow or stern is noticeably up or down, you are going to be using extra power to correct for that and create excessive wake in doing so. If you have to sit on the top of the seat back to see out, you are probably creating an excessive wake.

The best test is look over your shoulder.

Be a good neighbour, save money and save the shoreline. Everybody wins.

Safety Committee

The boating season is always special!



Please don't spoil it by drinking and driving.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Safety Committee

Are you moving ?

Make sure your Newsletter moves with you!

Take a moment to provide us with your new address so that we can ensure uninterrupted delivery of your Association Newsletter .

3 easy ways to do it:

Phone
613-924-1598

●
E-mail
ashwoods@rideau.net

●
Mail
CLA
P.O. Box 609
Athens, ON
K0E 1B0



For your information...

Notice of A.G.M.

Saturday, July 10

9:30 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
- Treasurer's Report
- Panel Discussion
- Committee Reports
- Election of Directors
- New Business
- Adjournment

Panel Discussion

Instead of a guest speaker, we will have a panel discussion with specialists in various fields of interest relating to Charleston Lake.

Come early for refreshments.

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting.
The Directors, Charleston Lake Association

Watch what you put into the recycle box

Save your empty spray bottles to be used with your own cleaning solution.

Window cleaning: ¼ cup of vinegar and 4 cups of water, mix and fill into an old spray bottle. Use old newspaper or old washable rags to dry.

Dusting of furniture: mix in a bottle ¾ cup of vinegar and ¼ cup of vegetable oil, shake and add the solution to a dusting cloth and dust your furniture. The vinegar cleans and the oil polishes the wood. Once the vinegar has evaporated your furniture is clean and your house will smell fresh. **Note: Do not put the cleaning solution directly on the wood; always spray it on the cloth.**

Brass and copper can be cleaned with a solution of 2 tsp. of salt and 1 tbsp. of flour and a few drops of vinegar. Mix salt and flour and add enough vinegar to make a paste. Dip a cloth into the paste and clean the metal objects. Rinse with warm water and dry with a soft cloth.

Wooden boards can be cleaned, disinfected and deodorized while rubbing baking powder onto the surface and spraying with full strength vinegar. Leave standing for 5 minutes before rinsing.

Toilet cleaning: pour 1 cup

of vinegar into the toilet bowl and brush to ensure that the vinegar is on all surface. Add 1 cup of borax and brush again. For persistent stains, leave standing for 2 hours before flushing.

Stainless steel pots, pans and kitchen sinks can be cleaned by using baking powder and a few drops of vinegar.

Kitchen counters, fridges and stove surfaces can be cleaned and kept looking like new longer by using a mix of 1 tsp of dishwashing liquid, 2 tsp. of vinegar, ½ cup of vegetable oil, ½ cup of water. Mix and keep in a spray bottle ready to use.

Showers, tubs and tiles: sprinkle some borax or washing soda on a damp sponge or soft cloth. Use like you would a powdered cleaner, then rinse.

Add ½ cup of borax to your laundry load to enhance the cleaning power of your detergent.

Make sure you label your spray bottles to avoid wrong use.

Compiled by the Environmental Team of Athens Community in Blooms Committee.



For your information...

NUMBER 2 IN A SERIES

Charleston Lake's Loons

Facts About Loons and Their Chicks:

- . Loons are the oldest and most primitive living bird, at least 20 million years old.
- . The life expectancy of a loon is 15 to 30 years.
- . Loons typically lay two large olive green-brown eggs with dark brown spots in late May to early June.
- . Incubation of the egg(s) averages 28 days and is shared by the male and female.
- . Within 12-24 hours the chicks leave the nest with the adults. Their first week they begin to dive for food, but are dependent on the parents for food for their first month. At 6 weeks, they reach adult size and become self-sufficient at 8 weeks. Young loons learn to fly at 10 weeks.
- . Egg predators include: raccoons, gulls, crows, ravens, skunks, mink and otters.
- . Chick predators include: large fish, snapping turtles and eagles.

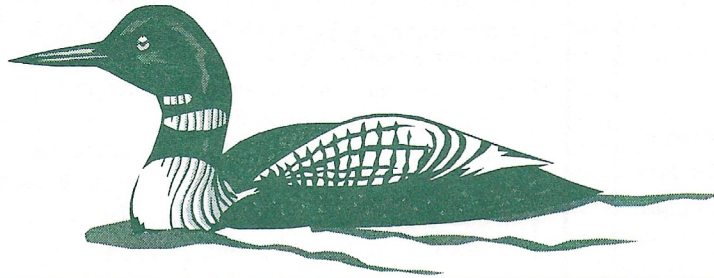
Our Loons

Need Your Help:

Please keep well away from loon nests or areas where you think there may be a nest. Even quiet canoes can cause loons to leave the nest, drawing attention to predators and leaving their eggs unprotected. Loon nests are right at the water's edge and can be flooded by boat wash.

Please do not come close to loons with their chicks. Boats that come too close make the loon family feel very threatened. One parent may call loudly and splash the water, while the other tries to get the chicks away to safety. This is very stressful for the birds, and it may be a long time before the parents feel it is safe enough to go back to feeding the chicks.

Please do not leave fishing line and tackle behind in the water. Loons hunt for fish (such as yellow perch and minnows) and may get tangled up in fishing line, suffering from exposure when unable to preen their feathers, and starvation when unable to dive properly to catch fish. Loons and other aquatic birds will swallow lead sinkers and die from the lead poisoning.



Upcoming Charleston Lake Events

- . Annual General Meeting - Saturday, July 10, 2003, Charleston Lake Provincial Park.
- . See Page 3 for a list of local and Lake events

Tip of the Hat

To the Township Council and Planners, Township of Leeds and The Thousand Islands. A recent letter to the media concerned the Township's draft official plan. The writer decried the fact that the council was putting the environment first and paying too much attention to special interest groups.

In our opinion, the environment is not a special interest group. It is the basis for all activities, our health and our economy. The Council and Planners for Leeds and The Thousand Islands should be applauded for their interest in the Biosphere Organization, the Charleston Lake Association and concern for the environment.

Too many municipalities these days are basing their economics on growth at the expense of local ecosystems. Much of the time there is no one who will even speak out to try to protect natural environments. Leeds and The Thousand Islands is setting a shining example of good planning which we are confident that the Township of Athens will emulate when updating their Official Plan, hopefully to commence this year.

*Directors
Charleston Lake
Association*