



NEWSLETTER

Vol. 98, No. 1

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

Winter, 1998

Your 1998 Membership Made Easy

Remember how difficult it has been, over the years, to pay your membership dues?

You either had to find a place where you could purchase your membership or be at your cottage when the canvasser came by. Or maybe you had to be the canvasser for your neighbourhood. It was even more difficult for the islanders.

Well, we are making it easy to be a member, and everyone should be a member of this most worthwhile association which does so much to keep our lake as wonderful as it is.

Along with this Newsletter you are receiving an Invoice for your 1998 membership dues.

Please take a minute to check and/or correct the information and return this invoice with your cheque for \$25.00 to:

*Charleston Lake Association
P. O. Box 609
Athens, Ontario, K0E 1B0*

At last year's Annual Meeting, the members approved, by an 87% majority, to raise the annual dues to \$25.00.

For those who were not there, or who might ask, "Why

\$25.00?". There's a multitude of reasons, but in brief, \$10.00 just won't do it anymore - and to keep our lake as it should be - \$25.00 is still but a token.

Our pledge to you is to prove that membership in this Association is a real 'Bargain' at \$25.00.

I implore you to join up now and be a part of a truly marvellous association dedicated

to keeping Charleston Lake beautiful *in every way*.

Watch for the next Newsletter featuring the arrangements for the Annual Meeting **July 11th**.

We urge you to mark this date on your calendar and make plans to attend.

Please take the time today to mail your 1998 Membership dues.

Doug Hale



The enthusiasm is growing. As this newsletter went to press, our 1998 membership is already at well over 100 members.

Notes From the Park Office

As one of the many partners on Charleston Lake, Charleston Lake Provincial Park is proud to be a member of the Charleston Lake Association. Whew, that's a lot of "Charleston Lakes" in one sentence, but then it's the important waterbody in the area so somehow it seems appropriate!

The park staff would like to invite all lake users to stop by for a visit. In the winter months, the park features eight kilometers of groomed ski trails, and plenty of nooks and crannies for snowshoers and hikers to explore.

During the summer, a visit can include a swim at one of the

beaches, walking one of the six nature trails, a camping outing, picnicking, fishing or attending one of the many interpretive programs.

There's even a Naturoshop operated by the Friends of Charleston Lake Park which features nature and lake-related books, gifts, and the cassette

tape "Legends and Lore of the Charleston Shore".

If you would like more information about the park, please call 613-659-2065, or write: Charleston Lake Provincial Park, 148 Woodvale Rd., Lansdowne, Ontario, K0E 1L0

Mike Ogilvie

Winter Came to Beautiful Charleston Lake

1st Snowfall - **November 14**
Snow Stayed - **December 23**
Loons Left - **December 21**
Ice Formed - **January 1**



YOUR BOARD REPORTS...

A Message From Your President

Any association is only as good as its membership.

Compared to earlier years, our membership declined in 1996 and early 1997.

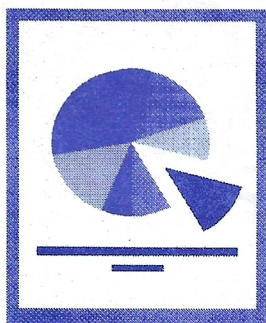
At the time of the 1997 annual meeting, there were 236 members. 114 more members joined after the meeting to bring the 1997 total to 350.

Our goal is to reach a membership total of 500 or more for 1998. I firmly believe it will be more.

There are ± 700 property owners on the lake and a number of others who use the lake, or derive benefits from

the lake (business or otherwise), that wish to be associated with us. The Membership Committee is planning to reach as many of these potential members as possible.

Doug Hale



Our 1998 Expense Budget

Our budget is based on a total of 450 members paying membership dues of \$25.00. Our 1998 objective is to have at least 500 members.

MEMBERSHIP	\$3,260.	28 %
Three annual Newsletters to members, Cards & Decals.		
SAFETY	\$2,275.	20 %
Place, remove, store & repair marker buoys.		
WATER QUALITY	\$ 900.	8 %
Take and professionally analyze samples, track trends.		
INSURANCE	\$ 800.	7 %
Annual premium for Association Liability Insurance and Directors Insurance.		
ADMINISTRATION	\$ 300.	3 %
Annual Meeting expenses, typing, postage, copies.		
NEW PROGRAMS	\$3,800.	34 %
Expand water quality testing, Lake Trout and Bass conservation, boat safety and other water safety, shore-line conservation, youth activities, Loon Watch program, major membership drive		

Note: Percentages add to more than 100% due to rounding

WARNING

If you create open water on the ice this winter,

PLEASE ERECT PROPER WARNING SIGNS

**REMEMBER ...
you could be held responsible!**



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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.

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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.



ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

What's Happening on Charleston Lake

On the Environment Scene

Indiscriminate shoreline development destroys not only fish habitat, but ultimately whole lakes, rivers, and lake systems. Ask anyone who has watched the Rideau Lakes over the past 20 years; many are now heavily dosed with nutrients. Weeds and algae choke their once open and clear waters.

The effects of shoreline abuse are not just ecological, but economic; waterfront property values will decline, and property owners will be

shocked to see their investment depreciating.

Everyone who is contemplating shoreline work is encouraged to regard development regulations not as impediments to improvement but as inducements to leave the shore as natural as possible. Stripping shrubs, cutting trees, pouring sand, building retaining walls, and erecting structures that restrict water circulation all assure the decline and eventual ruin of our lakes.

A Real Team Effort

This past fall your association held meetings with the Cataraqui Conservation Authority, The Ministry of Natural Resources, the Charleston Lake Park and the Leeds County Stewardship Council.

The meetings concluded with each group agreeing to work as a team with the Charleston Lake Association towards keeping the lake beautiful in every way.

On The Fishing Scene

Our 'Protect the Bass on the Spawning Bed' pamphlet is printed and 'Ready to Go'. This pamphlet will be included with your spring newsletter.

in the lake late last September. In total, 20,000 trout were placed in the lake during 1997.

Current plans are to place another 10,000 fingerlings this spring.

Ten thousand (10,000) Lake Trout fingerlings were placed

Renting Your Cottage?

Here's a few suggestions on how you can prepare your cottage for renters:

Establish your conditions of rental, including:

cancellation policy, maximum occupancy including guests, restrictions on pets, smoking, noise restrictions in your cottage area and boat restrictions on the lake.

Establish financial responsibility:

To prevent problems, consider getting a refundable 'damage deposit'.

Personal Effects

Remove anything you don't want lost or damaged. Leave renters lots of empty drawer and cupboard space.

Compile a directory

Give your renters a list of emergency numbers, an inventory of

the cottage and instructions for operation of any equipment such as barbecues, septic systems and water system.

Provide assistance

Leave the renters extra fuses, flashlight, fire extinguisher, etc. It's a good idea to ensure that smoke detectors are operating and leave extra batteries.

Blankets and Linens.

While most renters furnish their own, make sure those you provide are clean and in good condition.

Added touch

It's a nice touch to leave a few basic condiments and a few staples for renters who forget things like salt and pepper, vinegar, ketchup, etc.

Insurance

Make sure your insurance covers renters.

The Best Dollar Value

Your CLA membership: still the best dollar value for long-term environmental health.

Your dues in the years gone by have annually delivered ten times their value in terms of environmental protection. Whether or not your are aware of this, it is a fact. Not that the CLA has been perfect. Simply irreplaceable. And this is just as true for 1998 as it will be in the foreseeable future.

Whatever your investment on Charleston - whether as a boater, fisherman, businessperson or property owner - why spend all those hundreds or thousands of dollars only to sit idly by and let the environment decay? Environmental degradation kills your investment. The \$25.00 CLA fee each year is your best insurance policy. And make no mistake about it, CLA needs you and the \$25.00.





LAKE ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

Winter's Icy Grip Will Soon Release

Soon it will be spring on beautiful Charleston Lake. In March, some of the early migrating birds return - you can hear the familiar 'kon-ker-ee' of the Red-winged Blackbird and the chirps of the Robin as they arrive to establish their territories. The familiar 'kil-deee' of the Killdeer, another early returner will be heard as they often return to the same place to rear their young in a shallow nest on the ground.

In the woods, as you look up, you may spot a Great Horned Owl, already on its nest. Often, they choose an abandoned hawk, eagle, crow or squirrel nest in lieu of starting their own from scratch. On warm days, the early butterflies, Mourning Cloak, will be seen gliding over the remaining patches of snow. It's time to bask in the sun ... after a winter under bark or stones, or in a tree hollow. It's name is derived from its appearance - the wings resemble the funeral shawls worn by Victorian widows.

Other signs of spring include male chipmunks scouting for a mate, an early Woodcock or Grackle, or male Goldfinches starting to show their bright gold summer coats among the remaining dull olive green feathers, and the pussywillows swell from the awakening branches.

You may also see the nighttime migration of spotted salamanders as they leave their winter nests to head for the woodland ponds or flooded lowlands to mate and lay their eggs.

As April nears, the early wildflowers will appear - the candy striped Spring Beauty, the Furry-stemmed Pink Hepatica and the brilliant White Bloodroot. The Trilliums won't appear 'til May.

A visit to a marsh or pond can bring its rewards - the trill of the of American Toads, and spring peepers as they try to impress one another. When breeding, the females will lay up to 5,000 eggs in long strips

of jelly attached to underwater plants.

Spring will finally be here and the cottage season at Charleston Lake won't be far behind.

NUMBER 1 IN A SERIES

Charleston Lake's Loons

- ◆ Like most waterfowl, loons have a large oil gland on top of the base of their tail to keep their feathers water-repellant and supple. The loon collects the oil with its beak and spreads it over its feathers.
- ◆ Loons also 'shower' to help maintain their feathers. The loon raises out of the water and then splashes the water with its wings. A vigorous body shake then settles all the feathers back into place.
- ◆ Throughout the summer, non-breeding loons gather in groups usually in early morning or evening. Non-breeding loons include those that do not have a mate, have not found a suitable territory or are too young to reproduce.
- ◆ Loons hunt by sight therefore they must continually peer under the water while they hunt. When they spot a fish, they dive and chase their prey which is usually caught at a depth of 6 - 12 feet (2-4 meters).
- ◆ The parents feed young loon chicks minnows and other small fish. To stimulate the chick to eat, the adult dips the fish into the water and makes small splashes with the fish.
- ◆ To facilitate diving, loons have evolved denser and heavier bones which have fewer air spaces than most birds. In addition, loons compress their feathers to force out trapped air just before diving to further reduce buoyancy. These two characteristics help loons dive up to 265 feet!
- ◆ The record diving time for a common loon is 3 minutes, although average diving time is 62 seconds.
- ◆ The increased density of the loon, which favours diving, creates difficulties in getting airborne for flight. Since the wings have such a heavy load to carry, loons must motor across the water in order to generate the lift for take-off.
- ◆ Once in the air, loons can fly at speeds of 75 MPH. This is quite fast compared with ducks that fly at 45-60 MPH.
- ◆ The foot wobble, the raising of one foot in the air and holding it there or shaking it, is suspected to be a method of body temperature regulation used by the loon. The large surface area of the foot and its well-developed vascular system allows for cooling through evaporative heat loss as the foot is exposed to the warm air.
- ◆ Loons sleep with their heads turned towards their tails and their faces buried in their feathers, leaving the eyes uncovered.

