



est. 1890

# NEWSLETTER

WINTER  
2018

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

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

## President's Message

This last year we have witnessed extraordinary weather, from the drought conditions of the summer of 2016 to the unprecedented precipitation in 2017 with summer finally arriving in the fall.

Despite unpredictable weather, your CLA/CLEA directors continue to strive to keep Charleston Lake beautiful. Water quality studies done this year show a slight decline over past years. However according to Ontario Lake Assessments, this was due to high rainfall with the resulting erosion washing material into the lake. This is one reason why fertilizer use near the shoreline is discouraged.

In 2018, municipalities will be reviewing their official plans (OP). It is our hope that any changes will be to the benefit of Charleston Lake. CLA attended a meeting in October organized by the Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve (FABR). The Town Planner of Leeds and Thousand Islands, present at that meeting, will make sure CLA has a chance to comment on the OP before its implementation. The Leeds and Thousand Islands and Athens municipalities welcome input from all area residents.

Please note that our AGM will be changing in 2018 to Saturday July 28, 9:30 am at the Holy Trinity Anglican Church on Lower Oak Leaf

Road. This will hopefully allow for more participation in our Shoreline Challenge Program. Look for details in this newsletter.

### **Also to be continued for 2018:**

- Summer Youth Programs - See details in this newsletter.
- Golf Tournament - Saturday August 11th. See details in this newsletter.
- Ontario Youth Summit
- Water quality studies
- Installation and maintenance of shoal markers
- Student Bursary program

CLA/CLEA would like to thank retiring directors Julia Woito and Brian Hollingsworth for their dedication and commitment to help make Charleston Lake a great place to be. Julia headed up our successful Youth Summer Programs for many years and Brian took the lead of the Shoreline Challenge Program. We wish you both well where ever your future takes you.

As always, we welcome your input and comments.

Have a safe and healthy winter and look forward to seeing you in the spring.

**Bill Hallam**

## CHARLESTON LAKE ASSOCIATION STUDENT BURSARY

CLA awards two bursaries each year, one to a student at Athens District High School and one at Gananoque Secondary School. The students who are chosen demonstrate an interest in the environment.

### **The recipients in 2017 were:**

**Athens District High School**  
Jacob Lalonde  
Ridgetown College

**Gananoque Secondary School**  
Abby Spence  
Trent University – Environmental  
Science/ Biology

## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

CLA Summer programs are accepting applications from candidates for jobs as lifeguards and camp counsellors.

Please send resumes to:

**Mary Mansworth**  
[mmansworth@ripnet.com](mailto:mmansworth@ripnet.com)

# ONTARIO NATURE'S YOUTH SUMMIT FOR BIODIVERSITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP

In September 2017, the Charleston Lake Association (CLA) sponsored a local student to attend Ontario Nature's Youth Summit for Biodiversity and Environmental Leadership. Hosted at YMCA Geneva Park, Orillia, the eighth annual summit involved 98 youth, a variety of nature workshops and activities, and many active environmentalists who dedicated their weekend to inspiring ambitious teens.

Sixteen year old Katie Ross attended her second summit in 2017 on behalf of the CLA. She is actively involved in environmental issues in the Charleston Lake area. She will be returning this year for her third summer as CLA Information Centre manager and administrative assistant as well as CLA camp counsellor. Katie looks forward to sharing new insights and ideas she developed at the summit with others who also have appreciation for Charleston Lake.

The Youth Summit for Biodiversity and Environmental Leadership was an active three days. Throughout the weekend, students attended five workshops to learn how they can use their knowledge in their own communities. What's the Buzz About was led by members of Ontario Nature's Youth Council and focused on how teens can make a difference. Students learned skills that will strengthen their ability to share their passion for the environment. Keynote speaker, Kale Black, took a unique perspective in his workshop, Be the Change. He taught students how they can make a difference by altering their individual lives. Katie hopes to inspire the children at CLA camps to make environmentally friendly choices as well. The Building Bee Boxes and Wetland Species workshops were educational and increased students' understanding about environmental issues such as protecting pollinators and wetland species. Lastly, Unearthed was a calming workshop where students took time to appreciate the peace of nature while practicing various nature-based meditative rituals from around the world. Methods such as "grounding", walking barefoot in nature to improve one's health and mental clarity, can be especially enjoyed by those who cherish nature.

Ontario Nature's Youth Summit for Biodiversity and Environmental Leadership is an amazing way for like-minded youth to come together and share their beliefs, actions, and

ideas as environmentalists. Katie explains, "The impact I felt after only three days with such ambitious teens was amazing. I was so proud to share what I do with the CLA. I came home from the summit inspired and eager to continue to bring awareness of environmental topics to the Charleston Lake area."

## 2018 CLA SUMMER PROGRAM

SAND BAY COUNTY PARK,  
CHARLESTON LAKE

### LEADERSHIP CAMP - JULY 3-5 (9.am – 3.pm)

This camp is for young people in Grades 5, 6 and 7 – an exciting camp with the "older kids" which will develop leadership skills, and be a wonderful fun time too. Enjoy swimming and taking part in games and activities which will teach you how to create and lead activities and become a camp leader of the future!

### NATURE CAMP - JULY 9-13 (9.am – 3. pm)

For children who have completed JK to those who have completed Grade 5. Games, crafts, swimming and activities which help to develop an appreciation of the environment and the amazing natural surroundings of Charleston Lake.

### ADVENTURE CAMP - JULY 16-20 (9.am – 3.pm)

For children who have completed JK to those who have completed Grade 5. Come to discover, explore and create at this adventure filled camp with games, crafts , swimming and adventure – themed activities.

### SPORTS CAMP - JULY 23-27 ( 9.am – 3.pm)

For children who have completed JK to those who have completed Grade 5. Land sports, water sports, fitness and games all contribute to having fun with your friends at the lake.

# 2018 CLA SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION FORM

## Participant Information

Name:	DOB:	Address:
Parent(s)/Guardian(s):	Summer #: Cell #: Email:	Emergency Contact & phone #:
Doctor and phone #:	Health Card #:	Medical Conditions (allergies etc)
Authorized individuals to reclaim your child:		Other Information:

*\*Charleston Lake Association is committed to our youth and subsidizes all youth programs.  
If you are currently not a CLA member, please consider, the annual family membership fee is **\$40.00**.  
Camp programs are subject to a maximum # of participants, register early!*

## 2018 CLA SUMMER CAMP OPTIONS:

Please check each session your camper would like to register for:

		<u>CLA Member</u>	<u>Non-Member</u>
<input type="radio"/> Week 1: July 3 - 5	Leadership Camp	\$60	\$100
<input type="radio"/> Week 2: July 9 - 13	Nature Camp	\$60	\$100
<input type="radio"/> Week 3: July 16 - 20	Adventure Camp	\$60	\$100
<input type="radio"/> Week 4: July 23 - 27	Sports Camp	\$60	\$100
		_____	_____
	<b>TOTAL FEES</b>	_____	_____

## Liability Waiver

I agree not to hold the Charleston Lake Association, its officers, directors, employees or its agents liable for any accidents, injuries, losses or damage which may occur as a result of named participants involved in planned activities. I also understand that misbehaviour will not be tolerated and will result in being removed from the program at the discretion of the Camp Director.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent/Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# BOATING SAFETY AND SHOAL MARKERS

We have purchased 12 new shoal marker buoys, including two "Slow – No Wake" buoys, which will replace existing ones which are deteriorating. The solar pile cap type lights seem to be working great on 20 or more of our 70 plus buoys. We have had a lot of positive feedback from boaters - many lake travellers feel safer knowing that the buoys are there and that some have lights on.

We have also changed most of the galvanized chain that keeps the buoys in their spots.

As usual, special thanks to the Shoal Marker team, which this year included Cody Johnston, Sheldon Fournier, Tyler Reuvers, Robbie Gibson and of course George Bellisle for his precision driving and the use of his pontoon boat.

Thank you to all the Charleston Lake Association members and to donations from the community that make it possible to keep the lake safe for boating. Please recommend to your friends, neighbours and new residents at the lake to become members of CLA, so that they can be part of what we do.

See you in the Spring!

**Robbie Gibson**

*Boating Safety / Shoal Markers*



## 2018 AGM

SATURDAY, JULY 28th at 9.30.am  
Holy Trinity Church, Oak Leaf Rd.

### Charleston Lake Association Directors

**Bill Hallam - President/Environment**  
Cottage 613-659-2997 billhallam@hotmail.com

**Wayne Gill** – Secretary/Treasurer  
**Dwayne Struthers** – Fisheries and Wildlife  
**Robbie Gibson** - Boating Safety / Law Enforcement  
**Wayne Ashford** – V.P. South / Golf Tournament  
**Pierre Menard** - V.P. North / Golf Tournament  
**Rocci Pagnello** – Fish and Wildlife/ Ontario Youth Summit  
**Jay Kyle** – Shoreline Challenge

### Charleston Lake Environmental Association Directors

**Roy Angelow** – Municipal Contact  
**Daragh Mansworth** – IT  
**Irene Ireland** – Membership  
**Rob Ross** – County Contact  
**Mary Mansworth** – Newsletter/ Youth Programs

### Charleston Lake Association CLA/CLEA

*"Dedicated to Keeping  
Charleston Lake Beautiful in Every Way"*

- Management Plan Alive & Active
- Protecting Water Quality Through Testing
- Maintaining Healthy Fisheries
- Restoring And Protecting Our Shorelines
- Shoal Marker Placement
- Youth and Family Lake Programs

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

*Supported Through Membership  
Membership Driven  
Join Our Membership*

# 2018 Healthy Shoreline Challenge

---

**The Charleston Lake Association and Charleston Lake Environmental Association are again sponsoring the 2018 Healthy Shoreline Challenge again for all Charleston Lake residents.**

The purpose is to recognize the many beautiful natural shorelines on Charleston Lake.

Is yours one of them? If so, you will want to register your property and have a chance to win one of two beautiful wildlife art keepsakes which will be awarded at our AGM.



There are two categories:

**Category A** for those shorelines where little or no development has occurred.

**Category B** for those shorelines that have some lake friendly alteration/rehabilitation Shorelines are the ribbon of life for any lake and are key in keeping Charleston Lake beautiful.

Our Healthy Shoreline Handbook, sent out to all CLA members and cottagers provides recommendation for shoreline improvements and helps guide landowners to make changes where necessary.

**It is easy to enter the draw before July 15, 2018**  
**Register online at [www.charlestonlakeassociation.ca](http://www.charlestonlakeassociation.ca) or mail to:**  
**Charleston Lake Association, PO Box 609 Athens Ont. KOE ILO**

I wish to enter :      Category A or Category B

Property Location / Address/ Lot: \_\_\_\_\_

Landowners Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address / Phone Number : \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address : \_\_\_\_\_

# 2017 DOUG HALE MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

---

Another sell out! With the weather co-operating again this year, 72 golfers enjoyed a fine morning of golf at the Cedar Valley Golf Course with another 26 family members joined the golfers for a tasty lasagna lunch. Following the awarding of prizes and a very active silent auction, the tournament wound up by 2:00PM so everyone could enjoy the rest of another beautiful summer day. With your support over \$4500 was raised to support the many environmental activities of the CLEA.

This tournament and fund raising would not be possible without the participation of our dedicated sponsors who continue to support us year after year. A listing of all our sponsors follows; please provide your support to our local businesses whenever possible.

We look forward to another great tournament in 2018, again to be held at the Cedar Valley on Sat Aug 11.

**Committee Co Chairs**  
**Pierre Menard & Wayne Ashford**

---

## Tee Marker Sponsors

Burt Hudson Realty  
Canarm Limited  
Charleston Lake Auto Service  
Dockside Restaurant  
Elgin Street Convenience Store  
G. Tackaberry and Sons Construction  
Greg and Kelly Judson  
Henderson Printing  
John Simzer Tree Service  
Kroeger Inc  
Lakeline Lodge and Marina  
Kelsey's Marina  
Lyndhurst Home Building Centre  
Mansworth Family  
Mary Jane Manley  
Margaret Hale & the Hale Family  
Miller General Repairs & Service  
Promotional Concepts  
Purcell's Freshmart  
Roger Kelsey Insurance Brokers Inc  
Shelley Samson  
Strader Ferris International Limited  
V Mech Plumbing Services  
The Webster Family

## Contest Sponsors

Athens Pharmasave  
Willards Bakery  
The Friends of Charleston Lake Park

## Other Sponsors

Metro Media  
Performance Printing, Smith Falls

## Silent Auction, Prize Sponsors

Camalor Manufacturing  
Cedar Valley Golf Course  
Colorado Avalanche, Barb & Rob Dunlop  
Doug Hale Jr  
Dwayne Struthers  
Kelsey's Restaurant, Brockville  
Kroeger Inc., Daragh Mansworth  
Lansdowne Fresh Mart  
Mark's, Brockville  
Metro Media, Smith Falls  
Pittsburgh Penguins, Randy & Joanne Sexton  
Promotional Concepts  
Rocci Pagnello  
Roofmart, Kingston, Phil Batt  
Roger Kelsey Insurance Brokers Inc  
Royal Bank, Brockville  
Wayne Gill

# Twiggy – the Water Skiing Safety Squirrel

---

At the 2018 Toronto Boat Show in January, Twiggy the waterskiing squirrel created lots of interest and provided education for boaters, one wave at a time! Ten year old Twiggy's performance drove the fans nuts. But this squirrel also had a very important message for all of us in cottage country and the boating world. Being pulled behind a remote controlled boat in a shallow pool with his tiny life-jacket on for safety, the messages are as follows: Learn to swim. Listen to the Lifeguard. Wear a life-jacket when boating.

LouAnn, Twiggy's owner wades into the water and when the boats approaches, she places Twiggy on the skis behind the boat. The squirrel grabs the bar and the boat zips off, carving circle after circle in the clear water to everyone's delight. Although, the show is fantastic and fun, the message is clear – boating safety is key to fun and enjoyment on our waterways.

You can find more about Twiggy on YouTube.

## Irene Ireland – Membership



# The Nature of Farming

---

On those calm, warm mid June to early July mornings, the long, bubbling melody of bobolinks and the two clear tee-yah, tee-yair whistles of meadowlarks float over the meadow of the farm. Birdsong is heard less and less each year and species at risk is strongly correlated with habitat at risk. They are just two of very many reasons that, thanks to significant donations, the Thousand Islands Watershed Land Trust is partnering with Ironwood Organics farm on conservation and education projects.

Folks around Charleston Lake know the Thousand Islands Watershed Land Trust for its conservation projects. Several of you contributed to the recent Old Baldy project, so that iconic figurehead and ecologically rich property came under the protective ownership of the Nature Conservancy (stay tuned for a

summer celebration!). But now, the land trust is about to explore a new phase of conservation and education, on farmland.

Farms on the Frontenac Arch landscape are most often a mosaic of woodlands, wetlands, stream valleys – as well as fields. Because this region is one of the richest in Canada for biodiversity, it only makes sense to work with landowners wherever there is opportunity.

Many are familiar with the Lower Oak Leaf Road farm because of the red fife wheat, oats, flowers and vegetables at the markets, and from that grain ground to flour by Chris Wooding at the Delta Mill. Ironwood Organics is working to make the farm more diverse with both added value products and putting nature to work on pest control and recovering nutrients. The land trust will work with the Woodings on conservation of their

woodland, wetlands, meadows, and encouraging native species on fencerows and in the shelterbelts that surround the fields. But the idea is to broadly share techniques, knowledge gained and research on everything from soil health and biodiversity, to resilience to climate change and supporting ecology on farms.

Part of our project is to prepare for visitors so we're not ready yet. Watch for invitations this spring and summer to events and demonstrations on the farm. Lessons learned here are applicable to your own property. The health of the land around the lake directly affects the health of the lake and those downstream watersheds.

**Don Ross**  
**Thousand Islands Watershed  
Land Trust**

---

## Has water clarity declined in Charleston Lake in 2017?

---

As of the writing of this article, the phosphorus and calcium analytical data for the summer of 2017 is not yet available from the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change. What is available is the water clarity data. Water clarity is recorded at each of the seven sample sites on the lake on six dates between May 1st and the end of October each year.

It was definitely an unusual spring and summer; several heavy rainfall events, 150 mm fell between May 1st and May 5th and a similar amount again in July; the peer at the outlet was completely submerged on July 30th and there was much flooding in low areas regionally.

During the May to July period, many

people raised the issue that water clarity had declined in area lakes as a result of the excessive rainfall events. Certainly there was a lot of floating debris on the surface and mixed vertically into the water column. When out for a cruise, it was difficult not to notice the increased amount of seston in the water column. This debris includes the fine materials from decomposing pine needles, leaves and woody debris along with shoreline erosion of fine clay sized particles. Soluble tannins, lignins and carotenoid pigments also get loaded to the lake in surface runoff, imparting a dark colour to the water.

Fortunately the spring and summer of 2016 was one of the driest seasons on record and therefore allows for a comparison of

water clarity values between two unusual weather event periods. A comparison of the field recordings from May, June and July for each year shows that clarity readings were poorer at every sample site in 2017 than those for 2016. When the results from all sample locations were averaged, the clarity in 2017 was 6.21 m compared with 6.78 m for the year 2016; a difference of 0.57m. Water clarity always improves by late summer and into the fall prior to fall overturn. When the late season clarity values for 2017 are included, the average for 2017 is close to the long-term average value.

**Reg Genge**  
**Ontario Lake Assessments**

# The Beauty of Shorelines

---



There's much more to shorelines than a strip of land at the water's edge. They are a broad transition between land and water, reaching well inland and well into the water. They are some of the most important places on Earth – for many reasons, from many perspectives.

No doubt you are reading this because you are a shoreline person, living or cottaging by water. And no doubt you've asked or are going to ask about carrying out some projects on your shoreline property – and are wondering about the reasons behind restrictions and permits. Simply put, it's about your role in helping to protect the values we all share, and being a careful steward of this wonderful place. And actually, there's a lot in it for you.

CLA and CLEA have been wonderful stewards of the lake. The newest Shoreline Challenge of CLEA is a case in point. The Cottage Life award in 2009 is another. People around the lake care about it and are willing to work to preserve its health and beauty.

Remember the realtor's line about the million dollar view? That view is what Charleston Lake is famous for – pines towering, massive oaks, granite whale backs, clear waters, trout. It's the view that never grows old – hopefully, others have that same extraordinary pleasure when looking across to your place on the shoreline. Keeping or restoring your place in a picture-perfect field of view could be the hardest but most rewarding challenge you'll ever face.

Enjoy the water? There's a role in keeping it clear and clean for everyone. The hard work begins well back from the water's edge. Whatever flows downslope will get to the water. Nature evolved an exceptionally effective purifier – trees, shrubs and wildflowers and soil microbes glean every bit of nutrient they can from soil and decay before they reach the water. From roots, leaves and branches, rainfall and runoff are slowed to a trickle, keeping these nutrients from fertilizing algae and water plants. By

contrast, water floods across tidy lawns, warmed by sun and enriched by fertilizer and laden with decaying debris. Weeds grow and algae blooms making swimming for you and the neighbours less pleasant.

When one wonders what's behind the regulations, it all comes down to keeping the water in good health. And it takes a shoreline community and all of its members – including you and the finned, furred, winged or leafy – to keep your water healthy.

This winter and into spring, many groups and agencies including CLA are coming together to make a handbook that will serve to help explore the stories and science behind the shoreline regulations. Watch these pages for where and how to get your copy. It will be worth a million dollar view.

**Don Ross**  
*Thousand Islands Watershed Land Trust*