



NEWSLETTER

WINTER
2025

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

www.charlestonlakeassociation.ca

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear CLA Members,

What a difference 6 months can make. As I write this, we are in the midst of the "Polar Vortex" with overnight lows in the -20C range, but then we come to daytime highs right around 0C. A great example of the fact that "global warming" of 1-2 degrees on average over decades is masking much more variable weather in terms of temperature fluctuations and extreme weather events.

The famous environmentalist slogan "**Think globally, act locally**" is at the core of much of what we do at CLA and CLEA. And the most important action that all of us can take locally is to ensure that our beautiful lake and all of its watershed are preserved in their natural state. Each of us could and should start with our own properties -- by minimizing their impact on the natural environment. On a larger scale, CLA and CLEA has worked over many years with the Athens-based **Thousand Islands Watershed Land Trust** which has placed 100s of hectares around the lake into permanent conservation. We also will be deepening our work with the local **Townships**, namely **Athens**, and **Leeds & the Thousand Islands (LTI)**, to ensure that official plans and the multitude of zoning and building applications they receive respect all the rules and regulations that are in-place to protect our lake and its watershed.

Now, moving from the land around the lake to the lake itself--this past Fall, the CLA Board received a

report from fish scientist **Prof. Dave Philipp** of the **University of Illinois** (Urbana-Champaign), who has a cottage on nearby Lake Opinicon. He and a team of scientists from **Carleton University** have been studying Eastern Ontario Bass populations for 25 years -- literally snorkeling 100s of kms to observe nesting Bass. This was the team behind the MNR-sponsored **Bass Sanctuaries** in effect on Charleston Lake this past summer. And the results are in: the program was a huge success. Making sure that nesting males are not taken off the nest (even for catch-and-release) keeps predators away from the nests and allows more fry (baby fish) to survive. If implemented over successive years, **the fish sanctuary program will allow Bass populations to grow, and Bass sizes to grow -- across the whole lake.** Based on these impressive results, CLA and CLEA have agreed to continue supporting this program for 2025 and beyond.

Speaking of the longer term, in Summer 2024 we kicked-off a project to refresh our award-winning Lake Plan, which was last updated in 2006. Thanks to **Sue Willson** for taking the lead on the **Charleston Lake Plan 2.0.** On our **new and improved website** (thanks again, Sue Willson) you can learn more about the process and substance of the Lake Plan process. **Input from CLA members** is strongly encouraged.

In this edition of the newsletter, in addition to our standard reporting,

you will also find articles by Board Members about our **Let's get the Lead Out** lead-free tackle program and also on **Blue-Green Algae** which has, unfortunately, been found in certain places of our lakes, and can be remediated.

Boating Safety is a key part of our mandate. From our best-in-class **Shoal Marker Program**, to our **Boating Safety map, pamphlets, and new signage** at boat launches, we are constantly emphasizing safe boating practices. Nonetheless, this past summer we did see a **boat collision** at-speed, in the north-east end of the lake, between Old Baldy and Charleston Village. Luckily no one was seriously injured, but the incident is a grim reminder of just how quickly things can go wrong. **So please Boat carefully.** Your life, and the lives of others, may depend on it.

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 highly-dedicated Directors, listed on the masthead. We would be thrilled to get you more involved.

Yours in preserving and enhancing Charleston Lake,

Michael McAdoo

President

Charleston Lake Association

LET'S GET THE LEAD OUT, CHARLESTON!

Would you eat a lead lure? Didn't think so.

When you think of fishing on beautiful Charleston Lake, the peaceful scene would be incomplete without a nearby loon. These great Canadian birds are a key part of cottage life for everyone, be it paddling, swimming, boating, or enjoying time on the dock. Their haunting calls sing out with the



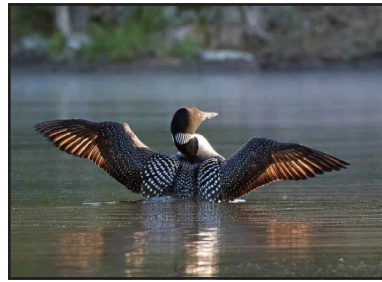
crickets as we drift off to sleep at night. And yet, as you may have noticed, their population is dwindling.

**Why are the loons dying?
What can we do to stop it?**

Humans have known that lead was dangerous since 2000 BC. Some even surmise that it was drinking from lead goblets that led to the downfall of the Roman Empire. Despite this, lead was widely used in many manufacturing plants in the 20th century. It was an inexpensive and malleable metal, properties well suited for making fishing tackle and hunting ammunition. However, in the 1970s, scientists proved that lead is a fatal neurotoxin to all living things even in small amounts, resulting in global bans outlawing its use in paint, pencils, gas, and many other products. **Lead was identified as a major cause of bird mortality 20 years ago, and was banned from use in waterfowl hunting ammunition in Canada. Yet somehow, for the most part, its use in fishing tackle slipped under the radar.**

There are virtually no regulations against the sale of lead tackle in Canada. And yet loons, eagles, swans, and other aquatic birds perish from the ingestion of lead sinkers and jigs used in fishing every day. **If a fishing line breaks, either caught in the weeds or swallowed by fish, the lead tackle falls off and sinks to the bottom of the lake.** Any angler worth their salt knows that losing tackle is a fairly common occurrence. Unfortunately, **many aquatic birds including loons mistake the fallen lead sinkers or jigs for pebbles and swallow them**, as small rocks are actually an important part of their digestion process. Sometimes, loons may even grab a lure, live bait, or a caught fish off your hook, breaking the line and swallowing the lead tackle along with your fish or lure.

Once lead is consumed, it makes its way into the bird's gizzard, and once there, their future becomes quite bleak.



The lead attacks the bird's nervous system, causing blindness, decreased reproductivity, and seizures, eventually resulting in a slow and painful death over 2–3 weeks. Even small amounts of lead can impair a bird's ability to

feed itself, nest properly, or care for its offspring. Paint or enamel coatings on lures don't protect our loons either, as their digestive process grinds away the surface materials to expose the toxic lead beneath. It is estimated that over 500 metric tonnes of lead end up in Canadian lakes each year, the vast majority of which is lost lead tackle. Even worse: lead is an element, not a compound, which means that it doesn't break down. Therefore, it has been accumulating in our ecosystems for decades. A research project in New Hampshire spanning 30 years linked 40% of loon mortality directly to the consumption of lead fishing tackle, as well as a further 5% of loon mortality to lead poisoning from unknown sources (See: www.fishleadfree.ca to read the entire report).

Lead leaches into the water as well, which threatens the lake quality for us humans too, especially for young children.

It is extremely concerning that there is still virtually no provincial regulation for the use of lead in recreational fishing products. Low manufacturing costs and a lack of public awareness may be the reasons for its continued unlegislated use in our tackle. In fact, over 90% of fishing tackle sold in Ontario contains lead. Legislation does not even require a warning label to inform consumers of its presence, so shoppers have to actively seek out alternates made from metals such as tungsten, steel, tin or bismuth. A few states (like California) and our Canadian National Parks are the only jurisdictions in North America that have banned using lead fishing tackle.



So, what have lake associations done about this issue so far?

In 2021, Margie Manthey and Donna Garland of the Wolfe Lake Association got the Lead-Free movement off the ground in Ontario by offering a lead buy-back program in the Wolfe Lake and Westport area, known as the "Let's Get the Lead Out!" movement. In 2022, the Charleston Lake Environmental Association (CLEA) joined the cause. Now, 21 other lake associations have joined too, spanning 24 lakes across Ontario. The CLEA formulated a local Lead-Out program in 2022, where anglers could trade in their lead tackle for raffle tickets to a win a variety of prizes, and gave away grab bags



filled with lead-free tackle. Since then, the CLEA has collected over 35 kg (80 lbs) of lead tackle. The lead collected was sent off to be recycled into car batteries. The CLEA has organized the spread of information on the topic in several ways, including: setting up information booths at the AGM and CLA Golf Tournament; creating education initiatives about the program at CLA day camps and the Charleston Lake Provincial Park; discussing the harms of lead tackle with individuals fishing on the lake; and putting up informative posters around the lake. Our goal is simple—we want to reduce the amount of lead in Charleston Lake in order to increase the health and population numbers of our neighbourhood loons, as well as other aquatic animals, birds and ourselves.

What can you do about it personally?

The answer is pretty simple. Just trade in your lead tackle—jigs, split weights, line weights, lures, you name it—and use it as an excuse to buy a whole new set of lead-free tackle! If this seems overwhelming, start small – search out lead sinkers, jigs and lures in your tackle box that weigh less than one ounce, and bring them into the CLA Info Centre be recycled. You can even collect lead tackle from your family and friends that fish and bring that into the CLA Info Centre too (109 County road 40, Athens). **Not sure if your tackle contains lead? Try looking on the packaging. If there is a warning stating that it is “Not for sale in California,” then your lure is lead-free. Otherwise, see the flowchart at the end of the article to help determine if your lure is made of lead.** If you are still unsure about what kind of metal is in your gear, the Info Centre has free testing swabs to help you identify the presence of lead in your tackle box.

You can also do your best to avoid cutting a fishing line or leaving lead tackle in a fish that has been deep hooked. These injured fish are easily caught or scavenged by loons or eagles, and often swallowed whole,

hook, line and sinker! When purchasing new fishing supplies, keep in mind **Athens Hardware**, a local retailer offering a selection of lead-free tackle. If your favourite shop doesn't have any lead-free options on the shelf, let them know about the loons, and you may be surprised at what they decide to stock next.

Most importantly, if you happen to come across sick wildlife while fishing or boating around Charleston Lake, contact the Sandy Pines Wildlife Centre in Napanee (phone: 613-354-0264, email: sandypineswc@gmail.com, website: www.sandypineswildlife.org). If you're feeling really ambitious, you can call to your MP or MPP and demand a change in legislation, because an


unhealthy ecosystem affects us all. Be sure to watch the CLA website www.charlestonlakeassociation.ca for updates on the Let's Get the Lead Out! movement. If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions to help this movement grow, go to www.fishleadfree.ca.

By Linda Whitmarsh

(Photo credits: C. Kanters, F. Milko, J. Joosten)



Don't be a lout—Get the Lead Out!



How to tell if your fishing tackle contains lead (Pb)

Can you make a mark on paper with it?

→

NOT Loon Safe

Your Tackle Probably Contains Lead

Please take to disposal or trade-in site.

Lead is dull and dark gray in color. It will leave a mark when scratched on paper. Lead alternatives like steel and tungsten tend to have a shiny appearance.

NO

↓

Here's another test to be sure!

→

NOT Loon Safe

Your Tackle Probably Contains Lead

Please take to disposal or trade-in site.

While non-lead alternatives like tungsten are hard metals, lead is a soft metal that is easily dented by a fingernail or pliers.

Can you dent it with your fingernail or with pliers?

→

NOT Loon Safe

Your Tackle Probably Contains Lead


Please take to disposal or trade-in site.

Is your tackle painted or covered by another coating such as a rubber skirt?

Coatings on lead tackle **DO NOT** protect loons from lead poisoning. Coatings are quickly eroded by the grinding of the loon's digestive system, and the lead in the tackle is absorbed into the loon's bloodstream.

Did you know? New Hampshire law bans the sale and freshwater use of lead fishing sinkers and jigs weighing one ounce or less (lead poisoning from ingestion of this tackle is the #1 cause of adult loon mortality in NH). Whereas our laws have led the nation in protecting loons and other wildlife from lead, becoming stronger over time, the **date of purchase can be used to estimate the likelihood that fishing tackle bought here (if weighing one ounce or less) contains lead.**

Date Purchased	2016-Present	2010-2015	2000-2010	Pre-2000
Likelihood of Lead Content	Low	Moderate	High	Very High



If in Doubt... Please Take it Out (of your tackle box)!

Loon Preservation Committee's LoonSafe Initiative includes a Lead Tackle Buyback Program that will give you a ten-dollar voucher to spend on new gear at participating local tackle shops when you trade in one ounce or more of banned lead tackle.* If you simply want to dispose of your lead tackle for proper recycling, LPC and partners have established disposal sites throughout the state. See www.loonsafe.org for locations.

*One trade-in voucher per customer per season. Other terms and conditions apply. View full details, additional offers, & participating retailers at:

[HTTPS://LOONSAFE.ORG](https://loonsafe.org)

WATER TESTING PRELIMINARY 2024 RESULTS

In 2024 Gary Nielsen and John Willson continued the water sampling that has been done annually for over 20 years. During the summer, forty-two phosphorus samples and water clarity recordings were collected over the period May 24th to October 30th inclusive; six samples from each of seven basins in the lake. The phosphorus test results from the Lake Partner program are not available yet.

Charleston Lake experienced good water clarity (Average Secchi depth 6.55m); this value is closer to the average 5-10 years ago, but considerably lower than last year when the water was unusually clear. When compared to the first five years (2000 to 2004 4.30m) the improvement is remarkable. The largest part of the improvement in clarity is the result of the zebra mussel colonization of the lake. In 2024 Donaldson Bay had the highest average clarity at 8.00m, ranging to Goose Island at 5.50m average.

During this year's testing on most occasions there were more suspended particles than seen in recent years. There could be several reasons for this, but we do know the surface water temperatures were abnormally high by end of May and sustained into Oct. We had great long swimming season, but that also helped algae grow. In September some sampling of the suspended particles was done. A variety of non-toxic algae were identified. Other factors we suspect impacted the clarity include the short ice cover season (ice formed mid Jan and went out in early March) which led to early stratification of the lake; generally sunnier and calmer weather that allowed more algae growth; a number of intense storms that caused excessive runoff; lake levels that were unusually high until late September which provided

more opportunity for erosion from boat wakes.

Water clarity mean value for the 23-year period of record (6.27 m) places Charleston Lake in the oligotrophic category for the entire time frame, despite the fact that for the first five years of that period (2000 to 2004 inclusive) the water clarity averaged only 4.30 m. Oligotrophic lakes have a water clarity > 5.0 metres.

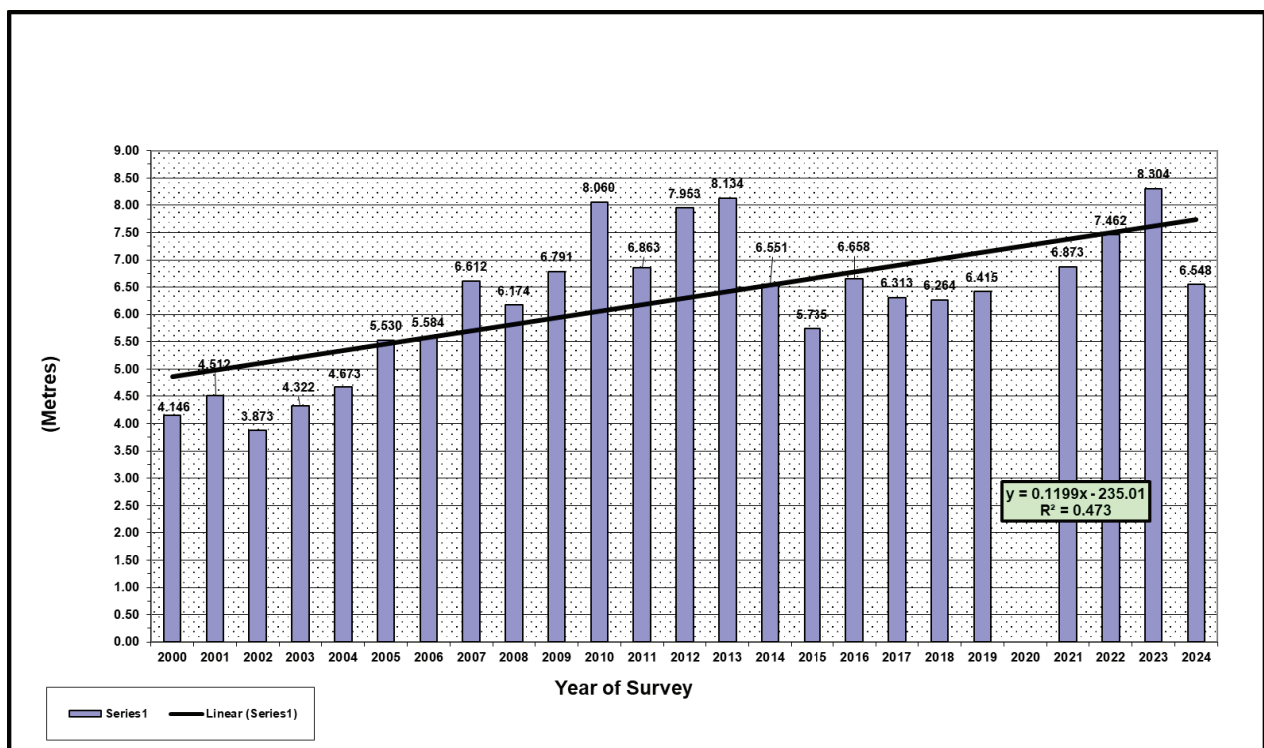
For comparison to other shield lakes and some local lakes the Lake Partner Program has produced a report with data up to 2023. It is on our website under Water Testing, Charleston Lake Data Report.

Every few years oxygen levels are tested from top to bottom at the same sites, mainly to assess the habitat for trout. Optimum habitat for trout is greater than 6 mg/L dissolved oxygen and less than 10C. Results were similar to previous years with optimal conditions throughout the season from depth of 12m to the bottom in Big Water, Deep Water, Eastern Reach and Donaldson Bay basins. Webster Bay and Goose Island areas were reasonable, better in the earlier part of the year.

Charleston Lake is improved from where it was a generation ago, but we have seen in the last year how things can start to change. Climate change is having impacts, so we need to look at what we can control, which is further reducing the nutrient load by focussing on healthy, runoff-absorbing shorelines, reduced fertilizer near the water, good functioning septic systems, and minimizing boat wake impacts.

John Willson and Gary Nielsen

2024 CHARLESTON LAKE WATER CLARITY RESULTS



2024 CHARLESTON LAKE WATER CLARITY RESULTS

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2021	2022	2023	2024
	Secchi	Secchi	Secchi	Secchi	Secchi	Secchi	Secchi	Secchi	Secchi	Secchi
	Depth	Depth	Depth	Depth	Depth	Depth	Depth	Depth	Depth	Depth
	(m)	(m)	(m)	(m)	(m)	(m)	(m)	(m)	(m)	(m)
Big Water	6.617	5.592	6.417	6.092	6.583	6.383	7.117	7.175	8.233	6.267
Deep Water	6.900	5.925	6.692	6.817	6.283	6.633	6.950	6.867	8.258	6.617
Donaldson Bay	7.142	6.150	7.750	7.350	6.283	6.700	7.600	8.483	9.317	8.000
Eastern Waters	6.450	5.725	6.825	6.250	6.183	6.408	6.564	7.975	8.000	6.733
Goose Island	6.050	5.217	6.267	5.850	6.667	6.425	6.775	7.167	8.417	5.500
Southern Water	6.042	5.275	5.983	5.275	5.542	5.792	6.408	7.550	7.417	6.450
Webster Bay	6.657	6.264	6.675	6.558	6.308	6.567	6.700	7.017	8.483	6.267

BLUE-GREEN AND OTHER ALGAE

Charleston Lake has had some short blooms of Blue-Green algae in the last couple of years. Webster Bay had one small bloom in September that lasted a few days. It was tested and confirmed to be Blue-Green. These blooms are toxic. People should not swim near them, animals should not drink water near them, and people should not source their drinking water supply from the immediate area. It is important to learn to identify it and be cautious. The Blue-Green algae is most notable in the matted form, but can also present itself as a scum or paint. It most often occurs in the fall in our lake type, in warm, calm water near the shores.

Charleston Lake is an oligotrophic lake and not considered a high nutrient lake, so in the past the blue-green blooms have been very infrequent. The recent increase in frequency is not just happening in our lake but is occurring more frequently in many similar lakes in Ontario. High phosphorous levels in the past have been thought to be the major cause. Phosphorous is still a big driver, but levels in our lake have been down from what they were 25 years ago. Scientists wrestling with this issue have started to look at some of the climate change affects. Higher water temperatures, generally calmer waters, shorter ice cover, and more intense storms with higher runoff are all things they think are contributing to the increase. This year the ice went out in early March, earlier than anyone can remember. It was only covering the lake for about 7 weeks, not the normal 3 or 4 months. Water temperatures were higher than usual from May to Oct.

What can we do knowing that climate change is unlikely to slow down anytime soon. The biggest thing we can do is focus on the nutrient loading and try to keep the phosphorous levels down. That means not fertilizing near the water or where runoff is likely to occur. It means improving our waterfront with natural plants so that runoff is better filtered. It means making sure our septic systems are in good working order. It means using no or low phosphate products where we can. Unfortunately, it also means learning to identify blue-green algae and take precautions when it is present.

Fortunately, at this time in our lake the blooms are generally in the fall and of short duration. They break up with water agitation mostly from wind and weather changes.

There are some other algae that look a little bit similar to Blue-Green algae. In the last 15 years there has been more green filamentous algae that has bright green and sometimes bluish colour. This is a floating, fibrous, sometimes cloud-like algae that can be quite annoying but is not toxic on its own. In the matted, surface form it can accumulate some of the bacteria from other algae that in rare cases make it toxic. With the increased water clarity and temperatures in the last few years filamentous has become more frequent. The presence of Zebra mussels is an additional factor promoting its growth. These mussels tend to concentrate nutrients from open waters to the shore areas where the filamentous algae blooms occur. Best to avoid the matted surface versions. Also not to be confused with Blue-Green is the yellow-green pollen that occurs most heavily in the spring.

This summer the lake also experienced longer and more frequent periods of suspended particles in the water column. In September some open-water surface samples were tested and found to contain a number of different types of algae, none of which were deemed toxic or harmful to humans. It is suspected that the long periods of lake stratification and warmer waters and the intense storm runoff contributed to the increase in algae and particles.

There are some articles on our web site with pictures to help understand Blue-Green algae. Ontario has a site that addresses Blue-Green algae <https://www.ontario.ca/page/blue-green-algae> . including an on-line and hot-line number to report Blue-Green Algae. MOECP then confirms the presence and notifies the local health unit. The health unit decides whether or not the situation requires public notification and/or response. Please be aware and be cautious.

John Willson – with help from many sources

SUMMER STUDENT 2025 – JOB OPPORTUNITY

The Charleston Lake and Charleston Lake Environmental Associations will require a summer student to manage our information centre and perform the duties of camp counsellor during the three weeks of our summer youth camp. The information centre is located at 109 County Road 40 (Charleston Lake Road)

The job will be from Saturday, June 28th until Sunday, August 28th.

Prior to the completion of the school year some weekend work will be required before June 28th. You will find below the details of the job responsibilities and the requirements of the successful candidate.

Job Title – Information Centre Manager and Youth Camp Counsellor

Reports to the – Treasurer of the Charleston Lake Association

Job Responsibilities

1. General office duties
2. Interaction with the public visiting our information centre
3. Sale of environmental products and CLA merchandise, including petty cash management
4. Membership correspondence
5. Assist with the annual golf tournament
6. Youth Camp Counsellor

Hours of work – 6 hour day (9:00am – 3:00 pm), including ½ hour paid lunch

Work week – 5 days per week, off Tuesdays and Wednesdays
During the three weeks of youth camp this job will be 7 days per week

Rate of Pay - \$18.00 per hour, plus 4% vacation pay less statutory deductions

Job Requirements

1. Must be at least 15 years of age
2. Must possess excellent personal computing skills in excel & word
3. Must demonstrate good organizational and communication skills
4. Previous experience in an organized youth camp would be an asset

Application submission

The application deadline will be May 1st, 2025. If you are interested in applying for this position, please mail your completed resume to:

**Charleston Lake Association
PO Box 609, Athens, ON K0E 1B0**
or

Email to: charlestonlakeassociation@outlook.com

CAMP COUNSELLOR AND LIFEGUARD POSITIONS

Charleston Lake Association is seeking applications for Camp Counsellor positions and a qualified Lifeguard.

**Camps run for three consecutive weeks,
July 7, July 14 and July 21,
Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

COUNSELLORS must be sixteen years of age and pay rate is \$17.00 per hour.

The **LIFEGUARD** needs to be fully certified with a Canadian Lifeguard Certification.
Pay rate is \$21 per hour.

Please submit your resume to Mary Mansworth:
mmansworth@truespeed.ca
by March 31, 2025.

CHARLESTON LAKE ASSOCIATION SUMMER CAMPS 2025

Sand Bay County Park, Charleston Lake

**Camps are from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
and are open to children from 5-10.**

NATURE CAMP - July 7-11

Games, crafts and water activities with an emphasis on the environment and outdoors.

ADVENTURE CAMP - July 14-18

Activities which encourage and allow children to explore and experience outdoor adventures.

SPORTS CAMP - July 21-25

Sports camp emphasizes land and water sports to develop fitness and fun

Fees will be \$100 per camper which includes a T- shirt.

Registration forms and liability waivers will be available on the website in late February. Fees are payable by e-transfer to: info@charlestonlakeassociation.ca

For more information, email Mary Mansworth at:
mmansworth@truespeed.ca



CHARLESTON LAKE LOON REPORT

The 2024 season was an exciting time for those keeping tabs on the loons of Charleston Lake. The CLA surveys the entirety of Charleston Lake three times each summer to assess the presence/absence and breeding success of loons. This information is reported to Birds Canada so that they may partner with other organizations to assess the success in management of loon numbers.

This year, the CLA documented a maximum number of 42 adult loons, and 7 surviving loonlets (chicks). Of the loonlets, four came from natural nests and three from CLA rafts. Seven rafts were floated at different locations to help loon pairs that may have been displaced from their traditional nest sites. The rafts continue to be repaired and upgraded yearly, and sometimes the replacement of existing rafts may occur when a raft is reaching the end of its lifespan.

We also had the added excitement of remote cameras on rafts this past season. This was very informative when a nest was unsuccessful, and the association hopes this information will aid in the modification of rafts to improve future raft hatching success. We are very grateful to Josh Burtch Photography for his skilled compilation of video footage filmed from one of the rafts, which captures the nesting process of a particular loon family. For those of you who have seen it and may be wondering about the second egg, it never did hatch. If you have not had the chance to check out the four minute video, you can find the link on our website and it is well worth the time.

The loonlets start out so small that it is a wondrous feat to imagine their migration happens in the fall. Even more wondrous is the fact that the loon families do not migrate together. The chicks are left on their own in late fall, and are the last ones to leave for their ocean wintering grounds of the U.S. Atlantic Coast or the Gulf of Mexico.

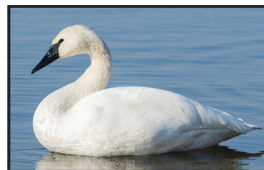
Loons continue to face growing challenges with changing climate and human activity. We were saddened and surprised at the loss of an adolescent loon this season for unknown reasons. Most times the neighbouring cottagers can give us some insight, but in this instance, no one saw or heard anything out of the ordinary.

The CLA raft/surveying efforts have been continuous since 2007, working to increase loon survival and breeding success. However, a healthy loon population in our future will require all of our efforts, and the continued vigilance and support of our members is greatly appreciated.

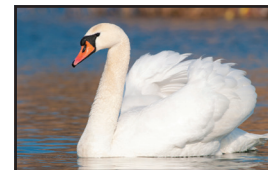
Katie Baker - Fish and Wildlife

THANK YOU FOR ASKING

I have been a resident of Charleston Lake for over 30 years. For the first time this past spring, I saw 6-7 large white swans in a bay near Outlet. A neighbour said these were Mute swans and not what we want to see on Charleston Lake. Could you elaborate, please.



Trumpeter Swan



Mute Swan

Answer:

In Southern Ontario, the two most likely species of swans are Trumpeter swans and Mute swans. Trumpeters are so named due to the unique trumpet like sound they make while flying. Mute swans make no sound.

Trumpeters are a native Ontario species which was almost wiped out by overhunting and have just started to make a comeback, from a very small population in the 1980s to a healthy population of 2,500-3,000 today. If you are lucky you can see them in spring and late fall in Charleston Lake Provincial Park.

Mute swans, like Trumpeters, are beautiful, but have a destructive nature. They are not native to Ontario and were introduced by European settlers in the 1870s for parks and private ponds. Their numbers are increasing steadily and are most likely the species you are seeing. They have a bright yellow/orange bill unlike Trumpeters which have a curved neck and a black bill. Mutes are more aggressive and pose a threat to Trumpeters and other native waterfowl, including loons.

A WORTHY REMINDER

Some ideas from Ontario Lake Assessments and the Charleston Lake Environmental Association to help keep our lake clean and beautiful.

1. Put away your lawnmower or at least stop cutting close to the lake. Don't rake leaves, lawn cuttings and other debris into the lake. It's offensive to other lake users and results in oxygen depletion while decomposing.
2. Maintain your septic system and pump out every 3-5 years. Replace old septic systems.
3. Practice safe boating to minimize wake which causes erosion and can affect loon nesting.
4. Respect the lake:
 - Don't wash in the lake
 - Pick up after your pets
 - Refuel away from the water
5. Plant a low profile nearshore buffer of dogwood and juniper.
6. Do not disturb bass and other spawning species during the spring nesting period.
7. Do not build concrete break walls- they are destructive to fish habitat and not on keeping with the natural shoreline.
8. Support Charleston Lake Association!

CHARLESTON LAKE ASSOCIATION WEBSITE

Please come and check out our modernized website (charlestonlakeassociation.ca). It has better viewing on mobile devices and more search capabilities. Check out the great work we do for you!

DOUG HALE MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9, 2025

Cedar Valley. Mark your calendars for this popular annual event. Registration will begin at the end of April and always fills up quickly.



SHOAL MARKERS

Shoal markers were removed in November this year on two consecutive weekends. We had two separate crews and used one of my small pontoon barges from the marina, and Gary and Faith Bellisle's pontoon, as we have each year for the past twenty years. Special thanks to the Bellisles for the continued use of their boat.

This year our crews included myself, Marty Rukavina, Clayton Gray and Danny Gray from Whispering Pines at the Outlet, Wade McBride, Terry Leeder, Justin Carley and Lucas Dixie.

In the upcoming season our plan is to replace several anchors and chains and large number of solar lights.

Once again, thank you to all our volunteers who help us to keep our lake safer for boating.

Robbie Gibson - Safety And Law Enforcement

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*

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