

BCLSA President Update, Spring 2026



After a very long winter, I am sure everyone is excited about getting back to the lake to enjoy the upcoming summer season. Before we get to summer though, it looks like we will need to manage some very high-water levels this spring.

This Spring Newsletter highlights 2025 and the many initiatives and activities that are planned for 2026.

We can't do it without you! **Please, renew your membership** and join our great group of volunteers.

2025 BCLSA Highlights

- Continued efforts to **slow the spread of Starry Stonewort**. Despite significant efforts to keep the Public Boat Launch clear, Starry has spread to seven (7) new sites on the Lake. See the map: [starrysites](#).
- Implemented comprehensive **lake water quality testing at seven (7) sites** throughout the summer.
- Held the **Spring Lake Cleanup** and introduced a very successful **Tire Removal campaign**.
- Consulted with national and local lake associations to stay abreast of current water quality programs and participated in studies to learn about **future environmental threats**.
- Sponsored the **July Boat Parade** celebrations.
- Held **Big Cedar Logo contest**, see the new logo above.
- Broadened our **Corporate Sponsors** program to fund activities and highlight local businesses.

Healthy Lake Initiatives for 2026



We come to the lake for the joy of the water; swimming, boating, paddling, nature, and dock-side relaxation but a healthy lake also means our property values are preserved as well as the legacy of Canadian cottage life. The BCLSA takes the health of our lake seriously and your membership fees



allow us to continue the work to preserve it.

Spring Cleanup: Saturday June 20th (rain day June 21st) to allow the Milfoil Weevils on shore to enter the lake and the water to warm up. We hope to you can volunteer to join us this year.



Volunteers can enjoy a BBQ hosted by Leo DeSorcy and the BCLSA on Island 5. Look for notices on the BCLSA website or contact Leo DeSorcy at ldesorcy@aol.com.

BCLSA Tire Cleanup: Studies show that tires leach harmful chemicals into the ground water and lake with negative effects on natural habitat and humans. **The 2025 Tire Cleanup Program resulted in the removal of 21 old tires from the lake!**



We'd like to help you remove any remaining tires in the lake or around your property, reach out to Leo DeSorcy at ldesorcy@aol.com. This year we will start with removal of tires in the Haultain dock area.

Thank you to Leo for taking on both the spring cleanup and tire initiatives. We will start in late June – a final date will be published soon. Volunteers are very welcome.

Water Quality and Testing: Water testing continues to be a priority for the BCLSA. Overall, results show our Lake is healthy. Thanks to Diane and Ralph Trauzzi for leading this program. In addition to regular testing, the BCLSA participates in three other water quality programs: the Lake Partner Program which measures phosphorus, calcium and nitrogen, the Trent University Study under the guidance of Dr. Frost and a climate change project coordinated by the Kawartha Lake Stewards Association (KLSA).



With the expansion of the program, we are looking for a volunteer to help with water sampling in Boulton Bay – ideally, a Boulton Bay resident. Please contact Diane if you can help.

- See the latest results at the end of April on the BCLSA website. [Water Quality & Testing Results](#)

Milfoil Management: The BCLSA has been actively managing Milfoil for over 12 years. Currently considered “manageable”, the overall number of patches remain approximately the same as in 2024. Monitoring for changes will continue.

Reminder: do not clear shorelines until June. “Weevils” control Milfoil and winter on the shoreline.



Starry Stonewort Management: Other lakes in the region have been choked by Starry that prevents any use of the water for recreation, swimming or boating, kills fish populations, negatively impacts the quality of life at the lake and the value of real estate.

For the last six years, containment efforts focused on slowing spread from the boat ramp into the lake. The work is led by the BCLSA and conducted by Doug Colmer. With the help of volunteers, Doug conducts an aggressive harvest of Starry Stonewort most summer days to keep the channel as clear of weeds as possible.

It has been an ongoing challenge to impress on boaters the importance of raising motors, avoiding weeded areas, and to slow down. Efforts in this area have been less successful.

This year Doug will also be monitoring and documenting the spread of Starry in other areas on the Lake. The map on the BCLSA website will be kept up to date with sites that have been found to be infested: [starrysites](#)

The BCLSA continues to request that we all do what we can. If you are hiring contractors using the boat ramp, please inform them of how to properly navigate the channel and follow the containment program found at <https://www.bclsa.ca/documents/PublicBoatLaunchProtocol.pdf>.

The Board requests that boaters minimize their use of the back channel near the boat ramp – less boater traffic lowers the risk of the Starry Stonewort spreading faster and further.

We continue to liaise with groups across North America, to understand strategies being used to combat Starry Stonewort and other invasive species. Containment appears to be the best solution for now, despite being labour-intensive. We have fared better than many others whose lakes are now unnavigable.



More volunteers are needed for this important initiative if we are to continue to be successful.

Please, **renew or join the BCLSA in 2026 for only \$100.** As a non-profit, your contribution is used to finance the projects listed and most importantly to support our battle against Starry Stonewort. Find the link to easily renew: <https://www.bclsa.ca/membership/> .



Canada Day Boat Parade: Wednesday July 1, at 2:00pm.

Boaters gather in front of Clam Bay as we have in past years for this popular event. Show your pride in Canada and join us, either by decorating your boat to join in the fun on the water, or by cheering on your dock the parade passes by.

Back by popular demand: there will be prizes for the best decorated boat, most patriotic costume, and most enthusiastic 'Cheermeisters' from shore! See you there!

Administrative Items:

The Big Cedar Lake website – Help! Our website needs some TLC! Are you a website specialist or hobbyists who could lend a hand? Please, reach out to us at bigcedarlakesa@gmail.com.

New Member Brochure - is ready to send to new neighbours on the lake. Let us know who they are and we'll get a brochure out to them...and tell them about the BCLSA. bigcedarlakesa@gmail.com.

Annual General Meeting – May 12 at 7pm, via Zoom. Details to follow soon.

Consider becoming a Board member. We are **looking for a Board Secretary**. If you're interested email us at bigcedarlakesa@gmail.com.

AND THANK YOU to our 2026 Sponsors. Their contributions help to keep our lake healthy, our environment beautiful, and our community vibrant. We encourage members to choose these local businesses when considering products, services, or art for their cottages or homes. Contact details are on the BCLSA website: [Service Providers](#).



Take care and see you
in the summer,
Brian Stock
President, BCLSA



2025 Board Members:

Diane Trauzzi,
Norma Piggott,
Michael Stone,
Laura Jean Brand,
Doug Colmer,
Leo DeSorcy,
Mike Mulgrew,
John Graham,
Chris Graham,
Brian Stock.



I would like to thank them all for their hard work and commitment to making the Big Cedar Lake community the best it can be.