

Big Cedar Lake Stewardship Association

President Update – May 2024

Hello from Big Cedar Lake,

With our early spring I am sure everyone is excited about getting back to the Lake and enjoying the upcoming summer season. This newsletter is broken into three sections: A) Review of 2023, B) Projects and Initiatives for 2024, and C) Administrative Items. If you have any questions after reviewing the newsletter, feel free to send us an email with your questions.

As you read through the initiatives for 2024, if you see any project you would like to get involved in please let us know. To get involved you do not need to take on the whole project, any help is greatly needed and appreciated.

Your Board Members for 2023 were as follows:

Diane Trauzzi, Don Austin, John Graham, Doug Colmer, Leo DeSorcy, Chris Graham, Mike Mulgrew, Laura Jean Brand - I would like to thank all the Board members for their hard work and commitment to making the Big Cedar Lake community the best it can be. At this time, I would also like to welcome Michael Stone to our Board of Directors. Michael has agreed to take on the role of Treasurer now that Don Austin is stepping down from this position.

Section A: Review of 203

a) Healthy Lake Program - Milfoil

In 2023, Doug Colmer and his team regularly monitored and also performed a dive survey of the Lake. The conclusion was that 2023 was pretty much a status quo year with respect to Milfoil. The overall number of patches of Milfoil were reduced but there are still several bays with Milfoil patches. Milfoil mats were kept in reserve but none were installed.

b) Healthy Lake Program – Starry Stonewort

Starry Stonewort continues to be the biggest threat to our Lake. Fortunately, with a lot of hard work, we were again able to contain it 99% to the public boat ramp area. The Starry Stonewort containment work at the boat ramp was led by Doug Colmer who did an excellent job. There was only one other small, contained spot identified with a small patch of Starry and that was at the cottages near the outlet to Eels creek.

Doug was at the boat ramp most days throughout the summer to ensure the channel was kept clear of Starry Stonewort. With the help of volunteers, Doug conducted a very aggressive harvest of the Starry Stonewort.

Diane Trauzzi applied for and was successful in obtaining a grant worth \$1,760 for BCLSA, from the Invasive Species Centre and their supporting funder, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. This Invasive Species Action Fund award was awarded towards work done to keep our boat channel clear of Starry Stonewort at the Public Boat Launch. The money was used for the purchase of 3 mats, buoys to mark the channel more clearly, and a 3ft x 4ft sign to remind boaters to remain in the channel. The Mayor got involved in the harvesting and brought awareness to both the Starry Stonewort challenge and the Clean/Drain/Dry Program.

Diane Trauzzi continued to do an excellent job as liaison with various groups across North America, to make sure we understand all the strategies being utilized to combat Starry Stonewort. As our Lake sits today, our strategy of containment appears to be the best solution at this time, even though it is extremely work-intensive. Many other Lakes that have been infested with Starry Stonewort have not fared as well, with large patches of the weed making whole sections of their Lake unnavigable.

c) Healthy Lake Program - Water Quality testing

The Board feels water testing is a very valuable initiative for the Lake Community. Overall, the results show our Lake is a healthy lake. I would like to thank Diane and Ralph Trauzzi for leading the program on Water Quality testing. The details are available on the Website at the following link: <https://www.bclsa.ca/lake-data/>.

d) Update on Associations/Liaisons/Research

Our Executive maintains membership in and attends meetings with the various Associations that are relevant to our Lake Community such as the North Kawartha Lake Associations (NORKLA), the Kawartha Lake Steward Association (KLSA), and the Federation of Ontario Cottager's Associations (FOCA), as well as monitoring Peterborough County and North Kawartha Municipality activity to communicate pertinent information.

In 2023, Diane Trauzzi coordinated a large effort to apply for a significant grant (\$250,000 each year for 3 years) from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans on behalf of North Kawartha and BCLSA, to fully fund boat cleaning stations that would be placed throughout North Kawartha (along the highway, and at public boat launches for lakes that have invasive species in them). Although the proposal submitted was deemed eligible for funding, unfortunately due to the high number of applicants to this fund and limited funding available, the project was put on a waitlist to receive grant money should funds become available.

Reducing the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species is important to North Kawartha, and the concept of a communications campaign in North Kawartha still had merit. So, the project manager that had been lined up for the project, Vickie Hartog from Looncall Lake, is still moving forward with a project dubbed PLiiNK – which stands for Prevent Lake Invasives in North Kawartha. Visit [PLiiNK.ca](https://www.pliink.ca) for more information.

e) Update on Finances / Membership

After 12 years as Treasurer of the Association, Don Austin has retired from the Board. I would like to sincerely thank Don for all his hard work over the years and for his insight and support. We are very pleased to have Michael Stone join the Board as Treasurer. Michael's family are long time residents of the Lake and we are very confident the Association's finances are in good hands with Michael. We were also very pleased to welcome Laura Jean Brand onto the Board last year. Like Michael's, Laura Jean's family have also been long term residents of the Lake. We thank Laura Jean for her support. The financial statements for 2023 for the Association can be found on the Website at the following link: <https://www.bclsa.ca/agm/>. For 2024, in order to fund the administrative and project costs, we will need to ask the members for a BCLSA Fee contribution.

Section B: Projects and Initiatives for 2024 (What your Fee Contribution covers)

a) Healthy Lake Program – Milfoil

- The Board recommends the “Mat Solution” to members if they would like to address specific areas in front of their property.
- The Board has decided to maintain the option of installing mats if needed in heavy traffic area if the resources/manpower is available.
- Cottagers are reminded to “not” clear their shoreline until June as the “weevils” who help control the milfoil winter on the shoreline.

b) Healthy Lake Program – Starry Stonewort

- Continue to implement work-intensive containment strategy at the public boat ramp
- Doug Colmer will lead this project – please watch out the call for volunteers to help out
- One of the goals for 2024 will be extend the protected area around the boat ramp by 30 feet by installing additional mats
- The Board will maintain extra “Mats” to be ready for new growth
- Signage and Education to be reviewed.
- Conduct an underwater survey in late summer
- The Board is requesting that if cottagers are hiring contractors or directing others to use the public boat ramp, that they be informed of how to properly navigate the channel and inform them of the containment program. An information flyer that provides this information is available at the following link: [PublicBoatLaunchProtocol.pdf](#)
- The Board is also requesting that boaters minimize their use of the back channel near the boat ramp – less boater traffic lowers the risk of the Starry Stonewort spreading.

c) Healthy Lake Program - Water Quality testing

- Continue E coli water testing – increase to 7 sites around the Lake, with the additional site being located in Hungry Bay. This additional site will give oversight in this Bay which has a high number of cottages and some localized high readings due to runoff over geese-contaminated lawns after heavy rainfall.
- Continue Lake Partner Program which measures Phosphorus, Calcium and Nitrogen
- Continue additional water testing by Trent University – Dr. Frost team
- Continue participation in Climate Change project

d) Healthy Lake Program- Environmental Stewardship

- For 2024 Leo DeSorcy will be again spearheading our annual “Spring Clean-up of the Shoreline” program. Each year debris from docks, boats and cottages ends up in the lake or on the shorelines.
- To help keep Big Cedar looking great and to promote some community fun, the BCLSA Board is hosting the second annual spring clean-up event which will be a huge benefit for our Lake
- The program is planned for the weekend of June 1 - Saturday as clean up day with Sunday as a rain day. If you are interested in participating in this clean-up, please send an email to LDeSorcy@aol.com. Watch your inbox for more news on this program.
- Leo is also looking for a demonstration project in the next year or two so we can show cottagers and residents what it means and what it costs to naturalize their waterfront. Seeing this with their eyes and being able to view it in person is more impactful to people than just a presentation.

e) Associations/Liaisons/Research

- Maintain membership in the pertinent Cottage Associations (NORKLA, KLSA and FOCA) attending meetings and monitoring communications for information to be shared with our membership.
- Research/Liaison to continue for all invasive species (Milfoil, Starry Stonewort, Spiny Water Flea) ie: attend meetings with all various organizations

f) Membership

- Establish Planning for membership growth/renewal.
- Purchase General Liability and Director and Officer Insurance.

g) Communications

- Continue to maintain contact list for BCL members.
- Forward applicable communications to all members through e-mail and Facebook.
- Continue to monitor Peterborough County and North Kawartha township activity to communicate pertinent information to our membership.
- Contact existing sponsors for continued support / reach out to potential new sponsors.
- Format and publish newsletters and communications.
- Record and publish meeting minutes from all meetings.
- Assist with BCLSA Website under guidance of web master (big thanks to Cliff Homewood for managing our website).

h) Finance

- Budget for 2024 to be established.
- Manage accounts throughout year.
- The new BCLSATreasurer@gmail.com that Michael Stone has set up for us will be used going forward for any mail to the Treasurer of our Association.
- Manage audit review process and tax return.

Section C: Administrative Items

• *BCLSA Fee Contribution (\$100 for 2024- see attached contribution form)*

Thank you for your support in keeping our Lake healthy. This money will be used to finance all of the projects listed above such as the Water Testing initiatives, and most importantly will be used to finance our battle against Starry Stonewort. There is a lot that members receive for \$100 in terms of information and what's going on, and the work that Doug does annually to ensure that our Lake is not overrun with weeds, so our Board hopes that members will feel that they are receiving good value for their money.

- ***Annual General Meeting***

Last year we successfully held our AGM via Zoom. We had good feedback from participants that this was a convenient way for them to receive the important information that is communicated at this meeting. Holding a Zoom meeting means that we can hold the meeting during the week, as part of the anticipation of opening the cottage (rather than being held during the busy-ness of opening the cottage on the May long weekend). **The AGM Zoom call will be held on Wednesday June 19th at 7:00 pm. More details, including the agenda and links for the AGM Zoom call will be sent soon.**

At the AGM, Board members will be elected / re-elected. We are always interested in welcoming new Board members, so please consider joining the team – we always welcome and need fresh perspectives. And remember, even if you don't wish to join as a Board Member, we welcome all assistance for the many initiatives being undertaken for the betterment of our Lake.

Take care, see you in the summer.

Brian Stock

President, Big Cedar Lake Stewardship Association