

# Big Cedar Lake Stewardship Association (BCLSA) - President Update, Spring 2025

Hello from Big Cedar Lake,

After a very snowy winter, I am sure everyone is excited about getting back to the lake to enjoy the upcoming summer season. As always, your membership and volunteer efforts contributed to the health and preservation of our beautiful lake in 2024. This Spring Newsletter highlights 2024 and the many initiatives and activities that are planned for 2025.

We can't do it without you! Please, renew your membership and if you see any project you would like to get involved in let us know. Any help is greatly needed and appreciated.

## 2024 Highlights

- Slowed the spread of the invasive species **Starry Stonewort** and limited its growth mostly to the public boat launch area through hand-removal, an awareness campaign, and boater communications.
- Monitored, managed, and published comprehensive **lake water quality testing** throughout the summer.
- Organized the **Spring Lake Cleanup** to enhance the lake and environment.
- Consulted with national and local lake associations to stay abreast of current water quality programs and participate in studies as well as learn about **future environmental threats**.
- Organized the July Boat Parade **celebrations**.

## Healthy Lake Initiatives for 2025



We come to the lake for the joy of the water; swimming, boating, paddling, nature appreciation, 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:** This year's cleanup will be on **Saturday June 21** (rain day June 22) to allow the Milfoil Weevils on shore to enter the lake and for the water to warm up for our work. We are hoping that volunteers from the last two years can join us again and look forward to new members joining the fun.



After the morning clean up, Leo DeSorcy and the BCLSA will be hosting a barbeque on Island 5 to thank participants. Look for notices on the BCLSA website or contact Leo DeSorcy at [ldesorcy@aol.com](mailto:ldesorcy@aol.com)

**BCLSA Tire Cleanup (New for 2025):** Historically, old tires were used as weights for floating docks, bumpers on docks, retaining walls and other uses in the landscape near and in the lake. Scientific studies from around the world have shown that these tires leach harmful chemicals into the ground water and lake with negative effects on natural habitat and humans.



**The BCLSA is reaching out to all members who have tires at their property or in the water off their shoreline and offering to help clear these items from the lake and watershed.**

If you have tires in the landscape or in the lake on your property and would like help removing them and getting them to the dump for safe disposal, please reach out to Leo DeSorcy at [ldesorcy@aol.com](mailto:ldesorcy@aol.com). If you have neighbours who have tires and may not be members of BCLSA please reach out to them and let them know of our offer. Thank you to Leo for taking on both the spring cleanup and tire initiatives. Volunteers are welcome.



**Water Quality and Testing:** Water testing is a very valuable initiative for the Lake Community and 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 the 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 we participate in a climate change project coordinated by the Kawartha Lake Stewards Association (KLSA).

The latest results of water testing will be available at the end of April on the BCLSA website. <https://www.bclsa.ca/lake-data/>

**Milfoil Management:** The BCLSA has been actively managing Milfoil for over 12 years. The current status of Milfoil is “manageable.” The overall number of patches of Milfoil remain approximately the same as in 2023.

We will continue to monitor the lake for changes in the Milfoil and keep lake floor mats in reserve to deal with any outbreaks in heavy traffic areas. The Board recommends the “Mat Solution” to members if they would like to address specific areas in front of their property.

**Cottagers are reminded to not clear their shoreline until June as the “Weevils” who help control the Milfoil winter on the shoreline.**



**Starry Stonewort Management:** Starry Stonewort continues to be the biggest threat to our Lake. We have seen other lakes in the region choked by overgrowth that prevents any use of the water for recreation or boating, kills fish populations, and negatively impacts the quality of life at the lake.

With a lot of hard work, we were again able to contain it to the public boat ramp area. The containment work at the boat ramp was led by the BCLSA and conducted by Doug Colmer who does an excellent job. With the help of volunteers, Doug conducts an aggressive harvest of the Starry Stonework most summer days to ensure the channel is clear of the weeds.

A new buoy line was installed last year to mark the channel along with new signage to educate boaters.

The BCLSA is requesting that if cottagers are hiring contractors using the boat ramp, that they be informed of how to properly navigate the channel and inform them of the containment program found on the website at <https://www.bclsa.ca/documents/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.**

Diane Trauzzi continues to do an excellent job as liaison with various groups across North America, to understand the strategies being utilized to combat Starry Stonewort and other invasive species. At present, our strategy of containment appears to be the best solution for Starry Stonewort, even though it is extremely labour-intensive. Many other lakes that have been infested have not fared as well, with large patches of the weed making whole sections of those lakes unnavigable.

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

## **Fun Activities for the Summer of 2025**



### **Canada Day Boat Parade**

We will be holding our **Annual Canada Day Boat Parade** on **Tuesday July 1, at 2:00pm.**

Boaters will 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.

**New this year**, are prizes for the best decorated boat, most patriotic costume, and most enthusiastic ‘Cheermeisters’ from shore! See you there!



### **PaddleFest**

**Returns on August 16.**

Either **volunteer your dock** as a scavenger hunt destination and enjoy your paddling neighbours as they stop by, **or paddle** around the lake on a course that will take you to various docks and locations.

Everyone ends up in Clam Bay for a floating/wading social time and refreshments!

Participation forms come in early July. Please, email Laura Jean, [laura.j.brand@gmail.com](mailto:laura.j.brand@gmail.com) to volunteer or for more information.



### **New this Year**

### **Summer Paddle Group**

The **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of June, July and August (Jun. 15, Jul. 13, Aug. 10)** we will gather for a group paddle, open to anyone.

Canoe, kayak or stand-up paddle boards are welcome, and all you need to join the group.

The idea is to meet neighbors and have a leisurely paddle to different areas of the lake. Meeting at different spots is an option, depending on interest.

Details (time and gathering spot) will be shared closer to the actual dates.

## **Administrative Items:**

**The Big Cedar Lake website** is currently being updated to offer more accessible content and become more user friendly. Thanks to Laura Jean Brand for taking the lead and a huge thanks to one of the association’s long-time supporters and the developer of our new website, Cliff Homewood.

**Email communications** will be on a more proactive basis. Short, informative bulletins will arrive twice a month through the summer and only if there is news to share. 😊

**New Member Brochure** is updated and ready to send to new neighbours on the lake.

**Logo Contest**, it’s time for Big Cedar Lake to have its own identity. We will be announcing a logo contest at the AGM. Get your pencils out!



We are a volunteer organization with a devoted Board of your busy neighbours who give of their time to support the lake and their community.



Please, **renew or join the BCLSA in 2025 for only \$100**. Thank you for your support in keeping our lake healthy and our community vibrant. 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/>

**WE CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU. THE HEALTH OF OUR LAKE AND COMMUNITY NEEDS ALL OF US!**



**Annual General Meeting - June 9th at 7pm, via Zoom**

We had good feedback from participants that Zoom was a convenient way 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).

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.

**Your 2024 Board Members were:** 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.*

**AND, THANK YOU to our valued sponsors** for supporting the Big Cedar Lake Stewardship Association for 2025! 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 website,

Take care,  
see you in the summer.

*Brian Stock*

President, Big Cedar Lake Stewardship Association

