

On Sunday May 20, 2018, we had the 2018 Annual General Meeting for the Big Cedar Lake Stewardship Association (BCLSA). **The following were items that all members should note/consider.** Following the noteworthy items are the full Meeting Minutes.

- **Encourage your neighbours to provide their e-mails** to [bigcedarlakesa@gmail.com](mailto:bigcedarlakesa@gmail.com) to be added to the lake distribution list, even if they are not interested in paying the membership and/or Healthy Lake fees. We try to always send messages using “BCC” option so people’s private e-mail addresses are not compromised.
- Please **don’t be in a hurry to clean up your shoreline**, the weevils winter there and we have had a cold wet spring so we need to give them time to get back into the lake.
- If anyone is interested in organizing a “pick-up” event (e.g. “meet in middle of the lake with snacks, music and swim suits on certain date/time”, or “meet at certain point on road x on certain date/time to go for a walk and get to know the people around you”) then please **send detailed e-mail that you would like sent out** to [bigcedarlakesa@gmail.com](mailto:bigcedarlakesa@gmail.com) and it will be communicated to the BCLSA contact list.
- Interest was indicated in having someone organize other guided nature walks. **Looking for volunteer to arrange this.** Leo will be organizing a walk in August.
- Linda and Mike Mulgrew have purchased an **Automated External Defibrillator (AED)** unit, and if a cottager has an emergency they would make it available when they are in residence (always be sure to call 911 as first step). They live on the far end island, closest to Haultain (previously called Sybil Island or Holt Island).
- Suggestion to **support Big Cedar Lake store**, the more we support them, the better they will be.
- **Reminder to not use fertilizers**, to clear out your septic system regularly and to use **phosphate-free soaps** such as Sunlight, Palmolive or Ivory dishsoap and Burt’s Bees or Live Clean shampoo.
- Linda Mulgrew intends to write four articles about the history of Big Cedar Lake with the help of George Peck and others that have history to share about the lake. If anyone has **stories or memories to share**, please contact Linda Mulgrew at [lhartmulgrew@gmail.com](mailto:lhartmulgrew@gmail.com).
- Please take ownership of our roads and **encourage all not to litter.**

## **Minutes of Big Cedar Lake Stewardship Association (BCLSA) 2018 Annual General Meeting**

Held: May 20, 2018 at 10 am at Wilson Park

28 Attendees

Brian called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He then reviewed the BCLSA committees that are currently in place.

## **2017 AGM Feedback:**

Connect Road Committee Leads – Linda Kelsey was able to connect the various Road Committees, this had positive results in that funding was obtained to repair the common road (45, from Coon). Linda has agreed to continue to keep the Road Committees connected.

New BCLSA 3-fold glossy brochure about Big Cedar Lake was created by Peter Friberg last year and was provided to attendees.

Paddlefest – suggestion by Ron (owner of Woodview General Store) to hold a joint Paddlefest between Big Cedar Lake and Julian Lake, where, on a particular day, each lake would have their day-time checkpoints and paddling on the lake and then the evening festivities would be held at the Woodview Manor and Lakeside Loft. This venue is just past the Woodview store. The evening pot-luck festivities would be for the people from both Big Cedar and Julian Lake (Julian Lake is much smaller, so far fewer people would be from Julian Lake). This facility has an indoor area that is large enough for everyone to be able to eat indoors if needed due to weather, and the owner wants to have exposure of her property so people will consider the space for their own events. She is also very involved with organizing various large charity events so is well versed in organizing something of this magnitude.

### **Discussion: What are some ways to build community on Big Cedar Lake:**

Brian indicated that in his discussions with Chandos Lake, they hold an annual regatta, they have a junior fishing derby (for under 13, to teach them then do some fishing), a Family Day Skate, Fireworks display etc.

It was mentioned that community is very important to the Lake, as demonstrated in our Big Cedar showing at the Municipal meetings where we were crucial to being able to stop a bylaw revision that would be detrimental to many of our Big Cedar residents. The municipality is now sending bulletins to the Lake Associations so we will continue to disperse them using the BCLSA e-mail communication. **Encourage your neighbours to provide their e-mails to keep them in the loop** (they can send an e-mail to [bigcedarlakesa@gmail.com](mailto:bigcedarlakesa@gmail.com) to be added to the distribution list), even if they are not interested in paying the membership and/or Healthy Lake fees. We try to always send messages out using the “bcc” option so people’s private e-mail addresses are not compromised. We need more people involved, if only through e-mail. Not everyone is able to attend meetings but it is important to communicate.

Discussion about merits of Facebook, vs. webpage, vs. billboard, vs. e-mail. Suggestion to link facebook to our web page. Although some people prefer Facebook others dislike it and prefer other methods, however it was agreed that e-mail seems to be most effective overall and is the preferred method of communication.

Attendees agreed that Paddlefest is a great event, but we could also do some less labour-intensive smaller events. For example, we could pick a day, communicate it, and have everyone meet in the middle of the lake “Bring snacks, music, bathing suits” for some community fun. Another suggestion was to “meet and go for a walk”, come if you want to get to know the people around you. **If anyone is interested in organizing such an event and would like it communicated to the BCLSA contact list**, please just send the e-mail you would like sent out to [bigcedarlakesa@gmail.com](mailto:bigcedarlakesa@gmail.com) and it will be forwarded out to the entire contact list.

It was commented that the Naturalist (organized by Edith Moore) that did a hike a couple of years ago, where participants were shown how to identify newts/salamanders and other reptiles was a fantastic opportunity enjoyed by people from age 4 to 80 years old. It was suggested that **someone should see if there are other hikes that could be set up.** If someone is interested, they could contact the Peterborough Conservation Authority, or the University, or Kawartha Land Trust. The Kawartha Land Trust have property and walking trails and groups go out with experts for various focus such as amphibians or spring flowering plants, etc. They have beautiful land and the walks are extremely interesting.

Leo has indicated that **he will be organizing a walk in August** to explore the land that connects Big Cedar Lake to Coon Lake.

Linda Mulgrew indicated that she has worked with the Canadian Red Cross for a number of years, teaching and working with others that teach First Aid. First Aid courses are a great way to bring together cottagers and to make good Samaritans. They are currently putting together a 40 hour Wilderness First Aid course to be held this summer. Information about this course will be sent out to the township as well as BCLSA.

Linda Mulgrew also advised that she and Mike have purchased an **Automated External Defibrillator (AED)** unit, and if a cottager has an emergency they would make it available when they are in residence. They live on the far end island, closest to Haultain (previously called Sybil Island or Holt Island). Please note however, that your first act for any emergency should always be to call 911.

Linda indicated that it would be helpful to have an emergency action plan for the Lake, and she plans to put together a flyer and information on this soon. She is more than pleased to run a free information session.

A member pointed out the many improvements that have been noticed at the Big Cedar Lake General Store, with a large walk-in cooler, more open concept, lottery tickets and lottery machine, and they now carry Big Cedar Lake t-shirts and sweatshirts. **The more we support them, the better they will be.**

### **Financial Statements**

Brian reviewed the Income Statement and Balance Sheet for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2017, and the audit comments provided by our auditors Linda and Gord Kelsey. Don was commended for his excellent book keeping skills and Linda and Gord were thanked for their participation in the audit. The financial statements were accepted by a vote of the membership, all in favour, no nays.

### **Election of Directors**

There are currently 9 directors on the BCLSA Board: Don Austin, Doug Colmer, Heather McCarten, Chris Graham, Diane Trauzzi, Brian Stock, John Graham, Leo DeSorcy, and Mike Mulgrew. The directors serve a 2 year term, and the last 3 were up for election for the next 2 year term, but as no new members were put forward, all nominations were acclaimed. Election of the officers will be held at the next Board of Director meeting with formation of committee leads.

## **Healthy Lake Program**

Brian indicated that although the “battle continues” with the Eurasian Milfoil, Big Cedar Lake is in better shape with the support of Trent University. For 2017, there were six treatment sites with vegetated benthic mats installed and 40,000 weevils introduced into the lake.

The conclusion from the Trent report was that although weevils may offer lake managers a degree of control over the invasive milfoil, it is unlikely that the milfoil will be completely eradicated with weevils alone. The average milfoil density for 2017 was relatively high, following the lowest year of milfoil density in 2016. This pattern has been observed since 2013, where densities have alternated from higher to lower each year.

The recommendation going forward is to design the management plan to primarily focus on encouraging native plants to compete with milfoil, as this may be more successful at limiting milfoil abundance in targeted patches. We should also continue monitoring experimental patches throughout the lake, including the full lake survey that was done in 2017. This will help to confirm conclusions regarding the effectiveness of the weevil program, milfoil abundance, as well as aid in site selection for preventative measures. Trent plans to select mat material that can prevent milfoil from growing up through it, while allowing adequate spacing for native species transplanting.

The action plan for 2018:

- New type of mat for 2018 – same grid pattern but with an additional layer to prevent weeds from growing through
- Six treatment sites and six control sites
- Survey the whole lake again for 2018 – possible use of drones
- Exploring easier techniques to inject new native plants
- Continue to explore solutions for shoreline residents in developing a DIY program for managing Milfoil at their own shoreline

## **Water Quality**

Diane Trauzzi presented the results of the water testing done by her husband Ralph Trauzzi for Phosphorus and Water Clarity. Strong reminders to not use fertilizer on your property, pump out your septic system on a regular basis and be careful to only use phosphate-free soaps. What goes on your property and into your drain eventually finds its way into the lake. Suggestion to send out an e-mail to membership reminding them about these points, and to list some good phosphate-free soaps (such as Sunlight, Palmolive, or Ivory dishsoap and Bert’s Bees or Live Clean shampoo). Suggestion to link to David Suzuki’s blog which has additional good information.

Presentation then talked about eColi testing, which was very favourable for Rudi Harner’s sample that has been done yearly as well as some additional testing done by Diane and Ralph at various points around the lake. All tests showed very favourable results, and going forward Diane and Ralph will perform e-Coli tests at various points around the lake to get a good picture of the lake as a whole.

Finally, Diane reviewed some more in-depth water testing that was done in association with Dr. Paul Frost at Trent university and the North Kawartha Lake Association (NORKLA) which we participated in to supplement the water testing that we've currently been doing in our lake. Ralph put together a slide that summarized the results of this additional water testing, showing the results of Big Cedar, vs. the other lakes in our area that participated in this testing. All of the tests showed that Big Cedar has very good results, probably the best lake in the area. It was suggested that we write an article to post on our website to show how our lake compares to other lakes, then "here's what you need to do to continue keeping our lake in such good shape".

All of the slides will be posted onto the website, including some detail slides that show which lakes were included in the additional testing, and all of the various water test results (by lake) for people that are wondering which lakes are at the higher end (or lower end), or how another particular lake places, or the exact data of where Big Cedar Lake placed.

### **Other Milfoil efforts**

Doug Colmer informed us of efforts by Quebec to fight milfoil by laying mats using large barges to lay the mats. He showed us a YouTube clip of the Sudbury project that is using these barges. This effort is not currently supported by MNR.

Doug has volunteered to perform a beach property assessment for any cottager interested, to help you understand the options you have for battling milfoil on your own property, be it through mats or harvesting. If interested, please contact Doug.

### **Healthy Lake Program Funding**

Brian indicated that Chandos Lake has recently approved participating in the Trent project currently being undertaken in Big Cedar Lake. This will provide some cost-sharing options that will decrease our overall cost, as well as allow us to share in experiences gained in Chandos as well as our own lake. For now we will continue contributions at the same level as last year, we only have 52 contributors this year (vs. 62 contributors last year).

### **Other Business**

It is important to record the history of Big Cedar Lake while the older generation are still able to tell their stories and memories of the Lake. There have been three books written and published by Enid Mallory about this area (These Kawartha Lakes, Up the Burleigh Road, Coppermine).

Linda Mulgrew has been gathering information and photographs about the area and plans to work with George Peck and several of the other families from the Haultain entrance -end of the lake to complete a series of four articles between now and next year. She will also be adding additional information she has collected from the various Bolton & Church families. Fred and Rose-Darlene and Dave and his wife have all given her good pieces of information over the years (before Orval and Glen passed). This year is the 120th anniversary of Sybil Island-"Holt Island" as many know the island from the 1930's & 40's. She will be logging memories and history from the start of "cottaging on Big Cedar Lake" up to the 1966 land auctions from the crown. Linda would very much appreciate hearing of any stories and memories of other members on the lake. Please **send any stories or memories** to Linda at [lhartmulgrew@gmail.com](mailto:lhartmulgrew@gmail.com).

It was noted that a lot of garbage is being tossed onto the Big Cedar Lake Road. We were asked to collectively **take ownership of this problem, and ask people to be mindful of not littering on the road.**

It was asked how to deal with a neighbour that clears their shoreline, cuts down trees and puts in new docks. We should encourage all cottagers and especially new owners to find out what is allowed and what current legislations or municipality regulations do's and don'ts are for their lake property.

Suggestion to write a newsletter about the water quality, how good it is, here is how it is kept that way, include links to municipal regulations as well as FOCCA and KLSA publications that are good to describe good management practices and include a simple list of do's and don'ts.

Cliff asked if anyone has seen a moose on their property. He has a trail cam on his property and he saw a moose on the video captured by his trail cam.

Reminder that we have had a cold wet spring, and the weevils winter on the shoreline, so please **don't be in a hurry to clean up your shoreline**, give the weevils enough time to get back into the lake.

Meeting was adjourned.