

# Big Cedar Lake Stewardship Association

## President Update – February, 2018

February 14, 2018

Hello from Big Cedar Lake,

I hope everyone is enjoying this winter weather - only three months until the first summer long weekend on Big Cedar Lake.

Today, I am pleased to provide you with an update from the Board on the various issues your Association is currently dealing with:

- Healthy Lake Program
  - Trent U Report, Recommendations & 2018 Contribution Request
  - Water Testing
- Annual BCLSA Membership Fee Request
- AGM – May 20<sup>th</sup> – Wilson Park @ 10am
- Board Member Recruitment

### ***Healthy Lake Program - The Trent University – Big Cedar Lake Milfoil Report***

The Trent University Report for 2017 is now posted on the BCLSA website. What I would like to provide you with now is brief overview of the report and outline what your Board is recommending for 2018.

Without question our battle with Eurasian Milfoil continues, but by having the Trent University project team working on our lake, Big Cedar is in much better shape with respect to the management of Milfoil than most other lakes in Ontario.

For 2017, six treatment and six additional monitoring sites were identified, after a complete survey of the lake in early June. The six treatment sites were stocked with a total of 40,000 weevils and six vegetated benthic mats. Over the season, the treatment sites and the control sites were monitored for weevil damage, stem density of the milfoil and bio diversity (the mixture of native plants). The Trent team made the following conclusions and recommendations after studying not only the 2017 data, but the data stream from the last 7 years.

#### *Conclusions:*

- *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.*
- *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.*

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### *Recommendations:*

- *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.*
- *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.*
- *Select mat material that can prevent milfoil from growing up through it, while allowing adequate spacing for native species transplanting.*
- *Install vegetated benthic mats when milfoil density is low, to allow native plant species to colonize without competition from milfoil. This will allow us to avoid mechanically harvesting milfoil, a process that often creates hundreds of plant fragments.*

Although Big Cedar Lake is in much better shape than other lakes that are not managing milfoil, we still have a serious challenge with milfoil. Without question by being involved with Trent University, it has allowed our Lake to be on the leading edge of milfoil management. We are also monitoring other invasive plant management programs that Trent is working on like *Water soldier and Water Chestnut*, which we need to understand to minimize the risk of those invasive plants coming into our Lake. In addition, we have been monitoring a mat program that is being proposed in the Sudbury area, that in the future may further support our efforts in Big Cedar Lake.

With the Healthy Lake Program, we are not only trying to protect the financial investment we all have in the Lake, but we are also very concerned about protecting the recreational enjoyment that all of our families take from the Lake. The Board is recommending that we continue with the Trent Program for 2018 and move forward with their recommendations.

As a result, we need to start our fund raising campaign for 2018. Although we continue to look for outside funding opportunities, local fund raising from the residents on Big Cedar Lake is the primary focus. What we are asking for you to contribute in 2018 is the same as last year \$360 per cottager/ resident. Attached to this email is the contribution form. We ask that you send in your contribution as soon as possible as we need to commit to Trent University shortly.

### ***Water Testing Program***

In 2017 under the direction of Board Member Diane Trauzzi and her husband Ralph, our water testing program has been greatly expanded. The water testing results for our lake are now published on the website. Please review and provide any comments you may have. For 2018, the Board has agreed to support a three prong approach. We will continue with the testing done by KLSA which compares us to other lakes. In addition, we will continue with the Norkla/Trent University water testing program. The first year results of this project are published on the website. Finally, the Board decided to expand the Ecoli testing to different parts of the Lake. The Board believes water quality is of keen interest to all members thus a good investment for our association.

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### ***BCLSA Association Membership***

In addition to the Trent Project contribution of \$360, we are also asking people to renew their association membership for \$15. This fee funds the association's minor administrative expenses and external association fees. Thank you in advance for your support of both requests.

### ***Annual General Meeting***

The next AGM will be held at the Wilson Park Hall on Northey's Bay Road on Sunday May 20<sup>th</sup> starting at 10 am

### ***Board Members***

At the AGM, Board members will be elected. We are continuing to look for new Board members, so please consider joining the team – we always welcome and need fresh perspectives.

Take care,

*Brian Stock*

President  
Big Cedar Lake Stewardship Association