

On Sunday May 19, 2019, we held the 2019 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 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 and it will be communicated to the BCLSA contact list. This contact list can also be used if you have lost or found items that you need assistance finding/finding the owner.
- 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.
- The **Canada Day boat parade** will start/end at Clam Bay with a social time afterwards.
- Please **be mindful of how fast you are going when you are boating close to the shoreline** as the wake from your boat can accelerate erosion
- Please take ownership of our roads and **encourage all not to litter.**

Minutes of Big Cedar Lake Stewardship Association (BCLSA) 2019 Annual General Meeting

Held: May 19, 2019 at 10 am at Wilson Park

24 Attendees

Diane called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting. She is running the meeting in place of Brian who was attending his son’s graduation ceremony. Diane asked for volunteers to do the minutes. Mike Mulgrew and Todd Moore agreed to co-record the minutes. Thanks to Mike and Todd for stepping in.

Diane then introduced Carolyn Amyotte, our new mayor for North Kawartha. She was unable to stay for the whole meeting as she is juggling her mayoral duties with start-up for the Eels Lake Marina that she and her husband own, and their dock-building company. We will revise our agenda to have Carolyn present first, then, while she is at the meeting we will skip to Healthy Lake presentations, which would be interesting for her to hear.

Mayor Carolyn Amyotte – Council update and open forum for concerns

Carolyn spoke for a few minutes about the new council, and some infrastructure changes. She indicated that the Budget for the year has only increased by 2.1%, so people should see their cottage taxes

actually decrease this year. Carolyn indicated that we have received grants and money from the provincial and federal government however there are some guidelines that must be followed when spending this money. She told us of a new project that has just started, to move the entrance of the Haultain Transfer Station. The prep work for this project has already started, and the project is scheduled to take 12-18 months to complete. This will involve replacing the bridge, and they are also hoping to include leaving the construction pad afterwards as a possible boat landing or portage access to Eels Creek, which would be safer than the unofficial site that is currently being used. Carolyn has plans to reintroduce the boat tours (in conjunction to road tours) where members of council would visit lakes in the region and tour the lake, since 80% of our properties are on a lake front. She indicated that 3-5 councilors had never been on the lakes, and she would like to ensure all the councilors participate. Next, Carolyn indicated that the topic of boathouses and in-water regulations has been assigned to Jim Wheelan, and Jim is starting to make progress on these regulations, though movement has been slow. She also indicated that she is trying to ensure council is well-aware and educated about invasive species. She has had Doug Wellman of NORKLA in to a meeting to talk to councilors about this topic. Carolyn then opened the floor up for questions.

There was a question about the water set-back legislation, and Carolyn indicated that there is a 100' setback for new builds, however existing structures that burn down or need renovations would be allowed to grandfather their existing footprint to rebuild in the same place with the same footprint that they currently have. She indicated that there is a formula that is used for renovations. The changes that were introduced last year were meant to simplify things, but seemed to instead make everything more complicated. There have been some provincial legislature changes that also impact these regulations.

Next, it was brought up that the gravel on Coon Lake road has too much clay content and it is ruining cars and car brakes. Carolyn replied that council is working with the gravel supplier to ensure the gravel being used is optimal for future resurfacing. Residents can contact Scott Matheson of the North Kawartha Road department directly for any complaints/concerns. Another comment was made about the level of snow plow blades, that causes the gravel that has been put down to be plowed off the road with the snow. Carolyn indicated that they are aware of this and are working with the maintenance department to address it. A comment was made about the timing of the road-side brushing that is done, where if it is done after the brush has gone to seed we are just proliferating and spreading the seeds. One member indicated that he is very happy with the road-side garbage and recycling collection program, that it is working very well. A question was asked about garbage collection for island residents, and the response was that other than the garbage tokens provided with the tax bill, bear-proof garbage containers could be used. The final question was in regards to internet service in the area, this has been an ongoing issue and Bell is currently rolling out new access which may address some of the issues. Watch for promotional materials that Bell will undoubtedly send out when their project has completed.

Members at the meeting expressed their appreciation for the mayor, that she took time to come to our meeting, we found it very informative.

Carolyn asked to have her contact information included in the minutes: if you need to reach her in her role as mayor, then she can be contacted anytime either at 705-931-1342 or mayor@northkawartha.ca. She also has a facebook page @mayoramotte, where she shares a lot of info regarding what she is up to and what is happening in North Kawartha. She will be posting in Facebook later about attending our meeting.

Healthy Lake Program

Diane indicated that although the “battle continues” with the Eurasian Milfoil, Big Cedar Lake is in better shape than other lakes in the area, with the support of Trent University. We feel that it is important for the health of our lake to continue to work with Trent University. For 2018, there were five treatment sites with vegetated benthic mats installed and 25,000 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 2018 was relatively low, following a high level of milfoil density in 2017. 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. With Weevils at a saturation point in the lake it allows an opportunity to adjust the level of weevils stocking in 2019, with the intent of using weevils in selective areas. This change would allow funds to be reallocated to other parts of the Healthy Lake project. Trent also plans to investigate other mat materials that can prevent milfoil from growing up through it, while allowing adequate spacing for native species transplanting, and to spend more time on finding native plants that can replace the milfoil and are resilient and show regrowth more rapidly.

Based on Trent University findings, Diane outlined the BCLSA Board action plan for 2019. The key point is the mat program is good at trying to keep the milfoil at bay, but longer term we need to find a solution for new native plants – which is the big focus of Trent this year. 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 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, Water Chestnut, and Starry Stonewort, which we need to understand to minimize the risk of those invasive plants coming into our Lake. The Board feels that it is important to keep Trent on the Lake – as they are very knowledgeable about what people are doing around North America and also in good position help us with any new invasive plants, etc. coming at us down the road. Last year we shared the Trent program with Chandos Lake. In 2019, Chandos is going forward with a very large mat program, thus providing us with another excellent opportunity to learn from their results.

Part two of the Board plan, involves a trial of Weed Be Gone (WBG) mats. After discussions with Trent on sources of new mat material, we have decided to contract WBG to install six larger mats in three high traffic areas. This opportunity allows us to try their new mat material while at the same time allows us to install the mats in areas of greater depth (since WBG utilize divers to install their mats). Our hope is that the new material will be more resistant to milfoil regrowth and at the same time if we can install these mats in deeper high traffic areas then the number of milfoil fragments will be substantially less. As noted in the Trent report, milfoil fragmentation is the number one enemy when it comes to fighting the spread of milfoil. Doug Colmer has been working with the Weed Be Gone company, and has had some of their mats installed for three years with good success. He indicated the mats that had been

installed previously have not performed as well. The Trent mats were made of coconut/hemp and these new mats are nylon, with tighter mesh that prevent the milfoil from re-growing through. The Trent mats are susceptible to being snagged by fishermen when they are casting. Doug also indicated that the Weed Be Gone mats are ¼ of the price we pay Trent for the mats, however Trent offers us significant other services with their mats which includes extensive monitoring and reporting, and the drone program. Doug will perform the monitoring of the Weed Be Gone mats. Doug also indicated that there may be a limited number of Weed Be Gone mats available for individuals to purchase if they are interested in treating a specific area (in front of their property for instance). If you are interested, please contact Doug Colmer.

Leo made the suggestion that **cottagers should not be in a hurry to clean up your shoreline**, the weevils are helping with our milfoil problem, and since the weevils winter on the shoreline, with the cold wet spring, we need to give them an opportunity to make it back into the lake. It was suggested that this **lakefront raking etc should be held off until the July long weekend**.

Water Quality

Ralph Trauzzi presented the results of the water testing done by he and his wife, for Phosphorus, Calcium 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.

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, Ralph 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 reviewed 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.

All of the slides will be posted onto the website.

Lake Ice Dynamics

Ralph Trauzzi then reviewed some of the presentation done at the Spring KLSA meeting about Lake Ice Dynamics in the Kawarthas. Some of the slides were specific to a study actually done on Big Cedar Lake, back in the 70's which is interesting to look at this data. Ralph reviewed what black ice is vs. white ice, and showed some slides which mapped out the dispersion of the two types of ice across our lake. He finished his presentation with a slide showing the timing and thickness of the ice at Big Cedar Lake.

Healthy Lake Program Funding

Diane indicated that we are continuing contributions for the Healthy Lake Program at the same level as last year, we only have 40 contributors so far this year (vs. 57 last year, and 62 contributors the year before). Please encourage your neighbours to participate in this very worthwhile endeavor.

Committee Initiatives

We then went back to the business part of the meeting, where Diane reviewed the BCLSA committees that are currently in place (to show the members the scope of the things the Association deals with), and thanked the Board members who donate their time and good work. It was noted that the website along with the BCLSA general e-mail contact list are used as points of contact and information. Please be **sure that your e-mail addresses (and suggest the same to your neighbours) are kept up-to-date** on our list so you get the information that is sent out.

2018 AGM Members Feedback:

The Board would like to understand what is important to the members to help clarify our focus. It was noted however that we may not be able to address everything – as we are limited by manpower and money. We do communicate any new initiatives that we undertake. Given the current resources (both financial and human) we have focused our energies on mostly the Healthy Lake program – milfoil, expanded water quality testing, etc. Although we would like to see the “social” part come back to life, we will need volunteers to do that. Members attending the meeting thought the current focus was good and thanked the Board for our efforts.

Suggestions/ideas from members attending the meeting included:

- offering a raffle prize to encourage members to send in their Membership/Healthy Lake fees.
- discussion about the marking of low rocks. Doug Colmer indicated that he undertakes this marking regularly in the spring, and made note of a rock that formerly had been deep enough not to be an issue, but became an issue with the lower lake level near the end of the summer.
- The **Canada Day boat parade** was discussed, and it was decided that we will start and end at Clam Bay, where there is a good area for boats to gather, and then with the shallow water, plenty of room for people to get out of their boats afterwards and have some social time.
- We had a discussion about the level of the lake, it was mentioned that Eels Lake controls our level with their dam. Ralph indicated that he followed the outlet of our lake to the highway, and other than some culverts that were plugged (he unplugged them) there was nothing restricting the flow of the water out of our lake. (And in fact even the plugged culverts were not restricting the flow – water was going over the top of the road even after the culverts were cleared!)
- Leo indicated that he attempts to maintain the natural shorelines, and encourages others to do so as well. Please **be mindful of how fast you are going when you are boating close to the shoreline** as the wake from your boat can accelerate erosion.

Financial Statements

Diane reviewed the Income Statement and Balance Sheet for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2018, as well as 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: John Graham, Leo DeSorcy, Mike Mulgrew, Don Austin, Doug Colmer, Heather McCarten, Chris Graham, Diane Trauzzi, and Brian Stock. The directors serve a 2 year term, and the last 6 were up for election for the next 2 year term. Heather has declined to serve the next term due to other commitments, and thanks go to her for her years of service. No new members were put forward, so all nominations were acclaimed. Election of the officers will be held at the next Board of Director meeting with election of officers and formation of committee leads.

Other Business – History of Big Cedar Lake

Linda Mulgrew has been gathering information and photographs about the Big Cedar Lake area. She has had conversation with Marion Crowe (who lives on Coon Lake Road) and also has a copy of the Green Island History from Fred Schultz. This Green Island History was to be published on our website under the “Geography and History” tab, and Diane apologized for her tardiness, it will be added shortly.

Linda has had two other interviews with Mr Lewis who spent his childhood at Big Cedar Lake then went off to WW II with his dear friend, who was killed at war. Interestingly, the friend’s name was etched onto their cottage.

Other interesting history information can be found in the book “Up the Burleigh Road...Beyond the boulders”, and illustrated history by Doug and Mary Lavery, as well as in a Lakefield Herald article that was written by Jack May and published in 2001. A copy of the Herald article can be found by following the link on the website.

Linda also included some old pictures of the Bolton family – one of the main founding families of our Big Cedar Lake community.

There being no other new business, the meeting was adjourned.