

Big Cedar Lake Stewardship Association

President Update – February 2021

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Hello from Big Cedar Lake,

It is hard to believe that it has been nearly a year since we started talking about COVID 19 and at that time I am sure we did not realize the impact COVID 19 would have on our lives. The Board also realizes that everyone in our Lake community has been impacted by the pandemic and unfortunately it looks like we will have one more COVID summer season ahead of us. Despite COVID your Association was able to achieve numerous accomplishments during 2020 and has some extensive plans for 2021. This newsletter is broken into three sections: A) Review of 2020, B) Projects and Initiatives for 2021, 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 2021, 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 2020 were as follows:

Diane Trauzzi, Don Austin, John Graham, Doug Colmer, Leo DeSorcy, Chris Graham, Mike Mulgrew, Stephanie Holodinsky - 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. I would like to extend a special thank you to Diane and Doug for all the extra work they did on the Starry Stonewort project over this past year.

Section A: Review of 2020

a) Healthy Lake Program - Milfoil

For 2020, there were no additional mats installed to combat Milfoil. Trent University did do a survey in our Lake in September. The initial draft of the report indicated that there was not a significant change in the milfoil population between 2019 and 2020. The full report will be posted on the Association's website once we receive the final copy.

b) Healthy Lake Program – Starry Stonewort

Starry Stonewort had been our major focus last year. Starry was identified in 4 sites in our lake: at the public boat launch, at a cottage just up from the boat launch, in a small bay near the entrance to Eels Creek and at one cottage in Hungry Bay.

The Starry Stonewort containment work was led by Doug Colmer and involved removing and containing Starry where it was reasonable. Around the boat launch area, there was an extensive harvesting done, with mats being put down in the deeper areas. Doug did an exceptional job and put in extensive hours. He also dealt with the other areas where Starry Stonewort was identified.

In addition, awareness signs were created and posted at the Boat Launch, and an extensive communication / awareness program for the membership included a PowerPoint created by Diane Trauzzi and a Social Media graphic created by Stephanie Holodinsky.

An initiative to close the Boat Launch was established; but after many discussions led by Diane with MPP and MNR we were not able to close the ramp last year, time just ran out on us.

Various Board Members attended meetings and seminars with the Starry Stonewort Collaborative that is run out of the Finger Lakes Institute in New York as well as other groups in Michigan and Wisconsin, and Ontario ie: the Stoney Lake group, the Lake Simcoe group, the Nature Conservancy of Canada - the goal of all of these meetings was to share best practices/knowledge bases/research about Starry Stonewort.

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. The details are available on the Website at the following link: <https://www.bclsa.ca/lake-data/>, and a summary of the highlights is outlined below:

- Ecoli testing was performed 6 times throughout the summer at 6 strategic sites around the lake. Our lake continues to show very good results for Ecoli tests. These results will also be included in the KLSA publication.
- Dr Paul Frost from Trent University and his students came twice to do some detailed DO and other nutrients testing. Dr. Frost has indicated that although he would like to do additional testing in 2021 with some advanced monitoring equipment, he is not concerned about the low DO levels at the bottom of our lake. It is more common than he had originally thought.

- Big Cedar Lake has been included in KLSA's Climate Change project which will initially include Temperature and Dissolved Oxygen monitoring. We have installed a Temperature Data Logger and we also performed DO and conductivity testing two times with the use of KLSA's DO meter. The data from this will be included in the KLSA annual publication.

d) Update on Associations/Liaisons/Research

- We were able to have Big Cedar Lake included in KLSA's grant from Watersheds Canada for Shoreline Re-Naturalization. This initiative involves an assessment of your shoreline to determine what can be done to improve it, then a planting plan would be developed cooperatively with you which will identify which native species are best suited for your property. Once the site visit is completed, you would receive a Shoreline Re-naturalization Starter Kit which includes the site-specific planting plan, plants and materials, and resource materials (ex. Habitat Creation Guide and Wildflower Garden Guide). Under the project, you would receive mats, mulch, plants, and wildflowers. The landowners, with the assistance of KLSA members, will undertake the planting of the vegetation. The cost of all of this is only \$250 (typically, the plants alone are worth more than this cost). On our lake, 2 Residents had their property assessed in the Fall 2020, and one more may be interested but is not yet confirmed for the Spring 2021.
- NORKLA did not hold meetings due to Covid-19, but we continued to receive information from the chair Doug Wellman.
- KLSA meetings were attended via Zoom.
- Provided links to our website Weevil / Milfoil research and progress reports to a Fish & Wildlife Technology student intern that was working with The Land Between who was conducting a research project with the Drag and Spruce Lake Property Owners Association (DSLPOA) concerning their Eurasian Milfoil outbreak.
- Assisted lake residents with identifying aquatic plants that were worrisome to them.
- Compiled information that was communicated with members about Lake Health as a human concept (vs ecological one) to communicate social norms and good practices as they relate to erosion, lawn fertilization and septic seepage, noise levels and fishing/anchors.
- Researched and published a write-up on Boating Offences and Associated Fines that was distributed to our residents, and then shared this information with the lake steward for the Wollaston Lake Home and Cottage association (WLHCA).
- Researched and distributed information about Gypsy Moths and spring kill-off of fish.
- Investigation into inclusion of Trent University's Aquatic Research Program (TARP).
- Involvement with the township regarding Dock regulations, etc.

e) Update on Finances / Membership

The financial statements for 2020 for the Association will be posted on the Website prior to the AGM in May. As usual Don Austin did an excellent job in the managing the accounts. The Board made the decision last year to fund all administrative and project costs out of the Association's reserve fund. For 2021, in order to fund the administrative and project costs, we will need to ask the members for a membership and Healthy Lake program financial contribution.

Projects and Initiatives for 2021

a) Healthy Lake Program – Milfoil

- Trent University to continue with the annual Lake Survey in the fall of 2021.
- 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.
- *Project Lead – Brian Stock & Doug Colmer*

b) Healthy Lake Program – Starry Stonewort

- Monitor known sites in the spring/ early summer and determine if remedial action is required.
- Purchase 5-6 mats in reserve for possible new areas.
- Signage and Education to be reviewed.
- Investigate the option of a more extensive survey of the lake for Starry Stonewort.
- Do not request the closure of the public boat ramp.
- Establish a Boat washing station at the boat launch.
- Investigate the feasibility of installing Web/trail cameras at the boat launch.
- Investigate option of purchasing an "aquatic containment curtain" for containing fragments from floating away while doing work on invasive species such as Starry Stonewort.
- *Project Lead – Doug Colmer & Diane Trauzzi*

c) Healthy Lake Program - Water Quality testing

- Continue Ecoli water testing - 6 sites.
- Continue additional water testing by Trent University – Dr. Frost team
- Continue participation in Climate Change project
- Pursue inclusion into the Trent University Aquatic Research Program (TARP)
- *Project Lead – Diane Trauzzi*

d) Associations/Liaisons/Research

- NORKLA Membership
- KLSA Membership
- Research/Liaison to continue for both Milfoil and Starry Stonewort ie: Finger Lakes Group, Stony Lake Group, research/programs from the Northern States, Ontario, etc.
- Continue to encourage cottagers to participate in the Shoreline Naturalization project
- *Project Lead – Diane Trauzzi & Stephanie Holodinsky*

e) Communications

- Continue to maintain contact list for BCL members.
- Forward applicable communications to all members through e-mail and Facebook.
- Monitor Township communications and forward applicable notices to all members.
- 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)
- *Project Lead – Diane Trauzzi*

f) Membership

- Establish Planning for membership growth/renewal.
- *Project Lead – not currently filled.*

g) Finance

- Budget for 2021 to be established.
- Manage accounts throughout year.
- Manage audit review process and tax return.
- *Project Lead – Don Austin*

Administrative Items

- ***Healthy Lake Contribution (\$100 for 2021- see attached contribution form)***

Based on the project list for 2021, we are asking each member of the association to contribute \$100 for 2021. 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.

- ***BCLSA Membership Fee (\$15 / year- see attached contribution form)***

We will still be asking people to renew their association membership for \$15. This fee funds the association's minor administrative expenses and external association fees that keep our lake in good standing with the Lake Associations that we interact with and learn from.

Thank you in advance for your support.

- ***Annual General Meeting***

The AGM is usually scheduled for the May long weekend. Due to the ongoing COVID 19 restrictions, the Board is proposing a ZOOM Call for the AGM. The proposed date is May Tuesday (4th or 11th) at 7:30 pm. More details about the AGM Zoom call will be sent closer to the date.

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 (hopefully) in the summer.

Brian Stock

President

Big Cedar Lake Stewardship Association