

Big Cedar Lake Stewardship Association (BCLSA) 2021 Annual General Meeting

On Tuesday May 11, 2019, we held the 2021 Annual General Meeting for the Big Cedar Lake Stewardship Association (BCLSA) via a Zoom call. **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.
- If any member is interested in **purchasing mats** to install in their beach area, then the Board can help with information on suppliers and methods of installing.
- If you are interested in the **Shore Naturalization program**, please let us know and we will put you in touch with the appropriate people
- Please meet up with us in Clam Bay just before 2 pm on Thursday July 1, with your boat decorated as much as you want, to commemorate Canada Day for the **Canada Day parade**
- Please contact us if you are **willing to run any member engagement / virtual activities** in order to enhance community spirit.
- If you know of **good contractors / services** in the area perhaps you (or we) could approach them so that our sponsor section can be used by cottagers to find recommended vendors.
- Please remember that the **speed limit** when you are within 30 m of the shoreline is 10 km/hr. **Slow down** especially when going through narrow channels between islands and the shore to prevent erosion.
- Doug Colmer needs **4L or 5L white bottles** that can be used to mark the channel at the boat launch, so anyone that has any of these white bottles, please drop them at the landing by the sign, drop them off to Doug, or call him to pick them up.

Minutes of Big Cedar Lake Stewardship Association (BCLSA) 2021 Annual General Meeting

Held: Tuesday May 11, 2021 at 7:30 pm via Zoom Call

32 Attendees

Brian called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Brian reviewed some meeting logistics and the agenda, then conducted a couple of quick polls. The first was to determine how often members in attendance have attended the AGM in the past and the second poll was to determine where members attending the meeting are located on the Lake. It was good to see that there was good representation around the entire lake.

Brian then proceeded into the Business portion of the AGM meeting.

Financials & Election of Directors

Brian reviewed the Income Statement and Balance Sheet. Brian pointed out that as a not-for-profit organization, each year there must be zero profit, thus any funds left over must be marked as unearned contributions and moved to the following year. From 2020, we had excess funds of \$639 from the Membership fees and \$6940 from the Healthy Lake contributions. This money will be moved to 2021 and, along with this year’s fees and contributions, will be used to fund our programs this year. This is why we were able to lower the fees for this year.

Brian reviewed the history of numbers of contributions to the annual Membership and Healthy Lake fees. Note that last year there was only one Healthy Lake contribution, and this was because we didn't ask for any money for 2020 since we had money left over from the previous years.

Don was commended for his excellent bookkeeping skills and Linda and Gord were thanked for their detailed member audit of our financials and corporate tax that are filed. A motion to accept the financial statements was made by Brian, and seconded by Chris Goulding. The financial statements were accepted by a vote of the membership, all were in favour, no nays nor abstentions.

Election of Directors

There are currently 8 directors on the BCLSA Board: John Graham, Leo DeSorcy, Mike Mulgrew, Don Austin, Doug Colmer, Chris Graham, Diane Trauzzi, and Brian Stock. The directors normally serve a 2 year term, however with covid last year we weren't able to hold our AGM so all terms were extended by one year. John, Leo and Mike were nominated for re-election this year for another 2 year term and have graciously agreed to run. No new members were put forward, so all nominations were acclaimed. Brian thanked all the Board members for their service and the work that they do. He also encouraged other members to consider joining the board to help us with new ideas. Election of the officers will be held at the next Board of Director meeting with election of officers and formation of committee leads.

Healthy Lake

The Healthy Lake program with its current focus on Eurasian Milfoil, Starry Stonewort and overall Water Quality, is one of the most important efforts undertaken by the Board, and it will be ongoing. We need to protect our lake to ensure we have it for enjoyment for many years to come. Brian thanked everyone for their support in ensuring we can continue this very important work.

Eurasian Milfoil

Brian indicated that Eurasian Milfoil was the impetus for the creation of our Big Cedar Lake Stewardship Association, and although our Lake is in a better state than many other lakes in the area in regards to Eurasian Milfoil due to our ongoing efforts, there is still work to be done. Brian said that Trent University has been very helpful in their work initially with the Weevils and more recently with the vegetated mats. In 2020 and we will do the same in 2021, Trent was hired to conduct a detailed survey for Milfoil and any Starry Stonewort that they found. The results of the survey for 2020 showed basically the same density of Milfoil as in 2019. Our plan is to continue to place mats in heavy traffic areas if it is necessary in order to stop the spreading of Milfoil through boat motors fragmenting this weed. Additionally, if any member is interested in purchasing mats to install in their beach area, then the Board can help with information on suppliers and methods of installing.

Starry Stonewort

Starry Stonewort was by far the more challenging effort for our Healthy Lake program in 2020 and will continue to be our focus for 2021. In 2020, Starry Stonewort was identified last year in 4 areas, predominantly in the boat launch area. Huge thanks to Doug and the many volunteers that helped to support him on his extensive work to contain Starry Stonewort.

This year we will monitor the lake in spring and early summer to find out what we are facing. We will determine our approach based on the severity found this year. Our number one approach will be mats, which were very successful last year. This is an effort that is work-intensive so we may need to ask for volunteers again this year.

Note that we have been liaising with many other groups in U.S. and Ontario and unfortunately there are no solutions that have been found to work well thus far. Even herbicides (which we wouldn't use in Canada) that have been used in the U.S. have not been successful. Doug's method with the mats has been the most successful thus far. It is very important for us to continue to liaison with these groups which include scientists and citizens that are also concerned with this very aggressive invasive species.

Other actions we are working to implement this year will be a boat wash station at the public boat launch area so that boats are not bringing in or taking out invasive species when they come into or leave our lake. We also plan to ensure the signage is clear and visible, and we're looking at installing web cameras at the site and purchasing an aquatic containment curtain to be used when hand harvesting the weeds in the water. It will be a very active summer to ensure we stay on top of the spread of this menace.

Water Quality

Diane indicated that water quality as well as other coordination, liaison and participation in research that benefits our Lake, are other important items that Membership and Healthy Lake fees will fund. This includes coordinating with other organizations about our Lake conditions.

Rather than go over the detailed Water Quality reports in detail as has been done in the past couple of AGM's, Diane indicated that the reports are posted on the BCLSA website in the Lake Data tab on the right side of the web pages. For any questions when looking at this data, you can contact Diane for clarification. Diane indicated that our lake data continue to look very good, and we are watching it to ensure there are no adverse trends.

Ralph and Diane liaison and perform testing of the Lake on your behalf for various programs with Trent University and Kawartha Lakes Stewardship Association (or KLSA), including a new Climate Change project that we joined last year and Trent's Aquatic Research Program (TARP). Diane indicated that she will give more information about these projects in a future presentation.

Diane indicated that she and Ralph have also just agreed to be involved in an initiative run by FOCA (Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations) to test our Lake to keep an eye out for Spiny Water Fleas. According to what was received, our lake is at risk for this new invasive species based on our location and water chemistry. Thus, it will be good to be proactively testing and looking for it. Diane indicated that she fully believes that our ability to identify SSW as SOON as it arrived in our lake and then Doug Colmer's immediate actions last year is what has kept that threat to a minimum in our lake thus far.

Diane went on to report that our eColi numbers continue to be very good. Diane and Ralph test six times throughout the summer at the six locations around the lake, and if you want to see the actual numbers that were reported, then you can look at the report which is posted with the other water quality reports on the website.

Diane outlined a proposed installment of a permanent buoy on the lake, in conjunction with Dr. Paul Fry of Trent University. This is currently only a proposal, and all concerns are welcome. The buoy would be installed in the deepest area of the lake in the large open area and would be used to collect real-time measurements of water quality. There are a number of things that could be measured: some at the surface and some across the water column. For instance we could be tracking Temperature- both at the surface and with loggers at various depths;

Irradiance- which is how much light is reaching certain depths of the lake; Dissolved Oxygen and Carbon Dioxide - the numbers at the surface would allow us to figure out precise estimates of Oxygen and Carbon dioxide exchange, between the lake and the atmosphere; Conductivity which is an indicator of water hardness; and Chlorophyll which is an indicator of how much algae is in the water - - watching for indicators of blue-green algae. There could also be a weather station on the buoy to collect data on light, temperature, and wind.

The data would primarily be used to write scientific papers and to better understand the controls of water quality on Big Cedar. Basically, it could be viewed as a sentinel always watching our lake and telling us if there are short- or longer-term problems arising, for instance in algae. The data would also be used for other on-going studies by the lab on algae, zooplankton, and lake physics and chemistry. In other words, Paul Frost and his lab at Trent University would be learning a lot about our lake with an eye to protecting it.

Following this presentation there was a brief discussion involving some concerns such as lighting (the orange buoy will have a small led light that will ensure it is visible at night), the composition of the buoy, whether it brings more people to our lake (Dr. Paul Frost already is leaving his boat at our lake doing his testing and thus no new boats will be brought into our lake), and how it would affect water skiing (will be in wide open area in order to be at the deep part of the lake, and so will be easily avoidable).

Your Lake Community

As Communications representative, Diane gave a report on some information pertinent to Big Cedar Lake Cottagers and Residents:

Ontario Hydro Seasonal Rate Class changes – The Ontario Energy Board or OEB have directed Hydro One to eliminate the seasonal rate class that is currently in place and move those customers into one of three rate classes, which are based on density. This OEB direction was based on their determination that the distribution rates currently being charged to seasonal customers don't appropriately reflect the cost of serving them. The rate that is changing on your bill, is the "Flat Delivery Rate" that is charged to every customer every month whether you're using electricity or not, and is used to pay for the infrastructure used to deliver your electricity, for the maintenance and repairs done, including the workers that are out there 24 hours a day whenever there are outages, and for things like the call centre. Seasonal Customers redistributed as "Low Density Residential" will see the largest difference – the increase to this flat delivery charge will be an increase of approximately \$54/month, and this increase will be spread over approximately 10 years. Note that if you are a permanent resident, you should be sure that you are recognized as such by Hydro One. You can apply to designate yourself as a permanent resident (you will need to fill in a form and provide proof) because then you will get a \$60.50 credit from the government to offset Delivery charges. These changes will be starting potentially in 2022, but the start date of the transition is to be determined by the OEB.

Burleigh Dam Construction - Recent engineering assessments have determined that the Burleigh dam is in poor condition and allowing it to remain in its current state will result in a risk to public safety, so a project plan has been put together, to reconstruct the dam which will give it a new life of approximately 80 years. Dam stabilization was to begin over the winter Jan-Mar 2021, but this preliminary stabilization work was delayed by a Native protest. Originally the new Dam construction was to have begun in July 2021, however the Project Manager has indicated that they are continuing to consult with local First Nations and Indigenous groups and thus are still unable to provide new dates for this project at this time.

Clear garbage bags - North Kawartha will be switching to a mandatory clear bag garbage program, as of June 1st of this year. This means that all your garbage that you have been putting out at the end of your driveway or that you have been taking to the Transfer station will now need to be in clear bags.

This change is happening due to the fact that too much recycling is ending up in the garbage (it has been found that clear bags ensure that recycling material ends up where it's supposed to and that hazardous materials like paints, fuel and oils are disposed of properly) and because clear bag programs are a cost-effective proven tool to increase diversion rates, without incurring new costs. Landfills are expensive to build, to operate, and to decommission. Keeping recycling out of landfills means that the life of the current landfill will be extended. North Kawartha is the last municipality in the county to switch to this requirement.

Shoreline Naturalization - Kawartha Lakes Stewards Association (KLSA) have received a grant from Watersheds Canada to help waterfront properties renovate and naturalize their shorefront. This is not only a really good way to keep the geese from wandering up onto your property, but there are also many other positive economic impacts: such as helping to protect our lake from unwanted runoff and helping to protect your shoreline from erosion. This program will only cost you a nominal fee of \$250 to participate (the plants alone will cost far more than that) and will include a site visit where you will get advice on how to improve your shoreline. A Watersheds Canada representative or someone trained by Watersheds Canada will come and help you develop a planting plan using the native species that are best suited for our area. You will then receive 45 coconut mats, mulch, 35 bare root plants, 10 potted plants and 5 wildflower plants, which KLSA members will help you plant. You will also receive other resource materials such as the Habitat Creation Guide and Wildflower Garden Guide. There are 2 Residents from Big Cedar that had their property assessed in the Fall 2020, and one more will potentially be confirmed this Spring 2021. If you are interested in this program, please let us know and we will put you in touch with the appropriate people.

Gypsy Moths - Gypsy Moths come in outbreaks every 7 to 10 years, were an issue last year and are expected to be as bad or worse this year. Gypsy moths overwinter in the egg stage often on the bark of trees. Each egg mass holds anywhere from 100 to 1000 gypsy moth eggs. A management technique for this pest is to scrap off the egg masses in April – May and destroy them by soaking them in soapy water.

In spring, the eggs hatch and larvae ascend the trees to feed on the new foliage. They prefer broad-leafed trees, especially oak, maple, poplar, and birch. But in some areas the gypsy moth caterpillars have defoliated not only the broad leafed trees and shrubs but also conifer species including eastern white pine. During severe outbreaks, trees and shrubs are completely defoliated over large areas. The feeding by the caterpillars is over in July. Initially, feeding occurs during the day, but as the caterpillars mature feeding occurs mainly at night to escape the hot temperatures of the day. So, if you are trying to disrupt this feeding cycle, then the best time to trap them is during June/July, in the hottest time of the day while they have descended to escape the day's heat and before they climb the trees again. The long hairs of the caterpillar can cause skin irritation or allergic reactions in some people. So, to be safe, make sure that you wear gloves when you are handling them.

From mid-April to mid-May, it is a good time to use safe biological pesticides. According to the Government of Canada's website, *Bacillus Thuringiensis Kurstaki* (Btk) is a selective biological insecticide that controls caterpillars. Btk crystals release a toxic protein when dissolved in the digestive system of the insect. The caterpillar stops feeding soon after and dies within five days. Other insects, mammals, birds, and fish are not affected by Btk. Information about this and other safe insecticides can be found on the Government of Canada's website. Important: If you decide to use a pesticide to control your pest problem, read the label to make sure you are choosing the right product for the right pest. Follow all the label directions and warnings carefully. And always look for a Pest Control Products (PCP) number on the label so you know the product has been approved by Health Canada.

In the Moth stage, the male moths are greyish brown and can fly and survive about one week, mating with several different females, while females are larger and whitish with darker zigzag marks, cannot fly and die shortly after laying their eggs. Neither the male nor female moth eats, and the foliage is only destroyed during the caterpillar stage.

Annual Canada Day Boat parade – The annual Canada Day Boat parade will be held again this year on Thursday, July 1. This is an activity we can do while still adhering to covid social distancing regulations as we are all in our own boats. Please meet up with us in Clam Bay just before 2 pm, with your boat decorated as much as you want, to commemorate Canada Day.

Member Engagement and Virtual Activities - The Board would like to engage cottagers and residents in various social activities (which may be virtual this summer) in order to enhance community spirit, and suggested ideas include a Scavenger Hunt and/or Bingo where participants use pictures to prove they were there or completed the activity; a Photo contest – possibly even to create a calendar; Live music from a dock (Cottagers would gather to listen either socially distanced in their boats in the bay or on adjacent docks if they have a cottage in the same area, ensuring there would be no access needed to the host's property); a Lake Song Competition (where participants use music from a familiar song and write custom lyrics referencing identifiable aspects of Big Cedar Lake and our area, where the song must be 'singable' across generations). However, our Board members are already stretched thin, so any volunteers to run and organize events such as these would be welcome (else they are not likely to happen). Please contact us and help us with running events such as these or any other great ideas you might have.

Open Discussion

Diane thanked our Sponsors for their support and encouraged all members to give them your business. If you know of any other organizations/businesses that would be interested in advertising on our website, please let us know. Also, if you know of good contractors / services in the area perhaps you (or we) could approach them so that our sponsor section can be used by cottagers to find recommended vendors.

Chris Goulding noted that the Lake levels are lower this year. It has been affected by the low amounts of snow and run-off from melting snow, lake levels all over Southern Ontario have been low this spring. How this will affect our invasive species of Starry Stonewort and Eurasian Water Milfoil.

Chris also noted that people are not slowing down when they are going between the mainland and islands, and this is detrimental and causes shoreline erosion. The Board will discuss this concern at the next Board meeting to determine if Speed Limit signs can be posted. Please remember that the speed limit when you are within 30 m of the shoreline is 10 km/hr. Both Chris and Leonard Kennedy have indicated that they are willing to have speed limit signs on their properties.

Doug Wellman, president of the North Kawartha Lake Association (NORKLA) spoke up to compliment Big Cedar on their involvement and proactive work that is done. Doug also indicated that he is on Anstruther lake, and was talking to Paul Frost. When he heard about the Permanent buoy, Doug was very much wanted to get one, but it is a \$20,000 scientific buoy that is custom-made with a massive amount of electronics that will take scientific readings 24x7 of the lake every day. Doug would encourage us to go forward with getting the buoy because of the challenges of climate change and the invasive species coming out it would be a great resource to be able to get the data and have the oversight from Paul Frost and his team.

Doug Colmer indicated that Milfoil last year was much lower than other years, so that has been encouraging, and allowed the mat focus to be on Starry Stonewort. Doug asked if the survey was completed by Eric Sager's Trent University team and Brian reported that it had been done and the results are posted on the website. Doug indicated that Trent no longer has a supply of weevils. Brian indicated that government changes affected funding as well.

Doug also indicated that he is in need of 4L or 5L white bottles that can be used to mark the channel at the boat launch, so anyone that has any of these white bottles, please drop them at the landing by the sign, drop them off to Doug, or call him to pick them up.

There were good comments from various members about the virtual format of the meeting with the polls and interactive elements and Brian thanked Michael Mulgrew for coordinating the Zoom meeting.

Various people really liked the map of the lake that was labelled with the names of the bays and islands. Carol Riethmacher requested that the map be posted on the FB page.

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