

Big Cedar Lake Stewardship Association

President Update – April 2022

April 2022

Hello from Big Cedar Lake,

Spring is now here, and I am sure everyone is excited about getting back to the Lake and enjoying a nice warm summer. This newsletter is broken into three sections: A) Review of 2021, B) Projects and Initiatives for 2022, 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 2022, 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 2021 were as follows:

Diane Trauzzi, Don Austin, John Graham, Doug Colmer, Leo DeSorcy, Chris Graham, Mike Mulgrew - 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 Doug for all the extra work he did on the Starry Stonewort project over this past year.

Section A: Review of 2021

a) Healthy Lake Program - Milfoil

For 2021, there were no additional mats needed to be installed to combat Milfoil. Trent University did not do a survey in our Lake last year as a result of COVID restrictions. Even without the survey, Board members were able to assess the status of Lake and would say with respect to Milfoil, it was a stable year – minimal change year over year when you assess the Lake as a whole, although residents would have seen more growth in certain areas and less in other areas.

b) Healthy Lake Program – Starry Stonewort

Starry Stonewort had been our major focus last year. Fortunately, with a lot of hard work we were able to contain it to the public boat ramp area. Three other sites were reported to have Starry but after further investigation the vegetation did not turn out to be Starry.

The Starry Stonewort containment work at the boat ramp was led by Doug Colmer and a group of much appreciated volunteers.

In addition, awareness signs were created and posted at the Boat Launch. The Mayor came out to the Boat Launch one weekend and recorded a video that was posted, helping to further educate the public on issue of invasive species. To view the video, you can follow this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-molUFZpndY>

Various Board Members led by Diane Trauzzi, attended various meetings and seminars about invasive species and Lake Stewardship - hosted by the Nature Conservancy of Canada and the Invasive Species Centre, and joined an Ontario Starry Stonewort group, called the Starry Stonewort Partner Meetings; the goal of all of these meetings was to share best practices /knowledge bases/research about Starry Stonewort and other invasive species, and to ensure we are continuing our best practices for Lake Stewardship.

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:

- Big Cedar Lake has been included in KLSA's Climate Change project which will initially include Temperature and Dissolved Oxygen monitoring. We have installed two Temperature Data Loggers (one for the water and one for corresponding air temperatures) and we also performed DO and conductivity testing throughout the year with the help of Dr. Paul Frost's equipment. The data from this will be included in the KLSA annual publication.
- 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 regularly throughout the summer (from the beginning of April, as soon as the ice was out; until the beginning of December, right before the lake was frozen over – every 4 days) to do some detailed Dissolved Oxygen and other nutrients testing. This data will be very useful to understand trends and to inform other research that will be done going forward.

d) Update on Associations/Liaisons/Research

Our Executive maintains close relations with the various Associations that are relevant to our Lake Community. The following are some of the organizations and areas of research that we participated in:

- The North Kawartha Lake Associations (NORKLA) did not hold meetings due to Covid-19, but we continued to receive information from the chair Doug Wellman.
- The Kawartha Lake Steward Association (KLSA) meetings were attended via Zoom.
- The Federation of Ontario Cottager's Associations (FOCA) meetings were attended via Zoom and communications reviewed for distribution to Lake Members
- Monitored North Kawartha Municipality activity to communicate pertinent information
- Point-of-contact for information from Peterborough County
- Researched and distributed information about Gypsy/Spongy Moths
- Facilitated Canada Day Boat Parade
- Posted speed limit signs and created map showing the 30m 10km/hr zone
- 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 on Big Cedar Lake had their shoreline re-naturalized in the summer of 2021.

e) Update on Finances / Membership

The financial statements for 2021 for the Association have been posted on the Website for reference prior to the AGM that will be held in the last week of April (refer to the AGM tab of the bclsa.ca Website). As usual Don Austin did an excellent job in the managing the accounts. For 2022, 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 2022

a) Healthy Lake Program – Milfoil

- Trent University will be contacted to conduct a fall survey in 2022.
- 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 areas if the resources/manpower is available.

b) Healthy Lake Program – Starry Stonewort

- Monitor known sites in the spring/ early summer and determine if remedial action is required.
- Maintain extra “Mats” to be ready for new growth
- Signage and Education to be reviewed.
- Conduct an underwater survey in late summer

c) Healthy Lake Program – Spiny Water Flea

- Educate residents about Spiny Water Flea
- Improve the signage at the public boat ramp area

d) Healthy Lake Program - Water Quality testing

- Continue E coli water testing - 6 sites.
- Continue LPP program
- Continue additional water testing by Trent University – Dr. Frost team
- Continue participation in Climate Change project

e) Associations/Liaisons/Research

- NORKLA Membership
- KLSA Membership
- FOCA Membership
- Research/Liaison to continue for all invasive species
- Continue to encourage cottagers to participate in the Shoreline Naturalization project

f) Communications

- Continue to maintain and grow contact list for BCL members.
- Forward applicable communications to all members through e-mail and Facebook.
- Monitor Township and County 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)

g) Membership

- Establish Planning for membership growth/renewal.
- Purchase General Liability and Director and Officer Insurance

h) Finance

- Budget for 2022 to be established.
- Manage accounts throughout year.
- Manage audit review process and tax return.

Administrative Items

- ***Healthy Lake Contribution (\$75 for 2022- see attached contribution form)***

Based on the project list for 2022, we are asking each member of the association to contribute \$75 for 2022. 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. In addition, Insurance will now be funded out of membership fees. Thank you in advance for your support.

- ***Annual General Meeting***

In order to facilitate items that should be communicated early in the season, the AGM is scheduled for the evening of April 27th this year. This meeting will be held via a ZOOM Call again this year for the AGM. More details including the Zoom link and the Agenda for the AGM Zoom call will be sent soon.

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 in the summer.

Brian Stock

President

Big Cedar Lake Stewardship Association