

# Big Cedar Lake Stewardship Association

## President Update – April 2023

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 2022, **B)** Projects and Initiatives for 2023, 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 2023, 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 2022 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.

### ***Section A: Review of 2022***

#### **a) Healthy Lake Program - Milfoil**

For 2022, there were no additional mats installed to combat Milfoil. Trent University did not do a survey in our Lake last year but even without the survey, Board members were able to assess the status of the Lake and would say with respect to Milfoil, it was a stable year with minimal change year over year when you assess the Lake as a whole (although residents may have seen more growth in certain areas and less in other areas).

## **b) Healthy Lake Program – Starry Stonewort**

Starry Stonewort continues to be the biggest threat to our Lake. Fortunately, with a lot of hard work, we were again able to contain it to the public boat ramp area. The Starry Stonewort containment work at the boat ramp was led by Doug Colmer who did an excellent job.

In addition, awareness signs were created and posted at the Boat Launch.

Diane Trauzzi continued to do an excellent job as liaison with various groups across North America, to make sure we understand all the strategies being utilized to combat Starry Stonewort. As our Lake sits today, our strategy of containment appears to be the best solution at this time, even though it is extremely work-intensive. Many other Lakes that have been infested with Starry Stonewort have not fared as well, with large patches of the weed making whole sections of their Lake unnavigable.

## **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. I would like to thank Diane and Ralph Trauzzi for leading the program on Water Quality testing. The details are available on the Website at the following link: <https://www.bclsa.ca/lake-data/>.

## **d) Update on Associations/Liaisons/Research**

Our Executive maintains membership in and attends meetings with the various Associations that are relevant to our Lake Community such as the North Kawartha Lake Associations (NORKLA), the Kawartha Lake Steward Association (KLSA), and the Federation of Ontario Cottager's Associations (FOCA), as well as monitoring Peterborough County and North Kawartha Municipality activity to communicate pertinent information. In 2022, Diane Trauzzi coordinated a large effort to communicate and coordinate Control efforts for the Gypsy/Spongy Moths, both through the Aerial spray and lining up people for the ground spray. Diane also facilitated the annual Canada Day boat parade.

## **e) Update on Finances / Membership**

The financial statements for 2022 for the Association will be posted on the Website at the following link: <https://www.bclsa.ca/agm/> prior to the AGM in April. As usual Don Austin did an excellent job in the managing the accounts. Don will be retiring as our Treasurer at the end of 2023, after 13 years at the helm. **If anyone has interest in learning about the role of Treasurer please contact Don or myself.** For 2023, in order to fund the administrative and project costs, we will need to ask the members for a BCLSA Fee contribution.

## ***Section B: Projects and Initiatives for 2023 (What your Fee Contribution covers)***

### **a) Healthy Lake Program – Milfoil**

- 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.
- Cottagers are reminded to “not” clear their shoreline until June as the “weevils” who help control the milfoil winter on the shoreline.

### **b) Healthy Lake Program – Starry Stonewort**

- Continue to implement work-intensive containment strategy at the public boat ramp
- The Board will 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 - Water Quality testing**

- Continue E coli water testing - 6 sites around the Lake
- Continue Lake Partner Program which measures Phosphorus, Calcium and Nitrogen
- Continue additional water testing by Trent University – Dr. Frost team
- Continue participation in Climate Change project

### **d) Healthy Lake Program- Spring Clean-up of the Shoreline**

- For 2023 one of our Board Members, Leo DeSorcy, will be starting up a new annual “Spring Clean-up of the Shoreline” program
- Each year debris from docks, boats and cottages ends up in the lake or on the shorelines
- To help keep Big Cedar looking great and to promote some community fun, the BCLA Board is hosting the first annual spring clean-up event which will be a huge benefit for our Lake
- The program is planned for the first weekend in June – more news on this program will be announced at the AGM and be communicated there-after.

### **e) Associations/Liaisons/Research**

- Maintain membership in the pertinent Cottage Associations (NORKLA, KLSA and FOCA) attending meetings and monitoring communications for information to be shared with our membership
- Research/Liaison to continue for all invasive species (Milfoil, Starry Stonewort, Spiny Water Flea) ie: attend meetings with all various organization

### **f) Membership**

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

## **g) Communications**

- Continue to maintain contact list for BCL members.
- Forward applicable communications to all members through e-mail and Facebook.
- Continue to monitor Peterborough County and North Kawartha activity to communicate pertinent information to our membership
- 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)

## **h) Finance**

- Budget for 2023 to be established.
- Manage accounts throughout year.
- Manage audit review process and tax return.

## **Section C: Administrative Items**

### **• BCLSA Fee Contribution (\$100 for 2023- see attached contribution form)**

The Board has decided for 2023 to combine the Healthy Lake Contribution fee and Membership fee into one fee, called the BCLSA Fee Contribution. 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.

### **• Annual General Meeting**

Last year we successfully held our AGM via Zoom. We had good feedback from participants that this was a convenient way for them to receive the important information that is communicated at this meeting. Holding a Zoom meeting means that we can hold the meeting during the week, as part of the anticipation of opening the cottage (rather than being held during the busy-ness of opening the cottage on the May long weekend). **The AGM Zoom call will be held on April 17, 2023 at 7 pm.** **More details, including the agenda and links 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**