



Kawartha Lake Stewards Association

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KLSA: Who we are, What we do

Mandate and Role

The Kawartha Lake Stewards Association (KLSA) is a volunteer, non-profit, community based organization of cottagers, year-round residents and local businesses formed to monitor the water quality of the Kawartha Lakes, to educate the public and to conduct research in areas of concern. KLSA in approx. 20 years of operation has developed links to governments, academic institutions, conservation authorities and many local organizations. Our role is to:

- (i) monitor phosphorus, water clarity and *E.coli* levels in the Kawartha Lakes
- (ii) educate cottagers, year-round residents and the general public about the importance of protecting the Kawartha Lakes
- (iii) support or conduct research to understand the dynamics of lake ecosystems, identify problems and seek solutions
- (iv) develop partnerships with government agencies, universities, colleges, cottage and ratepayer associations and other environmental and business organizations to further our objectives.

Activities

KLSA's annual activities include:

- Collection by volunteers of water samples at 45 sites on 16 lakes for analysis at the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change Laboratory as part of the Provincial Lake Partners Program. This program monitors phosphorus levels and water clarity monthly from May to October each year. High phosphorus levels are linked to the development of algae blooms and increased aquatic plant growth, including invasive species.
- Collection by volunteers of water samples six times per year from July to September at 65 locations in 12 lakes for analysis at local laboratories to measure *E.coli* levels.
- Holding of spring and fall public meetings featuring presentations by experts on topics related to water quality and reports on KLSA programs and activities.
- Participation by KLSA Directors in the Credit for Product mentoring program offered in the Fleming College Ecosystem Management Program. Recent projects have included development of a model of seasonal phosphorus variations in Sturgeon Lake, dissolved oxygen on three lakes and preparation of an instructional video on the proper technique to collect water samples for *E.coli* testing.
- Monitoring of phosphorus and *E.coli* discharges to the Kawartha Lakes from sewage treatment plants.

- Publication of an annual Lake Water Quality Report containing articles of interest, the results of water testing and information on KLSA activities.
- Service on various committees to provide technical advice and water testing capabilities to Kawartha Conservation's Lake Management Planning process.
- Undertaking of applied research studies to help understand changes in water quality, for example, in cooperation with Kawartha Conservation, investigation of anomalous phosphorus concentrations in Sturgeon and Balsam Lakes.

Collaboration and Partnering

- Our collaborative efforts include working with federal and provincial government agencies such as the Trent-Severn Waterway (Parks Canada), the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change Lake Partner Program,
- We have links with the Greater Peterborough Area Economic Development Committee, Pigeon and Sturgeon Lake Management Plans, Lakeland Alliance, Voices for the Trent-Severn Waterway, Stony Lake Heritage Foundation, Trent-Severn Waterway Working Group, the Coalition for Equitable Water Flow and the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations.
- We have garnered support from the Townships of Selwyn and Douro-Dummer, Municipality of Trent Lakes and City of Kawartha Lakes and serve on the City of Kawartha Lakes Roundtable on the Environment.
- We have undertaken joint efforts with Kawartha and Otonabee Conservation Authorities.
- Many community and lake associations participate in the water monitoring programs and financially support KLSA.
- KLSA's scientific advisors are Dr. Paul Frost, David Schindler Endowed Professor of Aquatic Science, Trent University, Dr. Eric Sager, Coordinator of the Ecological Restoration Program Fleming College and Adjunct Professor, Trent University, Peterborough, and Dr. Brian Cumming, Professor and Head, Dept. of Biology and Co-director of Paleoecological Environmental Assessment and Research Laboratory (PEARL) Queens University, Kingston.

Public Education and Resources

- KLSA is a trusted and respected source of information for shoreline residents, government agencies and businesses within the Kawartha Lakes watershed. Each year, KLSA is in contact with thousands of people through our publications, well-attended public meetings, participation at local events such as Rock the Locks, our website and Facebook page.
- As noted above, KLSA holds public meetings in the spring (May) and fall (October). The meetings are well-attended by cottagers, year-round residents, municipal politicians, members of First Nations communities and others with environmental interests. At each meeting we provide a report on the water testing program, a synopsis of key activities occurring within the Kawartha watershed and a summary of KLSA finances. The meetings feature invited guest speakers who present on a relevant topic. Presentations have included talks on the *Kawartha*

Turtle Trauma Centre, Climate Change in the Kawarthas, Invasive Species in the Kawarthas, The Cycling of Phosphorus, Nitrogen and Sulphur in our Lakes, and Lake Ice Dynamics and the Kawarthas: Climate Change at your Dock.

- KLSA's Annual Water Quality Report includes a comprehensive review of key activities occurring within the Kawartha Lakes region, phosphorus and *E.coli* test results, a description of KLSA sponsored projects and a summary of KLSA finances and funding activities.

- KLSA has produced three publications in addition to our annual reports:
 - ✓ 2012 handbook *The Algae of the Kawartha Lake*;
 - ✓ 2011 *The milfoil weevil: A control method for invasive milfoil in the Kawarthas*; and
 - ✓ 2009 *Aquatic Plants Guide*.

Our publications are available at no charge in local libraries, on-line and in print.

Administration and Financial Considerations

KLSA is led by a 12-member Board of Directors. The names of the Board of Directors are listed below. We are grateful for the financial support we have received from four municipalities, seventeen community associations and many businesses and private donors.

2018 - 2019 Board of Directors

William A. Napier, Chair
Kathleen Mackenzie, Vice-Chair
Mike Stedman, Treasurer
Lynn Woodcroft, Secretary
Sheila Gordon-Dillane, Recording Secretary
Jeffrey Chalmers
Mike Dolbey
Tracy Logan
Tom McAllister
Ed Leerdam
Doug Colmer
Brett Tregunno

Awards

- ✓ Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Association - 2002 Jerry Strickland Award
- ✓ Cottage Life Magazine - 2008 Green Cottager Award
- ✓ Kawartha Conservation - 2012 Community Conservationist Award
- ✓ County of Peterborough - 2014 Recognition Award for Sustainability