

# 2025 Annual Report



Overview & Financial Reporting for Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association.



# A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear **Friends, Members, and Partners,**

As I reflect on my first year with CLWA, I'm grateful for the warm welcome and support I've received from so many people who care deeply about Canandaigua Lake. Just days after I joined, a major storm event impacted the watershed, followed closely by our Annual Meeting, an introduction that quickly showed me both the challenges facing the lake and the dedication of the community committed to protecting it.

Over the past year, CLWA has continued to connect our community with trusted science, educational programs, water quality updates, citizen science opportunities, and advocacy efforts that help safeguard the lake. None of this work would be possible without our members, volunteers, donors, partners, and supporters.

Every person who contributes their time, expertise, or resources helps strengthen CLWA's voice for the lake.

Thank you for being part of this important work. Together, we will continue to educate, advocate, and inspire stewardship throughout the watershed so that Canandaigua Lake remains healthy and vibrant for generations to come.

With gratitude,



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## CLWA Team Members

# WATERSHED EDUCATION

IN-SCHOOL PROGRAMS | FIELD TRIPS | COMMUNITY PARTNERS | SUMMER CAMP

The Watershed Education Program is busy year-round. From in-school programming in winter months to school field trips in the spring and fall to an outdoor environmental education camp in the summer, CLWA Education staff works year-round to create the next generation of lake stewards. Just under 3,500 students participated in our hands-on programming in 2025. In 2026 we will be celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this important program!

## We educated students with 16 partners in 2025!

Bloomfield Middle School  
Canandaigua Elementary  
Canandaigua Middle School  
Canandaigua Primary School  
Canandaigua Girl Scout Troop  
Honeoye Middle School  
Marcus Whitman Elementary  
Marcus Whitman High School

Marcus Whitman Middleschool  
Marcus Whitman Primary School  
Saint Mary's School  
Naples Community Library  
Naples Elementary School  
Naples Highschool  
Wood Library  
Victor Middle School

## Water & Wildlife Summer Camp

The fourth year of the Water and Wildlife Camp at Onanda held August 11-15, 2025 was a huge success. We had great media coverage highlighting this amazing summer opportunity for middle school students to get hands-on experience, including live coverage on Fox morning news! Thanks to all our supporters of this program, especially to the Guido and Ellen Palma Foundation, Seager Marine and Fitzgerald Brothers, who have been integral in making this experience possible for youth in our community!



# CITIZEN SCIENCE

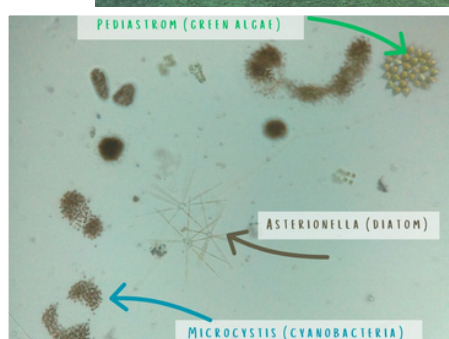
HAB SHORELINE MONITORING | SECCHI DISK | TEMP AT DEPTH | STREAMS

2025 was another busy year for our volunteer monitoring programs. Guided by our Citizen Science Committee and supported by a dedicated team of trained volunteers, these programs continue to provide valuable data and community engagement opportunities all year.

## HABs

74 trained volunteers monitored for harmful algae blooms (HABs) around the lake - reporting weekly both when they saw blooms and when they did not. A total of 92 blooms were confirmed for the season - with the first confirmed bloom reported July 28<sup>th</sup> and the last on November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The NYSDEC defines a "bloom with high toxin" as microcystin levels of 20 ppb or greater along the shoreline and 10 ppb or greater in open water. In September and October, CLWA submitted 11 bloom samples from locations around the lake to the Finger Lakes Institute for analysis. All samples exceeded the high-toxin threshold, with microcystin concentrations ranging from 31 to 2,400 ppb. These results reinforce that toxin levels can vary dramatically from one bloom to another and you can't tell if a bloom is toxic just by looking at it. It is always best to avoid contact with any water that looks like pea soup, spilled paint, or is otherwise unusually discolored.

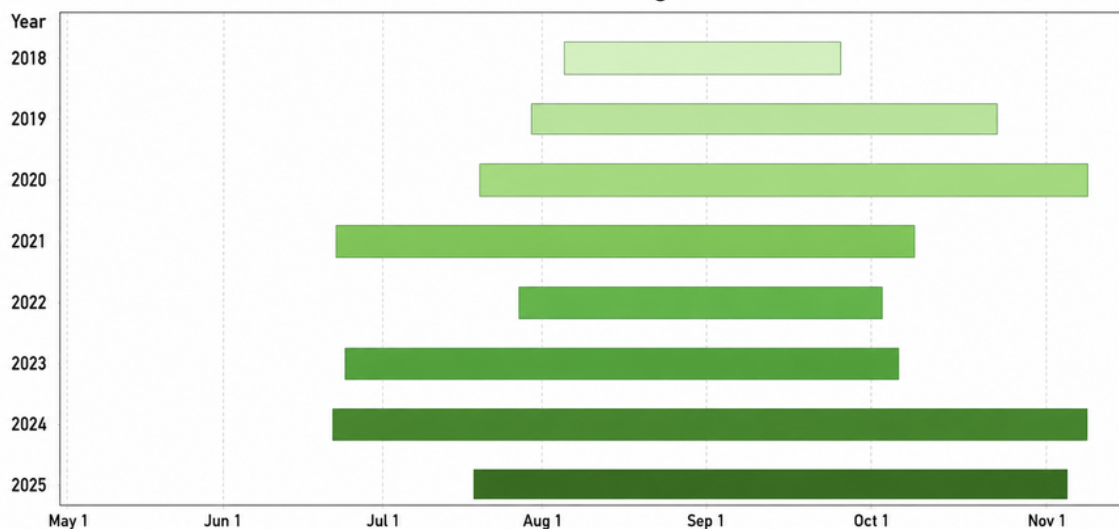


A few CLWA volunteers are trained on taking ioLight microscope images and algae identification. This allows us to quickly determine if a bloom is a harmful cyanobacterial bloom. *ioLight image taken by volunteer Elaine Messina on Aug 5, 2025*



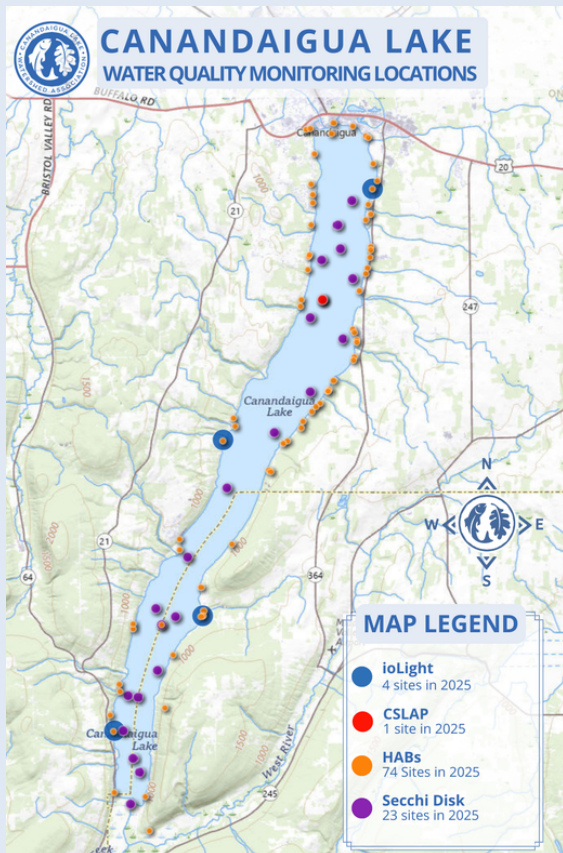
HAB samples collected and sent to Finger Lakes Institute for toxin analysis.

Confirmed HABs in Canandaigua Lake 2018-2025



Many factors affect HAB formation including temperature, wind, and nutrients from stormwater runoff. The chart to the left shows the variation over the years between the first and last confirmed bloom of the season. HABs are most common on our lake in August and September but some years they have started as early as late June and extended into November.

In addition to HABs shoreline monitors, we also have even more dedicated citizen scientists collecting various water quality data from other locations on the lake as well.



## YSI ProDSS Sampling Probe

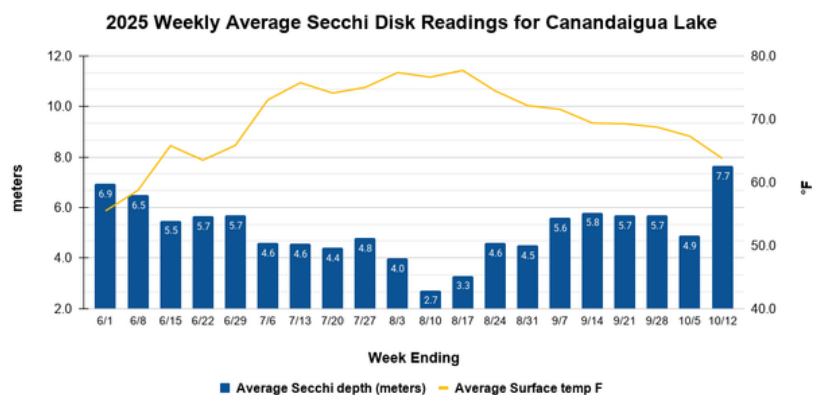
Thanks to generous donations from the Rotary Club of Canandaigua and Xylem, we were able to purchase a YSI ProDSS multi-parameter probe - for sampling both in lake and in streams as well as for



use at our summer camp with middle school aged students. We are able to measure specific conductivity, chloride, and nitrogen in our streams and in the lake. We can also measure chlorophyll levels in the lake to track algae growth and monitor for potential blooms.

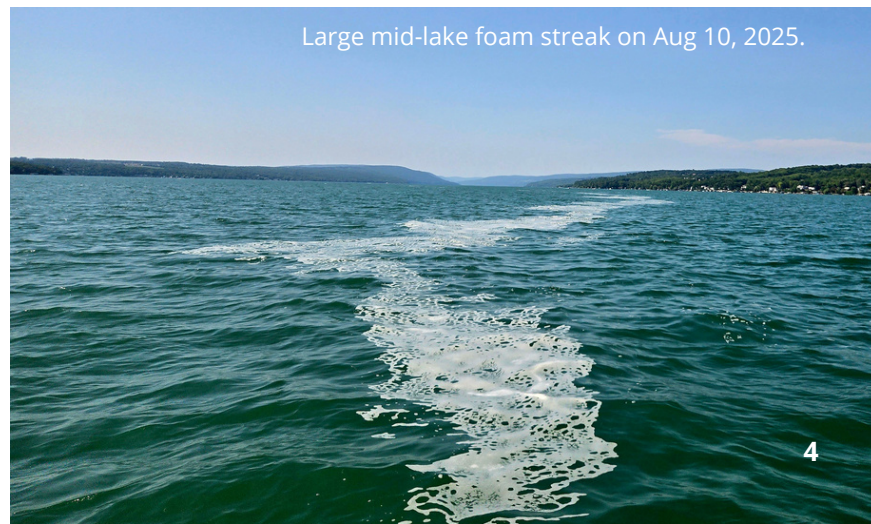
## Secchi and Temp at Depth

Volunteers measured lake clarity and surface temperature from late April to mid-October this year. We use this data in our CLWA weekly water quality updates emailed out to over 2,400 people every week all summer. Six of these volunteers also measure temperature at depth every meter down to 50 meters - helping us track how the thermocline changes throughout the season.



## Lake Foam

We continued our partnership with research partners Global Aquatic Research and helped expand our Canandaigua Lake Foam Survey into a larger Regional Finger Lakes Foam Survey tool to gather foam data across all multiple Finger Lakes. 191 observations were submitted from five different lakes in 2025 - Canandaigua, Cayuga, Keuka, Owasco and Seneca. This survey work is supporting research to better understand lake foam, its connection to HABs, and potential health and environmental impacts.



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LAKE FRIENDLY LIVING | OUTREACH EVENTS | PARTNERSHIPS

## Powerful Partnerships

CLWA enjoyed spending time around the watershed this year, meeting residents, supporters, and new faces along the way. These events provided opportunities to share our work, celebrate the lake, and encourage others to become active stewards and supporters of its future. From trail work with the Finger Lakes Land Trust, to pulling invasive aquatic European frogbit out of the West River with the Finger Lakes PRISM, we are stronger when we work together!



CLWA is so grateful to be collaborating with leading local businesses who understand the importance of a healthy lake!

Amazing partnership kicked off in 2025 with **Heron Hill Winery**, who created a special Chardonnay and Cabernet Franc wine for CLWA. Donating a portion of the proceeds from every bottle sold!

**Nolan's on Canandaigua Lake** took advantage of this unique wine from Heron Hill and featured it on their restaurant menu in the fall with pairings selected by the chef. They also promoted our CLWA video on their screens in the restaurant!

# Thank You!

CLWA expresses our heartfelt gratitude to the following individuals, businesses, and organizations that supported our mission to protect the lake in 2025.

## \$10,000 +

Anonymous  
May K. Houck Foundation  
RCIPA Foundation  
Rotary Club of Canandaigua  
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Canandaigua National Bank  
Heron Hill Winery  
Marks Engineering, P.C.

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Finger Lakes Extrusion Corp.  
Mark's Leisure Time Marine  
Star Cider

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The Key to the Finger Lakes  
The Key to Rentals  
Mayflowers Nursery and Garden  
Must Stash It  
Naples Hotel  
New York Kitchen  
Nolan's on the Lake, LLC  
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& Surveying D.P.C.  
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## In-Kind Donations

We extend our gratitude to the numerous supporters who contribute to our efforts by partnering with us:

- Brandtatorship
- Jerry & Kathy Conezio
- Seager Marine and Freedom Boat Club
- Fitzgerald Brothers Transportation
- The Woods
- Nolan's Restaurant

# FINANCE REPORT

2025 FISCAL YEAR | JAN 1, 2025 - DEC 31, 2025

## 2025 Revenue & Expenses

| Revenue                          | 2025             | 2024             |
|----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Contributions                    | \$152,413        | \$132,564        |
| Grants                           | \$28,000         | \$6,984          |
| In-Kind Contributions            | \$8,285          | \$8,539          |
| Membership Income                | \$118,025        | \$96,794         |
| Misc Income                      | \$14,575         | \$8,607          |
| Net Investment Return            | \$32,486         | \$16,650         |
| <b>Total Support and Revenue</b> | <b>\$353,784</b> | <b>\$270,138</b> |

| Expense               | 2025             | 2024             |
|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Program               | \$164,792        | \$171,345        |
| Operations            | \$75,938         | \$60,458         |
| Fundraising           | \$20,259         | \$11,296         |
| <b>Total Expenses</b> | <b>\$260,989</b> | <b>\$243,099</b> |

### Notes

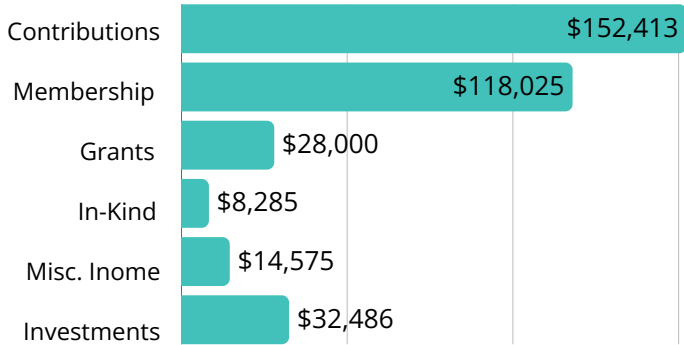
- Revenue** – Membership up 22% and ended year strong with Annual appeal donations up 23% over 2024.
- Operations** – increase mainly due to retaining a professional bookkeeper.
- Fundraising** – over half of increase from in-kind contributions with no cash outlay.

### The Value of Volunteers

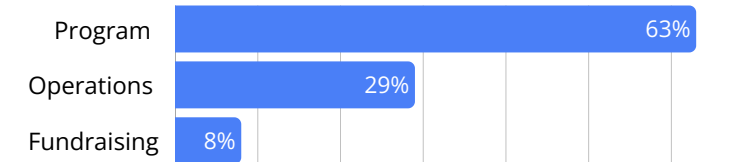
CLWA programs utilized approximately 3,820 hours of volunteer time - valued at \$146,993\*\* - not reflected in expenses.

\*\* \$38.48 = hourly value of volunteer time in New York State *from the Independent Sector*

## 2025 Revenue



## 2025 Expenses



## 2025 Financial Position

| Assets                   | 2025      | 2024      |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Cash and Investments *   | \$544,351 | \$457,793 |
| Other Assets             | \$20,777  | \$35,417  |
| Net Property & Equipment | \$12,376  | --        |

|                     |                  |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <b>Total Assets</b> | <b>\$579,516</b> | <b>\$493,210</b> |
|---------------------|------------------|------------------|

| Expense              | 2025     | 2024     |
|----------------------|----------|----------|
| Current Liabilities  | \$29,294 | \$21,151 |
| Longterm Liabilities | \$2,285  | \$16,917 |

|                          |                 |                 |
|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <b>Total Liabilities</b> | <b>\$31,579</b> | <b>\$38,068</b> |
|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|

\* Includes \$31,311 restricted funds for 2025 and \$30,811 restricted funds for 2024.

# 2025 IMPACT

by the

# NUMBERS



2025 was a year of new beginnings and transition! Programs and events remained strong with a lot of community engagement and enthusiasm. We are so grateful for the continued support and generosity of this watershed community. It truly takes a village to keep lake protection efforts alive and invigorated. Thank you all!

**1** Increasing the impact of our educational efforts to influence positive behaviors that support watershed health.

**2** Enabling scientific research that pinpoints the causes of water quality concerns, leading to solutions.

**74** 

VOLUNTEERS TRAINED  
FOR OUR CITIZEN SCIENCE  
PROGRAMS

**8,382**

BOATS INSPECTED  
FOR AQUATIC  
INVASIVE SPECIES



**102** 

RESEARCH & MONITORING  
PROJECT LOCATIONS IN  
THE WATERSHED

**308** 

PLEDGES FOR LAKE  
FRIENDLY LIVING  
TO DATE

**1,409** 

PEOPLE ATTENDED 28  
EVENTS TO LEARN ABOUT  
WATERSHED TOPICS

**3,820** 

VOLUNTEER HOURS  
POWERED OUR  
CLWA ACTIVITIES

**3,499**

STUDENTS RECEIVED  
WATERSHED EDUCATION  
EXPERIENCES



**36** 

E-NEWSLETTERS  
SENT TO EDUCATE  
THE COMMUNITY ON  
LAKE ISSUES

**28** 

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS  
SUPPORTING OUR MISSION  
TO PROTECT THE LAKE AND  
WATERSHED

**600+**

CLWA SUPPORTERS  
WHO CARE ABOUT  
PROTECTING THE LAKE

Be sure to follow us on social  
media and stay up to date.

