



# NEWSLETTER

## Association des Propriétaires du Lac Papineau

Printemps/Spring 2020

### President's Message

*Motorized lake or peaceful lake?*

We often hear: "ah, it's beautiful in the Laurentians! Clean air, water, forest, countryside and tranquility. We are so lucky to have a cottage by a lake"..... But is it, really?

Although most of us come to the country to find nature and tranquility, this does not seem to be the case for all of us. Some leave the city but bring the city with them. You only have to watch the speeding cars on the highway on Friday nights, driving too fast to enjoy the view of the mountains. Then, there's the roar of the motorboats and their incessant back-and-forth trips on the lake on the weekends. Imagine living on a residential street in the city, with noisy trucks running past your house all day! What would you do? Would you say nothing? Why, then, should we tolerate such nuisance behaviour in front of our lake house in the country?

Ah, "but it's a motorized lake", say some. However, the use of a motorboat should not take priority over the quality of life of the residents. The vast majority of us have boats suitable for the size of the lake and do not disturb anyone. So why do a few individuals with big and noisy boats allow themselves to harm the quality of life and security of the majority?

Of course, water sports are welcome and it is understandable that parents want children to have fun, but it should not be at the expense of other residents. We invite you to read the new Lac Papineau Code of Conduct, which can be found on our website:

[www.petitlaclong.org](http://www.petitlaclong.org)

Finally, we encourage you to take the time to enjoy nature, breathe deeply, go for a swim, or take a quiet walk, greeting your neighbours.

(Please note that offenders will be invited to participate in paddleboard yoga sessions. Those who refuse will be invited to stay in town!)

Robert Brès, President

### Boating Safety, a priority

*Your new board has been busy since last summer, working with volunteers on an updated Code of Conduct. It was reviewed with officials from the municipal government in Sainte-Agathe-des-Monts and mailed out to all residents at the end of 2019, along with the 2020 renewal notices. It will be finalized at our annual meeting and, in the meantime, will serve as a guideline for current and new residents of Lac Papineau.*

#### **Remember to follow Canada's Safe Boating Rules:**

All persons who operate a pleasure craft must carry proof of competency on board if the pleasure craft has any type of motor, including an electric trolling motor, and is used for recreational purposes. A variety of documents may serve as proof of competency:

- A Pleasure Craft Operator Card that you receive after passing a boating safety course approved by the Department of Transport **or...**
- Proof that you passed a boating safety course in Canada before April 1, 1999, **or...**
- A certificate from the List of Certificates approved by the Department of Transport **or...**
- A complete safety checklist for a rented boat- **good only while the boat is rented.**

#### **Age & Operator Restrictions:**

- Persons **under 12 years of age** who are not directly supervised by a person 16 years of age or older may only operate a pleasure craft propelled by a motor of **no more than 10 hp (7.5 kW)**
- Persons **at least 12 years of age but under 16 years of age** who are not directly supervised by a person 16 years of age or older may only operate a pleasure craft propelled by a motor of **no more than 40 hp (30 kW)**.

#### **Enforcement: "Carry the Card"**

## 15 years for the lake swim!

This year marks the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our annual lake swim. It takes place at 10:00 on the first Saturday in August which, this year, is August 1. Everyone is invited to take part, either by swimming or by safely accompanying swimmers in your boats.

### TRIVIA: The former name of Sainte-Agathe-des-Monts was:

- a. Agathaville
- b. Lac-des-Sables
- c. Sainte-Agathe-des-Champs
- d. All of the above

Find the answer somewhere in this newsletter!

## Know your board

*Many thanks to Jacques Ecuyer, who served as our President for over 30 years! He will stay on as an advisor and we thank him for all his hard work! Also, thanks also to Gerry Segal for his years of service.*

### Who is on your new board?

President:	Robert Brès
Vice President	Jean-Claude Lecompte
Treasurer	Daniel Zours
Membership Director	Tom Brehn
Technical Director	Adam Finkelstein
Secretary/Editor	Barb Brehn Langer

### Who helps and advises your board?

Jacques Ecuyer	Peter Prupas	Barry Abugov
Eric Bernard	Louis Doré	

## Board Close-Up

### Robert Brès, President

Robert Brès lives year-round at 3650 Val-des-Lacs Road. He is a construction and renovation contractor and built his house with his son. He is the father of four grown children and the grandfather of two young children. He is also a social worker by training and has worked in this field for 20 years. Among other things, he has worked in youth protection, established community and school services for violence prevention and conflict resolution, and founded a social reintegration organization for troubled youth (Youth at Work). He has been a member of various boards of community organizations and a volunteer/facilitator for self-help groups (bereavement, restorative justice).

## Looking Back

On our website ([www.petitlaclong.org](http://www.petitlaclong.org)), you can look back at some old issues of our newsletter, as far back as June 1994. There are some good articles shared, such as:

- See which couples met at the lake many years ago. (June 1994 issue)
- Read about "The Things We do at the Beach" by Erin Lumer Aged 9. (October 1994 issue)
- Read the article titled "The Environment and the Building Inspector", written by a municipal official, regarding the rules around preserving our shoreline in its' natural state. (October 1994 issue)
- Read about "The Persistent Alpers". (Oct1994 issue)
- Tips for staying "green". (Spring 2007 issue)

## The Story of our Aerators

### Have you ever wondered about the solar panels floating in the 3<sup>rd</sup> lake?

They power the aerators and are installed every May and removed every October by members of our Board, with help from volunteers. Until approximately 25-30 years ago, there was a fish farm upstream from Lac Papineau and the excrement has continued to seep into our lake ever since. This has resulted in high phosphate levels and a reduction of oxygen in the water. The aerators create a vortex-style column of water, which keeps the water moving. The colder water is brought to the surface and, because it is colder, it falls back again to the bottom, taking oxygen with it. The oxygen levels in the lake are very important, as they assist with composting of leaves, bird excrement and anything else that falls into the lake. The 3 aerators were installed 19 years ago, thanks to the hard work of our board and 45 residents who each donated \$500 to finance their cost. It took 2 years from planning to installation. Originally powered by wind, the aerators were upgraded to solar a few years ago. They have made an incredible improvement in the water quality of our lake since being installed. Lac Papineau is considered a controlled lake, because it has a dam which controls the flow of water for Riviere du Nord and further downstream. Originally, monitoring was done on our lake by government agencies but some years ago, our Association President recommended stopping the government monitoring of the water to minimize outside control of our lake.

## Gate Code for Boat Launch

In order to better protect our lake environment, we are changing how we control the boat launch gate access this year. **When you pay your membership, you will be provided with the current gate code.** The codes will be changed by our webmasters on a regular basis.

**Please DO NOT share these gate codes.**

**Have YOU paid your membership?**

## Did You Know?

The Laurentian Mountains were originally settled by Indigenous peoples: the Algonquins in the 1400's, and then the Iroquois in the 1650's, who defeated the Algonquins. Expansion in the 19<sup>th</sup> century brought an influx of French farmers and, when the railways expanded north in the 1890's, English-speaking Montrealers began to arrive.

In the 1870's, the principal founder of Sainte-Agathe arrived. Augustin Morin was author of 92 resolutions of the Papineau Rebellion and co-author of the Civil Code of Lower Canada. Curée Labelle was also key in bringing development to the area.

A health spa opened in 1895, under the ownership of New York City nurse, Elizabeth Wand. It still operates as Auberge Tour du Lac.

The tuberculosis hospital was opened in 1899. It was burned to the ground in 1902 and was rebuilt as the Laurentian Chest Hospital, a sanatorium. It became the primary treatment centre for Canada's First World War soldiers who were subjected to gas attacks.

*Personal note: the grandfather of this newsletter's editor spent 2 years there, following the Second World War, for tuberculosis treatment.*

A fire in 1907 destroyed most of rue St. Vincent.

In 1996, the rail-to-trail conversion took place, creating Le P'Tit Train du Nord. It runs 200 kms from St. Jerome to Mont-Laurier and is popular with hikers and cyclists in summer and snowmobilers in winter.

The above information and much more can be found by visiting the Gaston Miron Municipal Library (83 rue St. Vincent, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor) or contacting the Comité du Patrimoine de Sainte-Agathe-des-Monts.

**“Did You Know” will become a regular feature in our newsletters, sharing some of the history of Lac Papineau and the surrounding area. If you have some history to share, please contact the editor.**

Answer: Lac-des-Sables

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

PLACE: LE RELAIS

255 RUE SAINT VENANT, SAINTE-AGATHE-DES-MONTS

DATE: SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 2020

\*\* TBC DUE TO CORONAVIRUS \*\*

TIME: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Light refreshments will be served.

### ANNUAL LAKE SWIM

3<sup>RD</sup> LAKE TO BOAT LAUNCH

SATURDAY AUGUST 1 @ 10:00

RAIN DAY SUNDAY, AUGUST 2 @ 10:00

### MEMBER BBQ

DATE/TIME TBA

## Other Initiatives Underway...

- Planning is underway to have the lake water tested this year.
- We have developed a Welcome Package for new residents, providing them with a map of the lake and the latest newsletter, and giving them contact information for the Board, website and Facebook page.
- We are investigating boat washing stations.
- We are actively pursuing opportunities for online payments for future annual renewals.

## Do you have any good stories or unique or old pictures of the lake to share?

You can send them to the editor, Barb Brehn Langer.

[Barblanger4296@gmail.com](mailto:Barblanger4296@gmail.com)