



NEWSLETTER

Association des Propriétaires du Lac Papineau

Summer 2020

President's Message

We will remember this spring of 2020 for a long time. Like all of you, I have been confined to my home. I'm lucky because I live here, unlike those of you who had to stay in town, and not even have the right to come to your cottage! Before the Covid confinement, I had already been confined to my home for 3 months working, because my insurance company threatened to terminate my policy if I did not finish the interior of my house. I worked like a crazy person 7 days a week! When I was finished, I was happy and looking forward to finally being able to leave my house... but no: then Covid arrived and, with it, further isolation. However, I couldn't stand being at home all the time so I went outside and started walking every day, 7 days a week. It was a matter of mental balance for me. I walked between 4 and 5 hours a day! I visited Ste-Agathe and Val-David... and discovered beautiful, out-of-the-way corners. What I discovered most beautiful is how much we need people: our social contacts. There were many of us walking outdoors and, every time I met someone, the same reaction: we were happy to see each other, to see a human being! We said to ourselves the most beautiful of "hellos"... I think, if we could have, we would have hugged each other! It's amazing how a stranger can become so important to us... You would never have thought that this person, who we wouldn't even look at in normal times, would become so precious in times of isolation. Why do we have to lose what we have, before we recognize its value? Probably because we take everything for granted... This is my "hello" to all of you now. Even more, I would be happy to meet and know all of you! That includes the complainers, the padlock breakers, the noise makers, the wave makers, everyone, including those who take the lake for granted.

Stay safe!

Robert Brès, President

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – CANCELLED (COVID-19)

PLACE: LE RELAIS

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

ANNUAL LAKE SWIM/POST SWIM REFRESHMENTS AT BOAT LAUNCH

3RD LAKE TO BOAT LAUNCH

SATURDAY AUGUST 1 @ 10:00

RAIN DAY SUNDAY, AUGUST 2 @ 10:00

MEMBER BBQ - CANCELLED (COVID-19)

WHAT ABOUT WATER TESTING?

Water testing comes in 3 categories: home tap water, lake fecal coliform levels by house, and the lake's overall environmental health.

1. It is the responsibility of each home owner to have his in-house tap water tested, should he wish to. H2O in Sainte Agathe will analyse the sample for a nominal charge of approximately \$75 and will let you know if your water is potable. (safe for drinking)
2. Testing for fecal coliform: this is done by taking lake water samples around the lake, in front of approximately every 3rd house. These samples are then sent for testing. Should any samples "fail" and indicate high levels of fecal coliform, further samples will be taken to narrow down the readings to an individual 1 or 2 houses. Those results will be forwarded to the Town of Sainte Agathe for action. **These tests are planned for mid-summer 2020** so, if you see Board members out getting samples, you will know what they are doing.
3. Environmental testing: this is not done every year, due to the high cost of hiring a team of biologists to perform the testing at different levels in the water, analyze the results and present recommendations. In 2020, we will be sending Requests for Proposal to 3 companies. **Stay tuned!**

Know your board

Who is on your new board?

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

Who helps and advises your board?

Jacques Ecuyer	Peter Prupas	Barry Abugov
Eric Bernard	Louis Doré	

Board Close-Up

Jean-Claude Lecompte, Vice-President

"I'm just running to Cookies to get a Gazette!"

Many of us remember having Cookies' depanneur near the intersection of Ch Val des Lacs and Ch Durocher. It is now just a regular house behind a tall hedge but it used to be the central hub for picking up whatever you needed while at the lake. Jean-Claude has been coming to Lac Papineau for many years, ever since his grandparents lived on Ch Val des Lacs and his aunt, Cookie, opened her store. An avid fisherman, he finally bought his own chalet on Ch Paiement in 2006. He has been involved with the Lake Association for quite a few years, helping the board with special events, like the BBQ and annual swim. We are pleased and proud to have him on our board as Vice President!

Boat Launch Gate...JUST A REMINDER

When you pay your membership, you will be provided with the current gate code. Please DO NOT share these gate codes.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE THE GATE IS CLOSED AND LOCKED AFTER EVERY USE.

Have you paid your membership?

ARE YOU MOVING???

HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS??

Don't forget to update the association with changes to your email address, or if you move away from Lac Papineau, so we can update your contact information and stay in touch.

Did You Know?

"Beam me up, Scottie!"

These words were made famous by Captain James T. Kirk in "Star Trek", a science fiction TV show, which started airing in 1966.

Captain Kirk was played by William Shatner, an actor born in NDG in Montreal in 1931. Shatner's family owned a cottage on Lac Papineau, near Hallas' place on Chemin Paiement. The original cottage has since been updated but the stone wall remains out front.

Shatner worked as a camp counselor at Camp B'Nai Brith and spent a lot of his leisure time at Hallas' Restaurant, the local kids' hang-out. Hallas' Restaurant offered dancing to music by local singers and Nickelodeon juke boxes.

In 2016, Shatner wrote a book titled "My Fifty-Year Friendship with a Remarkable Man", in which he describes his childhood in the Laurentians. Here is an excerpt:

"My childhood summers were spent at a cabin ... in the Laurentian Mountains north of Montreal, where I'm from. Our cabin fronted a dirt road, which is probably a highway now, and had a swinging screen door, the slap of which I'll always remember.It started off with three families on the lake. To get running water, we had to hand-pump it from a well to a cistern on the roof. When I was 5 or 6, I offered to fill each family's cistern for 25 cents, which was a fortune then. I hadn't realized how hard it was to pump the water, so I'd get a cistern half-filled and be so exhausted that I'd have to come back the next day. I was never able to top off a cistern. As the number of cabins increased over the years, a corner store finally sprang up. There was a group of 10 kids of different ages — I was around 11 or so — that would gather there on a Saturday night and dance to whatever was playing on the radio or to this French trio that would come and play country music. Around that time I started to notice girls — and actually caught my first glimpse of a naked girl. It was as memorable as catching my first fish. A friend of my older sister's was visiting our cabin, and while I was in my room at the top of the stairs (which had no door), the door to my sister's bedroom opened and I saw her friend Diane dressing. She caught me looking and slammed the door. That memory has stayed with me to this day."

Star Trek now has a cult following with annual conventions, where people dress like the show characters.

A few years ago, while going through some old pictures, the editor of this newsletter found a picture of her cousins and "Billy" Shatner on what is believed to be the current Lapkovsky beach, taken when all the boys were 9-14 years of age. I have hunted high and low for the picture but can't locate it. If I find it, I will post it in another newsletter.

Now, you know the story of the famous cottager from our lake!

YOU ASKED FOR IT!

Introducing Groups.IO, an email group service which will allow residents to communicate among themselves for any reason. Something found? Something to sell? Looking to buy something? Just want to have a group chat? This will permit everyone to start or join in on a conversation on a topic. You may unsubscribe to just a particular topic, or to the entire email group. It's like a message board or blog but newer technology. Your Board has been recently testing it out and it fits the bill! **Watch for your invitation to join!**

SO WHAT ELSE IS NEW???

- We are investigating the posting of a new sign on the boat launch gate, to raise awareness of the Myriophyllum (aka watermilfoil) invasive plant species. Other lakes have this type of signage and it has helped boaters identify the invasive plant and understand how each boater can make a difference in the prevention of its' spread.
- Have you noticed that, over the past few years, loon couples have returned to our lake? This is a sign of a healthy lake! However, have you also noticed that we never seem to see loon chicks? Given the potential for a lower level of motorized activity on the lake this summer, due to the pandemic, less noise and traffic in the south portion of the 3rd lake (in the area of the island) might positively impact the potential to see new generations of loons and other waterfowl to join us later in the summer. If possible, let's keep this in mind when out in our boats! **Let's make a difference!**
- Expect to see more bylaw inspectors on our lake this summer! The Town of Sainte Agathe des Monts has adopted some new rules around docks (shape, size, and number) and inspectors will be visiting lakes in the area this summer to ensure compliance. It is unclear yet whether there will be "grandfathering" in place for existing structures. We will update this information as we find out more.

There is always something to read on our website, so be sure to check it often.

www.petitlaclong.org

WHAT'S IN THE PIPELINE?

- French translation of the website is underway. No completion date available yet.
- Electronic payments for membership fees are being investigated.
- Our Association is being registered with the Quebec Registrar

FISH TALES...

Congratulations to Jagger Grunbaum, who caught a 32-inch, 11.5 lbs musky in June. He won the \$10 musky bounty!



MANY THANKS TO CAROLINE MARINACCI, WHO DOES OUR TRANSLATING FOR US! WE COULDN'T ISSUE THIS NEWSLETTER WITHOUT HER HELP!