



# NEWSLETTER

## Association des Propriétaires du Lac Papineau

Barb Brehn Langer, Editor

Fall 2020

### President's Message

Hi all. Here we are in the fall. For many, the drop in the outside temperature invites them to make a good little fire and to remain confined (No! Not yet!). For others, the quieter lake brings peace. Given the greater number of people who have decided to spend their holidays in Quebec, we can say that the lakes of the Laurentians have been in great demand! Although our lake is mainly used by residents, it also seemed busier this year. However, we have not experienced any overflow issues, as experienced by residents of other larger lakes in the area. As you may have seen in the newspapers, there have been many deplorable situations there; unbearable boating traffic, speed, incessant waves, dangerous behaviour and other excesses... so much so that new water patrols have been created.

We are fortunate, due to the size of our lake and therefore the proximity of our cottages, to be a small community where it is possible to know our neighbours so when a problem arises, our community can more easily mobilize. That is why, in response to the concerns of many residents, we conducted a survey to give them the opportunity to express their concerns. In fact, we were very happy to get your participation. This allowed us, among other things, to see that the vast majority of respondents were aware of our Code of Conduct for water safety. It was also confirmed that peoples' main concern was the presence of wake-boats and their impacts; noise, waves and damage. The survey also confirmed that many people were experiencing unpleasant experiences on the lake, ranging from boat destabilization, aggressive words and other rude behaviour, to damage to their property. Because of these behaviours, some go so far as to refrain from going on the lake! The survey has also identified areas where people feel unsafe, primarily in the second lake and channels between the lakes. This is, of course, unacceptable because everyone has the right to enjoy the lake in their own way.

Another important fact is that the second major concern of people is the health of the lake and the environmental issues associated with it; water quality, invasive plants and the impact of waves on shoreline deterioration.

We thank everyone who participated. Without being experts in surveys, we believe that it is a good start for identifying problems and rest assured that we will take steps to try to correct them. A special thank you to all who love their time on the lake and especially to those who have replaced their boats with boats more suitable for our lake. A very big thank you to those who had the consideration to change the lake! No hard feelings!

Robert Brès, President

### WHAT ABOUT WATER TESTING?

Members of the Association have been provided with the detailed results of the eColi testing performed this summer. Overall, the health of our lake is considered stable and safe. That said, many residents have been asking what they can do to improve the quality of water near their properties.

#### Why is a natural shoreline important?

Shoreline vegetation acts as a natural windbreak, regulates water levels, prevents erosion, encourages biodiversity and filters pollution. Maintaining and improving the water quality of a body of water means paying special attention to its shores. In order to do so, the erosion and degradation of shorelines must be prevented, and the quality and biodiversity of the area must be preserved. Decades ago, the Quebec government prepared and widened the [Protection Policy for Lakeshores, Riverbanks, Littoral Zones and Floodplains](#). The Policy applies to all natural and artificial lakes and watercourses, both large and small, regardless of whether their water flow is constant or intermittent. Drainage ditches that serve 2 or more lots are also subject to the Policy, which is applied via municipal regulations. However, since rules alone are not enough, every action that protects, restores, cleans or sanitizes a body of water is important and contributes to the common effort to recover water. **Many lake residents do not realize that actions we take must be driven by the rules of the Policy.**

**It is not permitted** to cut down healthy trees, plant grass, use fertilizers or pesticides, or dump sand on the shoreline.

**It is permitted** to install one 5-metre wide access to the water (other than a vehicular route or boat access ramp). It is also permitted to build wharves, shelters or docks on pilings or made of floating platforms. You may also plant shrubs, trees or herbaceous plants but it is recommended to let nature take over. More info at:

<http://www.environnement.gouv.qc.ca/eau/rives/richeesse/index-en.htm>

### LAKE SWIM

The 15<sup>th</sup> annual swim was very well attended, with between 30 and 40 swimmers participating, along with countless accompanying watercraft. Thanks to everyone who participated!

## Board Close-Up: Daniel Zours, Treasurer

I studied business at Concordia University and am a member of the CPA-CMA. I have more than 25 years of experience in accounting and taxation.

My wife and I wanted to get away from the hustle and bustle of the city. We visited, more than three years ago, what would become our cottage (since the confinement, our house). During our pre-purchase tours, we fell in love with the place. The beauty and tranquillity of the place, as well as the singing of the loons have won us over.

Recently, I retired from my tax career to focus on my many personal projects (including the renovation of our property on the lake). One of these projects was to get involved in my community. So I was happy to accept the position of Treasurer when it was offered to me. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my predecessor, Gerry, for his work and involvement with the association.

My commitment is motivated by maintaining the quality of life of the residents, the safety of all users of the lake and the reconciliation of water activities with the protection of the shoreline and wildlife. We look forward to meeting you when the sanitary measures permit and I wish you all a beautiful autumn!

## SURVEY SAYS.....

We had an excellent >50% response rate to our satisfaction survey. Here is a summary of the results from 70 responses:

Q1: 40% felt that waves/damage from large boats was their #1 priority; 35% felt that water quality was their priority; 11% were most concerned with invasive plants; the remaining 14% were mostly anxious about boating safety.

Q2: 71% of respondents have had bad experiences on the lake, from property damage to bad behaviour to "Sea-Doos" not obeying safety practices.

Q3: 34% of residents abstain from using the lake due to bad behaviours.

Q4: Approximately 43% of respondents feel unsafe on our lake, with the 2<sup>nd</sup> lake being the most worrisome.

Q5: 4 people were not aware of the Code of Conduct, so I resent it to them.

Q6: Other than water quality, invasive plants & algae topped the list of concerns.

## Did You Know?

There were a number of grand hotels in the Sainte-Agathe area in the 1900's, such as L'Hotel Belmont (1905), Le Castel des Monts (1905), L'Hotel Chez A. Maurice on Lac des Sables (1935) and Le Craig's Manor (1950). However, the most famous (for us, anyway) was Forest Hills Hotel, located on Chemin Paiement in the 1930's, 1940's and 1950's. I had cousins who worked at Forest Hills as dishwasher and baggage boys during the summers for quite a few years. The hotel was located at approximately where 3901 Ch Paiement is now located. The hotel had a beautiful view of the lake.

Joseph "Joe" Graham, shown below on the right, from Sainte-Lucie is an author and historian, particularly interested in preserving the history and heritage of the area. In Sainte-Agathe, Joe led the way with several local heritage projects, such as the preservation of the town's train station, the buildings of the former Mount Sinai Hospital and the conversion of the former CPR train corridor into the P'Tit Train du Nord. Joe has also written many articles and some books. Recommended reading for any Laurentian resident or regular visitor is [Naming the Laurentians: A History of Place Names "Up North"](#).



"Did you Know" is a regular feature in our newsletters, sharing some of the information and history of Lac Papineau and the surrounding area. If you have some interesting information or history to share, please contact the editor.



It has been many years since we have had any sailboats on our beautiful lake. Fortunately, they are beginning a small resurgence so, as always, it is important to remember **Canada's Safe Boating Practices** and practice respect for others enjoying being in or on the lake. Check the **Code of Conduct** on our website. Thanks to Wolf Raaen for the beautiful picture!

**Find Safe Boating Practices here:**

<https://tc.canada.ca/en/marine-transportation/marine-safety/office-boating-safety>

## Were you wondering?

We have approximately 150 homes around the lake. 35 of these were just recently identified when we did a lot-by-lot review from a municipal website that provides ownership information on every property in the search area. Our resident list was sadly out of date but we have been working hard all year to get it updated. Of the 115 homes on our 2020 list, 104 owners paid their membership fees for the 2020 season! That's the highest number of paid members we have ever had! We will be reaching out next spring to the newly discovered 35, telling them about our association and hoping they will also join. Speaking of new residents, the Camlot family welcomed a new resident this summer:



## 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 by cleaning their boats & trailers before coming on our lake.
- We will be installing buoys in the 2 channels and near the large island in the 2<sup>nd</sup> lake for the next season.
- As of the end of the 2020 season, the bounty on musky will no longer be offered. However, if you catch, please do not release!

**Don't forget to check out our website!**

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

## 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.

## Know your 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

Everyone on your Board volunteers their time but we can't do it alone! We really appreciate the help we are given by volunteers around the lake.

**Many thanks to Caroline Marinacci, who does our translating for us! We couldn't issue this newsletter without her!**

**Thanks also to Raphael Gera, who has been giving so much of his time to perform the updates on our website.**

## Were you bothered by short term rentals this summer?

Don't forget about the Short Term Rental letters on our website. Simply download your version, fill in the information specific to you, print and mail. Easy! We continue to hope that, with more complaints, the town might do something about it.

**Please Remember:** Garbage pickup, road maintenance & road speeds are NOT the responsibility of our association. If you are concerned about these issues, please contact the municipality directly.