



ASSOCIATION DES PROPRIÉTAIRES DU LAC PAPINEAU

# NEWSLETTER

Barb Brehn Langer, Editor

Winter 2022/2023



## President's Message

If I received a letter telling me to plant trees, shrubs and plants on my land, and if I did not do so, I would be fined \$1,000/day, I would be annoyed. On the other hand, if I received a letter explaining that, to protect my lake, it would be better to keep a strip of vegetation on the water's edge, I would be more inclined to follow these recommendations.

Having said that, many of us received a letter from the City that was not very cordial. We spoke to Mayor Broué about this and he acknowledged that the tone of the letter was not appropriate. The Director of Urban Planning and Environment also said they could have been more diplomatic. He explained that they had used a form letter generally used for more formal procedures. They have agreed that they will try to do better next time. This gentleman assured us that his staff would take good care of the residents in this process to revegetate the shorelines. He said that people would be accompanied to make a plan for the location and selection of suitable plants and that they would have ample time to do the work.

You will understand that, as an association whose mission is to protect the lake, we will not oppose this approach. However, we still want to be sure that it goes well with the City and that people are not left to themselves, without any guidance. Also, if we can help in any way, we will. We will discuss this at a future board meeting and are also open to your suggestions. For example, if volunteers were interested, we could do one or more days of chores where we could help each other plant trees, plants and shrubs together. We can also follow up with the city to see if we can receive seedlings on an annual basis.

Finally, I would say that the most difficult thing may not be to plant shrubs on the shoreline... but to disabuse us of the preconceived ideas of what a beautiful property should be, as opposed to a beautiful and groomed lawn, as in the city. Let's take the winter time to look at photos of beautiful landscaping. Have a great winter!

Robert Brès, President

## Following article submitted by Robert Laliberté: Protection of our environment and the lake: Regulation respecting the riparian strip.

The Papineau Lake Homeowners Association has long taken steps to ensure the maintenance of the lake's water quality. Its raison d'être is based on the protection of the lake. The members of the board of directors prioritize the following files: the washing of boats and trailers; the proper operation and maintenance of septic tanks in collaboration with the municipality; the use of ecological and organic products for maintenance; the protection of the shoreline by preventing erosion due to waves and by respecting the vegetation of the riparian strip.

In the context of the meetings of COP 26 on global warming and COP 15 on the protection of biodiversity, we are able to see that everyone must make an effort to protect the environment. Note that, this past summer, residents asked the municipality to come and do an analysis in the 3rd lake, given the appearance of suspicious algae.

This fall, the municipality commissioned a firm to evaluate the riparian strips of all the lakes in the municipality. Subsequently, all owners with improvements to make were notified. However, several years ago, when provincial regulations were adopted for the protection of the riparian strip, the municipality of Sainte Agathe visited the residents and provided them with information on how to comply with the law. Unfortunately, some did not make the improvements required in the following years.

Recently, the municipality sent residents a letter asking several property owners to comply with the regulations for the protection of the riparian strip of their respective lands. According to the firm's study, 60% of residents have improvements to make for the revegetation of shorelines.

It is important that residents be aware of the merits of the improvements requested to protect the lake. Everyone has the responsibility to make the changes required to their terrain. To do so, they can be accompanied in their efforts by a city official or a landscaper. Finally, our goal is to act in a spirit of prevention and preservation of the lake.//

## DID YOU KNOW??

...that you can see the Aurora Borealis (AKA Northern Lights) as far south as Sainte-Agathe, if the weather conditions are right? Sometimes, they are even visible on Montreal's south shore. The best time to view them is in winter, when there's a new crescent moon. With a full moon, there's too much light to see them this far south. You can learn more about the Auroras and track them on various websites. Here are a few:

[www.auroraforecast.com](http://www.auroraforecast.com)

[www.asc-csa.gc.ca/eng/astronomy/northern-lights](http://www.asc-csa.gc.ca/eng/astronomy/northern-lights)

[www.gi.alaska.edu/monitors/aurora-forecast](http://www.gi.alaska.edu/monitors/aurora-forecast)



Note of clarification: your association's role is not to approve or deny any project, but to be aware of any project impacts, analyze and disseminate information to our residents. We will continue to do this on your behalf!

## Neighbourhood Watch

### See something? Say something!

Residents should continue to report any possible contamination of lake water or any other environmental issues to both the board and the town.

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Robert Laliberté, one of our board consultants, worked with the municipality to have them remove a large rock and add gravel to the boat launch. Thanks, Robert!

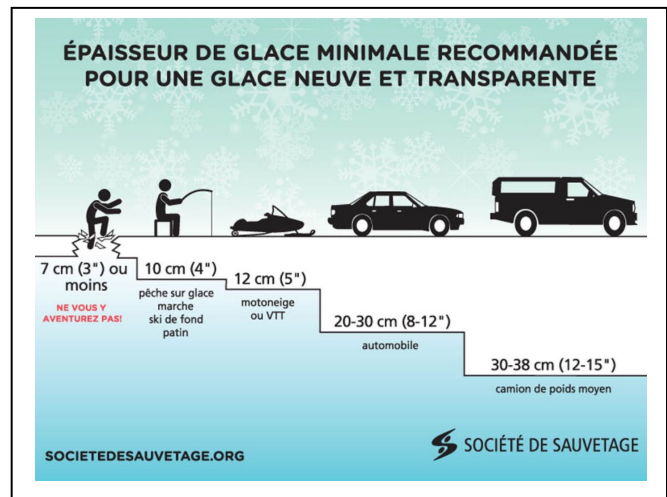
**For the protection of riparian strips bordering shorelines, visit the following website:**

<https://ville.sainte-agathe-des-monts.qc.ca/citoyens/reglementation/bandes-riveraines-pesticides-et-engrais>

You may also translate the pages to read the text in English. Thanks to Yanik Falardeau for providing this link, in response to the inspection letters received by some residents.

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**COMING SOON....** Your association has opened a different bank account which will enable us to accept **eTransfers directly into the Association account** for membership payments. Check your 2023 renewal notice for more information in the spring.



Thanks to Carol Brehn for sharing this!

### Did you receive an inspection letter?

No letter? Either way, you may request a copy of your inspection report directly via this link:

<https://ville.sainte-agathe-des-monts.qc.ca/contactez-nous/>

Thanks to **Alain Goulet**, one of our residents, who recently tested the aerators and confirmed that the repairs were worth the cost. Given the algae that are multiplying in the shallow water at the third lake, the return of the aerators will be welcome next summer.

**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.

[r/rtr](#)

### **Pet Owners – please take note!**

It may not be the city but people still don't appreciate picking up after someone else's animals! Keep your dogs on leash when walking, to prevent any mishaps.

### **Do you have a new neighbour?**

Please tell them about our association and how to get in touch with us. We will provide them with a Welcome Package, containing the most recent issue of our newsletter, our Code of Conduct, information on our board and more!

**Many thanks to Mathieu Huppé, Hugues Raymond and Wolf Raaen for their translation assistance. Without the help of these volunteers, we couldn't issue this newsletter!**

## **Know your board**

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

## **Septic Tank Tips**

1. Keep up with cleaning and inspections.
2. **Avoid harsh drain cleaners.** There are many antiseptic cleaning products on the market, and it's especially tempting to use them in the bathroom, but cleaners that include bleach or other antibacterial agents can kill off the bacteria that you need in your septic system. To keep the good bacteria alive, avoid the use of bleach or antibacterial cleaners in your toilets and drains.
3. **Be careful about what you put down toilets and garbage disposals.** Sanitary products, paper towels, hair, grease, coffee grounds, hard foods, or large particles can cause clogs in pipes or other problems further into the septic system. Harsh or toxic chemicals should never be poured down a drain or toilet. Instead, dispose of paint thinner, motor oil, gasoline, or other chemicals according to the instructions on the packaging. Don't flush anything but waste and toilet paper.
4. Keep your septic system balanced. A natural solution is to add yeast to your tank. Simply flush about 1/4 cup of dry baking yeast down a toilet on the lowest floor of your home every 3-4 months.
5. **Know where your septic tank is located in your yard.** Keep the area covered with grass instead of concrete or any other structures and try to keep tree roots away from the area to avoid ruptured pipes. This will keep inspections and maintenance fast and easy.

## **PLEASE REMEMBER!!!**

**Septic tanks must be emptied every 2 years for full-time residents and every 4 years for summer residents.**