



ASSOCIATION DES PROPRIÉTAIRES DU LAC PAPINEAU

NEWSLETTER

Barb Brehn Langer, Editor

Winter 2023/2024



President's Message

(Written by Editor, Barb Brehn Langer)

Happy New Year to everyone! Winter is upon us again and it's time to enjoy the outdoor activities on and around our beautiful lake! Everyone reading this newsletter should know how incredibly lucky they are to enjoy their leisure time at Petit Lac Long. Not everyone has that opportunity. Don't waste it – enjoy the winter weather and, like our Association President, Robert Bres, you can also skate on the lake or do some hiking. In just over 50 days, it will be the first day of spring! We had an incredible season last year, with a biologist at our fingertips, providing helpful information and tips on how to maintain our shorelines and prevent invasive species in our lake. Hopefully, we will continue to use the information she shared with us as we head into another summer season. Keep warm!



MUNICIPALITIES WILL BE ABLE TO REGULATE NAVIGATION ON BODIES OF WATER MORE QUICKLY

(LOUISE LEDUC- LA PRESSE-October 2023)

Municipalities that find it necessary to regulate speed or block all or part of navigation on the lakes within their boundaries will be able to do so much more quickly under an amendment to the federal law. The growing number of personal watercraft and motorized boats is a concern for many citizens concerned about the health of lakes, the safety of bodies of water or the noise generated. Until now, residents and municipalities who wanted to take action have come up against a wall, as Transport Canada and Ottawa have jurisdiction over navigation. In a telephone interview with *La Presse* on Thursday, the Minister of Revenue, Marie-Claude Bibeau, who took this file under her wing as the MNA for Compton–Stanstead, in the Eastern Townships, explained that the Minister of Transport will now be able to quickly publish a decree to endorse a resolution that has been passed in a municipality about navigation. In concrete terms, this means that municipalities that would like to restrict navigation on bodies of water in their sector will be able to quickly hope for a favourable decree from the Minister of Transport if they have demonstrated that the health of the lake or boating safety are at stake, and then have a municipal resolution passed. "The municipalities in my region [that would submit a file now] can expect a decree from the minister by next summer," says Mme Bibeau. The minister noted that Ottawa retains jurisdiction over navigation, but once "a municipality has had the courage to make a resolution," "it is reasonable to expect that the Minister [of Transport] will grant the order" without delay. Municipalities, she says, "are in the best position to make their decision."

CANADA SHIPPING ACT

Mme Bibeau explains that she took up "the torch" of this file after being strongly challenged in 2015 by the "very powerful presentation" of eight lake associations in her region, some of which are struggling with invasive species. "I then committed myself to doing what I could on this issue, without knowing what I was getting myself into." (Cont'd below)

DID YOU KNOW??

You can find out all about the people who made SADM what it is today!

[Local people - Ville de Sainte-Agathe-des-Monts](#)

Read all about the 2030 revitalization plans for SADM.

[Destination 2030 - City of Sainte-Agathe-des-Monts](#)

The Story of our Aerators

(From Spring 2020 newsletter)

Have you ever wondered about the solar panels floating in the 3rd 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 Rivière 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.

2023 Update: one of our resident volunteers repaired our aerators and, with help from other board volunteers, re-installed them in the 3rd lake this summer!

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.

(Canada Shipping Act - cont'd)

What it was ultimately attacking was the Merchant Shipping Act, designed primarily for navigation on the St. Lawrence River, and which still governs both personal watercraft and small craft on Canada's small lakes and large vessels on the Seaway.

TRANSPORT CANADA ADJUSTMENT

Transport Canada recognized that the current process was too long and complex. Better still, he recognized not only that boating safety issues had to be taken into account, but also environmental issues. "It was already there [in the regulations], but in very small print, and Transport Canada never enforced it," says Mme Bibeau. "Canadians deserve to have a say in how their waterways are regulated. Today, we are speeding up the process for local communities," said Pablo Rodriguez, Minister of Transport.

With this announcement, Pascale St-Onge, Minister of Heritage – who is also involved in the file – believes that Ottawa is reiterating its commitment "to our citizens and our municipalities" and ensuring that the public has "more say in how to protect our bodies of water and make recreational boating safer." **The ball will now be largely in the court of the municipalities, which will have to make the trade-offs between those who consider it necessary to limit navigation on the lakes and those who will plead for the right to travel on the lakes which are basically free of access.**

Article Submitted by Louis Doré

Why is a natural shoreline important?

(From Fall 2020 newsletter)

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>

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.

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!

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE – READ PAST NEWSLETTERS, OUR CODE OF CONDUCT AND LINKS TO EVENTS IN OUR AREA.

WWW.PETITLACLONG.ORG

Just a Reminder!

Membership fees for 2024 will be \$50 per property, as voted on and approved at the 2023 Annual General Meeting. Watch your email for your renewal notice this spring!

Do you have stories to tell about our lake?

Do you have memories from your childhood?

What about your parents' memories?

Send them to the editor & let's share with everyone!

Know your board

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

WHO KNEW?

...that there were so many hiking trails around Lac des Sables?

(From Spring 2022 newsletter)

