



**ASSOCIATION POUR LA PROTECTION DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT DU LAC LATOURELLE (LAC LONG)**  
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**APELL**

**207 Chemin du Lac Long,  
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**NEWSLETTER WINTER 2014/15**

Comments from the president.

Sorry it has taken so long for this newsletter to come out. I was hoping more people would have contributed articles to insert in it. I hope everyone had an excellent holiday season and I hope everyone enjoys an excellent New Year 2015, filled with joy, health, happiness, and prosperity. I encourage everyone to access our website on a regular basis. We will be posting items of general interest, as well as updates on current and past general meetings, and a bunch of other newsy stuff. Go check it out for yourself at [www.Apell.org](http://www.Apell.org).

Postal delivery.

Some recent new cottagers possibly are not aware that they cannot receive mail at their cottage address without first setting up a mailbox with Canada Post in Gracefield. Invariably, Canada Post gets mail, especially during the winter months, addressed to these people and is unable to deliver. Occasionally, rather than return to sender, the mailman (in this case mailwoman) puts the mail for the intended recipient in the association mailbox, hoping we will deliver the item. We have no problem doing so when the cottagers are present, and we will even hold the mail until spring when cottagers re-open for the season if they are presently closed up. However, we can only do so if the intended recipient is a member in good standing with the association, and we have the proper co-ordinates to be able to contact them. Just another good reason to be a member of the Apell.

Public access wharf.

As per the last general meeting, the association empowered your President to negotiate with the municipality with regards to the best approach to develop that area. We met with municipal officials to discuss the possibilities.

Originally, we had proposed that the municipality fund the construction and placement of a wharf just northwest of the public access ramp. However, some members had concerns that the new wharf would bring new (and perhaps unwanted) tourism to our lake.

In the end, we decided to delay the construction of a wharf, in favour of instead developing the access area itself. The large mound inside the circular access road area will be leveled out (which may require blasting) thus permitting easier access for today's

pontoons and larger boats. The surplus material will be moved to the northern limits of the existing parking area, which has been reduced over the number of years, thus permitting better parking facilities. The concrete plates inside the lake border will be removed (most are broken and out of position) and replaced, along with a few new ones to extend the access ramp, also for larger pontoons and boats. This work will require approval from the Ministry responsible for lakes and waterways, and the municipality has undertaken to begin the application process this winter in order to have the necessary authorities in place in early spring, to enable the work to go forward. Once the works are completed, the association and the municipality will monitor the results over a period of perhaps a few years, and if necessary revisit the project at a later date, for possible additional improvements. All of this work was to be budgeted in the 2015 municipal budget.

#### Necrology.

We all mourn the passing on October 11, 2014, of Jackie Tremblay, spouse of many years of Laurent, and both long standing members of the association. A donation of \$25.00 was sent to the Canadian Cancer Society in the association's name.

On Aug. 26, 2014, a lifetime resident of Blue Sea, former councilor, and sometimes member of the association, Virgile Tremblay passed away. A sympathy wish to the family was posted to their website in the association's name.

#### Road works.

For 2 years now, the mayor and council have promised us that, in 2014, the balance of the roadway system in the Lafontaine project would be resurfaced with the new chalky white crushed stone. Some work had been done in the fall of 2013. Sadly, circumstances have since altered their decisions. In fact, the only work which the project saw completed was the resurfacing of the remainder of chemin Lafontaine. All the other roads in the project (chemin Lacasse, croissant de l'Apell etc...) will have to continue waiting. It seems that other areas of the municipality needed resurfacing more urgently than ours. I hope that the remainder will be resurfaced soon, since many road areas are now down to bedrock, which creates problems for the grader, as well as individual properties bordering the roads in question.

#### Highlights of 2014.

Clean-up day on the lake was another success, although only approx. 10 people participated. A large quantity of floating logs and tree branches were transported to the public access. However, lack of equipment and personnel did not permit us to cut up the logs at the public access and they remained there for some time. The municipality eventually disposed of them, however, we have been told by their inspector that this should not happen and that the municipality is not there to pick up our garbage. I would therefore hope that the task, in 2015 will have better participation and equipment.

Unfortunately, it seems that it is always the same people who donate their time and effort, although all of us on the lake benefit from the work accomplished. It would not hurt anyone to contribute a few hours on a single Saturday morning in the early summer to carry out that task. It would also not hurt anyone to temporarily contribute a chainsaw to carry out the work. I always find it amazing that it is those families who regularly utilize

the lake for swimming, boating, water skiing, water ballooning, etc... and would be most affected by an unfortunate run-in with a floating log who actually contribute the least time and effort to protect themselves and others from such a mishap. Go figure.

The annual picnic was again held at the residence of Michel Simard, now councilor for the municipality. The turnout was very good, with a number of new people showing up. A note to all members as well as non-members. This annual picnic is free and open to everyone, including children and friends. It is an opportunity for everyone on the lake to meet each other, exchange ideas, and socialize. Why not try to attend the next one.

Membership closed out at 74 families, a very significant increase over the previous year, and made possible only by personal visits by the President to every cottage property on the lake. Mind you, this is a very time consuming effort on his part and a huge sacrifice of his time. It will not always be possible for him to spend so much time and effort and it should not be necessary for him to do so in order for the association to have continuing success. Membership is important. It tells municipal authorities how influential the association is at any given time and how active the Apell community is. The association is the voice of the cottagers and residents on the lake. It is therefore important that we have a strong voice. We still have a small number of families who benefit from our association's work and commitment but who do not commit themselves to an annual membership – why I do not know. If you know of any of your neighbors who fall in this category, why not speak to them and challenge them on the issue.

#### President's activities.

Your president continues to attend every single council meeting, to represent your association, ask pertinent questions of the mayor and council, challenge them on issues affecting our lake and its membership. He is also a representative member on the Urban Affairs Committee of the municipality (minor variance committee). In addition, he is one of the directors of the Mont Morissette Association, and a member of the municipal working committee to monitor and oversee the development of Mont Morissette.

This year, he attended, as your President, a meeting of the Regroupment for the Protection of Waters of the Gatineau Valley, where he presented a summary of the problems faced by our lake. This new federation replaces the former Federation of Gatineau Valley Lakes and Rivers Associations headed by Louis Philippe Mayrand. The new federation groups together individuals, municipalities (and their representatives), lake associations, the MRC, and water quality control agencies in seeking to monitor and advise on ways and means to enhance the quality of lakes, rivers, and groundwaters of the Gatineau Valley.

#### Municipal affairs.

The municipality of Blue Sea recently passed their budget for 2015. It increased the rate of taxation by 2.08% to a level of \$0.5426 per \$100.00 of property value. According to Laurent Fortin, Mayor, the increase was rendered necessary by a significant increase of contributions to the MRC and the airport, and by a significant decrease in Quebec's refund of Sales Tax. The municipality was also forced to make cuts in its contributions to the Mont Morissette, and the presbytery, along with a number of other reductions. The increase in taxation rate is comparable to most other municipalities in the Gatineau MRC, who have had to make similar increases and cuts to their expenditures. All of this is in

keeping with the government of Quebec's efforts to balance its budget and reduce the very significant provincial debt. On a positive note, our council passed a resolution to freeze their own salaries for 2015. For additional info on the budget as well as other municipal matters, please visit their website [www.blueseas.ca](http://www.blueseas.ca).

#### Water clarity equipment.

Some years ago, this association undertook to monitor the clarity of our lake. A number of individuals volunteered to carry out the work over the summer months. They were provided with a monitoring device and asked to report back their findings. Somewhere along the way the practice was discontinued, but the equipment has never been returned to the association. We have now had to withdraw from the Voluntary Monitoring Committee of the Gatineau Valley Watershed due to our non-reporting of the clarity results. We ask all those volunteers who still have the monitoring devices to please return them to our association (the president's address is 10 ch. Lacasse) a.s.a.p. so that they may be re-distributed to other volunteers to continue the important task of monitoring the clarity of our lake.

#### Dry Hydrants.

Most of you will have by now noticed that we now have a dry hydrant installed at the culvert. It was constructed in such a manner as to enable the fire department to more easily fill their tanker truck with water in all seasons. They will no longer have to bring along a chainsaw to first make a hole in the ice for the pumper truck to take on water. The hydrant is inspected on a weekly basis to make sure the water does not freeze in the pipe. So far, however, residents have been unable to obtain a rebate of premium from their respective insurance companies, notwithstanding the installation of this new device.

#### Water tests.

At the end of July, one of our then directors took 10 water tests around our lake as we do every summer. Although he is no longer director, at his request, he has nonetheless offered to continue to take these tests for us, for which we thank him. Tests that are taken measure e-coli content in the water only. It has nothing to do with phosphate levels in the water. Phosphates tend to get into the waters of our lake primarily through usage of cleaning products. I will be proposing to our membership, at the next spring general meeting, that we elaborate on the tests every 3 years to take more than e-coli counts. Unfortunately, these extended tests are more expensive than the usual ones, and the municipality may have limitations of its re-imbusement policy. I will be looking into that situation and report back.

Here then are the results of the tests taken in 2014. I could not find the map of the exact locations where the tests were taken, when this newsletter went to print, however, it is at the same locations every year, so if you go back into previous years' reports you will have the exact locations.

In the bay where Paul Cousineau and Patrick Whelan are located, the result was 1. At the public access, the result was 2. At the culvert entrance to the project, the result was also 2. All other 7 locations around the lake, the result was zero. Results at any given time are governed by a number of factors, including weather conditions. Given that 50 is the test limit set by the government for acceptable levels, our results were excellent. That is

testimony to our continued vigilance, by the association and all of its members. Let's keep it that way.

Skidooing locally.

For those of you who enjoy the sport, our lake this year has issues relating to slush. I am not sure why it has happened, but the lake is very patchy with large areas of slush under the snow covering. Much more so than in prior years. Also, many of you are aware that Mrs. Bainbridge, on Blue Sea Lake, sold her property there last summer. Many of you used to access Blue Sea Lake from her property just northeast of Lac Denomme, rather than drive to the village on the road system and wreck the runners of the skidoos. I have spoken to Mr. Bruneau Lacaille, the new owner and he does not mind if we continue to utilize his lower road to access the lake, as long as we continue to respect his property. Mr. Lacaille is the owner of PEPINIERE HAUTE GATINEAU, in Egan South, and we encourage our readers to thank him by supporting his business as the opportunity arises.

Deer feeding.

I reprint here an article (translated into English) which recently appeared in various publications and is recommended reading by the Government of Quebec. I would add that their feces are a nuisance to clean up in the spring and that deer often carry ticks, which can be problematic for pets and humans alike.

Feeding of deer in winter: the negative consequences for the species. What is more pleasant to contemplate than a few deer feeding two steps from your window. Although you have good intentions by feeding the deer, this practice has many negative consequences on these wild animals, particularly during the winter season (according to the Quebec Ministry of sustainable development, the environment, wildlife and parks).

The negative effects of the intake of food can be many: diseases, parasites and mortality caused by inadequate food consumption; road accidents when feeding sites are located close to roads; poaching (feeding facilitates the slaughter of the deer off season); domestication of deer (inhibition of fear and dependency on humans for food); loss of the seasonal migration behavior; presence of deer outside their roaming areas, environments less favourable to their survival in winter.

In general, deer don't need any input from food by humans. They live in our climate through two major adaptations in winter: they change their eating habits by restricting food intake and using fat reserves they accumulate during the summer and fall; they reduce their shifts leaving their summer habitat at the first snowfall to regroup in the devastation where softwood cover, slope and exposure reduce the accumulation of snow. White-tailed deer is a wild animal that is part of the natural heritage of Quebec. It is the responsibility of all citizens to keep livestock healthy, avoid feeding deer in inappropriate ways and drawing them.