



## **APELL**

**ASSOCIATION POUR LA PROTECTION DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT DU LAC LATOURELLE (LAC LONG)**  
**ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT OF LAC LATOURELLE (LAC LONG)**

**APELL.ORG**

**207 Chemin du Lac Long,  
RR1 Blue Sea, Qc, J0X 1C0.**

### **Newsletter issue 27.1 – SUMMER 2018**

#### **COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT**

I am truly sorry that it has taken so long to get this newsletter out. I have until recently, been extremely busy and unfortunately, I seem to be the only one contributing to this newsletter, although I have often requested information, articles, and photos from members. I find it very difficult and time consuming to do it all alone.

I sincerely hope that you are enjoying your summer season on beautiful Lac Long (Latourelle) and hope that this unusually hot summer has not imposed an unduly harsh burden upon your health and that of your loved ones.

This year, there are a considerable number of new cottage owners – more so than in recent previous years, for whatever the reason. I would like to extend a warm welcome to these new neighbors of ours and I hope you will do the same. Make them feel welcome. Tell them about our association. Invite them to become members. Tell them about our new Facebook page.

The boat washing program of the municipality of Blue Sea is now in its second summer of operation. They are now starting to inspect boats on Blue Sea Lake to verify stickers. Do you have yours for your watercraft? If not, it would probably be wise to get on with it since enforcement is now going to occur. The municipality, in conjunction with a government hiring program, also hired a student for the summer for shoreline inspection in the municipality (principally Blue Sea Lake). These initiatives have been wonderful and positive. But they continue to sacrifice Lac Long to the ravages of spring high water unnecessarily, for the sake of expediency.

On Nov. 5, 2017, the municipality held its elections for a term of four years. The turnout was somewhat higher than the norm for this municipality bolstered no doubt by the fact that three (3) council seats were up for grabs. The new council therefore has a very different face. If the first seven months are an indication however, not much unfortunately has changed in administrative practice. Councilors are more present in

larger numbers at public functions, but the decision-making process is still largely left in the hands of the Mayor.

As most of you know, for the past three years, I have worn another hat – that of President of the Mont Morrissette Regional Park Association. As its President, I was chiefly responsible for obtaining a federal government grant under the Canada 150 program, to renovate the old fire tower. This endeavor, and my continued involvement in the rest of the parc functions, took a tremendous amount of my time and, as a result, the presidency of the APELL suffered to some extent. This came to an abrupt end at the beginning of July when I submitted my resignation as the president of the mountain association, due to irreconcilable differences with the municipal council. This has now freed up a considerable amount of my time, most of which I hope to once again devote to the APELL.

Finally, I must repeat this note from last year's newsletter - I have noticed that in the past couple of years, when traveling the roads of Blue Sea, we commonly find coffee cups and other debris along the roadside. While we could lay the blame on locals, I have noticed that the coffee cups are from a source in Ontario. I therefore must assume it relates to Ontario cottagers, though not necessarily from Lac Long. Please be a good citizen, don't be a jerk - DO NOT LITTER – pick up your junk and dispose of it in proper containers suited for that purpose.

This newsletter is somewhat long. It has been a long time coming and contains a significant amount of information items thus somewhat justifying its length. So, without further ado, I will let you read on.

## **BENEFITS OF JOINING AND BEING A MEMBER OF APELL**

**Parts of this article are reproduced from last year's newsletter.**

- Create a strong voice for APELL. As APELL's membership grows so does the credibility of our representation when meeting with the Municipality of Blue Sea and other groups.
- Strengthen APELL's financial security. As APELL's membership grows so do the funds available for taking on projects which will benefit Lac Long (Lac Latourelle).
- Have your say. Your APELL executive wants and needs your input. Only when you make your opinions and suggestions known can the executive of APELL truly represent you.
- Get up to the minute news on what the Municipality of Blue Sea is doing and proposing to do to enhance our region. You will hear it from the Mayor directly if and when he addresses our issues and concerns at our annual general meetings of APELL.
- Feel the pride of working on the APELL team to make Lac Long (Lac Latourelle) a great place to swim and fish in and a beautiful part of nature to appreciate.
- Pick up tips from fellow APELL members about actions you can take on your property and in your home for making a positive difference for the health of Lac Long (Lac Latourelle).

- Share your knowledge with your Lac Long (Lac Latourelle) neighbors about effective products and methods you have discovered for preserving the health of the water and land surrounding Lac Long (Lac Latourelle).
- Create a community. Attending meetings and social events is a great opportunity for greeting and getting to know your Lac Long neighbors who share this paradise with you.
- Have fun. Come out and share – a laugh, a coffee, a good story, the latest news, your family photos. Come out and boast about the big fish you caught, the cottage or home renovation you completed, the delicious meal you cooked for company. Come and commiserate about the mosquitoes, the black flies, the temperature, the hydro going off again, the guest who stayed too long, etc.

Make a difference. There is an expression that says, “if you are not part of the solution then you are part of the problem”. It takes all property owners to contribute their part to preserve the health of our lake and reduce the impact of our human imprint on the beauty of Lac Long (Lac Latourelle.)

A significant number of you are new cottage property owners. Help be part of the solution. Undoubtedly some of you purchased your property after investigating the impressive health and state of our lake. Help maintain its beauty and clarity. Be a part of the solution and not the problem. Join the association.

### **REGULATIONS REGARDING BOAT WASHING**

This new bylaw (no. 2017-056) came into effect July 29, 2017. It has as its goal to minimize the sources of contamination from exotic invading aquatic species by regulating the displacement of boats and other watercraft from one lake to another. The bylaw covers all manner of floating watercraft, motorized or non-motorized, destined for water usage and applies to all lakes, rivers, and streams situated within the municipal boundaries of Blue Sea. Every person must, before putting any watercraft (motorized or non-motorized) into any lake or stream of the municipality, proceed to wash that watercraft, its motor, and the trailer carrying it, at a hot water washing station recognized by the municipality and obtain a valid certificate of washing.

Residents are exempt from paying to obtain that certificate but must present themselves to the municipal hall, with proof of residency, to be followed by washing their watercraft. The sticker thereafter obtained is to be positioned on the front of the watercraft (the bow), on the exterior surface. If a trailer has carried this watercraft to the shoreline, a copy of the certificate must be shown on the dash of the vehicle in a manner that it be clearly visible. All boaters must always be in possession of their valid certificate of washing of the watercraft and must, at the request of an authorized official of the municipality, exhibit that certificate. All certificates of washing cease to be valid when a watercraft leaves the lake or stream for which the sticker was issued and if the user wishes to return to that same lake or stream, must present himself anew to the washing station, wash his watercraft, and obtain a new valid certificate of washing.

Considering that Blue Sea municipality shares Blue Sea Lake with Messines, both municipalities will recognize each other's certificates. All watercraft, be they motorized or non-motorized, must enter the lakes and streams of the municipality from an official launch area, but this does not apply to a shoreline property owner who wishes to put his own watercraft into the lake his property is situated on. All watercraft, motorized or not, warehoused on a shoreline lot, which has not circulated on any other lake in the same year, is exempt from these dispositions, but a sticker from the municipality is still required.

TO THAT END, WE ARE ANNEXING A COPY OF THE MUNICIPAL BOAT REGISTRATION FORM, IN BOTH LANGUAGES, WHICH YOU CAN PRINT OUT AND COMPLETE AHEAD OF TIME AND DROP OFF EITHER AT THE MUNICIPAL OFFICES, OR AT MY COTTAGE. If you drop the forms off at my cottage (10 ch. Lacasse), the municipality will mail you back the stickers. Remember, however, these validations are only good if your watercraft remain on the lake they are licensed for. If you take your boat out to another lake for whatever reason, you must wash your boat at the municipal wash facility before re-entering the lake to which the stickers are registered.

The municipality is currently in the process of purchasing a new high-pressure washer which will be able to maintain a high water temperature on a more consistent basis. When that happens, they also foresee some sort of mechanized operation, to reduce salary costs. Eventually, the present system of stickers for residents will be replaced by a fob which will be issued to residents and cottagers, allowing them access to the gated lakes. I assume the municipality will be issuing some sort of directive to the population before these changes take effect.

The following fees currently apply: residents \$0.00; non residents for non-motorized watercraft (Kayaks, canoes, pedal-boats, etc...) \$0.00; non-resident motorized watercraft \$25.00. A "booklet" of passes is available from the municipality for non-resident regular users for a price of ten washes for \$150.00. There is a \$300.00 fine for a first infraction and, in the case of a repeat infraction, a penalty of \$600.00 for a physical person, and double those amounts for moral person (company), in each case. For more information, please call the municipality at (819) 463-2261, extensions 1, 2, or 3, or visit their website at <Bluese.ca>.

It is imperative that you inspect and clean your boat, motor and equipment, including trailer, with hot water and a high-pressure washer after you leave Blue Sea Lake, and certainly before you re-enter our own lake. Blue Sea is already infested with Eurasian Milfoil. This has a very negative impact on the quality of life on the lake, as well as on the property values of the properties surrounding the lake. The plant quickly reproduces itself though fragmentation caused by boat propellers. The municipalities of Blue Sea and Messines are jointly spending significant amounts every year, to try and control the spread of this invasive species into Blue Sea Lake. It has already spread to other lakes in the area: Lake Grant, Lac Profond, etc. **WE CERTAINLY DO NOT WANT THEIR PROBLEM TO BECOME OUR PROBLEM ON OUR LAKE.**

### **VACANCIES ON THE EXECUTIVE.**

Since the last association elections, we have had vacancies on the executive of the association. There is currently no Vice-President. In addition, with the departure of Ferdinand Trauttmansdorff , we have a second opening on the executive. If you want to make a difference on the association, or feel you can contribute directly in some manner, we invite you to make application to become a member of our executive by contacting Morris Richardson, President, at (819) 463-1039.

### **WATER TESTS.**

Your president will shortly be undertaking the annual task of water tests on our lake. We normally only take tests to measure for e-coli, which has nothing to do with phosphates in the water. They (phosphates) normally get there through usage of cleaning products and lawn fertilizers. We will let you know the results as soon as they are known and they will be shown on our website. Zero is required for drinking, while up to 50 is acceptable for swimming.

### **LAKE CLEANING**

Last year's lake cleaning was an immense success and was cut short by a sudden cloudburst which sent everyone scurrying for cover. We wish to thank those who participated. After a careful inspection of our lake by yours truly, I have decided to forego the annual lake clean-up this year. Every year, it is consistently the same people who devote of their time and effort, not to mention equipment, for the annual clean-up. If you become aware of debris, try to remove it yourself, bring it to the public launch, or advise the President of the lake and he will have it taken care of.

And PLEASE, do not cause debris yourself by allowing old docks to float freely around the lake at the whims of wind. If you are replacing your dock, remove the old one from the lake. It should not be the task of your neighbors to clean up your garbage. Once again, thank you all for your enthusiastic participation.

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Last summer, on June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017, we held our Annual General Meeting, which unfortunately was only sparsely attended, partially due to inclement weather. That has however been the trend the last few years and it is indeed very worrisome. Some people might say that they are fundamentally satisfied with the way things are operating and therefore they do not need to attend. That may be true. However, from the executive's perspective, it indicates to us a decrease in interest in our lake and its association. As the older generation is gradually replaced by the younger one, interest in preserving this small corner of paradise appears to be shifting away. That is indeed a dangerous trend. I have personally seen what happens when there is no lake association to preserve the quality of our lake and its environment – the quality of the lake goes down, and so does property values around it. Is that what you all want?

I believe members should be thinking long and carefully on the issue. Without encouragement, your executive is simply going to not want to continue in their position, and this includes your president. We spend a great deal of time and effort to keep this lake safe and clean and enjoyable for the members and when the members fail to respond by even attending ONE single meeting per year, it tells us you do not give a damn. Most meetings only last 2 hours max and it is only once a year. Is that too much to ask?

**THIS YEAR, THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON AUG. 18<sup>th</sup>** at the Salle des Loisirs on Chemin du Lac Long, beginning at 10:30 a.m. **PLEASE ATTEND.** And if you have not yet paid your membership fees for the current year, a member of the executive will be on hand to renew your membership.

Why not invite your new neighbors to also attend? They are most certainly welcome. We agreed last year to hold only ONE annual general meeting per year. We have also decided that the executive will hold office for a period of THREE years, not because the executive necessarily wants it that way, but because for the past couple of elections, we have not had enough participation at the meetings to have a quorum sufficient to have an election. We have therefore had to extend the existing executive positions for one more year, hoping to have more members in attendance. We also discussed sending out an additional newsletter to compensate for the reduced meetings. While those in attendance found it would be preferable, it also boils down to participation. I seem to be the only contributing person, and I only have so much time at my disposal. I invite people to submit suggestions for articles, and even photographs of interest to our members. This should be a community newsletter, not the work of just one contributor.

### **NEW FACEBOOK PAGE**

We have recently changed hosting site for our website, and a new Facebook page comes along with it. We have also made some changes to the association website. We invite everyone to visit the new site and give us your comments on the new Facebook page, located at < <https://www.facebook.com/Association-for-the-Protection-of-Lac-Latourelle-181976729052895> >.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Such a deal – 2 years for \$35.00. Three years ago, the Board of Directors decided to offer a special subscription membership price of 2 years for \$35.00, a savings of \$5.00. For lack of time on my part, and the lack of participation by other members of the Board, we were not able to aggressively canvass the local area for memberships, resulting in a very low level of renewals. We are currently undertaking this canvassing initiative. We invite you to take advantage of this offer. We still have no membership cards, so for the moment, you will have to temporarily accept your receipt as full payment.

The annual membership drive is a huge time consumer for your President. While he is always courteously received in all member cottages and homes, and is extremely grateful

for this, the 15 or 20 minutes he spends in each location adds up (e.g., 75 members x 20 minutes each = 1500 minutes or 25 hours). So, we implore you, send in your membership by mail, renew it at the annual general meeting, or drop it off at the President's home (a mailbox at the front door entrance is provided for this). While the President greatly enjoys the chit/chats, the time constraints are making his job very difficult.

We also invite you all to register your email address with the association. We can send you our newsletter by email, thus reducing mail costs, as well as notifying you if and when special events are to take place which were not anticipated at the issue of this newsletter.

I also invite you to visit our website <Apell.org> to obtain up-to-date information as it becomes available to us, along with pictures and photos from around the lake, this year and past.

We have also decided to reward new members by giving them a complimentary depth chart of the lake. If existing members want one, let the President know. We used to sell them, but now we are giving them away.

If you have recently acquired new neighbors, tell them about our association – recommend to them they join us. Give them our website address and Facebook page address. Send your President an e-mail with their co-ordinates (name, permanent address, local and home phone number, possible email address, etc.)

### **CANADA GEESE ON OUR LAKE**

We have recently spotted a few adults and some new hatchlings on our lake. I therefore assume that, since the new arrivals cannot yet fly, the group will be around for the season. While Blue Sea hosts a number of these birds on their lake, to my knowledge, this is a first for our lake. We seem to be diversifying our fauna and wildlife species, which is a good thing.

### **DANGER BUOYS.**

Two years ago, your Executive voted to purchase a small quantity of buoys to install at danger areas around the lake. They are already spread around the lake in the danger areas. If you become aware of other danger areas not already identified by a buoy, let us know.

### **ANNUAL ASSOCIATION PICNIC**

Last year, the picnic was held at the property of Steve Slaby on Saturday AUG. 12, 2017. Due to the inclement weather, it was sparsely attended. We will be sending out details by e-mail in the coming days of this year's event, if and when one is held.

## **RECYCLING**

### **Reproduced from last year's newsletter.**

Each summer, many of us are required to carry out certain renos to our cottage property and then we wonder how we can get rid of the resultant garbage. Although the municipality, during summer months, from May 1<sup>st</sup> to Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>, picks up weekly household garbage and every two weeks, recycled goods, people wonder how to dispose of the balance of the materials. Household furniture and other household items can be put out, for this year, at the curbside for pick up by the regular weekly garbage cycle.

As for many other materials, we are required to deliver them ourselves to the ECOCENTRE in Maniwaki, and there is sometimes a cost. The following materials are accepted free of charge: Metal, ferrous and non-ferrous, home appliances, propane tanks of 20 lbs. or higher; hazardous household waste such as paint, oil filters and used oil containers, aerosols and lubricants, used batteries, compact fluorescent light bulbs and neon tubes; electronics, such as computers, laptops, cell phones, televisions, printers and photocopiers, keyboards, cabling; yard waste such as leaves and grass cuttings (no plastic bags accepted); and tires for cars and trucks smaller than 48.5 inches in dia. Concrete, re-enforced or not will cost you \$30. per ton; wood, such as timber, plywood, particle board and branches cost \$50.00 per ton. Roofing shingles cost \$80.00 per ton, and construction material, such as gyproc, vinyl siding, pressure treated wood, painted or stained wood will cost you \$140.00 per ton.

The following are not accepted at the ECOCENTRE: contaminated soil, GARBAGE FROM OUTSIDE THE PROVINCE, animal carcasses, biomedical waste, sludge, manure and slurry, radioactive waste, munitions and firearms.

They are open from Monday through Friday 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month from 10:0 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. They are located at 161 Industrial Park Rd., in Maniwaki, and their telephone number is 1-855-506-2007 or 819-305-2007.

## **FIREWORKS**

### **Reproduced from last year's newsletter.**

Everyone is a child at heart and everyone loves fireworks – right? WRONG. There are many that do not. Some have concerns for the environment of the lake and surrounding areas; some have a fear of the fire hazard; some do not like the noise; some have pets who are terrified at hearing fireworks. Many believe that fireworks are a means of celebrating cottage weekends, without thought to the local population. While most of us tolerate them, and even enjoy them, during special holidays, such as Canada Day, many would prefer if cottagers and tourists did not set them off every single weekend, especially after 10:15 p.m., when many children are trying to sleep. So, PLEASE, HAVE SOME CONSIDERATION FOR OTHERS. AND IF YOU RENT YOUR COTTAGE(S), PLEASE PASS ON THE MESSAGE TO YOUR TENANTS. If you must set them off other than special holidays, don't do it every weekend, and limit



yourself to setting them off prior to 10:30 p.m. Many of your neighbors will like you much better for the consideration. If that does not get you thinking, there are municipal ordinances in place to deal with the problem, and police could be called to issue you a citation. Nobody wants that – not you or your tenants, not your neighbors, not the municipality, not the police. Think before you act.

### **SPRING HIGH WATER LEVELS.**

In our case (Lac Long/Latourelle), high water is an annual spring event. Around March 15<sup>th</sup> each year, the metal plate is totally removed from the Lafontaine culvert to permit the free flow of water in order to reduce the high level of spring runoff water. Normally the plate is left out until the water level reduces to a certain point, at which time the plate is re-inserted and left there until the following year.

This year, for the second year in a row, the plate was only removed for a much shorter period before being replaced. Normally, when the water level is decreasing, the land mass around the lake still has frost in it and there is minimal damage to the shoreline. However, when the plate is put back in early, with the water level still high, a significant amount of damage results. The official municipal excuse is that, in previous summers, a few cottagers have complained about the low level of water and the municipality hoped to avoid such a recurrence. No amount of complaining by this association to municipal officials would change their minds.

As the frost level melted from the shoreline, the high water soaked the land mass thoroughly and softened the shoreline to the point where a significant quantity of trees fell into the lake, along with large clumps of earth. My own position on the issue was that the welfare of the lake should have taken precedence over accommodating a few cottagers. It is the second year in a row, and the first time in my 20 some years of involvement in the lake, as its president, that I have abandoned my neutrality and taken a position on the lake water level - because I felt it was important that I do so. I make no apologies for my conduct in the matter. To me, the environmental health of the lake should always take precedence over accommodating the wishes of a few cottagers who desired a higher level to enjoy their swimming, boating, etc. In any case, I have been ignored, the plate has remained, and the lake has suffered considerable damage. So if you wonder why the shoreline in certain areas is being damaged with numerous falling trees, look no further than your Mayor who makes these decisions. Perhaps you should be calling him to complain. If enough people complain, he might change his attitude.

### **NEW STUDY OF THE LAKE**

Last year, the municipality of Blue Sea mandated a study of the Lafontaine dam and culvert. The cost of the study could reach approx. \$45,000.00 however, it was required by the Centre Hydrique du Quebec. It is indeed unfortunate that council did not direct those responsible for carrying out the study to liaison with our association for our suggestions or information before closing their report.

According to our info, the preliminary report on the state of the problem is complete and has been delivered to council. However, the second part of the report, which makes recommendations for solutions to the problems at hand, still has not been completed. Apparently, the MRC engineer responsible for producing the report is heavily engaged in other matters and ours is obviously a low item of priority for him and for council. It does not help the situation that the MRC, for cost cutting measures, has laid off one of the two engineers, thus leaving the only one left with an extra heavy burden to carry. The report could recommend a new spillway barrier as well as a new bridge, but don't expect work to start immediately. The report will have to be approved by the various levels of government and then consideration will have to be given to finding suitable financing for the project. We will keep you apprised of any developments, but do not hold your breath.

### **COMMUNITY RADIO CHGA-FM**

Assisted with a grant from the government of Quebec, community radio station CHGA-FM has announced the replacement of certain transmission equipment to improve its signal efficiency. CHGA-FM informs and entertains more than 30,000 persons living primarily within the MRC of the Gatineau Valley as well as a portion of the Laurentians. According to our information, the CRTC (Canadian Radio Television Commission) has approved the station's application and work has recently started on the project.

### **ROADWORKS ON CHEMIN DU LAC LONG.**

On Lac Long road, over the past month, the paving work start where last year's work left off and continues to the municipal boundary with Gracefield (near Chenier). The municipality is also doing some patchwork areas on the existing surfaces at the same time. The new pavement is a real improvement over what we had in the past. And check out that beautiful unbroken yellow stripe which continues from the village all the way out to the limits of Blue Sea near Chenier. Now if only they could teach the deer to stay off the roads in the evening, all would be well with the world.

### **RESTAURANTS IN BLUE SEA**

We are now blessed with only one restaurant in Blue Sea.

The original one, L'OCEANNE, has been around for a few years and is located at the beginning of Ch. Du Lac Long, near the Avitus ridge. Unfortunately, it is open only on Saturday and Sunday every week, from approx. 8:00 a.m. until approx. 7:00 p.m. Best call first if you are thinking of going in the early evening. When things are quiet, they unfortunately tend to close early without prior notice.

The second one, LE PETIT COWBOY, was located directly across from the public beach area and was open 7 days per week. Due to an argument with the landowner, however, the restaurant closed and re-opened in Maniwaki. Unfortunately, a few days after their

departure, the wife of the owner, who was their chief cook, passed away. I extend my sincere condolences and those of the association, in their time of sorrow.

### **FISHING STUDY IN LAC LONG**

As some of you may already know, pickerel/walleye has been put into Lac Morissette on several occasions over the past few years. They are starting to get to a respectable size for fishing on a regular basis.

As you also know, Lac Long has predominantly been a pike – bass sport fishing lake for many years. The touladi trout which were injected into the lake some 20 years ago have long since disappeared.

However, since the culvert under the Ch. Du Lac Long (at the intersection of ch. Jos Cousineau) spills excessive water from lac Morissette into Lac Long in the early spring, we are starting to see more and more pickerel come into Lac Long from Lac Morissette.

Many of you have requested, over the past few years, that Lac Long be stocked with pickerel. The ministry has therefore considered our interests and decided to request our input into fishing this year in Lac Long. They ask that any aficionado of fishing (they are not interested in your fishing licenses, only the catch), if you happen to catch one on your line, take a picture of it, measure it for length, record the date and time of the catch, and send the info either to your association president, or to the Director General of the municipality. It makes no difference whether you are a catch-and-release sport fisherman or a catch-and-eat fisherman. They just want a statistical analysis of the presence of pickerel in Lac Long. At the end of the year, they will take these facts and consider whether the fish can sustain itself in Lac Long or whether there is enough quantity spilling over from Lac Morissette to make it a viable stocking program. We therefore request the assistance of all members on this endeavor.

### **NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING**

We are always very grateful to our advertisers and sponsors of our newsletters and we encourage our members to avail themselves of their services whenever the occasion arises. If you own or are aware of a small business that wishes to advertise in our newsletter, please contact the President of the association.

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