

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

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#### **APELL**

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

#### Newsletter issue 26.1 - SUMMER 2017

## PRIVATE COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am truly sorry that it has taken so long to get this newsletter out. I have 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 hope to get more letters out to you to inform you on news and events in and around our region impacting our lake and its members. It will all depend on how much assistance and contributing articles I get from you the 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 mother nature is finally settling down with her constant rainfall which has been extremely annoying, if not occasionally depressing in its tenacity.

- This summer, the emphasis in Blue Sea is and has been on environmental issues and the quality of our lakes. Municipal officials (in conjunction with the Municipality of Messines) have enacted a boat washing program; they finally, after 25 years of talking about it, hired a barge and cleaned out the septic systems on the islands of Blue Sea Lake and Lac des Iles. They contributed a chunk of money, together with Messines, to purchase and put down jute tarps in limited areas of Blue Sea Lake to attempt to control the growth of Eurasian Milfoil. The municipality, in conjunction with a government hiring program, also hired two students for the summer for shoreline inspection in the municipality (principally Blue Sea Lake). All of these initiatives have been wonderful and positive. Then they sacrificed Lac Long to the ravages of high water unnecessarily, for the sake of expediency. But more on that within this newsletter.
- On Nov. 5, 2017, the municipality will hold its elections for a term of four years. An early voting date (Oct. 29) has also been selected to facilitate the process. If you are new to the community with the past four years, you are reminded that you must register to be able to vote. Details are available on the municipal website and I also invite you to call the municipality for additional info.

I know the process is not made easy by the fact that these elections are always held after the cottage season is long closed and cottagers are no longer coming here for weekend trips. I know that although it has been requested in the past to allow cottagers to vote by mail, or by internet, or by proxy, and that none of these options have ever been accepted by the existing municipal officials. Sometimes I wonder if the effort to refute these alternatives is deliberate to thwart the involvement of cottagers. Nonetheless, the elected officials will control everything that goes on in this municipality for the next four years. Up to this point in time, it is my understanding that at least 3 seats on council will be up for grabs since the incumbents have indicated they will not be running again. The next council will therefore have a very different face and it is therefore important to consider your choices.

I know from experience that cottagers are quick to complain about any number of things: the quality of our roads, the water level of our lake, the local state of certain roads in our own subdivision, etc. You can do something about it – get out and vote. If you are not satisfied with how certain officials conducted themselves over the past term, now is your chance to do something about it and vote for other choices. Your vote gives you the right to complain to elected officials, whosoever they may be, for the next four years, about anything and everything that goes on in this municipality. If you do not take advantage of this opportunity, if you do not vote, then you forsake your right to criticize the officials that are eventually elected to make these decisions on your behalf.

Finally, on a personal basis, I have noticed that in the past couple of years, when traveling the roads of Blue Sea on Monday mornings, 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, and is prevalent on Monday mornings. 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.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE MUNICIPALITY

In an election year, I reproduce here some excerpts from 'The National League of Cities' which highlights concerns on which local politicians should linger, as well as candidates in the next election, regarding economic development.

- 1.Better knowledge of the economic profile of their community will allow politicians to have a realistic vision and establish a concordant economic development strategy. What is it that distinguishes the community and are there obstacles to its development?
- 2.Is the municipality self-sufficient and should it share a greater number of services with its neighboring municipalities? Is there a place to merge certain services or for sharing them?
- 3.Does the whole community share a common vision regarding its development? Does the annual action plan of the municipality contain the direction and resources, materiel, human and financial, to attain the objectives of the vision?

4.Is council's message sufficiently clear, convincing and true to the collective vision so as to encourage enterprises to remain and to facilitate the recruitment of new investors? 5.Do the individual council members know the local agents and commissioners of development in their region and, perhaps more importantly, are they known by these same agents?

On June 16, 2012, the Committee for Development and Diversification of the Municipality of Blue Sea held an information session on a plan of action 2012-2025. Since then, this same committee has ceased to exist, although many of the vision points of development remain incomplete. Il might be good for all candidates to the next election this fall to pronounce themselves with regards to their intentions on this plan of action.

## BENEFITS OF JOINING AND BEING A MEMBER OF APELL

- 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 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 Latourelle.)

#### 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 prow), on the exterior surface. If he has a trailer which has carried this watercraft to the shoreline, he must show a copy of the certificate 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.

The following fees apply: residents \$0.00; non residents for non-motorized watercraft (Kayaks, canoes, pedal-boats, etc...) \$0.00; non-resident motorized watercraft \$25.00. 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 <Bluesea.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 this year alone, 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.

## VACANCY ON THE EXECUTIVE.

Since the last association elections, we have had a vacancy on the executive of the association. There is currently no Vice-President. In addition, with the imminent departure of Ferdinand Trauttmansdorff (see another article), we will 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.

## DEPARTURE OF THE TRAUTTMANSDORFFS.

We are about to lose a very valued member of our executive committee, Ferdinand Trauttmansdorff, who has recently sold his cottage and whose departure from our area is now imminent. He and his wife Christine have been members of the APELL executive for many years, and for most of those years, Ferdinand has overseen our website <apell.org>. Christine of course was our secretary for many of those years. They will be sorely missed and we wish them all the best for their future endeavors. Steve Slaby has agreed to take over Ferdinand's duties in relation to the website.

#### 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. Last year, of the 10 tests taken, 7 tests came back with 0 e-coli, 1 test with 1 e-coli, and 2 tests with 2 e-coli each. Zero is required for drinking, while 50 is acceptable for swimming.

## LAKE CLEANING

I would like to thank all those who participated in Saturday June 24<sup>th</sup> morning's lake clean-up effort to make it a success. We had far more participants than we usually have and we removed a significant quantity of debris and deadheads from the lake, making it immensely safer for all who use the lake for their enjoyment. At approx. 11:15 a.m., mother nature suddenly unleashed her fury of sudden and dramatic downpour which brought the clean-up activity to an instant end, although a few hardy individuals remained at the public launch to await boaters who were still on their way with logs and tree stumps. Otherwise we probably would have established a record yield of debris removed from the lake. The event was followed by a lunch of hot dogs, hamburgers, and soft drinks at my cottage and some of you also took advantage of this to introduce yourselves to other newer members. Once again, thank you all for your enthusiastic participation.

We have since received a letter from the municipality, thanking us for the effort to maintains our lake safe for all.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

On June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017, we held our Annual General Meeting, which unfortunately was only sparsely attended. That has 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 and it is only once or twice a year. Is that too much to ask?

In any case, several decisions were made at that meeting which are a direct result of that lack of participation. Henceforth we agreed to hold only ONE annual general meeting per year. Last year, there was no annual clean-up and no annual picnic – all for lack of participation. 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 sufficient 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.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Such a deal -2 years for \$35.00. Two 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. Because of last year's initiative, we had 11 prepaid memberships to start this year. We shall be continuing this initiative for the foreseeable future. We invite you to take advantage of this offer. Last year, we closed out with 62 paid members. We still have no membership cards, so for the moment, you will have to temporarily accept your receipt as full payment.

#### DANGER BUOYS.

Last year, your Executive voted to purchase a small quantity of buoys to install at danger areas around the lake. They were recently spread around the lake in danger areas and already one has gone lost. If you find it (the name APELL appears on the buoy) please return it to us as soon as possible. They are costly.

## ANNUAL ASSOCIATION PICNIC

This year the picnic will be held at the property of Steve Slaby on Saturday AUG. 12, 2017, starting at 4:00 p.m. We will be sending out details by e-mail in the coming days.

## RECYCLING

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, cablings; 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 slury, 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.

#### BEAVER PROBLEMS

If you are having issues regarding beavers, the municipality has entered into an agreement with 5 trappers locally: Rejean Gauthier, Andre Bilodeau, Roger Tremblay, and our own Louis Cousineau and Michel Simard. Call the municipality and they will assist you in that regard.

#### **FIREWORKS**

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.

## RECORD HIGH WATER LEVELS.

This spring saw an extended period of record high water levels. The Quebec government reported that in excess of 4000 homes, spread through 166 municipalities in the province suffered some water damage due to flooding. Some 557 roads and highways were also impacted by the water. Blue Sea was certainly not exempt from damage, with Blue Sea Lake and many other lakes within the municipality suffering damages, including Lac Long (Latourelle).

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 place is re-inserted and left there until the following year.

This year, 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. This year, a few days after the plate was put back in, we started to get steady rainfalls of an extraordinary level. With the plate back in, the lake level quickly rose back to the high point in a matter of a few days. Although I requested municipal officials to remove the plate, to allow the lake level to reduce, I was refused. The excuse was that, in the previous summer, a few cottagers had complained about the low level of water and the municipality hoped to avoid such a recurrence. (It is, after all, an election year.) 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 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 was ignored, the plate remained, and the lake suffered considerable damage.

As the season progressed, it then became impossible to remove the plate, since Lac des Iles, which gets its water from us, was already at capacity and to do so would have caused their properties irreparable harm. But that was not the case early in the season when steps could have been taken to reduce our problem without impacting other lakes.

## **MUNICIPAL TAX BILLS**

Late last fall, the municipality created a committee to study the municipal tax structure to try and improve the imbalances in valuation which existed and to redistribute more fairly the municipal tax burden amongst its citizens. I was a member of that committee, which studied the situation in depth, and reported back to council with our recommendations for improvement.

The first phase of the results appeared on this year's municipal tax bills and you have already determined whether it benefited you or was detrimental to you. Basically, our logic for this phase was as follows: whether you have a \$100,000.00 property of a \$1 million property, certain services remain the same, including fire and police. Therefore, it is unjust that you should pay more for these services just because you have a nice property whereas the person elsewhere in the municipality has a very basic structure for living purposes. As a result, there was a significant percentage of certain services removed from the general assessment and their costs were distributed equally among all the properties in Blue Sea municipality regardless of their individual structural assessment value. If the structure (cottage or home) on your property was valued at more than \$130,000.00 (approx..) your municipal tax bill decreased slightly – if your structure was less than that amount, you probably suffered a slight increase in your taxes.

The next phase will probably encompass the balance of these same services, and be followed by an examination of the land evaluation structure. Most cottagers will have obtained a reduction on this year's municipal tax bill as a result.

#### NEW STUDY OF THE LAKE

The municipality of Blue Sea recently 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 is complete and we should obtain a copy of that report before the end of Sept. 2017. It 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 appraised of any developments.

## WATER SOURCE IN BLUE SEA

To obtain suitable drinking water for the municipal hall, Blue Sea municipality had no other option but to have a well dug behind the hall. The municipality then took advantage of this new well to offer its citizens a drinking water source. The system is now installed and functional since mid-July 2016. The quality of the water is tested on a regular Basis. The well is located immediately behind the municipal hall and is open 24/7, 12 months a year.

## **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 recently approved the station's application and work is scheduled to start before the end of Sept. 2017.

## **BORROWING BYLAW FOR ROADWORKS**

At its July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017 regular council session, municipal council passed a resolution to carry out certain roadworks on chemin du Lac Long and on the Bouchette crossing. On Lac Long road, the paving would start where last year's work left off, to continue to the municipal boundary with Gracefield (near Chenier).

Total cost of these road improvements would amount to \$1.7 million. The municipality must borrow that amount; however, they will be repaid by the Quebec government an amount of \$1.25 million, over a period of 10 years, together with interest thereon. Blue Sea will have to absorb the remaining approx. \$\frac{1}{2}\$ million, plus interest, for roadworks which were not included in the original memorandum of understanding with the government.

On July 21<sup>st</sup> recently, a register was available to those citizens wishing to contest the bylaw and its borrowing clauses, however, very few members of the Blue Sea population took advantage of their right to do so. Therefore, the project will soon go forward.

## NOW 2 RESTAURANTS IN BLUE SEA

We are now blessed with two restaurants 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 bridge. Unfortunately, it is open only on Saturday and Sunday every week, from approx. 8:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m

The second one, LE PETIT COWBOY, is located directly across from the public beach area. It is presently open 7 days per week, from approx. 7:00 a.m., until 8:00 p.m. If and when it obtains its liquor license, operating hours will be extended.

Both have a similar menu of hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, pizza, some sandwiches, and basic breakfast items.

## 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 (and this year most of the summer as a result of unusual high-water levels), 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 sufficient quantity spilling over from Lac Morissette to make it a viable stocking program. We therefor request the assistance of all members on this endeavor.

#### MONT MORISSETTE ANNUAL PICNIC

Contrary to what you may have heard on radio and on Facebook recently, the annual municipal picnic on Mont Morissette will be held on Sept. 30, 2017, starting at approx. 11:00 a.m., on the same weekend as the Day of the Family celebrations in Blue Sea. On that same occasion, we will be inaugurating the recently renovated old fire tower. We will be serving hamburgers, hot dogs, and soft drinks. Entertainment will also be provided. On the following week-end, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017, there will be another event at the same location to inaugurate the new ATV trail from Mont Morissette to Mont

Cayamant. Details of this second event have still not been finalized. We invite you to be amongst us on both those two occasions.

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