



ASSOCIATION DES PROPRIÉTAIRES
DU LAC GAGNON

LE REMOUS – JUNE 2021

This year, on top of everything else we have been experiencing for the past year, we expect a very busy summer season. The numbers don't lie: The Municipality has never received so many building permit applications. Camping equipment, boats and all other recreational items are in short supply. It will be busy on lakes all over. We would like to take this opportunity to welcome all the new owners. There is no doubt that you have chosen an exceptional place that is worth protecting.

You will find below a progress report on the various initiatives we are working on as well as our priority project for 2021:

A LAKE FOR EVERYONE: OUR 2021 PILOT PROJECT

People have chosen Lac Gagnon for many reasons and, among their favourite pastimes, water activities of all types are generally at the top of the list. In the last few years, we have noticed two simultaneous trends. First, the significant increase in non-motorized craft (kayaks, canoes, paddle boards) and second, the presence increasingly larger and more powerful boats.

Such different activities inevitably lead to conflicts of use. In recent years, the APLG has heard stories of docks being torn from their mooring, shoreline erosion, damaged boats and capsizing due to inconsiderate boaters. That's why we think it's time to give ourselves a tool, a map so that everyone can have the best possible conditions for their favorite activities. We have called it "A lake for everyone". We are very lucky to be on a large

lake where everyone can find a place to have fun without disturbing their neighbour.

We drew inspiration from the many lake associations that have done something similar as well as various studies on the effect of waves. The consensus that emerges is that we must think in terms of different zones for activities while respecting boating rules.

As you can see [on the map](#), we are suggesting three zones:

- The first, closest to the shore, is a no-wake zone, where you should not be going more than 10 km/h
- The second zone, at least 100 m from shore, is a moderate wave zone, for activities such as water skiing, cruising, etc.
- Lastly, the third zone, that is 300 m from the shore, is for activities such as wake boarding, tubing, etc.

We started with a map with yellow and red lines at 100 meters and 300 meters and then adjusted it to account for rocks, shoals and shallow bays. After much discussion and with input from a few people who are very familiar with the lake, we reached a consensus. We are aware that opinions about the map will not be unanimous. That's why this year, it's a pilot project. We will be collecting your comments and, as necessary, amending the map next year to reflect a greater owner consensus. We could then have the map printed on a sign at the boat launch and, most important, use it as a code among ourselves to keep Lac Gagnon "A Lake for Everyone" and to ensure that

everyone can enjoy it safely and happily. We look forward to your comments at info@aplg.ca. We would like to thank Mark Conroy and Doris Larose, the Board of Director members who lead this project and H  l  ne St-Hilaire who did all the graphics on a volunteer basis.

LES SENTINELLES: YEAR 2

This highly successful project was our main focus last year and we plan to repeat it every year with the contribution of the thirty or so volunteers who patrolled our banks in search of Eurasian water milfoil, an invasive plant that we absolutely must prevent.

The project's success was due primarily to Pierre B  lisle who was instrumental in putting everything in place and overseeing it closely. Pierre and his wife have decided to try a different lifestyle. They are selling their home and cottage and relocating in eastern Ontario. We will soon lose his invaluable contribution to the Sentinelles and Board of Directors.

We are fortunate to have recruited Mireille Tousignant as a new Board member. Mireille is the daughter of Nicole Tousignant who was President of the APLG and involved in the Association for many years. Mireille has kindly accepted to take over the Sentinelles project. She will soon contact the volunteers to start a new season. We need additional volunteers this year. If you are interested, please send an email to info@aplg.ca or mireilletousignant@hotmail.com.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Pierre for his involvement with the APLG. He was a great advisor and, with the Sentinelles, he leaves an important legacy that we have every intention of continuing. Your time with us was brief but very productive.

AN UNPLEASANT SURPRISE: LOGGING IN THE HEART OF THE ROUTE DES ZINGUES

We certainly didn't see this coming. We found out that a public consultation was held by the Laurentian sector of the Ministry of Forestry on planned logging in the Chavoix sector of the Route des Zingues. Logging is planned on both the Laurentian and Outaouais territories, but no one had thought to invite anyone from the Outaouais.

In other words, none of the trail users or other entities, such as the APLG, Rando-Qu  bec or the Municipality. This was particularly unexpected, since Rando-Quebec, which has big plans for this part of the National Trail, has obtained a \$100,000 grant for the Municipality to carry out work on the trail and the Municipality is currently calling for tenders.

As you might expect, we reacted quickly. All the organizations concerned, including the APLG, are trying to considerably restrict this work, which would take place up to the edge of the old growth forest which, as its name indicates, has never been logged and which is one of the Route des Zingues' main points of interest.

GRAPHITE MINE ISSUE

This matter is progressing on all fronts. Lomiko Metals that wants to develop a mega graphite mine near Duhamel announced that it had received nearly \$5 million for new drilling, that its pre-economic feasibility study was underway and that its mine project could see the light of day within three years. For his part, the Minister of Natural Resources has informed us that he has no intention of changing the rules that allow mines in resort and tourism areas, even near lakes. As a result, almost the entire area around Lac Gagnon is susceptible to mining development since there is no protection for the Crown Lands and the Papineau-Labelle Reserve that surround the lake. It should also be noted that we are in the heart of the Mont-Laurier/St-Michel-des-Saints/Grenville-sur-la-Rouge triangle, which contains the largest concentration of graphite in Quebec.

The *Regroupement de Protection des Lacs de la Petite-Nation* (RPLPN) has also been active. It has obtained new support, which will be announced shortly. The RPLPN is very active in the community and the national and local media. The Laurentians as well as the RCMs are waking up to the issue and have begun asking that the rules on the location of mines be amended.

This issue will remain very active in the months and possibly years to come and the APLG and RPLPN will continue their work.

For more information and to keep abreast of the situation, go the RPLPN's [Facebook](#) page.

LAKE WATER STUDY

The Organisme des bassins versants (OBV) has submitted the grant application to the MRC for a joint water master plan for Lac Gagnon and Lac Viceroy and we are waiting for the answer. A positive response would be great as we could get an integrated study and a professional Action Plan for Lac Gagnon at a fraction of the cost, since the Municipality would also participate financially.

COMITÉ DE CONCERTATION DE LA SÉPAQ

The APLG has been asked to join the *Comité de concertation de la SÉPAQ* to provide input on the SÉPAQ's projects. As you may know, the beach at the south end is owned by the SÉPAQ. Given all of the activity in that area last summer and we expect again this year, we are very pleased to be able to represent the property owners in this matter. There have been numerous proposals on the use of this location over the past 20 years, and it will likely be the subject of much discussion once again.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This year again, conditions are not conducive to the holding of our AGM which, according to our By-Laws, must be held on the first Sunday of July. We will get back to you with a solution. Since we are really looking forward to seeing our members, we are considering the possibility of a meeting on Labour Day weekend when, according to the Health Authorities, conditions should allow it.

DRINKING WATER TESTS

For the same reasons, we will not be able to offer the drinking water test service in July. If we hold our AGM in September, we will look into it.

HIGH SPEED INTERNET

It's coming but not this summer. There will be a two-phased rollout. The first will cover Duhamel's urban perimeter and should be completed this fall. This phase will be led by Papineau Numérique (Internet Papineau)

The second phase, which will continue up to Lac Gagnon, should be completed by the fall of 2022 depending on the terms of the grants to be received. This phase will now be deployed by a

consortium composed of Explornet and Cogeco rather than by Papineau Numérique.

In the meantime, if you want information on the Internet services currently available you can go to the APLG [web site](#).

MEMBERSHIP

To date, we have 300 members, about the same number as this time last year. Thank you to everyone who has already renewed or joined for the first time. If you have not yet done so, we invite you to do so soon. The strength of an association like the APLG lies in its membership. We ended 2020 with 330 members and we would like to break the record of 350. Remember that you can use PayPal or make an Interac transfer.

Have a good summer

The APLG Board of Directors

Board of Directors

2021

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Pierre-Émile Rocray, Secretary
Pierre Bélisle, Water quality
Mark Conroy, Boating guidelines
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Nicole Tousignant

Volunteers:

Gérard Bodard, buoys
Olivier Bodard, Web site and Facebook
Hélène St-Hilaire, graphic design

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