



Association des propriétaires du lac Gagnon

LE REMOUS SEPTEMBER 2020

R REMEMBERING THE SUMMER OF 2020: LAC GAGNON – PARADISE FOUND!

As the days shorten and we prepare our docks for the winter, it's a good time to look back on a summer that was unlike any other. This year, with COVID 19 pandemic restrictions in place and an extremely hot summer season, it was certainly nice to escape to a cottage on such a beautiful lake. We've known for a long time that we live close to an exceptional body of water, but we're no longer the only ones who know this. With travel restrictions altering the vacation plans of so many people this year, we witnessed a rush to explore the lakes, the rivers and provincial parks which surround our cities, and our little piece of paradise did not escape the pandemic weary vacationers. Property "For Sale" signs have almost disappeared and we have heard about numerous wilderness camping episodes in the region. The main hotspot was the beach at the south end of the lake at l'Île aux Raisins which was so crowded that SÉPAQ which owns and manages the beach, along with the Municipality decided to hire additional security guards to patrol the area.

So, the summer of 2020 will leave its mark and we at the APLG are convinced that the South Beach file will become one of our priorities. We already know that SÉPAQ is setting up a consultation group with the surrounding municipalities and that the future of the Beach will be one of the subjects. Of course, it is our intention to be part of these discussions and we have already made it known.

That being said, this was not the only topic at the APLG this summer and let us follow up on the main issues we have been working on.

EURASIAN WATERMILFOIL

Thanks to our network of roughly 30 Sentinels and training from the Organisme des Bassins versants Rouge – Petite-Nation – Saumon (OBV), we were able to inspect [about 80% of the Lac Gagnon shoreline](#) this summer. Certain sectors of the lake with rocky shorelines, were not visited because they are not very conducive to the development of this plant. The

good news is that we did not find any trace of this disastrous plant! Our initiative which was supported by the Municipality, has been extended to all the other lakes surrounding Duhamel. There too we did not find any trace of this invasive plant, which is also good news for us. In addition, an emergency protocol has been put in place to be able to react quickly to the eventuality of a discovery of the plant. Furthermore, equipment has been ordered to be able to delineate a possible area of infection and this equipment will be kept permanently at the fire station in the village.

Many thanks to the Municipality, the OBV and especially to all [our Sentinels](#). The Board of Directors of the APLG would like to acknowledge the tireless work of Pierre Bélisle both in the development of the project and in its execution. He has put in place the basis of a procedure that will become annual and that should allow us to avoid what would become inevitable if we do nothing.

GRAPHITE MINES

The government's intentions are very clear. They wish to develop a whole mining sector of the so-called critical and strategic minerals (graphite, lithium, cobalt, nickel) and to foster the arrival of a conglomerate ready to invest up to \$8 billion in a mega battery plant. The government has announced its willingness to invest up to \$2 billion in such a plant and has already announced a joint investment of \$600 million with a partner in the bankrupt Nemaska Lithium mine. Meanwhile, Pallinghurst has taken control of Nouveau Monde Graphite, the giant open-pit graphite mine project (2.7 km long, 600 meters wide, 250 meters deep) in Saint-Michel-des-Saints in which the government has already invested heavily.

The time for speculation is over, it's now fact. The other fact is that there is a lot of graphite in the Outaouais and especially near our lake, where there have already been two drilling campaigns. For the past 18 months, the APLG, in collaboration with the Regroupement des Lacs de la Petite-Nation has organized opposition to these projects in the

region. The culmination of this opposition occurred February 19, 202 during a press conference at Château Montebello where the entire community of recreation property owners, the Petite-Nation municipalities and the Papineau RCM expressed their opposition to mining development in the Outaouais and requested a meeting with the Minister of Natural Resources. This meeting had to be postponed because of COVID-19 but we have just learned that it will take place in Quebec City on October 8th. We continue to believe that our strategy of the social unacceptability of mining projects in the Outaouais is the best way to keep the mines away from our lakes.

In closing, we invite you to [read the letter](#) that Mr. Benoît Lauzon, Papineau RCM Warden is sending to all Lake Associations before the meeting with the Minister.

SWIMMING WATER TESTS

Excellent swimming water test results again for 2020. The 50 samples were taken on August 5th following two days of heavy rain. The [results of the samples taken](#) were rated as “excellent water quality”.

We also conducted four PH tests (average of 7.2) which are well within the preferred range (between 6.3 and 8.3). The lake water can therefore be qualified as neutral, which is the desirable measurement.

These are excellent results for our lake water. Let’s continue our good practices, such as:

- Regularly maintaining septic system
- Not feeding ducks and geese.

Many thanks to Charles de Maisonneuve for his work.

WATER MASTER PLAN AND INVOLVEMENT WITHIN THE OBV

As mentioned earlier in a previous Remous, we are in discussions with the OBV to obtain a water master plan. Such a plan would allow us to draw a portrait of the lake over time (cartography, plants, shoreline and many other data), to determine a diagnosis and action plan for the future. This service is offered by the OBV and some lakes in the Outaouais have already benefited from it. We received a proposal from the OBV and are working with the organization in search of subsidies to be able to carry it out. The Municipality of Duhamel has already indicated its interest in participating with the financing.

We consider the OBV to be a key player in our community and have decided to become more actively involved. Charles de Maisonneuve was already a member of the organization’s consultation committee and we proposed Louis St-Hilaire, our president, as a member of the Board of Directors. He was elected as the Outaouais representative. All the community’s main stakeholders represented on this Board: the Laurentians

and Outaouais RCMs, the two Regional Environment Councils, elected municipal officials as well as community representatives. We are very pleased to be involved in this organization to have the APLG members’ voices heard.

A NEW PROJECT FOR NEXT SPRING

We all participate in water activities on this beautiful lake, but not necessarily in the same way. Some of us prefer non-motorized activities (kayaking, canoeing, paddle boarding, sailing, fishing, swimming etc.) while others prefer motorized sports (wake boards, skiing, personal watercraft, etc.). Far be it from us to support or restrict any nautical activity. On the other hand, we believe that there is a way for everyone to better enjoy their leisure time on the water. This is something that was very evident in our 2019 survey results.

This is why we started working on a project to prepare information and suggestions for better sports activities on the lake. We plan to consult our members along the way and present the results next spring.

In closing, we would like to mention that we have received only positive comments on the work done on Chemin du Lac Gagnon ouest. The APLG would like to congratulate the Municipal Council, the personnel involved and the road crew for the smooth progress of this major project.

The APLG Board of Directors

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2020**

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