



ASSOCIATION DES PROPRIÉTAIRES
DU LAC GAGNON

LE REMOUS - JANUARY 2021

Among the few positive points of the past year, we can easily include the immense benefits derived from being at the lake and that many continue to enjoy. Who would have thought that we could appreciate our little corner of paradise even more? But that is what happened.

What has become obvious, and what we need to prepare for, is that this disruptive pandemic is going to have an impact on activity around our lake. Lac Gagnon is appearing on the radar for many people who didn't even know it existed. As an Association, we have never received so many questions from potential buyers or real estate agents who want to find out more about our lake and region.

In this context, the APLG is all the more important in ensuring that everyone understands the spirit of Lac Gagnon so that we can help preserve our gem.

As we enter into the new year, we'd like to outline our principle current and future projects.

STRANGE WINTER AT THE LAKE

We have statistics on when the lake freezes over and thaws going back 50 years. This year, we set a new record for the latest date the lake has frozen over. The previous record was January 18th in 2007. The new record is now January 19th. It is noteworthy that the five latest days (January 13-15-17-18 and now 19) are all after the year 2000. This may not mean

anything, but it could also confirm a warming trend. Our records show that the earliest date was December 8th in 1976 and 1989.

HIGH SPEED INTERNET AT THE LAKE IN 2021?

That's what the newspaper *Les 2 Vallées* reports in its [September 23rd edition](#). According to the paper, in the first phase, Papineau Numérique, which is in charge of this project, plans to connect 3,153 households in 12 municipalities, including Duhamel. The interactive map on the Papineau Numérique site shows that the proposed route for phase 2, which is still awaiting regulatory approval, would end on Chemin de la Grande-Baie, near Baie Robillard. While 2021 may be optimistic, we think there is a good chance for 2022. We will keep you posted. For more information go to the [Papineau Numérique](#) site.

2021 MUNICIPAL BUDGET 2021

As you may know, we attend all City Council meetings and take a particular interest in the December meetings that deal with the municipal budget. Without going into all the details, we can affirm that there are no major changes or surprises in the Municipality's taxation in 2021.

Some numbers:

- Total budget of \$3,244,608, up \$112,000 or 4%.
- Property valuation rate up 1.9%
- Debt service down
- Total property valuation of \$267,047,900, the highest in the Papineau RCM.

2021 PRIORITIES

A Board meeting was held early in the year to set our priorities for 2021, which we are presenting below:

Living in harmony on and around the lake

With the increased activity of the past year and the new interest in the lake, we want to make sure that the lake's true fundamental nature, the one that drew us here initially, is not lost. This fundamental nature is based on tranquility and protecting the environment, it's our signature to some extent and we believe it's something most of us care about. We are therefore planning to propose a code of conduct for sharing the lake that will allow everyone to carry out activities while respecting their neighbours, nature and existing regulations. It is our main project for the year and we are doing our utmost to have it ready for the summer. Thanks to Doris Larose and Mark Conroy who are leading this initiative.

Mining

For both Quebec and our immediate environment, 2021 will be a very important year for everything related to mineral mining and electric transportation. The Quebec government has made its position clear. During the three meetings that the APLG and the Regroupement de Protection des Lacs de la Petite-Nation (RPLPN) representative had with the ministers involved, it became very obvious to us that:

- The government is ready to invest massively to attract an electric vehicle battery mega-plant and foreign investors interested in the potential of so-called critical and strategic minerals.

- Southern Quebec and particularly the Outaouais region is rich in such minerals, and the government has no intention of changing its current regulations that allow open-pit mega-mines to be located in close proximity to our lakes, rivers and resort areas.
- Meanwhile, on Lac Doré, near Duhamel, Lomiko Metals successfully raised \$1 million to be used exclusively for its third drilling campaign on its La Loutre property and to update the preliminary economic evaluation of its mine project.

This is just a broad outline of this issue, which continues to gain in prominence. The APLG is at the origin and heart of the movement calling for better definition of the areas where an open-pit mine could be located. Under the current rules, since Lac Gagnon is completely surrounded by crown land, any company could set up there, just a few hundred metres from the shoreline.

We will not go into more details in this article. What we want APLG members to know is that the threat is greater than ever. The RPLPN is now spearheading this issue and invites you to follow and share its [Facebook](#) page where the most recent information may be found.

Eurasian water milfoil

This was our main focus last year and we are very happy with the results. Not only are the infrastructure and teams of sentinels in place, but all the lakes of Duhamel will continue to follow the protocol, thereby providing even more protection. The fight against milfoil will now be an annual activity for the APLG, just like water testing. Thanks again to all the volunteers who were involved as sentinels in this ambitious project and to our coordinator, Pierre Bélisle.

Île aux Raisins beach

In 2020, the beach was busier than ever. The SÉPAQ, which owns the property, has set up a consultation committee with the community to reflect on the future of all of its facilities and properties. So far, we have not been invited to be part of this committee, but we understand that we will be invited for discussions on the beach. The beach's status has been discussed

numerous times over the years and has never been resolved. Will this new popularity finally result in the issue being settled? For our part, we will continue to defend the APLG's longstanding position.

Miscellaneous

We are still looking at funding for the implementation of a water master plan. Since the programs that were available in the RCM have not been renewed, we are studying different options.

Water testing: In 2021, in addition to assessing the quality and transparency of swimming water, we plan to add measurement of dissolved oxygen in the water. This test, which was last conducted in 2016, indicates decomposing organic matter and the level of the lake's eutrophication (aging). Although the latest results are encouraging, the values only give a general trend of the lake's quality and condition. By 2023, we plan to add other measurements (periphyton, phosphorus, chlorophyll and organic carbon). Special thanks to Charles de Maisonneuve who makes it possible for us to closely monitor the health of our most important asset and is no small task for a lake of this size.

We already mentioned that we want to upgrade our website. This project has not progressed due to a lack of time. In the coming year, we will reassess our approach and needs and keep you posted.

We would also like to set up a fishing committee but were unable to do so this past year because of COVID and the lack of a fishing enthusiast on the board to take responsibility for it. We are open to your suggestions.

In closing, we'd like to announce publication of Part 3 of the [Long Lake Chronicles](#) (English to be posted shortly) by Richard Chartrand, our historian and resident of the lake for three generations. Richard tells us about the period when the lake belonged to the Singer Company and American clubs. The story ends with the arrival of the first cottage owners. Given the general interest in these chronicles, we asked Richard to continue the story of the early days when cottage owners first started coming to the lake. He agreed as long as people would provide him with information and anecdotes. If you would like to participate contact us at info@aplg.ca.

Happy New Year

Louis St-Hilaire for the APLG Board of Directors

Board of Directors

2021

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Volunteers:

Gérard Bodard, buoys
Olivier Bodard, Web site and Facebook

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