

## Remous Express

Hello,

Summer is fast approaching. Once again this year, we will have the opportunity to take advantage of a beautiful, healthy lake! It's thanks to the vigilance of each and every one of us that Lac Gagnon and the Petite-Nation River will remain a source of enjoyment for many more years.

As you may know, for the past five years, a group of volunteers, the Sentinelles, have been checking the shoreline every summer to make sure that Eurasian water milfoil, a highly invasive plant, does not take hold. Lac Gagnon is a big lake, so we are always looking for new volunteers.

Your role as a Sentinelle would be to inspect the lakeshore in your sector once during the summer. It's easy and can be done while kayaking, paddleboarding, snorkeling or in a pedalo or rowboat. The objective is to observe plant life at depths of 1 to 3 metres. An aquascope will be provided if required to facilitate observation.

An information meeting will be held for all interested persons on July 14th at the lake. Our goal is that everyone becomes responsible for inspecting the lake in front of their homes, and ensuring that no boats or equipment from other bodies of water are launched without having been washed beforehand.

### **Vigilance and education about invasive plants: you're part of the solution!**

We would also like to take this opportunity to inform you about a research protocol introduced at the lake two years ago, which involves characterizing and monitoring periphyton, the brown or green slime found on submerged rocks along the shoreline. This five-year project will enable us to assess the lake's eutrophication (degradation).

This protocol was established by the Réseau de surveillance volontaire des lacs (RSVL) to help determine lake health. Periphyton is an early indicator of phosphorus levels resulting from human activity around the lake.

You do not need any special knowledge to do this, just be comfortable in the water. It's best to work in teams of two. You will need a boat to get to

the site, goggles or a mask and a GPS or smartphone. We will provide you with a ruler and a sheet to fill in for your assigned site. Some 20 sites have been identified around the lake where 10 rocks at least 10 cm in size, from 1 to 3 feet deep, will be randomly selected to measure the thickness of the periphyton.

Want to be part of the team for one or both of these projects? Reply to this email by May 20th, indicating your name, email address and the area of the lake in which you are located. Then, in a few weeks' time, you'll receive an invitation to the information meeting.

**Thank you for being part of the solution!**

The Municipality will be holding Environment Day in Duhamel on June 1st. Please refer to the attached document for information (French only). As part of this activity, the Municipality is offering a water analysis service in collaboration with Notreau between 9:00 and noon. As a result, the APLG will not be doing so at the annual meeting. The tests will cost \$40 or \$95, depending on whether the basic or advanced type is selected. Sterilized bottles are available at the Municipality. If you wish to have your drinking water tested, you should pick up a sterilized bottle in advance.

Please note that the Municipal boat launch is currently not accessible. You should contact the Municipality to find out about possible options to launch your boat.

Lastly, the APLG annual meeting will be held on Sunday, June 30th. We look forward to seeing you there.