

ROAD WORK

Part I:

A press conference will be held on December 14, 2016 at 10:30 a.m. in the Duhamel Community Centre during which Papineau Liberal MNA, Alexandre Iracà, will announce financial assistance of \$771,078 for the road work on chemin du lac Gagnon West and Principale street. The public is invited to attend.

Part II:

Last summer, the Municipality organized four public consultation meetings at the Community Centre where mayor David Pharand discussed road work for the Pointe-à-Baptiste, Grande-Baie, Preston river and lac Doré north sectors. The APLG attended all of these consultations. Letters were sent to property owners in each of the sectors in mid-November in which the mayor outlined the project scope and indicated the estimated costs. The following key points were mentioned:

For the Pointe-à-Baptiste sector:

- Surfacing work up to chemin de l'Épervier;
- Replacement of private entrance culverts (this is an addition to the original plan);
- Less impact than anticipated for the chemin Camille-Poliquin ditches;
- Dynamiting (addition);
- Editor's note: It seems that the south sector of Camille-Poliquin is no longer included;
- Costs are estimated to be \$407,352 with 25% to be financed by taxpayers in that sector.

For the Grande-Baie sector:

- Surfacing work for chemin de la Grande-Baie and chemin des Mésanges;

- Chemin de la Pointe-aux-Mouettes has been removed;
- Less widening work than anticipated;
- Replacement of private entrance culverts (this is an addition to the original plan);
- Costs are estimated to be \$836,597, with 25% to be financed by taxpayers in that sector.

A portion of the overall cost of the work in all four sectors will be assumed by all Duhamel taxpayers. The Municipality will submit a general loan bylaw for the four projects once the actual project costs have been determined.

APLG SIGNAGE

Volunteers have installed three new APLG road signs around lac Gagnon. One is at the north entrance to chemin du lac Gagnon East, one at the entrance to the Ecocentre and the third, on chemin du lac Gagnon West just past the intersection with chemin du lac Gagnon East. This last sign is the only two-sided one and can be read from either direction. We'd like to thank the Municipality for providing the services of a backhoe and operator to help us install two of these signs. A fourth and last sign will be installed in the spring of 2017 at the intersection of chemin du lac Gagnon West and chemin de la Grande-Baie.

SEAGULLS

As we mentioned at the last annual meeting, Scary Eye balloons were set up on the island in Baie des Îles to prevent seagulls from nesting. We were somewhat sceptical about this approach but are very pleased by its success. The balloons did keep the seagulls away. Although some seagulls were seen on the rocky island between the islands and beach, they didn't nest there since isn't enough vegetation. We'll be trying this system again next summer.

BRIDGES IN THE MUNICIPALITY'S TERRITORY

In 2016, two bridges in Duhamel's territory (on chemin des Douze and chemin des Lacs) had to be closed to heavy traffic because of their deteriorated condition. This was an inconvenience for both users and the Municipality. Although these bridges are owned by the Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs, the Municipality must cover their maintenance costs if they are used for non-ministry purposes, for example, garbage removal routes. The Municipality received a subsidy from the ministry and sub-contracted repairs for the chemin des Lacs Bailey bridge. It has also applied for a subsidy to repair the chemin des Douze bridge.

At a recent Municipal Council meeting, the mayor stated that the Municipality does not have a program to monitor the state of bridges nor does it have a five-year maintenance plan, since they are owned by a third party. However, the Municipality is currently updating its information on all of these properties given their importance and it may add monitoring of bridges to their plan.



Happy Holidays

LE REMOUS du LAC GAGNON

December
2016



aplg

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du lac Gagnon

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Board of Directors 2016-2017

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Pierre-Émile Rocray, Secretary
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MEMBERSHIP

There are presently 360 APLG members. We'd like to welcome our new members and thank everyone who renewed their membership during 2016. Your support is greatly appreciated.

THE REMOUS

This is the last Remous for 2016. The APLG is currently reconsidering the need to mail paper copies of the Remous as this represents 25% of our expenses. A paper version will continue to be published, but on a smaller scale. We're looking into placing copies in certain areas in the village, along with other circulars and advertising.

The Remous team is composed of Pierre-Émile Rocray, editor, Anne Wells, translator and Jay Tardif, publisher.

SOUTH END OF THE LAKE

There haven't been any developments in the project on the future use of the property at the south end of the lake. There appears to be some resistance to the project from certain ministries involved. In the case of Île aux Raisins, municipal bylaws state that the strip of land between the beach and the island is too narrow to construct an access road. The SÉPAQ had considered constructing an access bridge, but did not obtain the required environmental permissions. A public consultation on the future of Île aux Raisins is expected. The APLG is keeping an eye on the situation.

The APLG is no longer managing the beach. The Municipality and SÉPAQ have a temporary management agreement, with the Municipality being responsible for maintenance and portable toilets. There is a protocol for joint intervention by the Duhamel first responders and SÉPAQ agents if unauthorized activities (camping, open fires) are reported. We understand this approach worked well last summer.

NEW APLG BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Before the 2016 Annual Meeting, there were eight APLG board members. With the resignation of long-time members André Brossard, President and Jay Tardif, Treasurer, there are now six of us: Marc Dumouchel, President, Bernard Bélanger, Vice-President, Anne Wells, Treasurer, Pierre-Émile Rocray, Secretary, Marc Dufour and Charles de Maisonneuve.

The Board would like to express its heartfelt and sincere thanks to André and Jay for their outstanding support and many years of service to the APLG. André devoted countless hours on activities such as maintaining the APLG website, drafting the Remous, ensuring our finances were sound, attending almost all municipal council meetings, doing water tests, responding to anyone who wanted help or information, promoting the planting of trees and shrubs, and so much more. He worked tirelessly to protect the owners' interests and we thank him on your behalf. We'd also like to thank Jay for all of his time and energy in developing a highly efficient computer system to record membership information, revenues and expenses. Jay handled the APLG finances for many years and also spent endless hours checking and cross-checking members' contact information, updating the member list, recording payments, monitoring property sales to contact new owners, etc.

André and Jay put in an enormous amount of time doing work for the APLG and it will not be easy to maintain their pace without additional resources. The APLG will, therefore, be calling for volunteers to lend a hand for various activities over the coming year.

WATER TESTS

The APLG took water samples around the lake on August 20, 2016 and analysis results indicate coliform rates between 40 and 50 ppm. While high, these levels are still safe for swimming.

Water transparency tests indicate there is no change from previous years. The lake's transparency is considered to be excellent.

