

Updating the APLG Website

An analysis of the IT tools currently used by the APLG for its website, accounting and membership management was presented to the Board at the February meeting. We currently have an informational website with little interaction possible for members. .

All accounting and membership processes are managed on a personal computer using Excel. These tools have served the APLG well for many years thanks to the excellent contribution of one of our volunteers, Jay Tardif.

Two proposals resulted from this this analysis, create a new transactional website integrating membership management using a new database, and separate the membership component from accounting, which would continue to be processed by one person on a dedicated computer. Moving membership management to a web data base would also make it more accessible to members.

The site would be secured using individual passwords. The advantages for APLG members would be access to a transactional site with more features, including the option to securely access their personal information and make updates, as necessary. APLG Board members would have special, secure access to the member list to send emails, prepare stats, etc. Updating information would be easier.

A prototype of the new website was presented. All of the information on the current site would be migrated to the new site, in French and English. The “proof-of-concept” prototype already integrates much of this information. The new site would also integrate more current IT tools:

- Written in PHP, using open source templates and data base with automatic backups would be taken on a regular basis.
- Membership management could be integrated in a transparent manner.
- The site would be managed and content added by Board members having different responsibilities.
- Content posted to the site will be retained and searchable using various categories, tags and key words.
- The site would be accessible using a cell phone, tablet or laptop.

The cost of this project would be minimal and has been approved by the Board.

Two volunteers are currently working on this project. One has IT experience and is a Board member with the requisite information about the APLG. The other, who analyzed our current tools, is a recently retired IT expert who worked in a research centre and has built numerous websites and specialized databases.

The new website and data base will undergo beta testing with a team of users to ensure that they work properly and the menus and texts are presented in both French and English.

The Board members thanked the two volunteers for their excellent work. The next steps consist in opening the new site transferring the information from the current site to the new one. The next issue of the Remous will provide a project update.

Subscribing to Municipal Information

The APLG Board members take turns attending the Duhamel municipal council meeting, an essential activity to keep abreast of projects and monitor important matters relating to property owners. You can get information about municipal affairs by consulting the municipality’s website

(<http://municipalite.duhamel.qc.ca/>) or subscribing to the Duhamel Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/carrefour.duhamelois?fref=ts>)

to stay informed about upcoming events.

Aquatic Flora

Chelsea Archambault, Environment Inspector for the Municipality, presented a project to the Municipality to identify the aquatic flora in the lakes in the Duhamel area. The Council members were very appreciative of the project, which would identify exotic and invasive plants. The cost would be \$34,000, with a \$15,000 subsidy.

The Organisme des bassins versants will take samples in Lac Gagnon at the end of July and in early August this summer and the results of this initiative should be presented in 2018. We need volunteers with boats and canoes to get to the various lake locations. An information meeting with the volunteers will be held this May. The APLG will send an email to members in April calling for volunteers.

LE REMOUS
du
LAC GAGNON

April
2017



Association des propriétaires
du lac Gagnon

C.P. 354, Duhamel, Québec
J0V 1G0
www.aplg.ca

2016-2017 Board of Directors

Marc Dumouchel, President
Bernard Bélanger, Vice-President
Pierre-Émile Rocray, Secretary
Anne Wells, Treasurer
Charles de Maisonneuve
Marc Dufour

Responsible for buoys:
Gérard Bodard

Contact: info@aplg.ca

2017 Membership Renewal

Members are invited to renew their APLG membership. Strong participation by property owners gives the APLG more clout when dealing with important issues with the Municipality and other stakeholders, as was recently the case with lumbering activities.

Go to “To Become a Member” in the lower right side of the APLG home page (aplg.ca) to renew your membership.

Feeding Deer

Feeding deer along route 321 and Chemin du lac Gagnon Ouest continues to contribute to road accidents. Several APLG members and other drivers have been involved in deer collisions, killing or injuring deer. Such accidents cause considerable damage to vehicles totalling thousands of dollars in repairs. Additionally last year, there were two fatalities near lac des Plages on route 323 due to a deer collision.

The deer also damage trees in the vicinity as they feed on several species, such as Sugar Maple, Basswood American Linden, White Ash, Red Oak, Eastern Hemlock, White Cedar, Balsam Fir. Eating the lower branches and younger trees hinders reforestation in many cases.

The APLG has submitted a request to the Municipal Council asking it to adopt a bylaw requiring owners wishing to feed deer to obtain a permit (for a fee) and put up signs in both directions (for a fee) warning drivers that deer are being fed on these properties. The Municipality has not yet responded to our request.

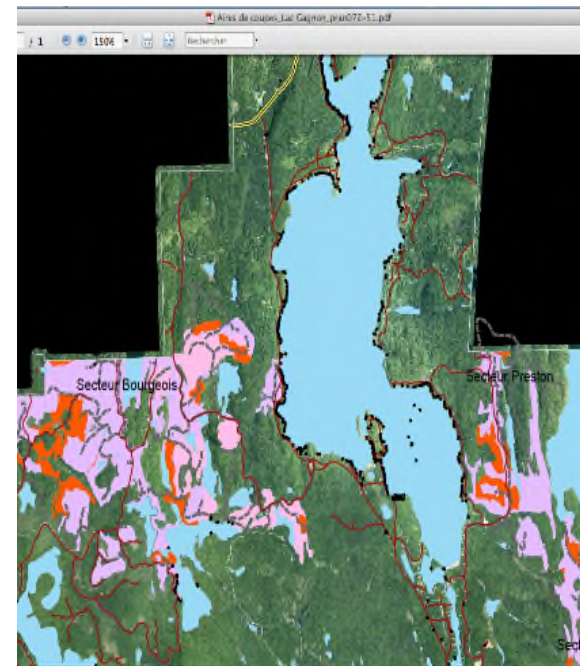
Property owners are encouraged to avoid feeding all types of wildlife around their properties, even if they are not located near these main roads.

High-Speed Snowmobiling Along The Lake

APLG members notified us of dangerous driving habits and speeding by some snowmobile drivers. The Municipality was notified and in February 2017, contacted the Sûreté du Québec about the situation. S.Q. officers were expected to monitor the trails.

Public Consultation on Outaouais Integrated Forest Management (2017-2023)

In 2011, the Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs held public consultations on its forest management plans in the Lac Gagnon, Lac Bourgeois and Lac Preston regions. Lumbering was planned in areas near cottages and the interregional trails between the Outaouais and Laurentians. The map below shows areas where partial cutting (pink) and regeneration cutting (orange) were planned. The black dots along Lac Gagnon are cottage locations.



As you can see, planned cutting in the Bourgeois sector would have been close to the edge of Lac Gagnon, immediately behind many cottages and along chemin du lac Gagnon Ouest. It would also have had a significant impact near the Route des Zingues trail along Lac Marcaut and Lac Preston.

On May 4, 2014, the Municipality of Duhamel, with APLG input and support, submitted its arguments as part of the public consultation. It mentioned a number of measures that should be implemented to reduce the negative impact of forest management.

We were surprised and very pleased to learn that the Ministry took account of the recommendations submitted by the Municipality in 2012. The map below shows the planned forest activities in the Lac Bourgeois and Lac Preston area for 2017-2023.



As you can see, no partial or regeneration cutting is planned for these areas. Instead, the Ministry plans to regenerate sites north of Lac Gagnon and in the Lac Bourgeois sector. Additionally, a protected area has been added between Lac Gagnon and Lac Preston. We can be very proud of our measures to protect the beauty of our region.