

CONTROL OF BITING INSECTS

The Municipality of Duhamel conducted an opinion poll this summer about a project aimed at controlling black flies and mosquitoes by spraying B.t.i., a biological insecticide.

The Municipality has informed us that the results of the poll are as follows: For 141, Against 127, Undecided 6. Many people who participated in the poll have expressed a desire to obtain further information about such project. The Municipality has therefore decided not to spray B.t.i. during 2008 but to organize a public information session on this issue toward the beginning of next summer.

HIGH SPEED INTERNET

A wireless internet high speed connection has been available at the Duhamel Library since August 14. You can use your portable computer to access the wireless high speed service free of charge, either from inside the library during regular library hours, or from outside the library, at any time. We suggest you register with the library to obtain the access code to the internet wireless service.

Furthermore Intelligence Papineau, a non-profit organization, in collaboration with the firm Xittel, proposes to supply a wireless high speed internet service (WiMax) in Duhamel. A representative of Intelligence Papineau has provided the following information about this project at an information session organized by the municipality on October 26,

In a first phase, a 100-foot tower would be set up on high ground near the village, before this winter. This would provide wireless high speed internet in the village, possibly up to the Ch. du Club des Douzes. The service could be made available at lake Gagnon through a second tower which would receive a signal from the first tower. This second phase might be ready for the early summer of 2008.

First Xittel must install a roof antenna at the client's premise. An installation fee of \$199.95 covers the antenna rental, and the exterior and interior wiring up to the computer. The monthly rate is \$39.95. Clients have to agree to a one year contract. Renewals are also on a yearly basis.

The modem is included but it is recommended to also add a compatible router, sold by Xittel for \$60, or rented for \$5 a month. These are available in stores as well. Connection time is unlimited but data transfert is limited to 16 GB per month, which is more than sufficient for a normal use. Transferts over this limit are charged at \$6.95 per GB. Four email addresses are provided. Upload speed is about 1 Mbits/s and download speed 3 Mbits/s, which is 10 times faster than the regular dial-up internet service in Duhamel.

It would be possible to sign up on a monthly basis only, but the client then has to purchase the equipment for \$350, in addition to the \$200 installation fee. It is then possible to disconnect and connect again to the service, free of charge, on a monthly basis. This could be attractive to some seasonal residents.

At least 30 inscriptions are required to justify setting up such service. Therefore we encourage interested persons to forward their \$200 security deposit to the municipality. The bank check should be returned if the service can not be installed at your property.

PROPERTY VALUATION

The 2008-2010 triennial tax roll for Duhamel was issued on September 21, 2007. The next municipal tax invoice will be based on this new tax roll.

Total property values have increased by 51% over the previous roll. The tax rate should therefore be adjusted to take care of this increase in property values if the overall tax burden is to be maintained at the same level as last year. The new tax rate should be in the next budget, expected in early January 2008.

Despite such adjustment, those with increases beyond the 51% average increase might experience a tax hike, while those below the average increase might enjoy a tax reduction. Property values have increased by as little as 35% in some sectors of the municipality while they have increased by more than 100% in other sectors at lake Gagnon.

We suggest that Duhamel taxpayers wishing to get the value of their property request such information by email at the following address: dupuism@municipalite.duhamel.qc.ca or by phone at 819-428-7100, local 21. We have been informed that the tax roll might be accessible by internet, possibly by January 2008.

Request for a revision of one's valuation must be submitted before May 1, 2008 at the office of the General Director of the MRC in Papineauville. The form to be used for such request is available at the office of the MRC, 266 Viger, Papineauville, Quebec, J0V 1R0.

LE REMOUS
du
LAC GAGNON

October
2007



APLG

Association des propriétaires
du lac Gagnon

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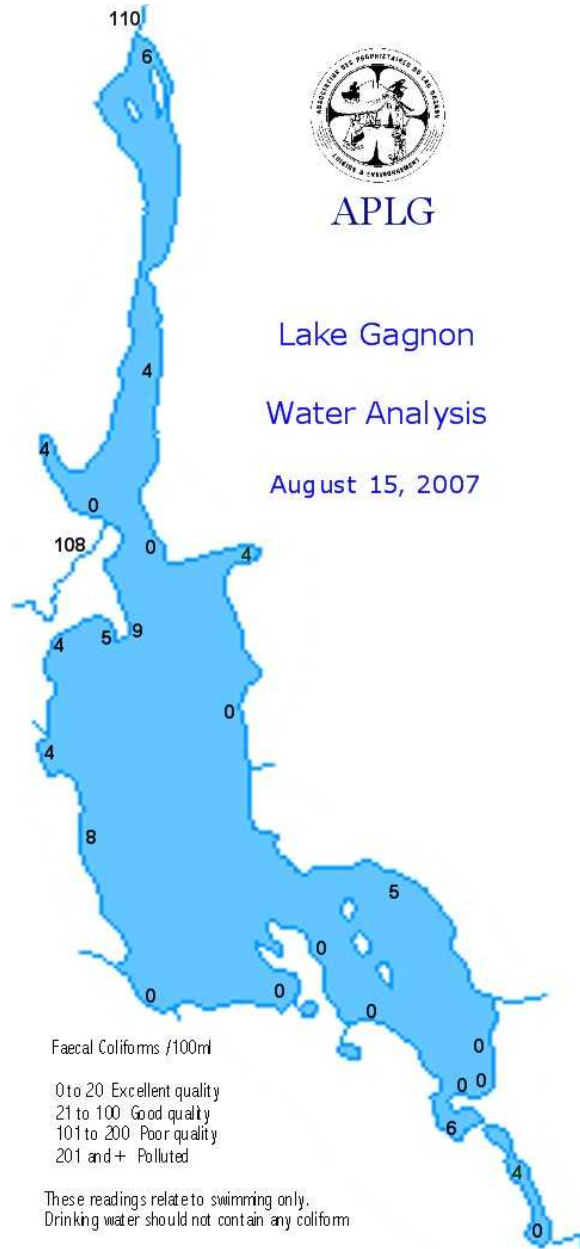
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Gérard Bodard
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Membership

Your association has an increasing role to play in the community. Citizens groups are relied upon in forums, regional gatherings, and public consultations. The weight of our positions is related to our participation rate. It is for such purpose that we maintain our annual fee at a very reasonable level. At present, we have 350 paying members.

We thank all the volunteers who have joined us this year. We hope to create new projects which will provide an opportunity for more volunteers to contribute to our quality of life at lake Gagnon.



WATER ANALYSIS

According to our latest analysis, water at lake Gagnon is still of excellent quality for swimming purposes. There are no faecal coliforms in almost half of the samples. Other areas on the lake still yielded excellent results.

Two samples taken respectively from the Ernest Creek and Petite-Nation River yielded much higher levels of faecal coliforms. Therefore we took ten further samples in these two waterways in mid-September. Given the relatively high results all along these two unhabited stretches, we are inclined to believe that the faecal coliforms are from animal rather than human sources.

This water analysis program now benefits from the cooperation of the municipality. As a result the fee is reduced and the municipality pays half of it.

The APLG is preparing to gather reliable data on the water quality at lake Gagnon. Following a meeting with an expert from the Department of Natural Resources, we have put together three teams of volunteers to help us build a database. We are focussing on water transparency and water temperature. The Department will provide us with data on phosphates levels. Our objective is to study long-term trends given that it is rather risky to draw any kind of conclusions from short-term data. Therefore, we need to compile data over many years in a professional manner, which is what we have started.

It would be preferable to begin collecting observations from unusual phenomena originating more particularly from the shores, i.e. in the shallow parts of the lake. That is the best vantage point from which to identify signs of pollution. We will put together a small team of volunteers able to react on a timely basis to the reported observations. Contact us if you wish to contribute.

LOGGING

M.C. Forêt Inc. has submitted its logging plan for 2008-2013. A map showing the proposed logging in the Duhamel area is available on the Website of the APLG.

We object to the logging activities planned in the following areas: along the mountain slope, between lake Gagnon and lake Bourgeois; at the mouth of the Ernest Creek; between the lake and road No.6, near Ch. de l'Ours and Ch. du Loup; at the North-West end of the lake, near the mouth of the Petite-Nation river; and along the Ch. du lac Gagnon est, from Ch. du Belvédère to an area north of Ch. du Cap.

We are also requesting that the logging company use No.3 road in the Papineau-Labelle Reserve instead of Ch. du lac Gagnon ouest.

The APLG is discussing means of reducing the impact of this plan on lake Gagnon with M.C. Forêt. In particular, we are opposed to logging on the lake side slopes. We hope to have further information in November. Consult our Website for the latest news on this issue.