

ROAD WORK

On March 12, the governments of Canada and Quebec announced grants that will cover two thirds of the costs for six projects to improve roads in Duhamel. The projects would total \$504,375 and must be completed before April 2011.

Although we do not have the details yet, here's a preview. First, rue Principale in the village will be repaved at a cost of \$57,000. The municipality's share (\$19,000) will be supported by all taxpayers, which represents about \$20 per taxpayer. Other projects include ch. Iroquois (\$120,000), ch. Preston (\$ 42,000) and ch. Filion (\$ 15,000).

The other two projects are at Lac Gagnon. First, ch. de la Grande Baie will be elevated near the Ernest Creek to prevent further flooding. The total cost is \$120,000. Second, on the northern part of ch. du Milieu, a curve would be changed and dynamiting would be used to widen a certain portion at a cost of \$150,000.

Except for the pavement in the village, all this work would be performed on local roads. Therefore the non-subsidized part, i.e. a third of the costs, would be supported by local taxpayers in the area. An amount of \$40,000 would be supported by all property owners located on ch. de la Grande Baie, ch. des Mésanges and ch. de la Pointe-aux-Mouettes, or, we estimate, about \$450 per homeowner. As for ch. du Milieu north, the homeowners share of \$50,000 would represent an additional burden of over \$3,000 per homeowner in this sector. These costs could be financed over several years.

Although the final plans are not yet available, it would be advisable for people in these sectors to express their views on these projects. You can contact us or approach a member of the municipal council.

SURVEY

You will find enclosed a brief six- question survey about the role of the association during municipal elections. On the front of the questionnaire we explain why the Board has undertaken this process.

First, it should be noted that there is no need to change the APLG's neutrality regarding political issues other than those at the municipal level. There seems to be a consensus on this issue.

However members are divided about the APLG's role during municipal elections. We are faced with those who believe the association has a responsibility to express its opinion when it deems that it is in the interest of its members, and those who would prefer that the association remain silent and not interfere in any way in municipal elections.

For the former group, the APLG's views can help them to participate in the elections and make better choices. This is often the case of vacationers, who have little access to local information but consider it important to exercise their right to vote. Although the views expressed by the APLG on this subject over the past 15 years may have contributed to enhancing the quality of the municipal council, we must also respect the wishes of the members who consider such activities as inappropriate for a homeowners association.

We hope this [survey](#) will help us better gauge the preferences of the majority of the APLG members and that the results will contribute to a better discussion on the topic at the annual meeting. A summary of the results will be available at the annual meeting.

GREEN GARBAGE BINS AGAIN

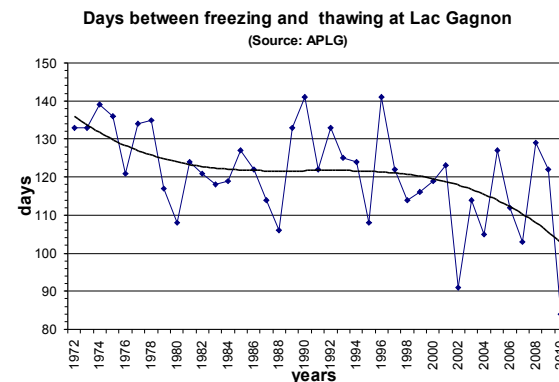
Despite a resolution of the municipal council passed last year to the effect that we would not be required to use green bins, the municipality has recently announced that residents at the village have to buy such a bin this month and that other taxpayers will have to do the same over the next four years.

The APLG tried to ascertain the reasons behind the decision of the municipality to impose these bins to taxpayers. The reasons are not convincing and therefore we continue to oppose this unjustified measure. The APLG does not wish to preclude those who want to buy such bins from the municipality from doing so. However there is no public interest that justifies imposing the bins to all those who already have garbage boxes, which allow for an efficient collection.

The APLG has again made some [representation](#) to the municipal council about this issue.

ICE ON THE LAKE

Following an exceptionally mild winter, this year, the period that Lac Gagnon was ice-covered was the shortest on record, only 84 days. The trend over the past 40 years is clearly declining.



LE REMOUS
du
LAC GAGNON

April
2010



APLG

Association des propriétaires
du lac Gagnon

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Membership

Thank you to the 260 homeowners who have already paid their annual membership fee. Those who have not yet done so can forward their \$15 payment with the [membership form](#) that was mailed last February, which is also available on our website.

Don't forget that your participation is essential to maintain your association's vitality.

Please note that the APLG Annual General Meeting will be held this year on Saturday, July 3 (details will be included in the June issue of Le Remous).

FISHING

We've been told that landlocked salmon fishing was excellent at Lac Gagnon during the trout fishing opening weekend, in late April.

Remember that the ACPTA has stocked trout in Bourgeois, Hughes and White lakes last year. You can fish for rainbow trout in lake Bourgeois. Annual ACPTA membership cards may be purchased at the Poliquin store at a cost of \$15 per family.

RSVL

"RÉSEAU DE SURVEILLANCE VOLONTAIRE DES LACS"

The Government recently forwarded the results of tests made at Lac Gagnon last summer as part of the "RSVL".

Here is a summary comparison of averages:

	2008	2009
Centre of lake:		
Transparency (m.)	5.4	6.3
Phosphates (µg/l)	3.1	1.9
Chlorophyll (µg/l)	1.4	1.2
Carbon (mg/l)	4.5	4.9
Bay of isles:		
Transparency (m.)	4.5	5.0
Phosphates (µg/l)	2.9	3.0
Chlorophyll (µg/l)	1.3	1.2
Carbon (mg/l)	4.4	4.9

We will need to obtain data over a long period before we can draw valid conclusions. However, we can already say that we compare favourably to most other lakes.

We will continue to participate in the RSVL program, but we concluded that taking samples at only one station at the centre of the lake would be sufficient this year.

SHRUB SALE

For the third year, APLG members can purchase plants that adapt well to our environment at a good price. Some of the plants offered are particularly well suited to the shoreline and banks. Take advantage of this opportunity to stabilize your property's soil and reduce erosion. This would help to maintain the health of our lake, while improving the look of our property. There is always a spot that can benefit from a touch of greenery or color. Each year, about forty members purchase about 500 plants.

We will use the same formula this year, i.e. members of the Board of Directors will deliver the plants to your property for free, on Saturday morning, June 5. If you can not be there at the time of delivery, or even at anytime during that weekend, we will still deliver the plants, well watered, and leave them where they are not overly exposed to the sun or wind. They should stay in good shape for at least a week.

If you are interested, please send us an [order form](#) and a cheque to the order of the APLG **by May 7, 2010**. You could add your annual \$15 membership fee to the cheque.

The pamphlet included herein lists the available plants with planting information. All prices include taxes and transportation costs.

Please include your name, lake address and directions, if necessary, to assist us with the delivery.

For information, contact us by email, at info@aplg.ca or by phone, at 819-428-8809.

NEWS IN BRIEF

- The construction of a new bridge over Ernest Creek, at "Accueil Gagnon", should be completed during the month of May.
- The boat washing station will now be located at the "Centre touristique du lac Simon", near the mini-golf.
- Boat stickers issued to taxpayers in 2008 and 2009 are still valid this year. Duhamel taxpayers who need a new sticker to gain access to Lac Gagnon can obtain one at no charge from the municipality, upon presentation of proof of ownership of their boat.
- Employees of the Municipality of Duhamel have received their accreditation with the Canadian Union of Public Employees. The municipality has set up a negotiating committee and hired a negotiator at the rate of \$190 per hour.
- Street number signs will be installed this year along ch. du Lac Gagnon ouest, between the village and ch. de la Pointe-à-Baptiste. We can expect that the same will eventually be done across the municipality.
- 43 "Dead End" signs will be installed throughout Duhamel, which should contribute to improving security.
- The municipality will purchase a new backhoe for \$115,000. The purchase will be financed over a ten-year period.
- The current assessment roll has been extended for the years 2011-2013. Therefore, the current value of properties will continue to be used during the next three years to determine municipal taxes in Duhamel.