

"ORGANISME DE BASSINS VERSANTS"

We are pleased to learn that the "Organisme de bassins versants" of the Rouge, Petite-Nation and Saumon rivers (OBV RPNS) is now working to stabilize the beaver dams that could cause damages. Five sites were selected in Duhamel, including two at Lac Gagnon. Drains and Morency cages were installed at these locations to permanently lower their water level. One of the sites, already identified by the APLG, is located along the ch. du lac Gagnon Est, north of ch. du Soleil. The other site requiring intervention is on two small lakes located between Lac Gagnon and Lac du Diable. The intervention will protect the ch. du lac Gagnon Ouest from flooding caused by the failure of these dams.

The landscape designers of the OBV developed 41 free landscape plans in Duhamel, 30 at Lac Gagnon, 7 at Lac Doré, 3 at Lac Simon, and 1 at Petit Lac Preston. Participants should receive their landscape plan within a month.

"CARREFOUR"

The Municipality has approved on September 2, the development of plans for the construction of an information centre adjacent to the municipal Library. It will consist of a building of approximately 30' x 50' which will serve to provide information on the history of Duhamel, its wildlife and services available in this region. It is estimated that the project would cost \$ 200 000, of which 20 percent would be financed by the Municipality. The CLD Papineau will provide technical expertise to develop this project. It remains to be known whether the purpose of this Centre justifies the estimated construction cost and the associated costs of operation and maintenance. These recurring expenses would probably be charged to the taxpayers of Duhamel.

BY-ELECTION

Following the resignation of Mr. Patrick Douglas, municipal councillor, an election will be held on November 6. Advance voting will take place October 30, 2011, from noon to 8 p.m. at the Town Hall in Duhamel.

The candidates for the position of municipal councillor are, in alphabetical order:

Doris Larose

Léonce Lessard

Michel Longtin

Mr. Léonce Lessard resigned as a member of the Board of the APLG to run in this election.

The APLG has decided not to express a preference for any candidate in this by-election. While remaining neutral, we offered to each candidate a page on our website to enable them to present their credentials, and to help our members make their choice. These pages have been available on our website since October 13, a couple of weeks before the advance polls.

Check the electoral roll at the Town Hall or on the websites of either the Municipality or the APLG to see if your name is registered. Those who are not registered on this list will not be eligible to vote.

Voting by mail:

The persons listed on the electoral roll who are not permanent residents can vote by mail. Those who have already made a request to this effect are marked with an "x" on the roll and should receive a ballot by mail during the week of October 24.

NEWS IN BRIEF

- In late September, the Municipality revamped the boat ramp at the public dock in order to facilitate its use. They will also install a new dock in the spring. The Municipality did not succeed in obtaining a grant for this project, which therefore is entirely funded by the Municipality
- The repairs on the ch. du lac Gagnon Ouest should be completed in the coming weeks, except for the 1 km. section beyond the end of the current pavement. In fact it will not be a traditional pavement but a "double surface treatment" which must be applied hot. First a binder impregnation is applied, then two layers of crushed stones mixed with a bitumen emulsion. The result is a slightly rougher pavement. This paving is postponed to next spring. The cost of this contract is \$ 73 000.
- A new hiking trail was opened September 10. The "route des Zingues", which is part of the National Trail travels between Lac Preston and Lac Gagnon.
- The new regional ATV trail crossing the Papineau-Labelle Reserve from Val-des-Bois should be connected to the ch. du lac Lafontaine Nord before this winter.

At our last annual meeting in July, Jay Tardif was elected treasurer, replacing Derquise Houle whom we sincerely thank for her hard work over the past three years. At the same time Léonce Lessard made a return to the CA, though he recently left that position to run in the November 6 by-election.

LE REMOUS du LAC GAGNON

October
2011



APLG

**Association des propriétaires
du lac Gagnon**

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Board of Directors 2011-2012

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Marc Dufour, Vice-president
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Jay Tardif, Treasurer
Bernard Bélanger

Volunteers:

Gérard Bodard
Jean-Pierre Jarry
Léonce Lessard
Anne Wells

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Membership

We thank all those who have shown their support for the association, first by paying their \$15 annual dues, by participating in the annual meeting and the various activities of the association, or simply by providing us their point of view.

Although we can always count on the support of the vast majority of property owners at Lac Gagnon, our membership hovering around the 350 members level, we must increase our efforts to reach out to new owners. Indeed, the list of owners which was relatively stable was somewhat modified in recent years due mainly to sales and the construction of new properties. We will contact this ever increasing number of new property owners over the next year.

BITTING INSECTS

The Municipality has agreed to reconsider the possibility of establishing a program to control biting insects by using a biological insecticide, called Bti. Such a program would require an additional annual expenditure of approximately \$200,000.

The Municipality would like the program to cover at least 90 percent of the population. The cost would be financed by an added special fixed tax imposed on each taxpayer of an area which is included in the program. The area of lakes Chevreuil, Iroquois and Lafontaine would not be covered because of the low population density. The Municipality has set a ceiling of \$150 per year per affected property owner. Spraying Bti would require the approval of neighbouring municipalities and the Ministries of Environment and Natural Resources, given the need to spray up to 6 km. outside the areas to be protected.

The actions taken in this direction by the Municipality have not been successful. No permission has yet been granted. If these approvals are obtained, the Municipality would submit a proposal to affected taxpayers in the form of a mail survey. A simple majority would decide whether the Municipality would move forward with the biting insect control program. It seems that the company would require a 5-year contract that could be cancelled every year, but we are not informed of the conditions, including the penalties imposed should the contract be cancelled early.

In the absence of approvals from other municipalities and the government it seems unlikely that the Municipality will be able to submit a concrete proposal to taxpayers in the short term. If ever we are presented with a proposal, it will be necessary to carefully consider the economic and environmental impact of such a proposal.

WATER TESTS

The APLG is committed to regularly monitor the quality of the water in our lake. At the beginning of the season, we offer to our members the opportunity to have their drinking water tested. This program has been operating since 2008. This year's results are excellent. All participating owners have learned that their water is safe to drink, even if taken directly from the lake. In addition the analysis of the water in the pavilion at the rear of the Town Hall indicates a water of excellent quality. The only exception is the spring at the north-east section of the lake where two tests indicated that this water is not potable.

Throughout the summer we took readings of the water transparency and took water samples as part of the provincial voluntary lake monitoring program. In July we added some samples for analysis of phosphorus in shallow areas. The results are encouraging. We are still one of the lakes with the best results at the provincial level, regardless of the variable. Our readings of water transparency this summer remain at nearly 7 meters deep, a more than respectable result.

For several years we carry out analysis of the quality of water for swimming purposes at fifty places around the lake. Generally the water quality at Lac Gagnon is excellent for swimming. Over the years we have obtained on a few occasions less encouraging readings in some places but it is not always at the same places which suggests that it may be a natural and passing phenomenon. The results of this year are on the included chart. Note that two locations have higher rates of coliforms.

