

MINING ACTIVITIES

At the APLG June 30 annual meeting we made a presentation on the risks of mineral exploration in our region. Following is a summary and an update.

A small Vancouver-based mining exploration company, Standard Graphite, has acquired mineral claims covering a large territory between Lac Gagnon and Lac Simon, including all properties along the Petite-Nation River. These claims allow the company to undertake mineral exploration on this territory for two years. Standard Graphite also has claims covering other places in the region. At this time, its activities seem to focus on a property north of Mont-Laurier, where it has been carrying out a drilling program since August.

The company is looking for graphite, a promising product whose price has increased significantly in recent years. Sites that were not economically viable twenty years ago, when some exploration work was carried out in the region, are now being re-evaluated.

According to comments made at the annual meeting, people are not in favour of mining exploration and are somewhat sceptical about the potential of future mining operations. Still, people need to be concerned about exploration on their property. Prospectors must obtain permission from property owners prior to such work. We recommend that property owners covered by the claims clearly notify Standard Graphite by letter that they do not allow them to use their land for mining exploration. This in itself could deter Standard Graphite from seriously considering mining exploration in our region.

For the moment, they are concentrating their activities in a less developed area near Mont-Laurier. They acquired other claims in our area during the summer which have expanded their territory to the southwest, in the Lac Simon area, not in the Lac Gagnon area.

In the longer term we hope that the Government will reintroduce the revision of the Mining Act to allow municipalities to object to such mining projects in areas devoted to resort activities.

Visit our website. You will find the map of mining claims in effect in our area and other relevant information about mining.

WORK PARTY

Everybody is invited to help us clear some sections of hiking trails on Saturday, October 13. It is nice to be in our beautiful forests during the fall. Take this opportunity to combine work with pleasure. Our hiking trails require regular maintenance. We identified some sections around Lac Gagnon that need to be cleared. Join us for a couple of hours of light work. Bring your shears and show up at 9:30 am on Saturday, October 13 at one of the following locations: 1) the Caroline trail on ch. du Lac Gagnon Est, 2) the "sentier des Pins" on ch. du Lac Gagnon Est, or 3) the intersection of the Bellevue trail and the old railway track.

Remember that if you have a steel, polyethylene or fiberglass septic tank that is pumped at the end of the season, you have to fill it with enough water to prevent it from being lifted in the spring, when the water table is close to the ground level.

NEWS IN BRIEF

- We are pleased to announce that as a result of representations made by the APLG, the Municipality and others, the Government is removing the logging activities that were projected around Lac Gagnon from the 2013-2014 development plan. The plan covered an area on the west side of Lac Gagnon and an area on the east side of the lake which includes the "Route des Zingues". We will continue to be vigilant to protect our surrounding forests from logging.
- As announced in February, the APLG acquired equipment for measuring dissolved oxygen and temperature up to 100 m deep. Visit our website to see the first results.
- Following a CSST inspection, the Municipality of Duhamel was informed that the old municipal garage required considerable repair work. Given the dilapidated state of the building, the Municipality chose instead to build a new garage. The project will be financed by a \$325,000 loan spread over 25 years. However, the loan could be reduced substantially if we succeed in obtaining a grant that will be requested shortly. The garage should be built this year.
- The Municipality will also replace an old fire truck with a new pumper truck that would cost approximately \$200,000 financed over 15 years.
- Our watershed organization (RPNS OBV) prepared 25 landscaping plans on our territory this summer including eight at Lac Gagnon, seven at Lac Simon, seven at Lac Doré, two at Petit Lac Preston and one at Lac Venne. This service is free for those who are interested in improving their shore.

LE REMOUS
du
LAC GAGNON

October
2012



APLG

Association des propriétaires
du lac Gagnon

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Membership

Although the APLG enjoys the support of a strong majority of property owners at Lac Gagnon, we've noted that a number of members do not regularly pay their annual membership. Although many supporters, who had not paid last year, have paid this year, a larger number of them have not yet paid their dues for 2012. Therefore, we are currently under the threshold of 300 current members. So we are asking for your support once again.

It seems that people do not always remember whether they have paid their membership. They have to contact us in order to find out. The list of current members is only available to those who attend the annual meeting in June. Henceforth, we will allow access to this list on our website. It will require a password which will be provided to people on our mailing list. It will include, separately, the names and addresses of current members.

SICK WHITE PINES

Some white pines around Lac Gagnon are being attacked by a devastating disease, the White Pine Blister Rust (WPBR). This disease, that only attacks white pine needs a host to spread, plants in the Ribes family (currants and gooseberries). The cause of the disease is a fungus whose spores move from Ribes to the pine tree to complete its life cycle and survive. Young white pines affected by this disease will not survive if there is no intervention.

Infections show up by the appearance of spots on the underside of the Ribes leaves. Brown needles first appear at the top of pines. The fungus then reaches the large branches spreading beneath the bark, thereby killing the branch. Next the trunk is infected and excretes a resin. The bark of affected branches turns yellow, swells open in the spring and releases rust coloured spores that will be deposited on Ribes. Eliminating Ribes would help to stop the cycle.

We have already lost white pines because of this disease along the southern part of ch. des Îles. It would be a good approach to identify affected areas and **eliminate Ribes within a radius of at least 300 m of white pines**, majestic trees of which we have very beautiful specimens at Lac Gagnon. Some pines already attacked could be saved by cutting diseased branches.

Visit our website for more information that will help you identify the signs of illness and to better recognize currants and gooseberries. You can intervene at any time but it is easier to see the signs in the spring. We have obtained permission from the Government to eliminate currants and gooseberries on nearby public lands to protect white pine.

WATER TESTS

Three quarters of members who had their drinking water tested at the beginning of July have water that meets standards.

The lake water analysis on August 15 shows that the water is still very good for swimming but the results this year (see graph) are less encouraging than those of recent years. The climate was very hot during the summer and the growing population of domesticated ducks may have contributed to these results.

FISH STOCKING

The APLG will stock the section of the Petite-Nation River south of Lac Gagnon with speckled trout this fall.

After consulting experts, we have concluded that it would be more practical at this time to stock the river rather than the lake. First we do not have the financial means to undertake a large stocking initiative that could have a meaningful impact. Moreover, the presence of bass and pike would not help the survival rate of small trout. We believe that the Petite-Nation River offers a greater potential to restore speckled trout fishing at the lake.

We first had to ensure that the conditions were still favourable for stocking in that area. Tests on the river have allowed us to identify the best locations. There is plenty of dissolved oxygen at all depth levels and the water temperature is excellent almost everywhere along the river.

This year, we plan to introduce about a thousand trout in the river. This should encourage the growing population of anglers.

