



ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, June 29

9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Duhamel Town Hall

Attending the annual meeting is a show of support for the APLG as well as a chance to voice your concerns to the Board members. It's a unique opportunity to meet fellow property owners and discuss our common interests

Volunteers will be on hand as of 9:00 a.m. if you wish to become a member, renew your membership or purchase a sterilized water testing bottle.

AGENDA

1. Adoption of the Agenda
 2. Adoption of 2013 Minutes
 3. Treasurer's report
 4. President's report
 5. Septic systems
 6. Municipal matters
 7. Trails and lumbering
 8. Election of the Board of Directors
 9. Members' concerns
- Question period

DRINKING WATER

APLG members have been given the opportunity to have their tap and shoreline water tested for the past six years, a service that is greatly appreciated. Some people have their water tested regularly while others have it done once and don't repeat the test if their results are good. Often, based on this one test, they believe that our lake water is good and they don't need to worry. Water quality depends on a number of factors, including the condition of your pipes. You should get your water tested more often, in case your supply system has deteriorated.

The program is being offered again this year. If you are interested, **reserve one or more sterilized bottles** at info@aplg.ca or call 514-604-0085 (André Brossard). We'll have the bottles and instructions available for pick up at our June 29th annual meeting, at the Secretary's table, starting at 9:00 a.m. A few bottles will be available for those who have not reserved one in advance. You will be asked to cover the \$30 cost for the tap water analysis, and \$10 for the lakeshore water test. If you haven't paid your annual dues yet, you can do it at the same time. There will be someone at the table throughout the meeting

You will need to take your samples on that day (**Sunday**) and bring them to the Poliquin grocery store **before 9:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 29th**. We'll bring the samples to the lab on Monday morning and the results will be mailed to you during the following week.

We'd like to continue posting the overall results in a statistical table while maintaining strict confidentiality of individual data. The application form contains an authorization to that effect. Don't forget to tick the appropriate box at the bottom of the form. This will allow the Association to provide both a service to participants and relevant information to all residents about water quality at Lac Gagnon. [Prior years' results](#) are posted on our Web site.

The APLG will be testing the water for swimming purposes, as usual, in the middle of the summer.

ECOCENTRE

Did you know that the Ecocentre (located at the old dump site) is now open **every Thursday** from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. as well as Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.? Duhamel taxpayers can use it at no cost since last year. You may be asked for proof of residency on your first visit.

Anything that can't be put with household waste or in the blue recycling bin can be brought to the Ecocentre, except for mattresses, that should be left at the curb for regular garbage pick-up. The Ecocentre accepts building materials, household appliances, furniture, electronics, tires, yard waste and hazardous materials (paint, batteries, oils, etc.) Leaving any of these items on vacant lots around the lake is unacceptable. The Ecocentre is located at Lac Gagnon and can be reached easily.

While you're there, you can pick up some mulch for your gardens and shrubs, at no charge.

LE REMOUS
du
LAC GAGNON

June
2014



APLG

**Association des propriétaires
du lac Gagnon**

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www.aplg.ca

Board of Directors 2013-2014

André Brossard, President
Marc Dufour, Vice-president
Florence Riverain, Secretary
Jay Tardif, Treasurer
Bernard Bélanger
Pierre-Émile Rocray

Volunteers:

Gérard Bodard
Charles de Maisonneuve
Jean-Pierre Jarry
Anne Wells

Contact: info@aplg.ca

Membership

For many years, the APLG has benefitted from a membership that includes the majority of property owners at Lac Gagnon. By joining the APLG, members are not only making a financial contribution, they're supporting an association that has their interests at heart and wants to protect the lake.

The number of members has been fluctuating somewhat in recent years. It was low in 2012 and rebounded in 2013. This year, we received a record number of payments during the winter, with a subsequent drop. If you've forgotten to pay your 2014 annual dues, please do so soon. Thank you!

The [member listing](#) may be viewed on our Web site.

CODE OF CONDUCT

A number of members have voiced their concern about increased activity on the lake, compared with summers past before the advent of personal water crafts, wake boards and loud sound systems on boats.

It is unrealistic to believe that a large lake like ours could remain a haven of tranquility. There are now more than 500 properties around the lake. While we may be seeing an ageing of the population, it's often the original owners' children who want to take full advantage of their generation's leisure activities.

It's important that we learn to share the lake in a spirit of respect for our neighbours. There's nothing wrong with water skiing, but boats should stay in the middle of the lake instead of constantly following the shoreline, which could be dangerous for swimmers. We suggest that you read the water activities code of conduct, published by the municipality and [posted on our Web site](#). These guidelines are a good place to start.

There has been some improvement in the behaviour of personal water craft users. However, much to the annoyance of property owners, some of these users still try their stunts near the shoreline. The centre of the lake is more appropriate.

Having very loud sound systems on a boat can disturb a lot of people, such noise pollution is very unpleasant. The idea is not to ban these systems, but rather to lower the sound to avoid sharing your music with people on the shore.

The Petite-Nation river south of the lake is a fragile environment. Speed should be lowered to 5 km/h. Avoid making waves because of the sector's vulnerability to erosion and the risk of damage to docks along the shore.

Fireworks are increasing in number and intensity. While using them can be a fun activity, it becomes a nuisance for others when they are set off late at night. They should be an early evening event.

We should all be able to enjoy our lake while respecting our neighbours. It makes life so much more enjoyable. Have a good summer.

SALE OF SHRUBS

This year, the APLG will not be offering to sell shrubs to its members. We hope to resume this activity next year. We've noted that many shrubs that were supposed to be deer-resistant were damaged by deer this past winter.

If you purchased shrubs from the APLG, you may be visited by one of our representatives during the summer. Before resuming this program, we want to assess the performance of shrubs planted around the lake in the past six years to see which are not doing well, which are food for the deer and how this affects them.

This feedback from previous program participants will make it possible to see what works and what could be improved so we can make the necessary adjustments to meet our members' needs.

NEWS IN BRIEF

- Duhamel firefighters will be travelling on inhabited lakes during four weekends this summer. Their objective is observation and education.
- Consultations about the cadastre review will likely be postponed to the spring of 2015.
- The municipality of Duhamel granted a \$10,000 subsidy to the Coop de santé du nord de la Petite-Nation
- The municipality hired two new employees: André Bélisle, Public Works Supervisor (summer) and Ginette Dupras receptionist/clerk. André Bélisle has considerable experience in this field, he is also the Mayor of Saint-Sixte and President of the Club Quad Petite-Nation.
- The Ordre des ingénieurs is suing the municipality for \$25,000 for five infractions stemming from the hiring of a technician instead of an engineer. Neighbouring municipalities are facing similar suits. The total amount is \$50,000. Duhamel, Chénéville and Namur are sharing the legal fees to minimize the impact of this lawsuit.
- At the end of May, some 2,575 free trees were distributed by the municipality to about 60 residents. The APLG's message to its members helped to increase the number of participants significantly.
- Gravel was spread on chemin du lac Gagnon Est early in June, between chemin du lac Gagnon Ouest and the Ecocentre. A \$15,000 budget was set aside for the materials for this upgrade work.