

FEEDING WILDLIFE

Whether it's because they want to see white-tail deer up close, or feel the need to help wildlife animals, many well-intentioned people feed them. They may not realize that artificial feeding of deer has negative consequences for both the animals and humans.

You can read about this topic on the [Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs](#) and [Municipality of Duhamel](#) Web sites. This information is all the more relevant at Lac Gagnon where the winter deer population has reached new heights as a result of artificial feeding, which sometimes is not appropriate for the animal's health.

Artificial feeding has resulted in a large number of deer wintering in inhabited areas around the lake, where they have numerous trails needed for their survival. Feeding deer only on the weekend is not enough for them. Also, if you stop feeding deer before the spring thaw, they often turn to ornamental shrubs and tree buds around cottages. The damages caused by deer were more extensive last winter. Additionally, feeding deer an appropriate diet can be expensive, which may explain why some people stop doing it.

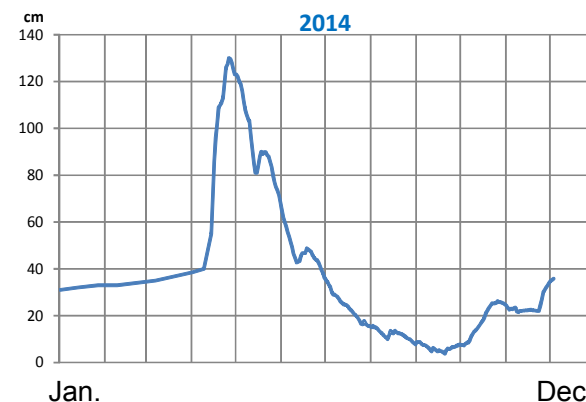
Deer feeding stations are often located near roads, which inevitably increases deer/vehicle collisions. Our roads are becoming dangerous for deer and passengers alike. It seems that deer collisions are increasing in number and severity. There is a risk of serious injury, either from hitting a deer or trying to avoid one.

The increased deer population attracts their natural predators. With this abundance of easy food, wolves will lose their natural fear of humans to feed close to houses and cottages, whether there is someone there or not. Residents have heard the howls of wolf packs at night and many carcasses were found last winter near inhabited areas of the lake. Wolves can become familiar with humans, which should not be encouraged. This situation has occurred in the Mont-Tremblant national park region. ([See article](#)).

If you really want to feed deer in the winter, you should consider both the benefits and disadvantages and make a point of doing it properly, as described in the two articles referenced above.

WATER LEVEL

Remember that the water level at Lac Gagnon can vary by 1.5 to 2 metres over the course of a year. Make sure you clear your shoreline in the fall if you don't want to lose items in the spring. You will find a graph of the water level on our web site.



NEWS IN BRIEF

- Since Michel Bédard will no longer be a Duhamel resident, he cannot serve as municipal councillor and his position will have to be filled during a by-election no later than the spring of 2015.
- Two public works employees are leaving the Municipality. Alain Gagnon will be working for another municipality and Camille Martin is retiring. He will be replaced by Roch Lemay.
- There are currently logging activities in our region. This year, they are taking place in the area to the west of last year's logging site, closer to Lac Lafontaine than Lac Gagnon. Carriers are expected to use Route 3 in Papineau-Labelle park rather than Chemin du lac Gagnon Ouest.
- The Municipality's budget should be available January 9, 2015. We will post the usual information on our Web site as soon as we have it.
- APLG's agreement for overseeing the public area at the south end of the lake expires in May 2015 and we have notified SÉPAQ of the need to amend the terms before we agree to renew. More news to come.



LE REMOUS

LAC GAGNON

December
2014



aplg

Association des propriétaires
du lac Gagnon

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Board of Directors 2013-2014

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Our Secretary, Florence Riverin, no longer owns property at Lac Gagnon and, therefore, resigned from the Board at the last annual meeting. Three new members joined the Board: Charles de Maisonneuve, Marc Dumouchel and Anne Wells. Many thanks to Florence for a job well done.

Membership

In 2014, we had 334 members, which is in line with the average for the past few years. Thank you to all Lac Gagnon property owners who help maintain a strong association dedicated to serving their interests. Note that we regularly update the member list on our Web site

We have increasingly been communicating with members by email, which allows us to forward information that is not necessarily available elsewhere. Please note that the email address list is kept confidential. Let us know if you change your email address.

CYANOBACTERIA

A cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) bloom was identified at Lac Gagnon on August 24, 2014. Ministère de l'Environnement analyses confirmed high cyanobacteria levels in an east-side bay of the lake. On the same day, the phenomenon was also observed in a few locations along the lakeshore, with the water taking on a greenish hue. There had been a similar occurrence at Lac Simon a few days earlier

Similar cyanobacteria blooms were identified at Lac Gagnon in July 2008 and 2009. It's difficult to compare data from these episodes, since the samples were taken at different stages of the cyanobacteria bloom's life cycle.

We had noted a decline in water clarity in the August water tests (5.5m instead of 7m) in the middle of the lake, which might have been attributable to the increase in cyanobacteria.

Cyanobacteria have been around for millions of years. Such phenomena may have often occurred in the past and not been a cause for concern. However, we believe it's better to remain vigilant and take every means possible to avoid an increase in these occurrences. We want a healthy lake and don't want to wait until it's too late for action, as was the case for some other lakes.

Taking steps to keep our lake healthy is everybody's responsibility. It's important to minimize phosphorus inputs in the lake. This means, among others, making sure your septic system is operating properly and, for the Municipality, properly maintaining roads and ditches. The APLG will continue to encourage all parties to apply good practices.

GARBAGE REMOVAL

Effective September 2015, the Municipality will only pick up garbage in roll-out containers. The APLG has always advocated that property owners should have the choice of using those containers or boxes. While we are not yet thoroughly convinced about the reasons for the Municipality's decision, most property owners will have to adopt this new approach during the coming months.

It should be noted that buying a roll-out container is not mandatory per se. You can choose to share with a neighbour or use a public disposal site for your garbage. For vacationers who may have less garbage, this might be a better option, as it will be less costly and there will be no need to handle a large container.

The Municipality is currently selling green containers for \$68. It is asking that orders be placed by December 31, 2014, and that you indicate as well if you want your old garbage container to be picked up and brought to the eco-centre when the roll-out container is delivered. This will allow the Municipality to plan the delivery of new containers and pick-up of old garbage boxes next spring. You should still be able to buy containers in 2015, but, if the Municipality has to place an order for more containers, the price may change somewhat.

WATER TESTING

The fifty or so water samples taken at Lac Gagnon over the summer indicate that the water quality for swimming is still excellent. (See graph)

The results of the drinking water tests at the end of June indicate that almost two-thirds of the samples comply with standards. The water at the pavilion near city hall is also compliant.

