

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Many of you are reading this issue of the Remous for the first time. A complete review of our list of property owners allowed us to trace the address of many new owners. Accordingly, many people will find a pamphlet enclosed with a brief description of the APLG's mission and some of our activities. Our goal is to become even more representative of Lac Gagnon property owners by further increasing our membership.

One of our main concerns is the health of the lake water. In addition to promoting sound practices, we conduct tests to monitor water quality and are members of the Réseau de surveillance volontaire des lacs (RSVL) (voluntary lake monitoring network). This year we'll continue to monitor transparency several times during the season, but in accordance with the RSVL protocol, we're taking a four-year break in chemical tests which will resume in 2018. Once again, we'll offer APLG members the opportunity to have their drinking water tested at the end of June 2015, at a preferred price. Details will be available in the next Remous.

We strongly encourage property reforestation, particularly along bare shorelines. This year, we won't be selling shrubs, but we will be posting information on our web site based on our experience in recent years. Most of the shrubs and plants we offered in the past are available in garden centers and nurseries at a reasonable price.

We are currently involved in discussions with the Sépaq to renew our agreement regarding the picnic area at the south end of the lake. Our objective is to maintain public access to this property.

André Brossard, President

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

We continue to benefit from a sound financial situation. We have \$18,429 in capital and have succeeded in minimizing expenses, thanks mainly to the volunteer work of the Board and other Association members.

The cost of drinking water tests is fully covered by members who have these tests done. Other water tests benefit all members and are therefore charged to the Association. In the past five years, we've cut the cost of producing the Remous by 40% by using our own printer and because more and more members access the bulletin electronically. The increase in "Other expenses" is due to our participation in the Forum National sur les Lacs last June.

Other than the \$1,200 which is forwarded to the Sépaq, we did not apply for other subsidies in 2014 as we did not undertake any chemical water analyses for the RSVL.

BALANCE SHEET

(in dollars)

Assets:	2 013	2 014
Cash	25	25
Caisse Populaire	15 357	18 125
PayPal	80	58
Prepaid expenses	192	321
Inventory	232	207
Equipment	1 545	879
Total	17 431	19 619
Liabilities:		
Account payable	680	1 190
Prepaid Memberships	16 751	18 429
Capital	17 431	19 619

REVENUES AND EXPENSES

(in dollars)

	2013	2014
Revenues:		
Memberships	5 370	5 010
Shrubs	2 247	----
Water tests (members)	580	660
Subsidies	1 845	1 200
Interests	17	79
Other revenues	150	165
Total Revenues	10 209	7 114
Expenses:		
Shrubs	2 381	----
Social activities	135	10
Water tests (members)	537	660
Water tests (APLG)	1 173	1 101
Water tests (RSVL)	290	25
Le Remous	705	636
Insurance	108	137
Office expenses	406	316
Banking charges	108	92
PayPal charges	148	97
Picnic area	----	65
Buoys	260	260
Internet site	112	253
Registration fees	34	34
SÉPAQ	1 200	1 200
Other expenses	14	550
Total Expenses	7 612	5 436
Surplus (-Deficit)	2 597	1 678

LE REMOUS
du
LAC GAGNON

February
2015



Association des propriétaires
du lac Gagnon

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Board of Directors 2014-2015

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Membership

Increasingly, members choose to pay for more than one year when renewing their APLG membership and we'd like to thank them. We confirm their membership early in the new year. We'd like to remind those of you who haven't yet renewed to take this opportunity to pay your annual dues. For the low annual cost of \$15 you can support an association that has represented the vast majority of Lac Gagnon property owners for many years.

Your support encourages the Board and volunteers and provides us with an even stronger voice with various bodies. We've put in considerable effort recently to trace all new property owners and our objective this year is to achieve a new high of 380 members.

ELECTION

There has been a vacancy on the Duhamel municipal council since the resignation of Michel Bédard in early December. Interested parties have until 4:30 p.m. on Friday, April 3, 2015 to submit their candidacy at the Municipality to fill this vacancy.

If there is more than one candidate, the election will take place on Sunday, May 3, 2015 with an advance poll on Sunday, April 26th. All Duhamel property owners are eligible to vote and owners who are not permanent residents can vote by mail. The request must be made in writing between April 3rd and 17th.

The APLG will make a page available on our web site for each candidate. We provide this venue to help candidates make themselves known and encourage more participation in local elections. It's also a way to help members make a more informed decision.

LOGGING

There has been some logging this winter a few kilometers west of the lake (Lafontaine site). Although the work will be finished this spring, transportation activities may continue until the summer.

There is a public consultation under way until March 12, 2015 on a portion of the 2013-2018 development plan. The Forestry Ministry is still considering logging on the east side of Lac Gagnon, between ch. du lac Gagnon Est and ch. des Îles (Preston site). The area under consideration is on the plateau in Papineau-Labelle park, south of the Caroline trail.

The APLG has made representations to the Ministry to limit the logging to the top of the plateau and not along the side of the mountain along ch. des Îles. We also wanted to protect the beautiful specimens of white pine that are visible from the lake and the quality of the views along the route des Zingues.

The development plan can be viewed [online](#). You can also use the [online form](#) to submit your comments and suggestions by March 12, 2015.

BUDGET 2015

Given that property assessments are spreaded over three years, the impact of the latest Duhamel budget on property taxes varies among owners. For an average property, the tax increase this year is 3.9%. It would have been 1.8% if the municipality had not been obligated to reimburse \$53,000 to Servitech for the cadastral reform costs. These non-recurring costs, which are financed by a special \$31 tax, should not affect future budgets.

The municipal council seems well aware of the need to control operating expense increases. We'll have to see whether they can stay within budget.

Use of the Ecocentre greatly exceeded expectations last year and \$10,000 has therefore been added to this line item in the 2015 budget. The council is nevertheless maintaining its policy of not charging user fees for the Ecocentre. We support this initiative, as it encourages property owners to dispose of various materials in the Ecocentre rather than dumping them in the woods.

NEWS IN BRIEF

- The Regional County Municipality (RCM) has decided that all municipalities in the region are required to use the services of Servitech for property valuations. The contract has been renewed for six years, even though some municipalities, including Duhamel, were reluctant to do so.
- The municipality has asked organizers of the Festival classique des Hautes-Laurentides to present a concert in Duhamel on Saturday, July 4, 2015. A \$2,000 budget was approved for the event and the invited artists will be announced soon.
- There are many businesses for sale in the village, including two of the three restaurants and both grocery stores.
- The municipal Public Works department has lost another driver-operator, Sébastien Picard, the third in recent months. The municipality will therefore be in hiring mode for the coming months.
- Equipment for sale: the municipality recently put an F150 4X4, a transporter and a compressor up for sale. Offers must be submitted by March 13th. [See the notice](#) on the Duhamel web site.
- Since last fall, garbage can be placed [in roll-out containers located in a covered shelter](#) at the far end of the municipal parking lot. You may find it practical to drop off your garbage there to avoid shovelling out your own bins or containers.