



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

JULY 2, 2023

MINUTES

1. Opening remarks

Mark counted nearly 70 people in the audience and Louis thanked them for attending. He asks people how long they have been at Lac Gagnon (12 ≤ 10 years, 25 ≤ 20 years, 12 ≤ 30 years, 8 ≤ 40 years, 8 ≤ 50 years, 4 ≤ 60 years, 1 ≤ 70 years (quick count)). Louis mentions that André Brossard and Richard Chartrand, two former APLG presidents, are in attendance. He then introduces the other members of the Board of Directors (Mireille Tousignant (absent), Anne Wells, Charles de Maisonneuve, Paul St-Georges, Pierre Martel, Paul-André Laurin, Mark Conroy and Pierre-Émile Rocray) and mentions the names of volunteers who work with us: Gérard and Olivier Bodard, Lucie Gauthier and Ann Burns Tardif. He also thanks the Sentinelles who monitor the lake for the introduction of unwanted plants. Anne announces a membership of 352 owners to date, compared with 270 last year.

2. Adoption of the agenda

People in the audience ask that the following topics be added under Varia: home theft control, membership dues increase and Air B&B. Moved and seconded by Danielle Simard and Hélène Aubin.

3. Adoption of the 2022 AGM minutes

Moved and seconded by Sébastien Dhavernas and Louis Coudé.

4. Financial statements and 2022 budget

Anne presents and explains certain items in the 2023 financial statements and budget (attachment). Adoption of the financial statements and budget moved and seconded by Claude Gendron and Hélène Aubin.

5 and 6. A word from Duhamel mayor, David Pharand, and question period

David Pharand is serving his 4th term. He thanks the APLG Board. He talks about: (1) the impressive attendance of property owners at this meeting, which shows how much they care for Lac Gagnon; (2) the very important issue of mines in the region; (3) environmental protection; (4) the Air B&B problem; and (5) the Sentinelles' participation, which is a role model. He mentions the presence of police cadets from the Sûreté du Québec and two full-time firefighters at the fire station during the summer.

Most questions focused on Air B&B. According to the mayor, this is the most litigious municipal issue. The chemin du Lac-Gagnon Est, garbage bins at Air B&B residences and maps of zones with such residences were also discussed.

7. Recognition

The APLG Board of Directors adds Anthony Le Moine as a new honorary member. Mr. Le Moine previously served as president of our association in its early days. He gave a short thank you speech, and was warmly applauded by the audience.

8. Integrated study and pact

The President mentioned that, after three years of work, a scientific study was finally carried out in 2022 to gain a better understanding of the quality of Lac Gagnon. The study was carried out by the Organisme des bassins versants (OBV), with financial support from the municipality of Duhamel, the RCM, Fiducie Lauzon and the MNA for Papineau, Mathieu Lacombe. Lac Gagnon is in good health, and protective measures for milfoil and periphyton recommended by the OBV have already been taken. The Board has prepared an action plan.

Paul compares a watershed to a kind of funnel, and stresses the importance of marshes as filters. The lake's water comes from good-quality sources, and it has the advantage of being a deep lake. In his view and that of the OBV, it is crucial to preserve the natural vegetation around the lake. Currently, 73% of the shoreline consists of residential areas, 1% infrastructure (roads, etc.) and 26% natural sites. Lac Gagnon is in good health, but we have to be vigilant.

Charles goes on to talk about water testing for pH, turbidity and dissolved oxygen. Water quality is very good. The lake has two major tributaries: the Petite-Nation River and the Ernest River. The presence of periphyton can be a first indicator of a lake's deteriorating health. There are differences between certain sectors of Lac Gagnon.

A question was raised about requiring that lawns be replaced with native plants. This is part of the action plan adopted by the Board. Another question concerned the state of the river, where there are erosion problems and more vegetation than before, both of which Pierre has also noticed.

Mark adds that there are fewer leeches, crayfish, frogs and minnows. The growing pike and bass population may have something to do with it. It is clear that the lake is changing and that the APLG cannot control everything. Louis adds that more and more lake associations are being created in other areas and we can count on their cooperation.

At Mayor Pharand's suggestion, the APLG and the municipality have agreed to draw up and sign a mutual cooperation pact. The municipality's role will be to provide technical and financial support. Two annual meetings are planned between the two organizations to follow up on joint projects, particularly in the areas of sustainable development and homeowner awareness. The pact was signed today by the mayor and the president.

9. Mines

Louis presents this project, which has expanded from being local to a national issue. With the Lomiko project, it is Lac Doré and Lac des Plages that will be most adversely affected. In 2022, 79 boreholes were drilled non-stop (24/7) to a depth of 165 m. Lomiko is a small company in poor financial health and looking for capital. It is associated with Soquem, a subsidiary of Investissement Québec and a major player in mining exploration in the province. Graphite has been found. There is no current impact on the Lac Gagnon watershed, but the activities are getting closer.

He was asked about the possibility of buying claims. Answer: it would be possible if the territory were small, but that is not the case around Lac Gagnon. Moreover, claims require a great deal of administration. A lake group supported by 11 MRCs has been created. The QLAIM coalition was also created in January. It includes 135 lake associations. The media and politicians were approached to hold a public consultation and referendum on social acceptability. Mauricie and Laurentides joined the coalition.

10. Invasive plants

In Mireille's absence, Paul mentions that there are not enough Sentinelles and that more volunteers are needed to detect the presence of undesirable plants such as Eurasian watermilfoil near shorelines. A training session on this subject will be held at Mireille's home on July 16. For her part, Ann Burns Tardif explains what periphyton is and announces that she will be giving a training session at her home on July 9.

11. Water test results

According to Charles, the 2022 results are similar to those of previous years, and the water remains within quality standards. It's excellent for swimming all around the lake.

12. Navigation

The navigation map is projected. At this time, the issue in the river is erosion due to waves. According to Pierre, we should no longer be talking about speed limits, but rather saying that boat traffic must be wave-free. He adds that the installation of a navigation map at the entrance to the river has had a positive effect, since even jet skis seem to respect it. Speeding is mainly by these sport boats. However, it is not possible to post signs everywhere along the river. Many attendees feel that Transport Canada regulations are obsolete and inadequate.

13. Fishing committee

Paul-André takes the lead on this issue and presents a short slide show. The committee's objectives are to advise the APLG on the current situation, recommend concrete measures, include these in the action plan and serve as an expert committee.

He shows the results of surveys carried out between 2002 and 2021 on the lake trout population. These inventories are carried out using nets that are always installed in the same locations. According to these surveys, the average weight and age of this fish have declined, as has the population of spawning females. In fact, this population has been below the norm since 2007.

The committee would like to introduce a fishing logbook in order to have a better idea of fish inventories.

14. High speed internet

It seems that the ExploreNet network has been installed all around the lake, but the Papineau and StarLink internet systems are still available.

15. Change to the APLG by-laws

Anne mentions that third-row residences are at a greater distance than the 200 m stipulated in the current by-law. She suggests extending it to 300 m so that the APLG can recruit these owners. Suggestion proposed by Sébastien Dhavernas and seconded by Claude Gendron.

16. Varia

HOME THEFT: More and more thefts are occurring around Lac Gagnon. One homeowner proposes the installation of surveillance cameras at certain points along Lac-Gagnon Est and Ouest roads. These cameras would film only vehicle licence plates, like those installed on the Highway 25 bridge. The tapes would only be viewed if there is a theft and reported to the SQ. These cameras could improve home security. Mark has been appointed to lead this project and will communicate with the municipality and the SQ in this regard.

INCREASE IN DUES: A homeowner suggested increasing the cost of dues to increase the association's impact, mentioning that \$20 is not much. Anne mentions that the APLG is a non-profit organization and that our association's current financial assets are more than sufficient to enable it to increase its impact, should the need arise. Louis Coudé adds that it's better to have more members at a lower rate than fewer members at a higher rate.

AIR B&B: The subject was discussed previously with Mayor Pharand.

SUGGESTION TO HOLD PARTIES MORE REGULARLY: Board members pointed out that, according to APLG by-laws, such events must be self-financed, as was the case for the association's 50th anniversary. These events also require a great deal of preparation and organization, which the members of the Board are not in a position to undertake. The weather is also a factor when holding such an event.

17. Election of the Board members

Louis mentions that the election is about choosing a team, not individual members. Our team includes the following people: Mireille Tousignant, Anne Wells, Mark Conroy, Louis St-Hilaire, Paul St-Georges, Paul-André Laurin, Charles de Maisonneuve, Pierre Martel and Pierre-Émile Rocray. All Board members wish to continue in their roles.

There were no further nominations during the meeting. The current team is therefore elected by acclamation. The audience unanimously proposes and accepts the current Board of Directors.

All points having been discussed, the Annual General Meeting is adjourned.