



LE REMOUS – SPRING 2025

We had a real old-fashioned winter this year at the lake. Cold, without any thaws and lots of snow. So on April 26, when the ice on the lake dropped, not many people complained. It's really good to see the sun shining on the water with a gentle breeze and it makes us feel good to know that we have a whole spring and summer ahead of us. With the talk coming from our southern neighbours and many people's reluctance to travel there, we're expecting more people at the lake this year. Maybe not a pandemic-style summer, but possibly more activity. Stay tuned.

When it comes to protecting this exceptional lake, 2025 is going to be a busy year. With the referendum on the mining project, municipal elections, the protected area project and the protection of shoreline areas, we're going to have a lot of information for you.

But for now, what we're really pleased to announce is the launch of our new website, which you can visit at aplq.ca.

It's not easy to set up a website. It's always longer and more complicated than you think. Several people, including Olivier Bodard, our webmaster, contributed to the process. But we'd like to highlight the tremendous work carried out by Pierre Martel, who oversaw the project, and to thank him for his work. When you visit the site, you'll recognize his splendid pictures of our lake.

A DIFFERENT LANDSCAPE

Anyone who hasn't been to the lake since last year is in for a shock. From Chénéville to Duhamel, all along Highway 321 and Chemin du Lac-Gagnon, Hydro-Québec has cut a 10-metre strip of forest on the side where the power lines run. It's not a pretty sight, especially since the vegetation hasn't started to grow. This was done to protect the network from the numerous outages it has suffered in recent years. We look forward to the leaves coming back!

CONVENIENCE STORE CLOSED

The Serjo convenience store has been closed since January. So it's no longer possible to buy gas or propane in Duhamel. As we prepare for boating and BBQ season, this is a problem.

Discussions are underway about a takeover by a new investor, but there's still no guarantee that gas will be available in the village this summer. If this doesn't work out, discussions are also underway to set up a co-op to provide the service. However, if this solution is adopted, it will certainly not be in place for the summer. In the meantime, we recommend that you bring gas and propane with you or pick them up in Chénéville. The other convenience store is still open and offers a propane tank exchange service.

REFERENDUM ON THE MINING PROJECT THIS SUMMER

The *Alliance des municipalités* had planned to hold a referendum on the mining project at the same time as the November municipal elections. The conditions required by Elections Québec for holding the referendum on the same day were very complicated and involved doubling resources and expenses. The Alliance therefore decided to hold a referendum on a separate date—Sunday, August 31, during the Labour Day weekend. We remind you that this referendum will not be for decision-making purposes, but will rather allow the public to clearly express its position on the subject to political decision-makers and in the event of a possible *Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement* (BAPE). Full details will follow on the electoral list, mail-in voting, advance voting and the "No" campaign, which will be led by the *Regroupement de protection des lacs de la Petite-Nation*. For now, we ask you to save the date and stay tuned for all the information we'll be sending you. This is an ideal opportunity to make your voice heard.

PARTNERSHIP WITH THE MUNICIPALITY AND THE OBV ON THE LAKE'S HEALTH

Following the Integrated Study of the lake, carried out in 2022, an action plan has been put in place to protect the health of our wonderful lake to the greatest extent possible. A highly effective partnership is ongoing with the municipality and the *Organisme des bassins versants* (OBV). We are continuing with the Sentinelle project to ensure that Eurasian water milfoil and other invasive plants are not present in the lake. The study of the evolution of periphyton will also be in its 3rd year out of 5. In addition, the municipality consulted us about updating the by-law on access to the lake. More on this below. With a view to preventing deterioration in water quality, avoiding shoreline erosion, limiting phosphate input into the lake and reducing blue-green algae episodes, we are currently studying options for optimizing shoreline vegetation and promoting

best practices. Although most of the lake's shores are still in their natural state, there are issues in some locations. A completely bare shoreline is not good for the health of the lake. The APLG, in collaboration with the OBV, can help you find more favourable management solutions. Don't hesitate to contact us at info@aplg.ca, whether to discuss best practices or to take part in the Sentinelle project or periphyton study.

ACCESSING DUHAMEL LAKES

Here's a brief summary of the updated by-law. Access to the lake is still free for Lac Gagnon property owners, and boat washing is not required as long as you have not visited another body of water. Whether you are an owner or a visitor, if you go to another lake with any type of watercraft, including paddleboards and fishing equipment, you must wash your watercraft with a hot-water pressure washer. The free wash station is located near the municipal building. The municipality is considering the construction of a second washing station. It would be located at the Lac Gagnon boat launch and would be accessible as early as next year.

Before they are launched, all boats arriving from another body of water must undergo a visual inspection by the person in charge of the station. This year, the inspection will take place at 1857 Route 321, in the village just before the stop sign. The inspection fee is \$20. An access permit will be issued to open the gate at the boat launch. The cost is \$130 for a wakeboat, \$30 for other boats 30 feet and under, and \$20 for members of hunting and fishing associations. Electric motors are free. Boats over 30 feet are prohibited. Launching a boat on private land is also prohibited, with the exception of the owner. The vignette system is no longer in force, as no checks were carried out. Please refer to the by-law on the municipal website for further details.

LAKE WATER LEVEL

We haven't really had any flooding this year, despite the heavy snow cover and spring rainfall. This was the first year of the new automatic water level measurement system, provided by lake resident Marc L. Dufour, and it worked perfectly. To find out more about this system, please [read the news item](#) on the website home page.

DRINKING AND SWIMMING WATER TESTS

As we do every year, we'll be carrying out roughly fifty tests on the lake's swimming water this summer.

As for the drinking water tests, last year the municipality offered the service for the first time. We're waiting to hear whether they plan to do it again this year. We'll let you know.

RECOGNITION

At the beginning of the year, unbeknownst to Louis, the APLG board, nominated Louis St-Hilaire, our President, for the Lieutenant Governor of Quebec Medal (volunteer-senior category) for his involvement in various organizations to protect Lac Gagnon and the entire Petite-Nation region. His application was accepted and he received the medal at a ceremony in Gatineau on April 12.



Congratulations Louis.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This year's Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday, June 29. Details will be provided at a later date.

Mark your calendars. We look forward to seeing you there.

Board of Directors

2025

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Marc L. Dufour, Water Level

Hélène St-Hilaire, Graphic Design

C.P. 354, Duhamel, Québec

J0V 1G0

www.aplg.ca

info@aplg.ca

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