LE REMOUS - FALL 2026

After a summer with weather that was not exactly the best, the fall was great and the colours around the lake were stunning as usual.



Looking back on the summer, it appears that, overall, traffic on the lake was not excessive. The boating code of ethics we've adopted seems to promote boaters' respect, despite a few exceptions.



A few zero waves signs were installed along the river and there will be more next year. We'd like to thank the property owners who agreed to install one on their property. We appreciate your cooperation and hope these signs will have the desired effect.

The lake level is currently just below average but is trending toward the seasonal norm.

LAC GAGNON 2026 FISHING SEASON

This year, 92 fishing outings were recorded in the Angler's Logbook, with lake trout being the target species for nearly 46% of the trips, followed by landlocked salmon at 28%. These data, collected through angler participation, help document fishing activity on our lake.

The reported outings represent approximately 462 hours of fishing. Reported catches included 75 lake trout, 13 of which were kept, and 23 landlocked salmon, as well as other species, notably walleye and pike. During outings specifically to catch lake trout, participants reported an average of one catch for every 4.5 cumulative hours of fishing, across all anglers and including catch-and-release.

Did you know? In the fall, lake trout spawn on rocky bottoms, often at depths of less than four metres. Their eggs become lodged between the rocks and remain there for several months before hatching. Preserving these habitats therefore helps ensure the renewal of the populations!

Thank you to everyone who filled out the logbook this season. Every recorded outing is helpful, even if you didn't catch anything! We invite you to continue participating next year.

SWIMMING WATER TESTS

Lac Gagnon water quality is still very good. About 50 samples were collected in early August from various locations around the lake and in the river. All of them were excellent.

You can view all the detailed results on our website.

SHORELINE



In the latest issue of the Remous, we mentioned that it is by working as a team that we will be able to meet current and future challenges. We must increase our efforts to minimize our human footprint to avoid further harm to the environment. The ultimate goal is to preserve the lake's excellent water quality, the area's peace and quiet and the residents' investment.

In 2026 our priority was to protect and restore the shoreline, which is key to preserving the lake. Our slogan is "Let's give the shoreline back to nature" and the initiative was promoted through three stunning posters featuring a great blue heron that were put up around the lake and at the Coop building, as well as through flyers created by the municipality in collaboration with the APLG and distributed at several public locations in Duhamel. These publications encourage shoreline rehabilitation by replacing artificial structures with native vegetation to halt erosion and restore biodiversity. This approach, focused on green engineering, creates habitat for wildlife, filters water, and naturally stabilizes the soil.

Remember that the shoreline buffer zone depth is 10 metres on flat terrain and 15 metres on sloped terrain. In this fragile area, there should be no backfilling and you should not mow the grass or clear vegetation. A five-metre-wide strip may be cleared to provide access to the lake.

The municipality has indicated that it intends to ensure compliance with best practices. For our part, we still have some funds from the grant we received from the provincial government. We invite you to contact us in the spring if you need advice on your landscaping projects.

WASHING STATION AND BOAT LAUNCH

Installation work on the new boat washing station, located at the boat launch, was recently completed, and the system is expected to be operational by the start of next season! There will be no cost for washing boats, and visitor access fees will be managed by the municipality. We will keep you informed about the operating procedures, which will undoubtedly be more efficient than in the past. In addition, the municipality is aware that work needs to be done to improve the boat launch and is awaiting an environmental permit to carry out these improvements. Finally, Duhamel has implemented nighttime parking restrictions in the boat launch area to prevent houseboat owners from remaining on the lake indefinitely.

The boat washing station located in the village will continue to be in operation next year.

PICNIC AREA

The picnic area located at the southern end of the lake continues to attract people of all ages, who gather there to enjoy the magnificent beach. The Sépaq, which owns and maintains the area, wishes to collaborate with the APLG and the municipality in its management. For its part, the municipality will install new picnic tables in the area. Finally, in order to reduce nighttime noise and prevent disturbances, the municipality has enforced a no-parking policy on Chemin du Lac-Gagnon Est between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. Sépaq also conducts occasional patrols in the evenings.

INVASIVE PLANTS

No traces of Eurasian watermilfoil were detected at Lac Gagnon. Thank you to the entire Sentinelles team for their dedication! Your involvement makes a difference! Thank you also to all property owners who inspect the shoreline in front of their property and to everyone who washes their boats and equipment after visiting another body of water. Keep in mind that many lakes in our region are struggling with Eurasian water milfoil and that it is extremely difficult to eradicate it once it has taken hold.

MINE ISSUE

There have been several developments in this area. First, due to its difficulties in securing funding for the project, Lomiko Metals was put up for sale and it accepted an $11 million purchase offer from Global Battery Materials (GBM). At this time, we know very little about this private company, which has not yet contacted either the *Alliance des cinq municipalités* or the *Regroupement de protection des lacs de la Petite-Nation*. What we do know, however, is that the company sent an email to the municipalities indicating that it would undertake new (impact-free) exploration work from November through March. This is not very good news, in our opinion.

On a more positive note, however, the recent provincial elections have yielded two significant commitments to our cause. During his campaign, the leader of the Liberal Party, Charles Milliard, announced that he recognized the project's lack of public acceptance and would do everything in his power to prevent it if elected. Paul St-Pierre Plamondon, the new premier, followed suit with a statement along the same lines. Both said they were exploring the possibility of buying back the mining claims, as permitted by the Mining Act. This is excellent news, and we will ensure that these commitments are honoured.

MARIE-LEFRANC-PETITE-NATION PROTECTED AREA

The project, which runs north to south along the east side of lac Gagnon and spans three Regional County Municipalities (RCMs), was accepted during the local consultation phase this spring and was evaluated during the regional consultation covering the entire Outaouais and Laurentians regions this fall. The final report must be submitted to the Ministry of the Environment within one month for evaluation at the provincial level. It is too early to know what the final recommendation will be. What we've heard so far is that the Laurentians portion is being received very favourably, while the Outaouais portion is facing significant resistance, particularly from the forestry industry and its supporters. Stay tuned for further developments in the next issue of Remous.

*** Breaking news: The *Coalition Marie-Lefranc-Petite-Nation* which includes the *Regroupement de protection des lacs de la Petite-Nation*, and has submitted the initial proposal, has been working for months on archaeological research into the presence of Indigenous peoples within the protected area along the Petite-Nation River north of Lac Gagnon. This work took place recently at Chénier, Serpent, and Saint-Denis lakes, and five sites of pre-Columbian (pre-contact) presence were discovered and are undergoing the classification process in Québec City. The artifacts could be thousands of years old. Laboratory analyses will take place this winter, and depending on the results, there may be a second research phase next year. There is no doubt that these discoveries add significant value to our protected area project.

You can read about the archaeology project in an article (French only) published by Radio-Canada here. Our thanks go out to Pierre Martel for his contribution of photos and videos for the article.

We are also enclosing a link to a French blog on the La Loutre mining project.

COOPERATIVE

We've been hearing great news from the Duhamel Solidarity Cooperative.

The gas station is very busy and much appreciated. The café area offers snacks such as sandwiches, salads, and pastries.

Several local products and services are also available. There's a great sense of community in the Coop.

Thank you to the team of employees, volunteers and the Coop's board members!

For more information, please visit the Coop's website at the following address: Coop Duhamel.

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2026

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P.O. Box 3526,
Chénéville, Quebec
J0V 1E0
www.aplg.ca
info@aplg.ca
Facebook