



ASSOCIATION DES PROPRIÉTAIRES
DU LAC GAGNON

LE REMOUS - WINTER 2022

As we begin the new year, we'd like to update you on the latest news from Lac Gagnon, and we promise that not once will we mention the topic that nobody wants to hear about. Let's start with two positive news items.

INTEGRATED STUDY OF LAC GAGNON

We have been talking about it for a long time but it is now confirmed: there will be an integrated study of Lac Gagnon. What is an integrated study? In short, it is a portrait of our lake and its watershed done by the professionals of the Organisme du bassin versant (OBV) of our region. This portrait is then used to draw up a list of priorities and an action plan.

For 54 years, the APLG's mission has been to protect this remarkable body of water. Each year, volunteers from the Association take different readings that confirm our lake's water quality remains high. However, the situation is precarious and various indications lead us to believe that things could change. These include increased traffic on the lake, the beginning of 2nd tier construction, more powerful boats, the proximity of lakes infested with invasive plants and the potential for mining development. We felt that this is a good time to bring in professionals to take a snapshot of the area, determine a list of priorities and put an action plan in place. We'll need several volunteers to help carry out the study, but we know from past experience that many among you will step up.

It took us two years to get the necessary programs and grants. One requirement was to include a lake from another municipality. We therefore developed a joint program with the Association du Lac Viceroy. The APLG will invest \$2,000. but most of the balance will come from the Papineau RCM and the municipality of Duhamel. We'd like to thank Fiducie Lauzon and the MNA for Papineau, Mathieu Lacombe, for their contributions.

LOGGING PROJECT NEAR ROUTE DES ZINGUES SUSPENDED INDEFINITELY

We will never know if the quick mobilization against this project weighed on the decision, but the news of the suspension has been officially announced by the Forest Ministry. Special thanks go out to the mayor of Duhamel, David Pharand, Richard Chartrand of the Route des Zingues, Gregory Flayol of Rando Québec and Gérard Desjardins who, with the APLG, prepared a quick response to this unreasonable project.

SUCCESSFUL ANNUAL MEETING

After many attempts and postponements, we were finally able to take advantage of a window of opportunity to hold our Annual General Meeting. Even though the date and constraints limited participation, several members were in attendance. Since the meeting was available simultaneously on Zoom, our total audience was equivalent to that of our 2019 meeting.

It was a positive experience for the Board members, as it allowed us to confirm that our priorities were in line with our members' interests and that we are on the right track.

All the members of the Board were re-elected and Pierre Martel, who lives on the river, joined the group. Here is the list of the Board members and their responsibilities:

Louis St-Hilaire: President, Mining issue
Anne Wells: Vice-President, Treasurer and Translator
Pierre-Émile Rocray: Secretary
Mark Conroy: Navigation
Charles de Maisonneuve: Water Testing, Integrated Study Project
Paul-André Laurin: Navigation
Pierre Martel: Member
Mireille Tousignant: Invasive plants, Sentinelles

Special thanks go out to Olivier Bodard who coordinated the Zoom broadcast. You can still listen to it [on this link](#).

BOAT WASHING: A NEW APPROACH

A new boat washing station should be in operation in the village in time for the boat launching period. The municipality has obtained a grant for this initiative and the equipment has been ordered. We will have more details in the coming months, but for now, we think that it is a step in the right direction to protect the lake. Additionally, the municipality has applied to Employment Canada for a subsidy to hire an employee for the washing station.

MINING ISSUE

The government's steamroller approach to so-called Critical and Strategic Minerals mining development is not slowing down in the least. Lomiko Metals, the company that plans to develop a graphite ore deposit just east of Duhamel, recently released the [site plan](#) for its mining facility.

According to the document, the 15-year mine project would be profitable and could begin around 2023-2024. An initial analysis, based on the OBV's watershed maps, shows beyond any doubt, this project's potential impact on all the

[watersheds](#) towards Lac Simon and Lac-des-Plages. At first glance, there would be no direct impact on Lac Gagnon, however, Lomiko announced that it would begin new drilling in February on its huge 25 sq. km. claims with a view to expanding its site.

In addition to this active mining project in our region, there is also the ongoing issue of preparing the map of territories that are not compatible with mining activity (Territoires incompatibles avec l'activité minière or TIAM in French). The Minister of Natural Resources has asked the Papineau RCM to prepare such a map for the region using the current criteria, which provide only very limited protection in our entire region. Without going into the details of this complex issue, we can tell you that the protection is truly minimal, to such an extent that some parts of Lac Gagnon would not be protected at all and it would be possible for a mining company to operate on the shores of the lake in some areas.

The Regroupement de Protection des Lacs de la Petite-Nation (RPLPN), in which the APLG is very active, is continuing its resistance to this project. After nearly three years of struggle, mobilization against this project continues to grow. All 25 municipalities of the Papineau RCM and many organizations have given their support to the Regroupement. The population as a whole does not appear to want this type of development in our region. Following the meetings we had with different ministers, it appears obvious to us that, at this time, the Quebec government does not seem to have any problem with sacrificing our region and transforming it into a mining region. It will be a long struggle, but in the end, we must remember that it is rare for a government to follow through with a project when it has no public support whatsoever. The Regroupement will continue its battle against this mining project.

NAVIGATION MAP

During the Annual General Meeting, all the members in attendance ratified the [navigation map](#) that we proposed last year. During 2022, we will focus on having this map recognized as

our navigation code on the lake. We will make it visible on all possible platforms. We also want to display it in different locations around the lake, including the boat launch. Our objective is to establish a code of conduct among ourselves so that everyone can enjoy the lake.

LAKE FREEZE-UP

The APLG has been keeping statistics on the period of complete freeze-up of the lake for 50 years now. This year, the lake was completely frozen over on January 9th. You can follow these statistics on our [web page](#). The average duration of complete freeze-up is around 120 days while the longest period was 141 days in 1991 and the shortest was 69 days in 2021.

Although our study is not truly scientific, after 50 years, we can start to see a warming trend. When we first started keeping the statistics, the average duration of the freeze-up was around 130 days, whereas it is now around 120 days. That's a drop of some ten days over the period.

Thank you to everyone around the lake who provided us with the information to keep our statistics up to date.

We'll be back in a few months, when the ice is gone, the leaves have started to grow and we'll be preparing for another great season on the lake.

Happy New Year

Louis St-Hilaire for the APLG Board of Directors

Board of Directors 2022

Louis St-Hilaire, President
Anne Wells, Vice-President, Treasurer and Translator
Pierre-Émile Rocray, Secretary
Mark Conroy, Navigation File
Charles de Maisonneuve, Water Testing, Integrated Study Project
Paul-André Laurin, Navigation File
Pierre Martel, Member
Mireille Tousignant, Invasive Plants, Sentinelles

Honorary members

André Brossard
Richard Chartrand
Nicole Tousignant

Volunteers:

Gérard Bodard, Buoys
Olivier Bodard, Web site and Facebook
Paul St-Georges, Invasive Plants, Sentinelles

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