



ASSOCIATION DES PROPRIÉTAIRES
DU LAC GAGNON

LE REMOUS - FALL 2023

The docks are in, the trees are bare and all that remains is the memory of an unusual summer which was very hot at the end of May, smoky in June, rainy through July and August, and very hot in September, to the point where there was even an extreme pollen event at the lake in mid-September. Hardly normal for those planning a vacation. However, we hope you still managed to enjoy the lake.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) was very well attended [with a full house](#) in the Municipal Council meeting room. With the release of the Integrated Lake Study, attendees were given a first look at this up-to-date portrait of the state of our lake's health and the strategies we'll be putting in place to maintain it. As has been the case for the past few years, the APLG's actions were aligned with members' concerns identified in the 2019 survey. We can now say that in the coming years, the [Integrated Lake Study](#) will serve as a compass to guide the Board's actions. As a first step, [the signing](#) of the Pacte Action-Protection du lac Gagnon between the municipality of Duhamel and the APLG, will be the basis of all our interventions for years to come. Paul-André Laurin will head the project for the

APLG, with Charles de Maisonneuve and Paul St-Georges assisting him.

The AGM also saw the induction of a new Honorary Board Member, [Anthony Le Moine](#), a pioneer of the northern part of the lake. Anthony settled on the islands in the north of the lake in 1963, when Chemin du Lac-Gagnon Ouest only extended 2-3 km beyond Pointe-à-Baptiste. It took a pioneering spirit to set out from the Poliquin beach every Friday evening with his construction equipment on two outboard boats and cross the lake at night. That was the price to be paid for a life at the north of the lake. Anthony, [who still lives on his island](#), was a founding member of the APLG, where he served as its first treasurer and briefly as president.

The Board decided to run again as a unit this year and was re-elected. Since then, a new member, David Gratton, has been invited to take charge of the fishing committee. You will find a list of the Board members and their responsibilities at the end of this Remous.

The [AGM documents](#) are available on the APLG website.

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR LAKE?

Based on the Integrated Lake Study

The Lake Study has a wealth of information on Lac Gagnon. Here are a few questions about the lake (the answers may be found at the end of this newsletter).

1. Lac Gagnon is 18.67 sq. km. What is the size of the entire watershed, that is all sources of water entering the lake? How many municipalities are in the watershed area?
2. How many permanent tributaries feed the lake? Which are the two most important, and what percentage of the lake's total water do they supply?
3. What is the theoretical time it takes for a drop of water entering the lake in the north to travel all the way to the south?
4. The maximum depth of the lake is 71.76 m. What is the average depth of the lake?

These are just a few details from the 123-page report. In upcoming Remous, we'll be bringing you more information about our magnificent lake. In the meantime, for more information, refer to the [Integrated Lake Study](#).

MINING ISSUE

Activities relating to this issue, which were initiated at Lac Gagnon, have now become a province-wide movement, and this year gave rise to the creation of the QLAIM Coalition (Coalition Québécoise des lacs incompatibles avec l'activité minière), which now comprises 140 lake associations opposed to mining development near lakes. Our president, Louis St-Hilaire is the Coalition's founder and spokesperson. This movement by lake associations played a major role in the launch last spring of a

public consultation by the Minister of Natural Resources on a new mining framework. The [summary of this consultation](#) has just been published, and the Minister has announced changes to the *Mining Act* for the coming winter. QLAIM has accomplished a great deal and if you wish to keep up to date with recent developments, we invite you to read the Coalition's [latest Bulletin](#).

As for Lomiko Metals' La Loutre project, the company continues to push the project forward. Its latest move was to acquire claims north of La Loutre and begin exploration to increase its reserves. These claims extend north in line with the middle of Lac Gagnon, just east of Lac Preston. The Regroupement de Protection des Lacs de la Petite-Nation recently met with the company, which was accompanied by a representative of Investissement Québec. The Regroupement reiterated its strong opposition to the project's development. If you would like to get involved in this battle, contact us at info@aplq.ca.

2023 WATER TESTS

The water quality values measured by the Réseau de surveillance volontaire des lacs (Voluntary Lake Monitoring Network) (RSVL)—chlorophyll, total phosphorus and transparency—were classified as oligotrophic (i.e. relatively low in plant nutrients and containing abundant oxygen in the deeper parts), ultraoligotrophic and oligotrophic respectively. Considering that the ultraoligotrophic measure is the maximum rating, these results indicate that, as in previous years, the water quality of our lake continues to be very good.

All but one of the [50 swimming water samples](#) were classified as excellent. Once

again, these results have remained consistent over the years.

INVASIVE PLANTS

Thanks to the involvement of our group of 35 Sentinelles, we have confirmed that our lake has no occurrences of Eurasian watermilfoil or other threatening invasive plants. Additionally, our monitoring practice is spreading to other lakes around us, thereby helping us to protect Lac Gagnon. Many thanks go out to the team led by Mireille Tousignant and assisted by Paul St-Georges. As Lac Gagnon is such a big lake, we're always on the lookout for new volunteers. An information meeting will be organized for this purpose early next summer. You can find [a map of the lake](#) with the names of the Sentinelles, as well as the assigned and unassigned areas, on the APLG website. Our ultimate goal is for everyone to take responsibility for inspecting the lake in front of their property, and to ensure that no boat or equipment from another body of water is launched without having been cleaned. We must continue our vigilance and education.

As a result of a phenomenon observed by some Sentinelles, and on the advice of the Organisme de Bassin Versant (OBV), we have begun monitoring periphyton* growth. This new team is led by Ann Burns-Tardif, a dedicated Sentinelle.

*Periphyton: You've probably noticed it on your dock ladders, boats and rocks. It's a mass of algae and debris that forms a somewhat slimy layer on anything solid. The thickness of the layer is a function of the concentration of phosphorus, which comes mainly from human activity. The phenomenon seems to be growing, and that's what we want to measure, because this growth is a precursor to a lake's aging.

NAVIGATION

As we mentioned above, this summer was not too favourable for boating activities. Board members represent various parts of the lake. At the end of each summer, we do an informal poll of the members to find out what we think about the boating situation on the lake. Obviously, this is not very scientific, but our conclusion this year is that we're seeing both an increase in the size of boats, which seem to be noisy (engines, music, etc.) and in the number of kayaks, sailboats, paddleboards, pontoons and other watercraft used by enthusiasts of peace and quiet. We're lucky to be on a big lake. It's easy to find the right place to carry out your favourite form of boating. That's why we suggest you always consult the [navigation map](#). If everyone respects this map, life will be more enjoyable for all. Another comment during the poll: navigation on the river has improved since people started respecting the wave-free zone.

FISHING COMMITTEE

The fishing committee, headed by Paul-André Laurin, was created in 2023. The seven-member committee has focused on setting up the Angler's Log with a questionnaire for anglers. The purpose of the log is to monitor the health of Lac Gagnon's fish, particularly lake trout, from an angler's point of view. The log was launched on July 21. We received a total of 155 entries. Lake trout, landlocked salmon, bass, walleye, pike and yellow perch have been inventoried. We are working with the biologist from the Ministère de l'Environnement, Lutte contre les changements climatiques, Faune et Parcs to analyze the results and obtain her

professional opinion. The questionnaire will be amended slightly and relaunched for the lake trout fishing season in the spring of 2024. The committee's second initiative is to raise anglers' awareness of sound catch-and-release practices and provide tips for a successful catch-and-release. In the fall, David Gratton, a new member of the Board of Directors, took charge of the fishing committee, allowing Paul-André to take on a new and important issue for the APLG.

2023-2024 OBJECTIVES

The basic plan is still to protect our cherished waterway. In our opinion, the tools we put in place over the last few years (Integrated Study, water tests, Sentinelles, navigation map) are still relevant, and we intend to maintain them. This year, we're delighted to be able to add a permanent fishing committee, and we've reintroduced the project to modernize our website.

IN CLOSING

Your association has launched several projects in recent years. We are working to enhance them and add new ones. Our members seem to agree with the association's direction, as this year we set a new record of 375 members. None of this would be possible without the participation of two key players: first, our large group of volunteers, that we thank for their enthusiasm, and second, the Duhamel municipal council for its constant cooperation.

Answers to the short quiz on page 2

1. (a) 582 sq. km (b) 7 municipalities (page 13)
2. (a) 24 streams and rivers (b) Petite-Nation river in the north, 60.67% and Ernest river, in the west, 26.91% (page 19)
3. 1.5 years (page 38)
4. 25.72 m (page 35)

Board of Directors 2024

Louis St-Hilaire, President, Mining
Anne Wells, Vice President, Treasurer and Translator
Pierre-Émile Rocray, Secretary
Mark Conroy, Navigation
David Gratton, Fishing Committee
Charles de Maisonneuve, Lake Health
Paul-André Laurin, Lac Gagnon Action/Protection Committee
Pierre Martel, Website Modernization
Paul St-Georges, Lake Health
Mireille Tousignant, Monitoring Invasive Plants

Honorary Members

André Brossard
Richard Chartrand
Anthony Le Moine
Nicole Tousignant

Volunteers:

Gérard Bodard, Buoys
Olivier Bodard, Website and Facebook
Ann Burns-Tardif, Periphyton
Richard Chartrand, Chronicler
Hélène St-Hilaire, Graphic Design

P.O. Box 354, Duhamel, Quebec
J0V 1G0

www.aplg.ca

info@aplg.ca

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