

LOGGING ACTIVITIES

The year 2006 has left some major landscape changes in its wake! The mini tornado and high winds in July, the seemingly abusive harvesting of downed trees, logging activities with the resulting wide access roads and clear cutting have all contributed to changing our environment and our every-day life.

The time has come to take stock of the situation and question the Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune (MRNF).

We are looking for information on whether timber harvested since last July exceeds authorized quantities, what measures will be taken to minimize the impact in residential areas and how the lake's shoreline slopes will be safeguarded.

While the state of the roads is a source of concern, we know that the municipality is working on this. We would like to see the hiking/ski trails refurbished so that the forest is accessible and welcoming.

We have initiated steps with the MRNF and are in contact with the municipality, the Papineau RCM and M.C. Forêt, the logging company.

You can monitor developments on the APLG Web site.

The Board of Directors is now complete with the arrival of Réjean Toutant. Welcome aboard Réjean.

COULD BLUE ALGAE BECOME A PROBLEM IN OUR LAKE?

In recent months, most regions in Québec were affected by blue algae, which leaves a green surface film and is a public health danger. The October 17 issue of *Le Devoir* reported that 71 lakes in the province were contaminated and that the number of lakes north of the St. Lawrence affected by this menace had increased by 50% in one year. This is not something that can be ignored. We need to make sure our lake is safe!

Fortunately, there are several factors working in our favour. The lake is upstream, it is generally very deep with cold water temperatures and has no phosphorus.

We still need to be vigilant. Shallow bays should be monitored, since the water temperature rises more quickly in these areas, making them more prone to the accumulation of algae. This is why it is so important to preserve the natural vegetation cover, avoid using fertilizers that end up in the lake and ensure that septic systems are very secure.

It is also very important to use phosphate-free products, since phosphorus serves as a nutrient for all algae, including blue algae and water milfoil.

In the spring issue we will discuss ways of preventing erosion and reducing pollution. Let's all be careful!

We all have a role in maintaining the water quality in Lac Gagnon!

TELEPHONE SERVICES

The Télébec communication tower was set up during the fall. However Hydro-Quebec will probably not be able to supply electricity before the end of December. Therefore Télébec will likely not be able to install its fibre optic cable before January. Clients could be contacted in January to plan the installation of the fixed cellular system at their property. As a result telephone service would be available only towards February 2007. This new tower will result in improved reception for mobile cell phone clients of **Télébec, Bell and Telus.**

Merry Christmas



Happy New Year!

LE REMOUS
du
LAC GAGNON

December
2006



APLG

Association des propriétaires
du lac Gagnon

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Membership

Our objective this year was to have over 350 members. We recently achieved our target and the APLG now has 365 members, 64% of property owners. Thank you for your growing support.

The 2007 membership fee remains a low \$15. Don't forget to renew your membership early in the New Year since, after the spring edition, we will only be mailing the *Remous* to paid-up members.

DID YOU KNOW...

There is a 15-meter wide protective shoreline area that is measured from the natural high water mark and is intended to preserve the natural look of the shoreline, prevent erosion and keep the shoreline intact.

Some of the numerous prohibited activities in this protective area include removal of trees and vegetation cover, excavation, embankment, building a retaining wall, etc.

You can open up a maximum 5-meter wide access to the watercourse, where you can remove trees and shrubs for a path (preferably not straight, to prevent erosion), put in stairs or a raised terrace (to avoid destroying vegetation) or put in a wharf or other means of access.

The zoning bylaw provides for one access path per property. If you give someone water access rights, you have to share the path.

You should be aware that any shoreline work must be authorized by the Duhamel urban development department and you should always refer to the zoning by-law before starting. The by-law has been posted on the APLG's Web site and is available at City Hall.

APLG: GETTING CLOSER TO ITS MEMBERS

We believe that our association is highly involved and that most of you know about it and the credibility it has gained over the years.

We have therefore decided to make a few changes in how we do things to better support our members while saving time and money.

From now on, we will contact all owners at Lac Gagnon and on the Petite Nation river only once a year to invite them to join the APLG. **Thereafter, the Remous will only be sent to members in good standing**, by mail or email, as requested.

The internet site, which describes the association and provides exposure, will be accessible to all but messages, updates on issues and services offered during the year will be sent to members only.

In the coming year, we want to improve our communications, add services, extend water analyses and address your requests. We hope to have 400 members in 2008.

Thank you for your support, it's what keeps us motivated

We would like to thank Anne Wells for her excellent translation assistance. Her help is greatly appreciated.

NEWS FROM THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

As at November 30, 2006, 86% of the budget had been spent. Unless there are some unexpected events in December, the year 2006 should close with a surplus of about \$88,000.

Following are the highlights of the Mayor's speech, which will be published in the next issue of the *Duhamellois*:

- The 2005 and 2006 surpluses will be used to create a \$100,000 working capital, which will help reduce interest expense,
- Roadwork: a \$105,000 subsidy, payable over three years, has been obtained,
- Fire department: a new fire chief was hired, firefighters were trained, one new, large truck that was not appropriate was replaced with two, used, more suitable trucks, the service vehicle was replaced.

The 2007 budget will be tabled at a special meeting on January 5, 2007 at 7:30 p.m., followed by the regular monthly meeting. We will keep you posted.

The new three-year valuation role, which will be used for the 2008 tax bill, will be available next fall. We can expect a significant increase in property values, but the tax rate should be adjusted to keep the tax burden at the same level. The impact of the new valuation role on individual taxpayers will depend on the variance between their valuation and the average increase. The 2007 property tax bill will be based on the same value as last year.