

## THE BATTLE AGAINST CYANOBACTERIA

### Measures:

- Maintain a functional septic system that meets standards;
- Do not use fertilizers and herbicides;
- Use only phosphate-free products;
- Reduce runoff into the lake;
- Maintain an efficient shoreline.

There should be three types of vegetation along the shoreline: herbaceous species that protect surface soil, trees and shrubs that provide more extensive and deeper protection.

Shoreline vegetation serves many purposes, including acting as:

- A filter to prevent water contamination;
- A buffer against shoreline erosion;
- A screen against excessive water temperatures along the shore.

## RESOURCES AT OUR SERVICE

We would like to thank Marianne Métivier, responsible for promoting awareness, who spent two days at Lac Gagnon and met with 15 property owners to examine their shoreline and make suggestions to prevent erosion.

Marianne, who specializes in water biology, greatly appreciated the warm welcome and cooperation she received.

## PUBLIC CONSULTATION

For over a year, we have been asking the municipality to change the urban development plan to include more specific guidelines on development in seasonal residential areas.

In July 2007, the APLG proposed a minimum lot size in the second row and on hillsides of 20,000 square meters, i.e. about 400 ft. X 500 ft. The proposal was rejected even though some areas of the province have adopted such a bylaw.

At the last municipal council meeting on September 5, proposed changes to lot-size bylaws were announced.

The minimum lot size would be standardized throughout the municipality. The provision would read as follows: "The minimum size of any lot is 5,000 square meters and the minimum average depth and width are 60 meters." (unofficial translation)

Section 3 relating to sloped sites would read as follows: "The minimum size of a lot on a sloped site with an average slope of more than 10% is 5,000 square meters, plus 500 square meters for each average slope percentage point over 10%." (unofficial translation)

As our objective is to safeguard water quality, ensure tranquility for the numerous seasonal residents and maintain the beautiful scenery, the APLG has asked that specific standards be adopted for the recreational-forest (RF) and forest (F) zones around the lakes and in the forest.

The APLG is proposing that the minimum lot size be increased to at least 10,000 square meters in RF and F zones. The principle set out in Section 3 above would apply to sloped sites.

The APLG agrees with the minimum lot sizes that have been in effect since August 2006 in R zones (recreational and seasonal residential), i.e. minimum size of 5,000 square meters and minimum width and depth of 60 meters. R zones include the first 200 meters along lakes and rivers.

The APLG does not believe that it is necessary to require a minimum of 5,000 square meters in the others zones, which are primarily in the village.

The extensive presence of waterways in our region is a key component of the landscape and we believe that measures to maintain a healthy environment are urgently needed.

If these issues matter to you, come to the **public consultation** organized by the municipality to voice your opinion:

**When: Saturday**

**October 4, 2008, at 10 a.m.**

**Where: Duhamel Town Hall**

LE REMOUS  
du  
LAC GAGNON

September  
2008



**APLG**

Association des propriétaires  
du lac Gagnon

C.P. 354, Duhamel, Québec  
J0V 1G0  
[www.aplg.ca](http://www.aplg.ca)

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### Volunteers:

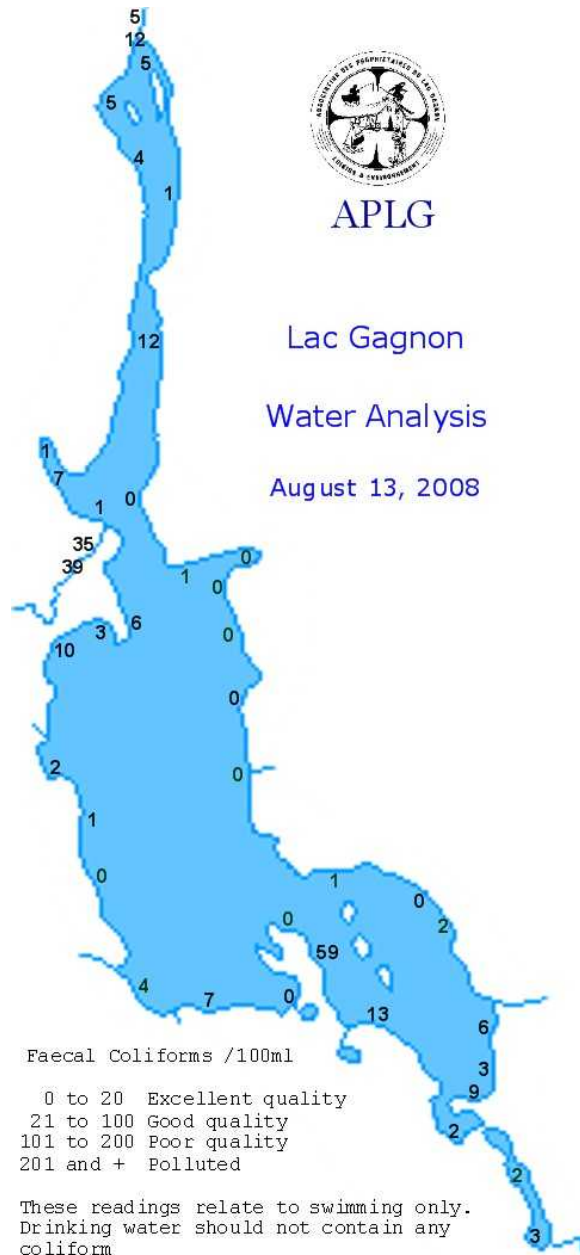
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contact: [info@aplg.ca](mailto:info@aplg.ca)

## Membership

The Association now has 375 paid-up members, i.e.: two-thirds of the Lac Gagnon property owners and about 10 members more than our 2006 record. Thank you for your support, which helps us better defend your interests with public organizations.

We would also like to thank all the volunteers who participated in the various projects implemented by the APLG during the summer.



## WATER ANALYSIS

Water analyses commissioned by the APLG revealed that water quality for swimming is still excellent at Lac Gagnon. Results of the analyses, based on samples taken along the shoreline, are shown in the attached chart.

Although the municipality is no longer contributing to the cost of analyses, we have been able to maintain unit costs and have even increased the number of samples from 25 to 40, for a more complete representation.

Many areas of the lake continue to be free of fecal coliforms and levels in other areas are generally well within limits for swimming.

Total fecal coliforms are slightly higher in the Ernest stream and the northern part of the Petite-Nation river. While this was also the case last year, levels have improved substantially this year. We still believe that these fecal coliforms are from animal rather than human sources.

There were some rather unexpected results in one of the bays on the east side of the Pointe-à-Baptiste. We notified the municipality and the environmental representative conducted an inspection in the area in early September. Sceptic installations do not appear to be the cause of the problem. The APLG will carry out more tests in that bay at the end of September to confirm whether or not the results are representative and will post the results on our Web site.

## WE ARE NOT IMMUNE

In July, the presence of blue-green algae, consisting of non-toxic cyanobacteria, was detected for the first time in Lac Gagnon, in the Bourgeois bay area.

The algae bloom was seen along the shoreline. Generally, it looks like a green paint spill, or broccoli soup and sometimes, surface scum. Blue-green algae tends to proliferate in the summer and late into the fall.

We can thank vigilant property owners for reporting the bloom.

We encourage you to report any suspicious situation. The appearance of algae blooms can change quickly and they can sometimes even disappear temporarily.

It is important to note details when reporting a bloom. Taking pictures is the best alternative. Make sure the picture includes a number of reference points, such as a tree, a canoe, a pedal boat. Report details including the date, time, specific location, size, colour, duration.

To report a bloom, contact:

- the municipality at 819-428-7100, extension 24
- the regional office Ministère de l'Environnement at 819-772-3434
- by email: [outaouais@mddep.gouv.qc.ca](mailto:outaouais@mddep.gouv.qc.ca)

We are pleased to announce that Derquise Houle has joined the APLG Board of Directors.