

ROAD WORK

There was considerable roadwork in Duhamel in the fall of 2010, as the Municipality took full advantage of federal and provincial grants.

First, we congratulate the Municipality on having restored the ditches on *ch. du lac Gagnon est*, near the bridge that crosses the Petite-Nation River. The steep and completely bare sides allowed a lot of sediment to flow into the River. The erosion problem should be resolved thanks to a grant from our MP, Norman MacMillan, and to the city staff who did a good job of protecting our environment.

The Quebec Department of Transport undertook some major reconstruction work on Route 321, between Ch. des Hauteurs and Ch. du lac Doré sud. That section has actually been rebuilt, i.e. new culverts, gravelling and repaving. There was also major work to stabilize an embankment at the entrance of the village. without which a section of the road could have collapsed into the river.

The Municipality has completed five projects to improve roads as part of the government's Economic Action Plan. This includes repaving Main Street, levelling Ch. de la Grande-Baie, near Ernest Creek and improvements to Ch. du Milieu nord. These projects were all completed on schedule.

We encourage the Municipality to continue its commitment to environmental protection by ensuring that these road improvements, which involved digging ditches, do not contribute to increased erosion into Lac Gagnon. Restoration work may be needed in some areas.

TOURISM HOMES

In early 2010, the Municipality of Duhamel informed lake associations that it believed there was a need to regulate tourism homes on its territory. A first draft by-law to that effect was presented at the meeting of the Municipal Council in May 2010. An amended version was discussed at a public consultation meeting in June. It was then pointed out that the project did not include a proper definition of a tourist home. That project only affected Lac Venne and Lac Doré.

A second draft was introduced in early July. The latter included an amended definition of "tourist homes" and would have also applied to the village. In September, the Municipal Council withdrew the proposed tourist homes by-law, following a consultation with an urban planner. It was concluded that, under the Civil Code, the Municipality could not restrict property rights through such a municipal by-law.

In short, all property owners are free to rent their cottage or home.

However, people who rent their cottage or home on a commercial basis are still required, under a provincial regulation, to register with the Corporation de l'industrie touristique du Québec (CITQ). The CITQ must then classify the rental property, which involves fees and charges. This program applies to individuals who rent on an annual or seasonal basis, for periods of less than one month.

Although the CITQ is not considered as an organization that enforces these rules, especially at our lake, a person renting on a commercial basis could still be exposed to significant penalties, should a complaint be filed with the CITQ.

NEWS IN BRIEF

- The concrete slabs were removed from the public wharf at Lac Gagnon in early summer. The Municipality subsequently commissioned an engineer to undertake a feasibility study on the redevelopment of this access to the lake. We hope that everything will be ready by the next season and that an affordable solution will be used.

- The Municipality has set up an area at the pavilion behind the community center to allow citizens to stock up on drinking water, year-round, direct from the municipal water system. Ask for the combination to the lock at the City Hall.

- A new by-law dealing with property cleanliness and maintenance was adopted on September 3.

- Montpellier will be party to the waste and recyclable material removal agreement between Duhamel, Lac-Simon and Chénéville. This will require the purchase of two trucks, including a smaller one that will allow service on the east side of Lac Gagnon throughout the year.

- Since the name "Mont Julie" was never been officially recognized, the Municipal Council requested that the "Commission de toponymie du Québec" accept that this mountain officially be named "Kajakokanak", which was the name used by the Algonquin to designate Lac Gagnon. The Commission was also asked to accept that the land on the mountain transferred to the Municipality be called "Parc Primatina". A similar approach is being considered for Mont Caroline.

- The speed limit on gravel roads in the Municipality will be set at 50 km/h.

LE REMOUS
du
LAC GAGNON

November
2010



APLG

Association des propriétaires
du lac Gagnon

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Membership

Thank you to all the Lac Gagnon property owners who supported the association this year. We have received nearly 350 annual fees, which is our usual membership level. Participation in our shrub distribution and drinking water analysis programs is always excellent. Our mechoui, in late July, attracted over 75 members and was a real success.

We will increase our efforts to reach as many homeowners as possible. In this regard, it would be appreciated if members could promote the association to their neighbours, particularly among new residents. Send us their coordinates to info@aplg.ca.

LOGGING

The APLG took steps earlier this year to ensure that our agreement with the logging company "Lauzon" would be binding on all other logging companies that now have logging rights in our area. We hope to take this opportunity to improve the original agreement and thus better protect Lac Gagnon over the next two years. Furthermore, we will be lobbying the government to influence longer term policies regulating future logging activities.

BON VOISIN, BON OEIL

The "Bon voisin, bon oeil" committee is now under the leadership of [Gaetan Lortie](#), a permanent resident of ch. de la Grande Baie.

Information provided by members of this committee has contributed to the arrest of three criminals this year on our territory.

Please remember that many robberies take place during the Fall season. It is not advisable to leave valuables in plain sight.

HELICOPTER

In February 2010, the association asked the Municipality of Duhamel to intervene to ensure that a dock would not be used as a helipad at the Poliquin campground. While the Municipality took steps in this regard in early summer, given that the dock in question would not comply with regulations, it did nothing to pursue this issue during the summer. We continue to urge the Municipality to use whatever means it has at its disposal to deter the use of docks by helicopters during future summer seasons.

WATER ANALYSIS

The 2010 water analysis results for swimming purposes are shown in the attached graph.

The samples were taken near the shore, close to the surface, where people usually swim. Results might be better further from the shore, in deeper water, where many people take their drinking water.

Water was not flowing at the first source, at the north end of the lake. The results from the second source, further south, were as follows:

- Fecal coliforms: 0
- Total coliforms: 20
- Atypical bacteria: too many to count.

Water from this source is not within the standards, given that total coliforms exceed 10 and atypical bacteria exceed 200. Nonetheless, it is good enough to drink, since there were no fecal coliforms.

The results indicate that the water is of good quality for swimming purposes, but not as good as in previous years.

We noticed flocks of ducks in many places where there are fecal coliforms. Moreover, many residents were surprised by the large number of seagulls during the summer, especially around the islands of Pointe-à-Baptiste. But, some homeowners regularly feed the ducks, and, thereby, seagulls as well. Such behaviour, while well intentioned, undermines the health of the lakeshore and could even affect the health of swimmers. It might be advisable to spread the word to discourage our neighbours from feeding waterfowl. Otherwise, we leave ourselves open to the swimmer's itch, a nasty skin rash.

