



AMIS du LAC
FRIENDS of the LAKE

Good day everyone

Traditionally Friends/Amis produces a spring newsletter and although it is technically spring as I write this it may be summer by the time you receive it (translation and distribution take some time). My apologies!

Water Quality

Any of you who have been to the lake this spring have, for the second year, noticed that we have a yellow/brown algae bloom along with its fishy smell in most parts of the lake. First of all, we are not alone with this problem. It is in lakes all across our region and was in the ocean in Maine last week as well. This is not to say that we can't do anything to affect it.

The algae are fed by phosphates and organic matter that is circulated from the bottom of the lake in the spring – hence the spring bloom. There is a pile of organic matter that is in the lake from the landslide – all the topsoil from the slide itself. This we can't do much about. Here are a few things we can do as individuals to manage our behavior:

- Use **phosphate free** cleaning products – biodegradable is not enough – even tires biodegrade eventually
- Ensure a 10 meter no cut zone on your property to ensure organic matter/phosphates do not enter the lake
- Ensure that your septic system is functioning properly

Many of you have met or heard of Jean-Louis Courteau who has been scuba diving and collecting artifacts in our lake over the past 5 years. He, along with two scientists that he dives with on our lake, will do a short presentation with videos, photos and scientific data focusing on

the algae bloom and our water quality followed by a Q&A session after our AGM on July 9th. Don't miss this if possible.

Cadastral Reform

Most of you will have received documents from the provincial government regarding Cadastral Reform. You were encouraged to attend meetings in May in midweek at the lake if there were any issues with your documents. Very difficult for most of you! As it turns out you have until August 17th to discuss and request alterations to the document - by email with scanned documents: gpr@procadastre.ca or by phone: 1-866-621-0405 ext. #10.

Hammond's Bay Milfoil Project

The municipal plan to lay a burlap corridor across Hammond's Bay to minimize milfoil spread had been held up pending provincial approval. Late this winter it was approved. The contractor who was to do the work has now decided to make improvements in the equipment that installs the burlap. The burlap is now scheduled to be installed in early August. Our association will partially fund the installation as well as provide signage and a more professional buoy system for the corridor.

Municipal News (Corina Lupu will give a municipal update at our AGM)

- Underground garbage bins are scheduled be installed before July 1 - a boat washing station will be installed at the same time
- The municipal urban plan is in its final stages of approval and will be adopted before the end of this council's mandate
- A lake access bylaw has been adopted - Corina will outline the details at the AGM
- A parking lot redesign is in process to attempt to eliminate some of the chaos at busy times as well as make the lot more environmentally sound
- The Aerobic Corridor that shares the road towards Morin Heights in our municipality will be redesigned and beautified with funding from various levels of government

- A new Director General (DG) was hired last fall – Pierre Gagnon. Pierre has a wealth of municipal management experience, is fully bilingual and brings a positive attitude to the municipal office.
- New employees working for the municipality: Dominique Lemieux as a permanent Administrative Assistant, Miriam Atkinson as Bylaw Inspector on a five month contract and Maurice Forget as a part time maintenance/lake access employee.
- Municipal office will be open Saturdays during the summer

The Municipal Council

We've enjoyed a quite productive and increasingly cohesive council over the past 3.5 years. It's 6 councillors and mayor have many talents that span the range of functions needed and they have worked well together and on their various portfolios.

It would be a good thing to let them know we appreciate them. They work hard for very little remuneration; attend meetings all year long with very few citizen attendees - most of whom attend because they have a problem to discuss or a bone to pick. Nobody goes to their meetings to tell them how much they appreciate their efforts.

To that end below is a listing of councillors with their portfolios as well as past accomplishments and future plans. I know that they sometimes wonder what they've accomplished when all they hear are problems and issues from their constituents.

Responsibilities/Portfolios:

- Yves Baillargeon - mayor
- Rene Pelletier - infrastructure
- France Parizeau - arts and culture
- Francoise Tasse - seniors and community work
- Dave Estall - design & construction
- Lucie Robillard - environmental
- Corina Lupu - urban affairs

List of major accomplishments of the council

- landslide clean up fully funded by MRC, province and feds
- municipal hall repaired/ partially renovated with additional renovations to be funded by grants
- Municipal staff stabilized and fully staffed with one less employee - open on Saturdays during the summer
- permanent skating rink relocated
- recreational corridor established from rink to beach
- first time formation of CCE - municipal environmental committee
- many other more minor initiatives

In planning stages - short term

- completion of comprehensive Urban Plan based on Biofilia environmental report – before fall election
- parking lot redesign
- underground garbage - before summer
- boat wash station with garbage - imminent
- milfoil control in Hammond's Bay – late July/August
- new website - soon
- boat access regulations adopted - info and consultation this year
- redesign of municipal road towards Morin Heights to enhance and accommodate the Aerobic Corridor

Elections in November 2017

This council's mandate will be expiring this coming November. Be aware that every vote, as in the past, is very important particularly in a small community like ours. Again, as in the past, your vote will most likely be by mail. As the election draws closer we will be making you aware of any developments.

Club Activities

We continue to work with the Club on projects/events

- Loon Survey – our membership with members and the children of the Club will continue to survey our breeding loon population over this season. The data will be fed into a nation wide Loon Survey run by Birds Canada. This is our second year participating in this program.
- Craft Night – with the creative help of Alison Warner Timusk we will fund and assist in a craft night at the Club. This years event looks like folk art painting of native fish – wooden fish that is
- “Motorless Day” – we will provide lunch and perhaps a small presentation on some environmental topic at the Club

Membership

Membership forms will be in the Club dock drop at the end of June.

We can now accept email transfers (e-transfers) of funds to our email address: amis16island@yahoo.ca. If none of your information (address, phone #, email address etc.) has changed please make note in the comments section of your transfer. If something has changed please complete a new membership form or email us directly with the changes. We hope this makes it easier for our membership.

Calendars

Tim Boswell has been busy during the winter collecting photos from our various contributors and designing a new 2018 calendar. We anticipate that they will be available at the AGM on July 9th. The price will continue to be \$15.00.

Annual General Meeting

Our AGM will be held at the municipal hall on Sunday July 9th at 1 pm. In addition to our regular AGM agenda, Corina Lupu will make a short municipal affairs update and take questions. Also, as mentioned previously, Jean Louis Courteau and his scientist scuba diving friends will present an ecologically oriented session on our lake from an underwater perspective and take questions. We hope to see you there.

Finally we thank you all for your support, financial and otherwise, over the years and we look forward to continuing our mission to advocate for the health of our lake and its environment. We couldn't do it without you.

Respectfully submitted:
Bill Clelland, President