

Amis du Lac
Friends of the Lake

General Meeting
Friday, July 19, 2019

Municipal Center
7:00 p.m.

Actual start time 7:05
Meeting called to order by Dave Logan.
Recent passings mentioned:
Barbara Cresswell, Midge Morrow

1. **Membership-** Mary: last year numbers same as the year before. 116 members likely in total, (66 at present which is normal at this time in the season).
This is the surge year (3 year memberships due this year).
2. **Financial** - bank balance a little lower. Almost 2 years of CIEL funding (\$5,000 per year) to remove millfoil has come out of funds in this fiscal year. Membership and calendars will help increase the balance.
**We will change our fiscal year to January 1 - December 31. This will help with simplifying membership payments. On June 30th the balance was \$26,300. Memberships still coming in. Activities with kids/club/printing the calendar are the similar expenses as last year.
3. **Environment CIEL** - Bill and JL -
Amis du Lac funds CIEL, JL's work. \$5,000 last year and again this year. Last year removing millfoil from Big Bay contributed to the increased numbers of trout eggs observed (35 - 40 eggs per square foot). The removal of millfoil is important to help with trout population. This year the focus so far has been around Prentice Island. Now JL will move on to other high traffic areas (i.e., in front of Elise's cottage). Cathy Wensley is coordinating spotters for JL when he dives. Millfoil in the Hammond's Bay area is protected by buoys to avoid spread of millfoil from boat motors. Amis du Lac plans to work together with the new DG to help control the millfoil problem

in the lake. The burlap project in Hammonds Bay has been cancelled for environmental reasons. \$13,000 was budgeted for installation of burlap, but it is expected that those funds can be transferred to other millfoil removal projects.

Loon platform (between Kuzik's Island and Valliacourt's) was not used this year, but this was expected - it often takes several years for successful nesting. Loons still need protection (3 babies died this year). Signs were placed at head and foot and were received positively. The effect of the signs seemed to have had a direct correlation to slower traffic.

Suggestion: to have more permanent signs indicating "Loon Alert" and also, the devastating news that loons die as a result of boat traffic. JL has access to a sign company and will speak with Michael Hyde to discuss the information on the sign. Cathy Wensley is continuing the Canadian Loon Survey. It is interesting to have four years worth of data about the loons on 16 Island Lake. Having loon babies on the lake is a sign of a healthy lake. The CCE is active again. JL is on that committee and Louise Lorange and Jane Magee are as well.

JL report:

Interesting developments:

1. last November a few samples of an unusual rock was found near Myer's Island. A geologist said that that particular rock has not previously been found here (Canada). University of Ottawa biologists are studying the rock right now - carbon dating it. The initial results indicated that the rock was 25,000 years old. The testing is being repeated to confirm those findings. It was expected that the rock would be more like 2,000 years old. If in fact it is 25,000 years old, there is every indication that the lake is a pre-glacial lake. More on this to come as information is available.
2. Lake trout have been observed performing an interesting pre-spawning mating ritual in the deep caverns. These are young/small trout, indicating they may be a dwarf species and this particular species and behaviour has not documented before. The caves are 55-60 feet deep and some are even deeper. JL can go to 120 ft or more but he cannot safely do this alone. In order to continue researching this phenomena, JL would require some assistance and a diving partner.
3. Cunninghams Island (Cook Island) is of interest due to its proximity to the location of where the ancient jug was discovered. Some

archeologists from Queens University are going to be doing some digging on the island. There is a good possibility of finding artifacts. JL will keep us informed.

*Dave Logan reiterated that JL is available for hire to remove millfoil from in front of individual cottages.

Note: the reef (Kelly's creek) is still clear of millfoil. There would normally be a 5% regrowth, but there was MUCH less regrowth and the trout have returned to spawn. In front of Kerr's rock is another spawning ground. The question was asked, "Where are the spawning areas on the lake?" JL indicated that anywhere there are rocks the size of your fist you are likely to find trout eggs. This is a perfect place for them to find protection for the eggs between the rocks. Millfoil in these areas is problematic. The areas where millfoil is present are identified in the biofilia report (although incomplete, many areas have been identified in the Biofilia report).

4. Communications Strategy - Michael Hyde - A new strategy this year.

Working with Bill, Michael was tasked with looking at several areas requiring improvement.

- Update the website. Done. This spawned security issues. Website is fixed. Amis is moving to using the cloud and sharing documents using Google Docs. With this move to using the cloud, there is no longer a concern for loss of data. The website will be open to the committee members. Ie. Geoff Cresswell will have access for photos. This should make updates faster.

- Focusing on accomplishments of Amis du Lac. The list that Topy put together is four pages long. The communications "strategists" are using that document and sharing the information for the purposes of communications and outreach. The excellent track record of Amis du Lac clearly identifies the focus; that it is and always has been an environmental and a lake focus. This information will be posted on the website. It is likely that there will be a section added with a "Did You Know..." focus.

- Engaging the younger generation. After much brainstorming it was decided that Amis would have junior memberships. Everyone has the same desire to see the lake thrive. We need to tap into the next generation. Campaigning for a "Lake Life" buy in. Blair Prentice captured the essence of the campaign in a sticker. The sticker symbolizes the lake and comes with membership. In order to have a focus for the junior members, the "Junior Ranger" program "Kids on the Lake" was introduced. This program would include all children 17 and under with a five dollar membership fee. Members receive a sticker, participate in little challenges, find ways to work together on environmental

issues. One idea that has already evolved is an instagram account where the members share photos of what "Lake Life" is to them. Another idea was a safety video. This would be a short two minute video outlining the effects of boats on the lake and how to be a safer boater with respect to wildlife on the lake. Kate Johnson and Connor Manrique-Johnson are heading up the video. Nissa Qureshi is responsible for membership, Ella Stretton and Madeline Galbraith are responsible for the instagram account (16islandlakelife). The junior members have been tasked with deciding on a product that is worthy of the lake life logo (i.e., reusable water bottle, environmentally responsible phone case etc.)

5. CCE Environment- Bill has already covered this
6. Calendars- last year all calendars sold by end of September. Plan to sell again at Arts Et Culture. Any help selling calendars would be appreciated. Please sign up with Mary. Two hour shifts.
7. Municipal Affairs- Amis has stepped back from municipal affairs with all the shuffling around of leadership but Amis is looking forward to working with the new DG.

Corina mentioned that there have been 8 DG's in six years. The new DG is starting tomorrow and will be at the council meeting. Quite a few things were done in the recent past. The village church has been purchased. Corina and Dave Estall had hesitations because there was no clear financial plan etc. Hockey rink sold. This year the rink may be on the lake or it may be in the parking lot.

Three main issues: dock, parking lot, public toilet.

*An application for a grant for the public toilet is in the works. Dave and Corrina are asking for a repositioning of the toilets to avoid loss of parking spaces and an unsightly welcome to the lake. Perhaps over at the garbage area where the temporary toilet is.

*Parking lot is in horrible condition. The asphalt is to be ripped out and gravel to replace it. Corina indicated that the committee agreed to look at old plans for the parking lot which would prevent so much water run-off into the lake. Gating the parking lot may be a possibility to restrict its use. Also, possibly giving each family a pass or two to help with more equitable parking. The existing policy for who can park in the lot is: 1. if you have no roads, 2. people on the lake, 3. Residents of the village. There are security cameras in the parking lot. There is additional parking on Rue Eglise and on the dirt road leading up to the corridor.

*Unsafe docks are an issue. Funds are there to replace 8 fingers on the federal dock and lower them down and add some at the foot. At the moment the

municipality is at the mercy of the company doing the work. Note: You can not park your boat at the parking lot dock if you have a slip rented.

Urban plan document will be ratified on Saturday, July 20, 2019.

Not allowed to build boathouses on the lake. We, as a lake community, should try to get an exemption. Council is working on this.

Corina will continue to send updates.

Thanks to Corina for all her contributions over the past 6 years.

8. Fishing Club Activities- Dave. Motorless day at the club. Hundreds of hotdogs cooked. Also, presentations (JL and his colleague an ornithologist) were well attended by both children and adults.

Amis is providing the craft for next week led by Annie Barbeau.

9. Election of Officers- Dave.

We would like to nominate Michael Hyde to be president of Amis du Lac.

Bill first. Elise seconded the nomination. Carried.

Michael accepted the presidency nomination. Congratulations Michael.

Chris Campbell expressed thanks to both Dave and Bill. Dave has been active with Amis for the past 12 years (2006) and has done some really wonderful things. Bill has had some terrific and different ideas. He took them and ran with them.

Thanks to both Dave and Bill for all your hard work.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Nan Laurenzio