

## Summer 2023 Update

Dear members,

We have turned the corner and summer is upon us. Time to enjoy family and friends, and this wonderful place. Last year was pretty epic for Amis, 117 members, large donations, a very popular AGM, JL won the war on Milfoil, and everyone got mugged! For this year, we are planning a few strategic items and taking a hiatus from online shopping. Here is a quick summary of where we ended and what we have planned for this year.

### AGM

First off, please take a look at the minutes from the AGM 2022 (attached and online here). Fantastic turnout - really shows the support we have from the community. The event was recorded and we have put video snippets in the minutes which enabled us to be less wordy. Any questions/comments, please let us know.

### Finance

We start the year with a balance of \$22,854. We are beginning to balance out, bringing in a bit more than we spend. The big difference is the mini-Biofilia study is completed which will reduce our annual expenditures. The executive is committed to continuing to fund Jean-Louis' activities, and considering expanding them because his work has made such an impact.

### Membership

We are going into our second year of the annual \$40 membership fee. It has made things so much simpler for our financial tracking. The donations we receive are split quite evenly between the environmental data gathering (historically, tagged to mini-biofilia) and support for the incredible work Jean-Louis does on behalf of all of us. This year we will have only one donation option – but will consider bringing back the environmental data gathering option as we assess the need for on-going, annual data collection.



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*Please take a moment to renew your membership ([HERE](#)). We accept Interact (e-transfers) to make it easier. Amis du lac relies on the membership funds to enable us to do support the projects that make a difference in our community.*

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## Calendars

It was another successful year for our incredibly popular calendars. Ben Love submitted a picture through the Kids on the Lake contest and was featured on the cover. We sold 250 with a total profit of just over \$3000. A big thank you to Nan Laurenzio and Tim Boswell for their efforts on the calendar program.

Last summer we did some merchandising (mugs and tote bags) and we sold out. That generated nearly \$1,200. The Lake Life logo created by Blair was so beautiful – it certainly contributed to the popularity of the products. We are taking a break this summer from merchandise.



## Milfoil Control

For the past few years we have financially and physically supported Jean-Louis Courteau in his efforts to tackle the milfoil around the lake. This year Jean-Louis declared “Victory” over the Milfoil infestations. We have turned the corner and are now ahead of Milfoil and the large areas of concern (Hammond’s bay and Raymond’s bay) and now almost eradicated. Jean-Louis says it will be two more years before we are completely out of the woods. But he cautions us to remain vigilant. Also, there is a newer strain showing up in lakes in Quebec and Ontario. Amis will be working with the municipality and Jean-Louis to do what is necessary to keep this new strain out of our lake. Monitoring will be important, as will ensuring boats and kayaks entering the lake are washed. A separate report from the exec will be coming this summer, explaining the efforts the Municipality have in place to protect the lake.

A HUGE thank you to our Jean-Louis!

## Mini-Biofilia

The mini-biofilia data collection and analysis has concluded. Our lake is in good shape, likely due to the efforts of the entire community over the years to focus on sustainability. This past summer Sylvain Miller, Anne Létourneau, Dave Kerr and a group of volunteers essentially repeated much of what was collected in 2021 with a few additional data sets. Please watch Dave Kerr’s [presentation at the AGM](#) – it really gives good insight into what this has been about. We are extremely privileged to have subject matter experts working on this on our behalf. The final report will be out shortly. Monitoring will continue and we expect another series of data collection summers in a few years from now.

The full mini-biofilia report will be given by the scientists on **July 23, 2023 at 13:00hrs in the Municipal Hall**. Great opportunity to meet and ask questions to our generous team of scientists – and to thank them for their efforts.

## Loons and Loon Nests

Sadly, no eggs were spotted and no chicks were seen in the 2022 breeding season. We are hoping that 2023 will be better. Thanks to Jean-Louis for taking care of the loon nesting platforms.

### Signs in Hammond's Bay

Yahoo! Finally, after 3 years the permanent signs are now installed in Hamond's Bay. They have simple text "Environmentally sensitive area – Local traffic only." We felt that was enough to alert folks to the importance of the area, without being alarmist.



### Motorless Day at the Club – Sponsored by Amis du Lac

The activity this year was very exciting and well received. Our three scientists, Anne Letourneau, Sylvain Miller, and Dave Kerr gave a captivating presentation on our lake water life, followed by an interactive session on the wharf where kids could take water samples and look for the organisms that they had seen in the presentation. The session went on much longer than scheduled due to the interest of the kids. Big thanks to Anne, Sylvain, and Dave for their time and expertise.

For this summer we have something very special planned. The Pirogue (historical dugout canoe) was completed and launched August 15, 2021 at a ceremony at the public beach. The media was present, as were a good number of citizens, all coming to see this event. Since then, it has become quite the treasure within the historian and scientific community. We have some exciting news; the Pirogue will be brought to the club for motorless day (**July 5<sup>th</sup> 2023**) and kids will be able to swim with it and even ride in it. The team responsible for building it will be on hand to explain what it is, the incredible effort to build it, and its importance in our history. These interactive events are a terrific way of engaging the next generations. Thanks to Bill Clelland and Jean-Louis we have another exciting event planned for this year. Please see attached

### Special video presentation by Connor Manrique-Johnson: "Responsible Boating and Environmental Impact"

Last year, at the close of the AGM we were treated to a special film by Connor Manrique-Johnson. It shows the importance of proper driving of a boat and the impacts improper use can have on the shoreline. The video was so good – the room erupted with applause at the end. Conner has joined Amis du Lac with responsibility for Digital Communications. We are so excited to welcome the future generations into the Amis team.

Watch [Connor's video here](#)

### Plans for this Summer

As mentioned at the AGM, Amis executive will be focused on three priorities this summer:

1. **Plantings on wharf, boathouses and shoreline vegetation.** Awareness campaign on the dos and don'ts of plantings on docks, boathouses and the littoral zone (shoreline). This is to eliminate phosphates from entering the lake, and to stabilize the shoreline against erosion.



2. **Awareness campaign on 2-stroke outboards** – consider an education program to encourage lakers to do away with 2 stroke, carbureted motors in favour of newer, more efficient 4 stroke, ETEC, or electric outboards. Older 2 stroke engines, built before 1999, can emit up to 25-30 percent of its fuel unburned into the water. The optimal solution would be electric motors, built through responsible, certified green processes, and using green electricity. We are not there (yet) so it is a case of the lesser of two evils. While a 4-stroke engine is still a pollutant, it is significantly better than the older carbureted 2-stroke motors. Here is a [pamphlet](#) produced by Parks Canada that demonstrates the direction we would like to promote.
  
3. **Shoreline erosion (boat wakes)**. Working with the council, we hope to develop a communications approach (signage, website information, directed communications, etc.) to educate boat operators on the impact boat wakes have on the shoreline. Connors film is a first step for Amis in that direction, and the priority with the council will be the wake surfing boats.

Michael Hyde

President, Amis du lac/Friends of the Lake.



Loon info from Vermont

## **Vermont scientists document record loon numbers**

Vermont's common loon population is thriving, says Vermont Fish and Wildlife. Scientists counted a record number of nesting pairs in the Green Mountain State this year.

Some 109 pairs of loons nested in Vermont in 2021. That's the highest count since scientists started monitoring them here in the late '70s.

Biologists with Vermont's Loon Conservation Project found those pairs hatched 125 chicks, with 84 surviving through August.

About 30 years ago, there were just seven nesting pairs in the state. The birds made it off Vermont's endangered species list in 2005.

One scientist involved called Vermont's loon project "a tremendous success."

However, nesting loons are easily disturbed by anglers and paddlers. And the recent Vermont Climate Assessment found if global greenhouse gas emissions aren't curbed, the loon is expected to disappear from Vermont in the next 25 years due to climate change.