



Winter 2022 Update

Dear members,

Last time I provided an update was in the late spring – Bob had just gone swimming (April 10), the municipal election was still 6 months away and the spring weather was almost summer-like. Fast-forward to the new year and so much has changed. Corina Lupu is now mayor! Elise Latour, Ted Claxton, Phil Deschamps, and Olivier Hamel are councillors! And Lac-des-seize-iles had the highest percentage of voter turn-out...IN THE PROVINCE...WOW!

Mais ce sont vraiment les plus petites municipalités qui sont, et de loin, les plus engagées. À l'Estérel, 381 citoyens ont voté, soit 78,6 % d'entre eux. À Lac-des-Seize-Îles, qui est encore moins peuplée, les 293 électeurs qui ont voté représentent une participation spectaculaire de 83,1 %.

Estérelloises, Estérellois; Seiziliennes, Seiziliens : nous vous saluons, et nous admirons votre enthousiasme et votre engagement!

Translation: **However, it is really the smallest municipalities that are, by far, the most committed. In Estérel, 381 citizens voted, which represents a voter turnout rate of 78.6%. In Lac-des-Seize-Îles, which is even less populous, the 293 constituents who voted represent a voter turnout rate of 83.1%.**

People of Estérel and of Lac-des-Seize-Îles, we salute you, and we admire your enthusiasm and commitment!

(Click [here](#) to read the story)

The summer was amazing – outdoor music events continued, swimming lessons returned, as did other outdoor events, such as Bingo and movies. There was even an Executive Wine & Cheese. And to close it all out, Bob got married on Thanksgiving weekend.



Even though we were far from normal, lots of Amis-du-lac activities took place:

Merchandise

It was another successful year for our incredibly popular calendars. We sold 250 with a total profit of just over \$3000. Coop 4 Pôles generously agreed to help us by selling calendars at the General

Store and they refused to take a percentage on the sales. A big thank you to Elise Latour, Nan Laurenzio and Tim Boswell for their efforts on the calendar program.

This summer we did some additional merchandising for the first time in a while. Our Lake Life bags and mugs were very popular, with the mugs sold out in 7 days. A new simplified Lake Life graphic created by Blair Prentice for the mugs was extremely well received.



Another really big success was the beautiful, hand painted wine glasses by Ainslie Bourne which we raffled off and raised an amazing \$570.

Eco Products

We were excited to see the Coop 4 Pôles (General Store) initiative to offer eco-friendly products through a zero-waste refill station. We examined the products and contacted the company for clarification on their ingredients and certification, and subsequently threw our support behind this initiative.

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 targeted Hammond's Bay, spending time clearing the milfoil. He hadn't been in this area for a few years and had hoped the milfoil would not have spread too much. To our amazement (and likely his), after 3 weeks of work by 2 divers, he declared Hammond's Bay to be clear of milfoil! That is absolutely incredible and a testament to the work we have been doing for the past 5+ years, and certainly the efforts of our friend, Jean-Louis. That said, we will continue to work against the milfoil, engaging Jean-Louis again next year to work on other areas and to finish Hammond's Bay. (It takes 3 years of monitoring and controlling regrowth before we can declare an area completely done.) This is such a successful program.

The Pirogue Project

The Pirogue (dugout canoe) was completed and launched August 15, at a ceremony at the public beach. The media was present, as were a good number of citizens, all coming to see this event. The Pirogue story was documented on Facebook ([here](#)). Our association has contributed \$1,000 to this project. CIEL's Richard Lahaie and Jean-Louis are working on a full length documentary this winter.

Projet Touladi (Lake Trout Project).

Egg samples were collected on Big Bay shoal in view of a new CIEL project -- more about that soon. Jean-Louis found many fewer eggs than expected, but not because of milfoil. There was an algae growth covering the rocks and filling the spaces between them where the trout normally lay their eggs. This is new, and concerning. The spawning grounds will have to be cleaned of this next summer. Jean-Louis has done this before, and will do it again in August/September 2022. Ideally, this should also be done on the other main spawning ground -- Kerr's shoal.



Mini-Biofilia

This past summer Sylvain Miller, Anne Létourneau, Dave Kerr and a group of volunteers essentially repeated much of what was collected in 2020 with a few additional data sets. The preliminary results were as predicted. That is: slightly elevated levels of algae, phosphorous and other indications of increased human activity at the lake.

Sylvain and Anne have also taken an inventory of aquatic plant life in our lake that we'll be able to present at a later date.

Our plans are to repeat the study in 2022. Three of data gives us a good base from which to do further studies in the more distant future.

Loons and Loon Nests

Sadly, no eggs were spotted and no chicks were seen in the 2021 breeding season. We are hoping that 2022 will be better. The three Loon nests have been put to sleep and will be redeployed next spring. Thanks to Jean-Louis for taking care of the loon nesting platforms.

There is some encouraging news from Dave Kerr, but it comes with a warning. [Read here.](#)

Signs in Hammond's Bay

Unfortunately, signs were not received due to issues with the supply chain. On the good news side, however, Jean-Louis has made remarkable progress in Hammond's Bay and the signs' arrival will coincide with our effort to make boaters aware and, hopefully, stop the milfoil from coming back. With a completely new council, we expect to see significantly improved communications and cooperation. This includes the required signage around the boat launch and the boat washing area.

Budget

We had a tremendously successful calendar run this year, and we did some merchandising and a raffle to help raise funds. Our closing bank balance for the year was \$25,995.86

Election and Relationship to Ensemble Seize-Iles.

Amis-du-lac has always played a leadership role in community advocacy, and with great success. We have always been keen on supporting candidates that share our vision and values, and this election was no different. This summer a large group of citizens came together to oppose the removal of the seasonal residents' right to vote by mail. This group grew to over 300 concerned citizens and was successful in forcing change. Subsequently, that group went on to become Ensemble Seize-Iles, which through its active communication and engagement played a big role in not only effecting change in our municipal council, but also for Lac-des-seize-îles being recognized as having the highest voter turn-out (percentage to population) in the entire province. We welcome the emergence of Ensemble Seize-Iles and look forward to what we can accomplish side by side.



Important Activity

Given provincial language laws, our municipality does not have bilingual status and therefore cannot officially communicate in English. Amis has offered to translate municipal communications for distribution to the wider lake community. As this is a cost to Amis, we will do this for the 2022 year and re-evaluate on an annual basis.

‘Ensemble Seize Iles’, the group that formed prior to the municipal elections, will distribute these translations with the original French language documents. Ensemble have a much wider reach with a larger database than our membership.

We hope our membership will support this initiative, as unilingual anglophones have in many cases been unable to understand important municipal communication. This includes the most recent mayor’s letter and other important information that arrived with tax bills. Our first translation will be of these documents.

Thanks

Michael



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.