

Summer 2026 Newsletter

Dear members,

The Amis du lac Executive met on Sunday, June 28, 2026, to review member priorities, lake-health work, municipal collaboration, youth programming, communications, and summer projects. Thank you to everyone who completed the member survey and continues to support Amis du lac.

This year's priorities are clear: protect lake health, strengthen municipal advocacy, engage younger families, improve boating and shoreline communications, and make Amis du lac's work more visible to members and newcomers.

Member Survey Results

The strong survey response gave the Executive useful guidance and confirmed broad support for the direction Amis du lac is taking. The main themes are summarized below.

- **Municipal advocacy remains a top priority:** members strongly support continued engagement with the Mayor, councillors, and municipal staff.
- **Lake health is central:** water testing, Biofilia studies, and JL's conservation work, milfoil management, and loon habitat support all received strong backing.
- **Youth engagement matters:** members support hands-on programming that connects children and young people to conservation and lake stewardship.
- **Communication needs to be clearer:** survey comments pointed to boating etiquette, signage, major project updates, and lake-safe product education as areas where Amis du lac can help.
- **Visible projects build confidence:** shoreline restoration, pollinator gardens, signage, and branded outreach help members see how their support is being used.

Overview of Michael's Meeting with the Mayor

Amis du lac president, Michael Hyde met with the new Mayor, Louise Trottier, bringing forward the key themes members identified in the survey for discussion. The meeting was very constructive and focused on shared action.

- **Jean-Louis and CIEL:** Continued conservation support remains a top priority; the CIEL museum is expected to move to a more visible main-hall location.

- **Water testing:** Current cooperation is working well, with longer-term monitoring to be developed after Biofilia.
- **Major projects:** The Mayor welcomed the suggestion of Amis to create a municipal “major initiatives” web page for updates on the dam, septic review, signage, development, and other environmental files.
- **Septic systems:** Provincial requirements will drive a more formal inventory and review, making clear communication essential.
- **Emergency preparedness:** The Municipality is planning to post emergency guidance for all community residents (road access and no road access) linking to Amis du lac resources (fire pump location list and lake residents who are here for the shoulder seasons).
- **Boating and signage:** Further work is expected on diver safety, pre-launch boat washing, updated signage in key areas of the lake (marina and the Narrows), and highlighting near shoreline boating behaviour.
 - **Related: boats creating large wakes (wake surfing) and the impact on shoreline and sediment.** The Mayor explained that this subject is of concern to all lake-focused municipalities. The Mayors from our MRC are working together to engage Transport Canada with their communities’ concerns. Amis was extremely pleased with that approach.
- **Youth bursaries:** Coincidentally, Amis and the Municipality were investigating these ideas separately. It was agreed that we would explore collaborating on creating future environmental and community focused bursaries (micro grants).

Members, Finance, and Outreach

Membership messaging will be refreshed for renewing members, adult children, young families, and newer residents. Amis is also developing a poster with a QR code for key community locations and will refresh the Amis du lac pamphlet.

Amis remains financially sound, with approximately \$27,000 in the bank and a target reserve of roughly \$26,000 to \$30,000. Membership dues and donations continue to fund lake-health work, communications, youth programming, and community projects.

The annual calendar is expected soon. We will order 200, as we did last year. Same price - \$20.

Lake Health, Water Testing, and Jean-Louis’ Work

Dave Kerr will continue regular water-transparency measurements and coordinate July and August water sampling with the Municipality. Last year’s dissolved organic carbon, chlorophyll, and phosphate results were all very good, and Amis will keep working with the Municipality, scientists, Claudia, and Jean-Louis to build useful long-term data after Biofilia.

- Amis executive voted to increase support for Jean-Louis' conservation work from \$8,000 to \$9,000.
- His planned work includes milfoil monitoring, loon platforms, key dives, ecological observation, and support for the CIEL museum's move to a more visible location.
- We are excited to hear that there are plans to relocate the CIEL to the main hall in the municipal building. This will give visitors to the hall the clear history of our community from the earliest caretakers of the lake, through to where we are today.
- Members are reminded to give divers plenty of room whenever a diver-down flag is visible and to discuss diver safety with family, guests, renters, and young boaters.
- NOTE: **we will be calling for volunteers** to accompany JL when he dives in the north marina area, or when he is in a high traffic zone. There have been some close calls, and we want JL to be safe!
- Amis will promote the fact that the general store in the village carries the line of Bio-Vert environmentally friendly products.

Motorless Day and Youth Programming

- Motorless Day has moved later in the Club season to improve attendance.
- Past activities—including bat boxes, loon surveys, butterfly chrysalis, nature exploration, and Jean-Louis' storytelling—will be organized into a repeatable cycle, with bilingual elements where appropriate.
- This year Ella Stretton will talk with the kids about her path from growing up at the lake, to graduating with a degree in environmental studies. There will be activities related to life found around our cottages and homes.

Pollinator Gardens and Shoreline Restoration at the Club

- Amis will support Lyndan Warner in developing native plant showcase areas on Club property, including near the playground and wet areas behind the basketball area.
- Potential plantings include swamp milkweed, pearly everlasting, elderberry, and other native species that support pollinators and shoreline stabilization.
- Simple signage by Amis du lac will explain the various projects. Club workday may include erosion repair, ground levelling, root protection, and safety improvements along the area in front of the Club. Lyndan will establish special ground-stabilizing plantings there as well.
- An initial budget of approximately \$500 was approved, with flexibility once a detailed proposal is received.

Municipal Projects and Communications

- Amis proposed a simple municipal “major initiatives” web page to help residents find current information on large, multi-year or high-impact projects such as the dam, future development proposals, Provincial septic review, and environmental initiatives.
- The Mayor welcomed the idea to improve transparency and clear misinformation.

Septic System Review

- Beginning this year, the Province is expected to push municipalities toward compliance with Provincial septic regulations through a multi-year initiative.
- The first step is to build an inventory of septic installations and categorize them. The Province has provided municipalities with a list of consulting firms able to complete this inventory work, from which the Municipality will contract.
- The Province has also indicated that transfer payments may be withheld from municipalities that fail to establish their required inventories.
- Because this process may raise questions for some owners, Amis emphasized the need for clear, practical communication. The Mayor completely agreed.
- Members should watch for municipal updates and avoid relying on rumours while the inventory process is developed.

Boating Etiquette, Signage, and Access

- The boating etiquette pamphlet remains a strong example of cooperation between Amis and the Municipality.
- Amis will continue promoting respectful boating, safe distances from shorelines, wake awareness, swimmer and dock safety, diver safety, and possibly an expanded/enlarged “No Wake” sign near the Narrows.
- The Municipality is considering online app for launch payments and acknowledgement of boating etiquette information for visitors, reducing paper waste while improving awareness.
- Additional boat washing signage is expected at the North Parking Lot, leveraging funds from the boat slip rentals.

Youth Environmental Bursary

The youth environmental bursary supports young people taking on small, practical projects that benefit the lake, the environment, or the wider community.

- Amis and Municipality both support the idea of youth micro grants.
- The emerging cooperative model is two grants: one environmental grant sponsored by the Amis, and one community focused grant sponsored by the Municipality.

- A preliminary target of approximately \$1,500 was discussed for the grants.
- A coordinator and review committee are needed, ideally including people with environmental, biological, or lake health expertise. If you are interested in assisting, please let us know.
- Donation mechanism has been added to membership renewal for 2026.

New Shoreline Regulations and Heritage Inventory

- Amis attended a special information session, hosted by the Municipality, where two key topics were presented. Amis plans to prepare plain-language updates on these new Provincial shoreline regulations and the inventory of heritage structures initiatives to help members understand the impact and rules in practice.

RMUN (Règlement sur l'encadrement d'activités sous la responsabilité des municipalités)

- The new RMUN framework is now the main Provincial regulation municipalities apply to certain activities in shorelines, littoral areas, flood zones, and related water environments.
- For lakefront owners, the most important practical point is that work in the 15-metre riparian zone may be more restricted than before, including mowing, vegetation removal, rebuilding, alterations, repairs, and work on existing shoreline structures.
- The regulation gives municipalities clearer authority to approve certain projects on existing structures in the riparian zone, while also defining when a project may exceed local approval and require a different process.
- **Five-year / 50% rule:** For certain existing structures in the shoreline zone, municipalities may be able to approve ordinary maintenance or smaller repairs. However, if more than 50% of a structure is repaired, replaced, or rebuilt cumulatively within a five-year period, the work may be treated as a major project rather than routine maintenance and may be subject to Provincial review or additional authorization.
- The practical takeaway is to maintain docks, boathouses, stairs, retaining features, and other shoreline structures regularly, avoid letting small repairs accumulate into a major rebuild, and keep records of what work was done and when.
- Before starting shoreline work, members are strongly encouraged to speak with municipal staff. Even small projects may be affected by the new rules, and early clarification can help avoid delays or compliance problems.
- The Municipality has posted their presentation on this subject on their [website](#).

Inventory of Heritage Buildings (Inventaire des immeubles présentant une valeur patrimoniale, conformément aux exigences de la Loi sur le patrimoine culturel)

- The inventory applies to heritage buildings and structures, not only houses; it may involve garages, boathouses, and other built features on a property.

- Presenters from the MRC commented that Lac-des-Seize-Îles is highly unique within Quebec because the lack of road access to most cottages led to distinctive design and construction approaches; they had to expand their list of identified styles because of our community.
- The community has an unusually high proportion of properties on the heritage inventory, reportedly around 40% compared with 5.7% Provincial average.
- The inventory does not necessarily restrict ordinary property work; it mainly matters when demolition is proposed.
- You can check if your property contains a structure that was added to the inventory by going to our Municipality's new [website](#) and looking under Services, Urban Planning, and Heritage Inventory. It brings you to the Geocentralis. Find your property and select from the right side: informations municipals, zonage municipal – immeuble patrimonial.
- Note: being listed is **not** the same as being fully classified or registered.

Level of Listing	Who Puts it There?	Are Renovations Blocked?	Can it be Demolished?
On the Inventory	Local MRC / Municipality	No. Normal building permits apply.	Controlled. Needs local review.
Registered	Province of Quebec	No. It is just for information.	Controlled. Governed by local town rules.
Classified	Minister of Culture	Yes. Needs Provincial approval.	No. Legally protected from demolition.

- The heritage finding can also support Amis' advocacy by emphasizing the community's unique, roadless, lake-based character.

AGM and Next Steps

More information will follow on Motorless Day, the calendar, pollinator garden work, municipal project tracking, boating signage, youth bursaries, and the AGM.

Thank you for your membership, volunteer time, donations, and care for the lake.

Michael Hyde

President, Amis du lac / Friends of the Lake