

LLPOA/ APLL
Annual General Meeting/ Assemblée générale annuelle
August 5, 2018/ 5 août 2018

Directors Present: Mary-Anne Armstrong, Tanis Trotman, Alain Legault, Daniel Miron, Benoit Lachance, Roxanne Jasmin-Larocque, Isabel Rut, Claire Ropeleski, Ted Murray, Arlene Scott

Members Present: Chris Newton, George Alguire, Sylvie Meunier, Roland Richer, Leslie Comfort, Daniel Palmer, Karston Baron, Jacques Suissa, Martine Renaud, Donald Delorme, Jacques Marchaud, Martin De Veault, Adrienne Finlay, Shirley Lobel, Art Lobel, Barb Campbell, Nancy Allen, Kathy Murray, Joe Taylor, Richard Poirier, Michèle Gosselin, Dave Donaldson, Joanne Barley, Frank McGachy, Pierre Larocque, Martine Narreault, Marco Del Carlo, Casi Shay Laurin, Shannon LaBrash Dave Smith, Sue Bomok, Mike Bomok, Arek Alszko, Bob Crawford, Barb Scales, Bonnie Seale, Tom Ropeleski, Linda Edgar, Nancy Smith, Donna White, Betty Eadie, Charles Eadie, Barry Tucker, Howard Easton, Glen Hewat, Guy Franche, Donna Smith, Karl Wockner, Jim McAlear

Welcome: Mary-Anne Armstrong welcomed everyone. She said speakers will present in their preferred language and that translation would be done for anyone who needed it. She asked that questions be asked at the end of the meeting.

Introduction: Mary-Anne gave a recap of the history of the association. She introduced board members, highlighted Director roles/responsibilities, and noted the guest speakers (David Smith-Councilor for Wentworth, Martine Renaud- Municipal Inspector for Wentworth, Benoit Lachance-Volunteer Water Testing, Karl Wockner- Past President & Technical Support). She thanked all of the volunteers who have given time to help the organization. David Smith spoke on behalf of the county. He said the county supports the endeavors of the LLPOA 100%.

Continuity Report 2016 & 2017: We continued with door-to-door canvassing. The Shoreline Mapping program was carried out in conjunction with biologists from the Conseil Regionale Environnementale des Laurentides. Water testing was done in accordance with the Réseau de Surveillance Volontaire des Lacs.

These programs are also part of this summer's activities.

Motion to accept the Continuity Report: Tanis Trotman.

Seconded Daniel Miron.

All in favour. Accepted.

Canvasser's Report: Roxanne introduced this year's canvassers - Kieran and Aysha Alszko, Raphael Legault, Noah and Nicolas Blanchette. Canvassers go door-to-door. They distribute information about protecting the lake and collect membership.

Treasurer's Report: Alain presented the financial report. 2017 was the year with the least number of members. As we are awaiting statements from the bank, an updated financial report will be posted on our website.

Eurasian Milfoil and Water Testing: Danny spoke about Eurasian Milfoil. At present, the proliferation of Eurasian Milfoil is our biggest concern. To date, Lac Louisa does not have it. It is present in more than 200 lakes in Quebec. There are neighbouring lakes that have it. (Lac Laurel and Lac des Seize Îles). The most effective way to ensure we do not get it is to make sure all boats, kayaks, canoes, water toys, bungee cords etc. are thoroughly washed before entering the lake. It only takes small filaments from this plant to contaminate the lake. As residents of the lake, it is important we share this message with friends and neighbours. We are concerned about renters and ask anyone who rents to pass on this message. A 30 minute video on Eurasian Milfoil is available on our website and the county website. Wentworth will be putting up a large sign about the boat wash at the landing. It was suggested a large sign also be put at Cleary's Corner. Both Wentworth and Wentworth-North have boat-washing stations and gates to boat ramps are locked. Keys may only be obtained upon proof of a boat wash.

Martine Renaud reminded people to have their boats washed if they are taken off the lake for repairs as they may come back contaminated.

Reports from water testing do not indicate anything is wrong, so we assume, results are good. Mary-Anne thanked Bonnie Seale, Roger Elliott, Debbie & Randy Sinclair, Jack Davis, Benoit Lachance and John Perkins for their water testing work over the last few years.

Shoreline Mapping: The Shoreline Mapping project is important because if Eurasian Milfoil were to arrive, we need to find it. It is an aquatic plant study being run throughout the Laurentians by the Regional Environmental Council. It starts with a survey of the natural aquatic plants, which grow in the shallow areas in the lake.

Biologists from CRE, work with resident volunteers to identify different plants using aqua scopes, and various other custom instruments to see plants growing on the bottom. They collect samples of anything that needs further studying. The idea is to learn about and recognize what should grow here, to be able to keep track of changes in that growth, and most importantly to notice if an invasive plant species shows up.

Mary-Anne thanked Carol Bohme Schultz for organizing the volunteers in the first round in 2016. They included: Erin and Patrick Dunlop, Jennifer Schultz, Larry and Lindy Angrove, Kat Tzwintarny, Darcy, Jenn and Gord Nelson, Dale, Darlene, Jennifer and Glenn Wight, Leslie Comfort, Marianne Ford and Richard Giles, working with Melissa Laniel from CRE. Last year Leslie Comfort worked on the shoreline mapping with Marianne Ford, Heather Mallette, her son Ryan, Barb Campbell, Cathy Deacon, Lynne Chase, Jeff Bomok and Oliver Wockner. The biologist from CRE was Vanessa Nadeau.

We cannot get a biologist from CRE this summer, so we are doing a shortened version of the survey targeting the areas of the lake most likely to be a problem with the help of an expert from Lac des Seize Îles, Jean-Louis Courteau.

Blue-Green Algae Bloom of September 2017: After the heat wave of September 2017, we had an algae bloom. Benoit gave a presentation on Blue-Green Algae. When there is a bloom, it is toxic. Do not swim in it. Symptoms from exposure include skin rash and intestinal problems with flu like symptoms. There have been no reported deaths to humans. Animals can die. Early signs of Blue-Green Algae are pollen-like (dandruff-looking) particles about 3- 4' below the surface of the water. Blooms look like pea soup floating on the water. If you see any, contact the county and a member of the LLPOA.

Discussion ensued about the effect of wake boats on the shoreline and the floor of the lake. Some lakes have put wake zones in place. This is something that will be discussed by the committee.

Wentworth Municipality: Martine said the county has a protocol to follow when collecting water for analysis. They have special kits to be used for the collection of water. The LLPOA would like to have a kit in case blooms are discovered over a weekend. Martine will look into this. She also talked about composting. Do not use compost too close to the lake.

Questions: Leslie Comfort- Asked if anyone would volunteer the use of a pontoon boat for the diver who is coming to do the shoreline mapping.

George Alguire- Congratulated the team for their effort with regard to the lake. He spoke about the water level and the water temperature. Years ago there was a gravel dam that maintained a higher and more consistent level of the lake. Increased water volume would maintain a lower lake temperature. The lake temperature is higher than ever and this has serious effects on the fish population and aquatic plants. He asked if a dam could be put in place again. The LLPOA will investigate the feasibility of this option.

Barry Tucker- Asked about boat washing. There are boat-washing stations in Wentworth and Wentworth-North.

Adrian Findlay- Asked about boat planes. This is a concern. There is a procedure pilots can do to mitigate contamination. Our resident pilots are aware of this procedure. If you know of a pilot coming to the lake, ask them to inform themselves of it. There is a link to a video describing the decontamination procedure for planes on our website now.

Nancy Allen- Asked if the LLPOA was concerned about Purple Loosestrife. Our focus is mostly about the water but we will keep our eyes open.

Leslie Comfort- Asked if it would be possible to put up large posters of Blue Green Algae and Eurasian Milfoil in different locations such as the club and the spring so that people could recognize it if they see it.

Martine Renaud- Thanked the LLPOA for their effort to protect the lake. As there was a lot of interest, we will get a translation of Benoit Lachance's power point on our website as soon as possible.

Closing: Mary-Anne closed by stating our goal is to learn as much as we can about the ecosystem of our lake and what we can do as residents to nurture it and keep it healthy. She said we look forward to hearing from you, our members, about topics relating to the lake that interest you. Our work this year will include updating our membership process and database with new software. We will be resuming the production of our newsletters. As always, we welcome new members, new ideas, insights and volunteers. An information video about Eurasian Milfoil created by Karl Wockner will be presented following the meeting for those who are interested.

Mary-Anne thanked everyone for coming out on a Sunday morning and wished good luck to all the competitors in the relay race.

Tom Ropeleski thanked the committee and urged those present to spread the word.