Fall 2018

Lac Sinclair

Newsletter



Fishing Tournament Recap

Once again, the weather was very cooperative and, just as important, the pike came back. We were able to award all 3 adult pike trophies this year! Equally good news for the children, enough perch – no matter how small – were hooked for all trophies to be awarded. Organizers were especially pleased that, after last year's decline, the number of participants was back up as well. 25 boats entered, carrying 50 adults and 26 children. A number of adult children of Association members and their families participated – many of the children were in fact grandchildren of cottage owners. So, it truly was a family event! Members also invited an additional 8 adult guests.

Congratulations to all who participated and, in particular, to those who pre-registered – that makes for less paper work on tournament day. Many thanks too to those 10 participants who joined the Association or renewed their memberships on tournament day. The guest fees @\$5 and the memberships @\$25 enabled organizers to deliver \$290 to the Treasurer, covering some of the tournament costs.

In this edition:

- Fishing Tournament
- President's Message
- Water Levels
- Airbnb
- Petits Lacs Roads
- and more







Once again, Tony and Val Lafrance graciously permitted use of their beach for registration, weighing and prize presentation and our generous sponsors provided many valuable gifts for trophy winners and draw prizes. Please see the list of sponsors following the names of trophy winners and remember to patronize them. Thanks to all; let's do it again next year! Trophies supplied by Global Awards and Promotions (with their much appreciated fish motifs) were presented as below. In addition, a number of draws were held and all children received a prize or gift.

Pike, adult: 1st Taylor Trowffe; 2nd Jacob Preen; 3rd Sophie Séguin SM Bass, adult: 1stMarc André Roussell; 2ndSophie Séguin; 3rd Karl Lecompte

Perch, child: 1st Evan Le Conte; 2nd Olivia Lloyd; 3rdVéronique Lemieux Rock Bass, child: 1st Cynthia Pineault; 2nd Evan Le Conte; 3rd Isabelle Percival SM Bass, child: 1st Tyler Le Conte; 2ndEvan Le Conte; 3rd Kendrick Bernier

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

Our sponsors: Dépanneur du Lac (Lac Sinclair); Ace Hardware, BMR Gauvreau (Masham); Petit magasin général (East Aldfield); Confiserie Wakefield, Beausoleil Home Hardware, Tigre Géant, (Wakefield); Laurentian Marina (Ottawa)

President's Message

Another summer behind us – one of the hottest but also accompanied by huge amounts of rain that once again contributed to a higher than normal water level despite all the efforts to keep it at an acceptable level.

30 members attended the Annual General Meeting which approved the following members of the Executive Committee:

- Jocelyne Alain President, jocelyne2855@gmail.com, 819-456-3589
- David Hallman Past President, 613-747-7494 or 819 456-4474
- Mark Farrell Vice President and Director, Environment, <u>mfarrell@inspiredevelopments.ca</u>, 819-456-1041
- Donna Brennan Secretary
- Colin Chesterman Treasurer, Chestecc@sympatico.ca, 819-456-2939
- Megan Farrell Director, Water Testing, Social & Special Events, megan gallagherfarrell@yahoo.ca
- Maurice Legros Director, Advertising, jemlegros@gmail.com
- Luc Vezina Director, Web Site, <u>luc.vezina@gmail.com</u>, 613-853-0517
- (Vacant) Director, Special projects

Thanks to the following volunteers who perform these recurring responsibilities:

- Yvon Prégent and Louise Bellefeuille-Prégent Membership Secretary
- Brian Le Conte Fishing Tournament Organizer
- Roger and Joanne Smith First Aid Resource
- Roger Smith Financial Report Reviewer
- Chantal Vaillancourt Scott Water Level Measurement
- Kevin Scott Water Clarity Measurement

Please mark Saturday **6 July** in your calendars as the date for the 2019 Annual General Meeting to take place at the Ste-Sophie d'Aldfield Community Centre beginning at 10:00 AM.

These are our activity dates for the summer of 2019:

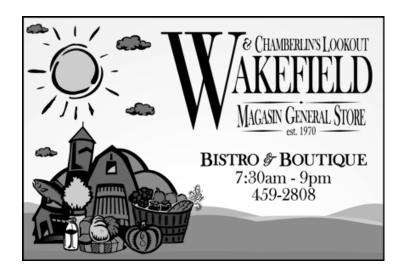
- Canada Day Fireworks: Saturday, 29 June
- Fishing Tournament: Sunday, 4 August.

Look for more information closer to these times in subsequent e-mails, on our website www.lacsinclair.ca, our Facebook page, and on our notice board at the corner of Chemin Cléo Fournier and Chemin Bernier/Chemin du Lac Sinclair.

We wish to thank the Municipality of La Pêche for the provision of its annual grant to our Association, and for an activities grant, largely to offset the cost of our liability insurance policy. This financial support is very much appreciated. We would also like to thank the Ste Sophie d'Aldfield Community Center for their much appreciated contribution with the Boat Wash Station and its equipment.

Hoping you have a nice winter; we look forward to seeing you at the lake next summer.

Jocelyne Alain

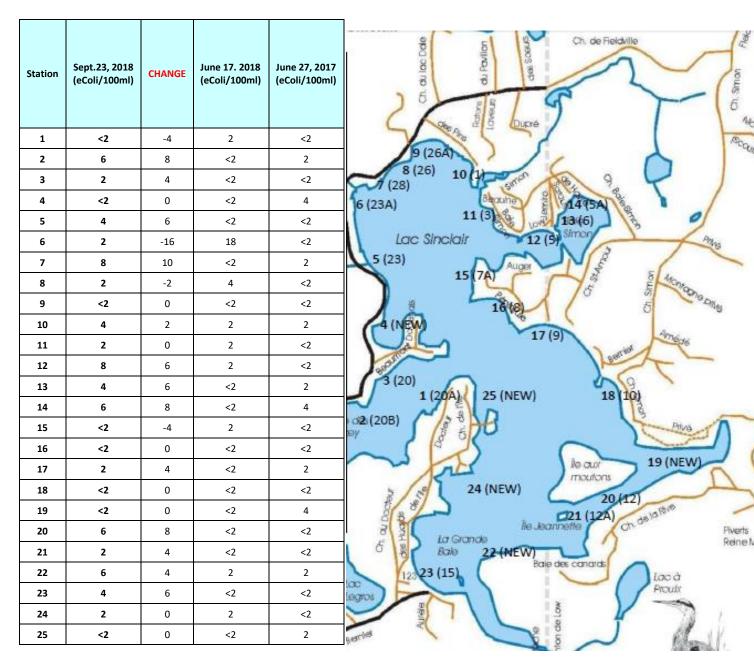




Lake water related matters: Water testing, clarity, depth and boat washing.

Water testing

Testing for E coli levels was done twice this year (as is the case each year), in late June and mid September. Twenty-five samples were taken on each test day from the same spots around the lake. The results were very consistent with past testing and confirm that the quality of the lake water is excellent and well below the provincial E coli limits for swimming. A key determinant of E coli levels is storm water runoff into the lake. Runoff can be reduced by ensuring that the natural vegetation at the lakeshore is maintained.



Water clarity

For the last seven years, the lake association has been measuring water clarity every two weeks during the summer months (May to Oct) as part of a Provincial Government study. There are two designated spots in the lake where a Secchi disk device is lowered into the water on the end of a rope. Once the device is lost from site, the depth is measured and recorded. The findings over the years have been very consistent which indicate that plant life and chlorophyll levels are remaining relatively constant. This year the Government study also involved taking water samples in June, July and August to test for chlorophyll and phosphate levels. These results will be shared with us early next year and reported in the spring newsletter. A big thank you to Kevin Scott who has managed this process for the association.

Boat washing

The boat washing station next to the Community centre in East Aldfield across the street from the P'tit magasin général was available for use from the May long weekend until Thanksgiving. As awareness of the washing station grows, so does its usage. It is estimated that at least 25 watercrafts were washed this summer season – more than double last year's total. It is very important that all boats, trailers and other vessels that have been exposed to other bodies of water (other than Lake Sinclair) are thoroughly washed prior to being put back into the lake. Foreign invasive species are very prevalent in surrounding lakes and rivers and are easily transported to other bodies of water causing irreparable harm in many cases. There is no charge for using the boat washing station and it only takes a few minutes to do. Be sure to pass this info on to your guests who may bring a boat or other water vessel with them when visiting.

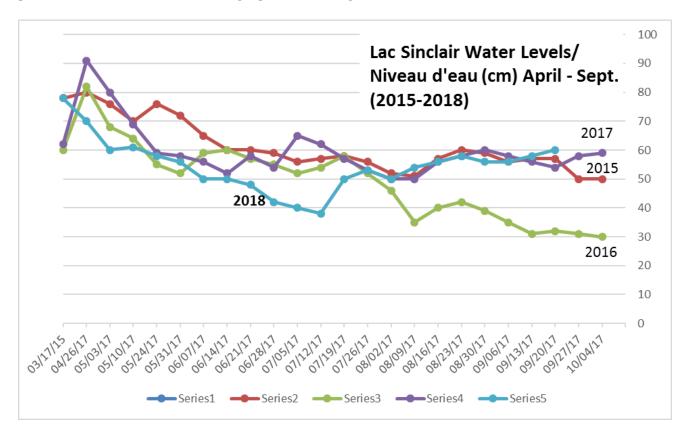
Safety buoys

Ten new, bright yellow buoys were purchased and installed this year at a total cost of \$1285. The remaining 10 will be replaced next season. It is recommended to keep a 30 meter distance from the buoys when boating. We had one of the buoys break free this summer and float off. Should you ever find one, please call one of your committee members and we will arrange to pick it up.



Water levels

The association has been tracking the lake water levels for the last four years (thanks to the efforts and Kevin and Chantal Scott). Within the summer season the lake level can change by as much as 40 cm. From year to year there have been variations of as much as 30 cm at any given point in time. Please review the graph on the diagram below for more details.



The level of the lake during the months of May, June and July continued its downward course. However, as of the beginning of August, you will have noticed that the lake level began to rise precipitously. We wish to assure you that we have continued to take measures to counter this rise since the fall of 2017.

The month of August was particularly complicated owing to the great amount of rain received and to the lack of an inspector working for the Municipality of Low which meant that less than an optimal amount of attention was paid to this problem. I want through this newsletter to relay to you some of the replies from the new inspector, Robert Laviolette, in place since late August / early September:

September 14: "Steps are taken with the persons concerned to ensure a normal flow of water. Please be assured that we have the situation in hand."

September 14: "I have recently been visiting this location once a week; it is certainly a situation that we monitor closely because we have a dry fire hydrant near there."

September 27: "A visit to this site will take place tomorrow. That being said, the property owner is dealing with the dam in question because, as recently as last Friday, the water flowed well. I met the property owner and he told me that every second day he has had to demolish the dam. To answer your question regarding trappers, they must be hired by owners whose property is touched by the beaver dam."

- **9 October**: "The owner of the land where the beaver dam was located seems to have succeeded. The flow of water has been going very well for a few days and the beavers seem to have resigned. I wanted to inform you."
- **13 October**: My colleague David Hallman and I attended an *Information session on beaver management through preventive measures* presented by the nature Conservancy of Canada. The main objective of this information session was to propose alternatives to the dismantling of dams and beaver control measures in order to conserve the natural wealth of our property. Following this session, Mr. Michel Leclair, Eco-Odyssey, agreed to come to Lake Sinclair to make an assessment of our situation.
- **4 November**: Michel Leclair visited the site to make his assessment. Given that the normal depth of the creek is barely 2 feet at the usual beaver dam location, his conclusion was that it was not possible to solve the problem by placing a pipe under the dam. For a drain to work, it takes a minimum of 1 meter of water at the entrance of the drain. He indicated that there was thus no alternative to periodically dismantling the dams and perhaps taking measures to control the beaver population.
- **6 November**: Meeting with Inspector Robert Laviolette who confirmed to me during our discussion that the main reason he remained on the lookout for the water level was the dry fire hydrant located on their territory. He also informed me that a second letter had been sent to the owners this past November 2^{nd} .

Conclusion

We would like to assure you of the importance the Association attaches to the water level issue and resulting problems such as: shoreline erosion, the dry hydrant and, above all, the quality of our water if the lake's only exit, which is the creek, is obstructed. If the lake water does not



circulate, this could greatly compromise the quality of the water. At this point the Association has done everything it can to counter the problem of high water levels; henceforward the problem will be dealt with by the Municipality of Low in cooperation with the property owners concerned. We will, of course, continue to monitor the situation and intervene with the Municipality of Low as required.

Messages from Municipal Councillors

From Luc Thivierge, Councilor, Municipality of Low:

"Dear members of the Sinclair Lake Association, It is with pleasure that I accepted the invitation of your President to participate in this meeting and I take this opportunity to salute my counterpart of La Pêche. As you know, the Township of Low is in transition. Last November's elections brought changes and renewal to the Council and I can assure you that the new Council has a very clear vision for you residents. Here are some points:

- 1. **Improve the road network** Work will be done at the corner of Simon and St-Amour Road and also the critical part of MacDonald Road. There will be a light installed at the corner of Simon Road and Fieldville. The installation should be done next week. We have purchased a new 201A grader, fully equipped 4 season system. Please note that there is a regulation in place since 2009 that has been written by the MRC regarding beaver dams. This regulation is very clear: If you have a beaver dam on your private property and it is causing damage to the road network, you will be billed for the damage, If you have any questions about this regulation, please contact the municipality and we will be happy to advise you, We would like to remind citizens who live on private roads that you are responsible for maintaining your roads. We have received a number of complaints lately from the garbage and fire department regarding the roads that are difficult to access, as well as the vehicles parked along the roadside, which prevent adequate traffic. Please maintain your roads so that we can offer you the best possible service.
- 2. **Hygiene and environment** We are currently working on the collection of waste and recycling as well as the road list for winter service. The bill has been tabled and should be passed in the coming weeks. In addition, we are working on the septic mud project. This program is a provincial law and all municipalities must comply with QR 2.22.If you wait for the visit of the inspector, the costs could be very expensive!



3. **Communications**- In order to increase the communication and thus keep you informed of the activities, we have installed, in two specific places, new bulletin boards in the municipality. A bulletin board on the ch du Lac Sinclair near the mailboxes and the other at the corner of MacDonald and Nelly Roads. In addition we created a new journal. There is now a communication program in place for all events in the municipality. If you have any announcements for your activities such as a fishing tournament or any other activity, please contact Lucie Cousineau, Chair of the Recreation and Communications Committee.

I would like to wish you long life to your Association and the pleasure of seeing you in large numbers at our monthly public information sessions."

From Réjean Desjardins, Ward 1 Councilor, Municipality of La Pêche:

"It was important that Low and La Pêche cooperate and work together to try to solve any problems affecting Lac Sinclair.

The repair to the guard rails was in the five year plan and will be implemented as soon as possible.

Grants to Associations will continue.

An improved system for communicating Council decisions is being implemented.

The previous system of setting up separate budgets for each ward has been abandoned in favour of a budget which prioritizes projects across the entire municipality.

A strategic plan is being formulated. This has already entailed five meetings of four to five hours each chaired by a facilitator."

New Petits Lacs Roads

Some residents asked me about the two roads, leading up to "Les petits lacs" from Chemin du Lac Sinclair on the west side of the lake. I therefore asked the Public Works Department of the Municipality of La Pêche:



The municipality told me that for several years they have had no plans to work on these roads. Answer from my colleague:

"As requested, the roads you mention have existed since 1995. They were built for logging and forestry. Once this project ended, the Small Lake Sports Association established campgrounds and fishing grounds for members and paying public. As you may have noticed, a new plan started recently for selective woodcutting on this site. This project has been approved by the Ministry of Forests, Wildlife and Parks. The work will be carried over the next three years by Lauzon Forestry Resources (Thurso). If anyone wants more information, I have the coordinates of the people in charge. Note that the road sign (Ch. Des Petits Lacs) has been removed for a reason unknown to me.





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Article on the Eurasian Milfoil

Posted on July 16, 2018 in La Presse:

Far from disappearing, the proliferation of Eurasian milfoil, this "zombie" plant that has invaded hundreds of lakes in Quebec by reproducing from cuttings, is the subject of serious concern. The Union of Municipalities and a coalition of organizations will today ask Quebec to set up a national management program to control this invasive plant.

At the same time last year, the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Environment and Climate Change reported that 110 lakes were struggling with milfoil in all regions of Quebec. The Department was unable to say how many are affected today, but there is every indication that their numbers are increasing.

"My perception is that we are currently in a phase of exponential expansion," says botanist Claude Lavoie, author of a scientific study on the milfoil to be published in the journal The Canadian Naturalist. It appeared in Quebec at the end of the 1950s, possibly by entering oceanic ballast water or as a decorative plant for domestic aquariums. Eurasian milfoil spreads by creating large herbaria in lakes, which suffocate aquatic fauna and flora.

Worse: the plant, extremely fragile, creates new cuttings when it is touched by the propellers of boats or even by the paddles of small boats. These cuttings cling to engines and trailers, and show new growth elsewhere when they eventually detach.

"It is true that people detect it more than before because the problem is publicized, but there seems to be a real proliferation, and the best predictor of their presence in a lake is the presence of a boat ramp", says Lavoie.

Solutions to address the proliferation of Milfoil are extremely expensive and, in many cases, relatively inefficient. In the United States, the Upper Saranac Lake Association in the



Adirondacks has spent \$ 1.5 million US for three years on a massive grubbing campaign. Although the presence of Milfoil has decreased considerably, it continues to proliferate.

In Quebec, some residents' associations have installed hundreds of meters of jute at the bottom of the lakes to smother the meadows. The technique seems to work, but is not a panacea. "The Ministry of the Environment is challenging us by requiring that canvases be held at the bottom of the lakes with cement blocks rather than posts. It complicates the process enormously, "says Benoit Huet, president of the Lake Quenouille Owners Association. This Laurentian lake, which has been dealing with a proliferation of the plant for a few years, has set up a systematic boat cleaning program and hired a team that is doing prevention on the lake. But that's not enough, says Huet.

"It's good to educate people to wash their boats, but when it gets into your lake, what do you do? It takes brainpower now to think about a plan of action, to find concrete solutions."

"The impacts are considerable for the residents; there are four cottages that did not sell last year due to the presence of milfoil, "says Huet.

Eradication of the plant

Today, a coalition of lake residents' organizations from across Quebec, in collaboration with the Quebec Sport Fishermen's Association, the Quebec Council for Invasive Alien Species and the Union of Municipalities, will ask Quebec to deliver permits more easily to undertake the work of eradicating the zombie plant. They also want funding for prevention programs.

Botanist Claude Lavoie, however, calls for caution against "sellers of miracle solutions" who claim to be able to eradicate the plant for good. "Companies have developed control techniques with ultraviolet light, with bacteria; I even saw a solution with the spreading of chalk. The Americans have been fighting this plant for 40 years. It's expensive, it takes time. And unfortunately, there is almost no case where the plant is completely gone, "he says,

Sébastien Aubin et Nadine LaCasse





895 ch Riverside. Wakefield Québec J0X 3G0 (819) 459-2884 Heures d'ouverture: Lundi au vendredi 9h00à 20h00. Samedi 9h00 à 17h00. Dimanche 10h00 à 18h00

Private Roads

The maintenance of private roads is not the responsibility of your Association or the municipality in which these roads are located; they are the responsibility of the residents collectively. Be aware that the two municipalities indicated at the last Annual General Meeting on July 7 that essential services such as garbage collection and fire department would be compromised if the private roads were not passable due to either obstructions, lack snow removal or due to vehicles parked on the side of roads.

Speed and shoreline

Your Association would like to kindly remind all boaters to ensure that you keep at a distance of 100 feet – 30 meters from the shore to help protect the shoreline and mostly to protect swimmers. We realize that it is sometimes impossible to obey this rule when travelling through certain channels such as coming in or out of Baie Simon and especially between Ile aux moutons and ch de la Rive. We would therefore ask you to reduce your speed as there are often many swimmers in these areas.

We have received many complaints of watercraft speeding by much too close to the shore where there were swimmers. Please be careful...



203 Montée Beausoleil, La Pêche (Lac-des-loups), QC, JOX 3KO

Lac Sinclair History

Following up on Lake Sinclair's history published in our Spring 2018 Newsletter, here is an excerpt from the book entitled "100 Years Together 1895-1995". This book tells the story of Ste-Sophie d'Aldfield in East Aldfield and St-François d'Aldfield in Lac-des-Loups. The excerpt that you will read from the link below includes only the story of Ste-Sophie d'Aldfield.

http://lacsinclair.ca/docs/histoire lac sinclair.pdf

We do apologize to our readers but unfortunately, this book was never translated and the cost of translation would have been too high. We thank you in advance for your understanding.



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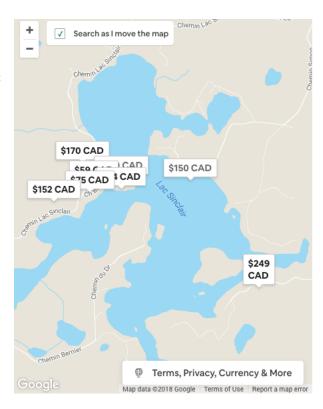
Airbnb

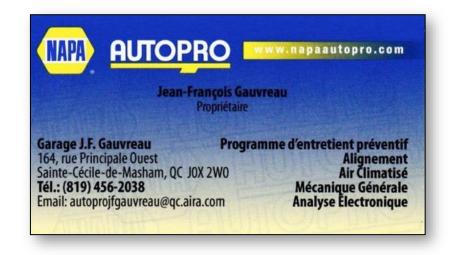
Renting out the cottage to help cover expenses is a long standing tradition and helps introduce people to cottage ownership. Airbnb has made it easier for owners to find short term renters and collect payments. This spring, there were approximately 8 Lac Sinclair cottages listed on the website.

If you want to rent out your cottage for a period of 31 days or less, you must obtain a classification from the <u>Corporation de</u> <u>l'industrie touristique du Québec</u>. The process involves paying a fee and having a government inspector visit your cottage. According to a 2017 CBC News article, the vast majority of properties listed on Airbnb have not obtained a classification and are at risk of incurring fines of \$2,500 to \$25,000 per day.

Some municipalities also have rules or zoning bylaws governing short term rentals. I could not find anything on the La Pêche or Low websites about short term vacation rentals or Airbnb.

If your neighbor is renting out their cottage on Airbnb and the tenants are causing a nuisance, you can <u>contact Airbnb directly</u> and they will contact the owner for you.





Your Association Online

www.lacsinclair.ca www.facebook.com/lacsinclairquebec www.flickr.com/photos/98988942@N08/sets/ lacsinclairinfo@aol.com







Lake Sinclair Association MEMBERSHIP FORM 2019 lacsinclairinfo@aol.com

Please complete this form, then mail it with **your \$25 fee** for this year's membership, to:

Association Lac Sinclair, PO Box 146, La Pêche, Québec JOX 2W0

You can now also join or renew your membership online by following this link: http://lacsinclair.ca/membership/membership.htm

Renewal:	New Me	mber:
Name:		
Address at Lac Sinclair:		
Tel. # at Lac Sinclair:	Tel. # at home:	
Mailing Address:		_
Language Preference: English	_ Français	
•	news of the Association via email? Y ciation Lac Sinclair name in your cor lacsinclairinfo@aim.com	
Email address:		_
Comments: (How can the Associa	ation help you?)	
, , ,	ested in assisting the Association as erest you? (Executive, Environment,	

Neighborhood Watch Program at Lake Sinclair - 2019

Service de la Sécurité Publique MRC des Collines

To participate in the program

if already a member, fill in only name and address. if a new member, complete entirely the registration form.

Already member: _			New member:	
Surname:	Given name:			
Street #:	Street:		App #:	
City:	Provinc	ce: Posta	al code:	
Language:	E-mail:	Fax	:	
Tel. home:	Tel. work:	Tel. cot	Tel. cottage:	
Address at lake				
(if different than R	esidence):			

