

# Spring 2021

# In this edition:

- President's message
- Water Safety
- Crime Stats
- Sheep Island Vandalism
- Septic Systems
- And more!

### **Message from the President**

Summer 2021...will it be different? I am very optimistic in believing that it will be very enjoyable provided that we all act responsibly on the water and respect the water safety rules. I am also very optimistic that our Annual General Meeting, our Fishing Tournament and Regatta WILL take place. Hopefully they will not have to be cancelled because of restrictions...

The Association hopes to count on your support for the year **2021**. Please encourage your friends, family members and neighbors to support the Association through the annual fee of \$ 25 per year. There are approximately 250 properties on the lake and 152 residents responded to our call in 2020 which represents 60%, a significant increase. Your membership will help us greatly in supporting our goals and ongoing projects:

- ✓ Water analysis: e-coli, phosphorus, chlorophyll, clarity of water and its level
- ✓ Installation and removal of buoys including maintenance
- ✓ Spring and Fall editions of our newsletter, including advertisements from our local business supporters
- ✓ Organization of various activities: Fishing tournament, Regatta, and possibly a winter activity
- ✓ Boat wash station

Just to name a few...

(cont'd from page 1)

Your association is also a member of the Gatineau Valley Water Protection Group. For more information on the Regroupement, please visit their website at: <a href="http://abv7.org/regroupement-protection-eau-en.php">http://abv7.org/regroupement-protection-eau-en.php</a> (English);

Please mark in your **2021** calendar the following dates: **BACK AGAIN THIS YEAR**:

- Esprit du lac Sinclair Regatta : 17 July, or 18 July rain date
- The Fishing Tournament: Sunday, **1 August**.
- *The 2021 Annual General Meeting*: Saturday **September 11** at the Ste-Sophie d'Aldfield Community Centre beginning at 10:00 am for members and non-members.

Look for more information closer to the time in subsequent e-mails, on our website <u>www.lacsinclair.ca</u>, our Facebook page <u>https://www.facebook.com/lacsinclairquebec</u>, and on our notice board at the corner of Chemin Cléo Fournier and Chemin Bernier / Chemin du Lac Sinclair.

- Water Level: Please know that the Association is in no way responsible nor has it any control whatsoever over the water level. It mostly depends on the amount of rain and snow and dry spells we have during the year. The Association does not have any authority to destroy beaver dams; the main creek where there is/was a beaver dam, is the responsibility of the property owners concerned and only the Municipality of Low can act on this if a reduced water level in the creek jeopardizes the dry fire hydrant.
- Off-Highway Vehicles Rules: Saturday May 1, there was a deadly accident on ch du Lac Sinclair just past the speed bump. You will find at the end of this Newsletter a press release sent to me by Sergeant Martin Fournel of the MRC des Collines to be shared with you.

Wishing you all a great and safe summer 2021

Jocelyne Alain





# **Boating and Water Safety**

Your Lake Association would like to remind everyone about water and boat safety as per the guidelines from the Sécurité nautique du Québec:

- Remain at 30 meters from the shoreline
- Remain at 30 meters from swimming docks
- Remain at 30 meters from Kayaks, canoes, paddle boats, paddle boards, sail boards and other boats
- Remain at 30 meters from buoys to prevent them from moving or becoming detached from their moorings
- Remain at least 30 meters from swimmers

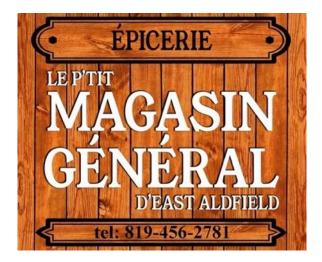
In response to comments received from some Association members, we plan to install signs on buoys indicating "Slow – No Wake" at the first exit from Baie Simon.

There were incidents this past summer when a large boat produced wave flowed over the deck of a pontoon boat while it was underway, and where a person on a sailboard was harassed by a wake boat operator to the point when the person was struck on the head by the sail board mast causing a whiplash.

And there were many examples of boats passing too fast by and too close to swimming rafts, kayakers, canoers, paddle boats and paddle boards, near properties along chemin de la Rive and elsewhere on the lake. Given the recent increase in the number of higher performance power boats on the lake, it is only a matter of time before a serious accident, or worse, occurs.

If anyone notices inappropriate behavior, please contact Patrick Cousineau (<u>pcousineau@mrcdescollines.com</u>, 819 459-2422 #3259) or the SQ at (Agent Paquette, 819 770-9111). Complaints will lead to more surveillance from the MRC des Collines Police and the SQ.

For your information, we have been working with both the MRC des collines Police and the Sûreté du Québec so they can each patrol our lake at least once a summer. We did make this request last summer but our request came in too late in the season; they were extremely busy on waterways, unlike any other summer before, therefore were unable to patrol our lake. <u>We are on their list for this summer</u>.





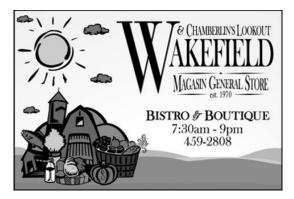


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731 ch. Riverside La Pêche, QC JOX 3G0 **B. 819 459-4445** 





# **Local Crime Statistics**

#### MRC des Collines (Lac Sinclair)

A very quiet 2020 year in your corner at Lac Sinclair according to Martin Fournel, Sergeant in charge of Prevention Section, Community and Public RelationsPublic Security.

2 incidents reported in connection with property crimes:

- > 1 theft in vehicle
- > 1 theft in a cottage

#### **Municipality of Low (Entire Municipality)**

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Criminal Fires	1	0	2	1	1	0
Breaking and entering	7	7	10	9	2	3
Simple thefts	6	4	4	5	4	2
Vehicle thefts	3	2	2	3	5	2
Fraud	1	2	0	0	0	1
Mischief	5	3	0	5	0	3
TOTAL	23	18	18	23	12	11

Low statistics provided by Melanie Larouche, SQ Vallée de la Gatineau

## **Sheep Island Vandalism**

Before you read the following reminder, the Association wishes to inform you that the Island was recently vandalized - All of the signs are gone and there is a very large fire pit. Looks like the signs were burned and one of the three picnic tables is flipped over by the fire pit. The Association has filed a police report with the Sûreté du Québec so that they will have a record of it having happened. The Quebec Ministry responsible for Crown Land (MERN) has also been informed since they provided some of the signs. We will replace the signs hoping that they will not be destroyed again.

We have installed two "**No Camp Fire**" signs, two "**Pick up your Garbage**" signs provided by the Ministère de l'énergie et des ressources naturelles (MERN) in addition to the two already in place, plus a big **Lake Sinclair Association sign**.

Everyone treasures this island and wants to enjoy spending a little bit of time at the small beach. We therefore ask that you refrain from camping as this leads to campfires and plenty of garbage. When you do go to the island, please limit your time so that others can enjoy it also, and make sure to bring back your beer/pop cans and other trash with you.









# Émondage et abattage E.P.S. - Émondage et abattage d'arbres Eric Philippe - Déboisement de terrain

- Bois de chauffage

819-664-3424 🖬 ephilippe@hotmail.ca 🔀

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# Join Our Facebook Group

The lake association maintains a page and private group on Facebook. So far about 260 people have joined our group: <u>https://www.facebook.com/groups/455917824786194</u>







## **Septic Systems**

The Municipality of Low applies the provincial regulation governing the removal of wastewater from stand-alone dwellings (Q-2R.22). This regulation requires septic tanks at seasonal homes to be emptied every 4 years and septic tanks at permanent homes to be emptied every 2 years."

In the Municipality of Low, the emptying of the septic tank is the responsibility of the owner. If you hire Gascon, you must inform the municipality after making an appointment. For other companies you must send a copy of your receipt to the municipality. The municipality sends a reminder each year to homeowners who are late in emptying their septic system.

Unfortunately, the Municipalité de la Pêche has no regulations on the emptying of septic tanks. However, the municipality's duty is to apply Q-2R.22 (provincial government regulations) which require septic tanks at seasonal homes to be emptied every 4 years and septic tanks at permanent homes to be emptied every 2 years.



# Water Quality

#### Water testing

We will be testing for E. coli readings twice this season at 30 predetermined sites around the lake. The samplings will be done mid-June, and again in late August. E. coli is measured to gauge the cleanliness of the water for swimming purposes. We will also take samples to check the Phosphorus, Chlorophyll and Dissolved Organic Carbon.

#### Safety buoys

The last remaining six safety buoys have been purchased this spring and have been installed. We have now replaced all of the 20 buoys on the lake. We have also purchased an additional "SLOW – No Wake" buoy which has been installed at the entrance/exit of Baie Simon.

**REMINDER**: Boaters must stay at least 30 meters away from the buoys; the large wakes from some boats are moving the buoys or causing them to detach.

#### Water levels

The water level is measured weekly (thanks to the efforts of Kevin Scott and Chantal Vaillancourt). These readings will be reported as usual in our fall newsletter.

#### **Boat washing REMINDER**

The boat washing station will be up and running again this year next to the Community Centre in East Aldfield across the street from the P'tit magasin général. It is very important that all boats, trailers and other watercraft 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 wash 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 watercraft with them when visiting.





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> DESSERVI PAR digicom

POLIXA

POUR INFORMATION 1877 534-0666 rapide-o-web.com

AUTRES SERVICES DISPONIBLES SELON LES ENDROITS :

Téléphonie IP Vitesse internet de 5-10-15 Mbps Carnéras et alarmes

360 Schwalasobon pour lete nouveeue point 175 et TVG et sus Lajeout en nouveeue point la commende de fine su émission à la com re sont pas disponibles neve le forbat gaint claurit au récepteur HG enregistreur. Récepteur Enterne suppliementaire a 35.5° / ON Enterne combiner peuvent supplique La cu la technologie la pomet. Las point peuvent vanier en fonction de la positio peographique du cieter la gainte a



916 chemin des Érables La Pêche, Qc JOX 1A0 **819 230-9897** 

Chantal Boucher Copropriétaire / Co-owner Horticultrice / Horticulturist

info@lesserresbourgeon.ca www.lesserresbourgeon.ca Facebook/lesserresbourgeon



#### 260 chemin lac sinclair Tel: 819 456-2573 Cell: 819 360-4305

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   \*1 verge et plus livré
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# S.L. MÉCANIQUE

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  - Bateau
  - Véhicule lourd
  - Diesel
  - Soudure
  - Hydraulique

Samuel Ricard Lessard 260 chemin lac sinclair 819 743-7576

## Winter Activity

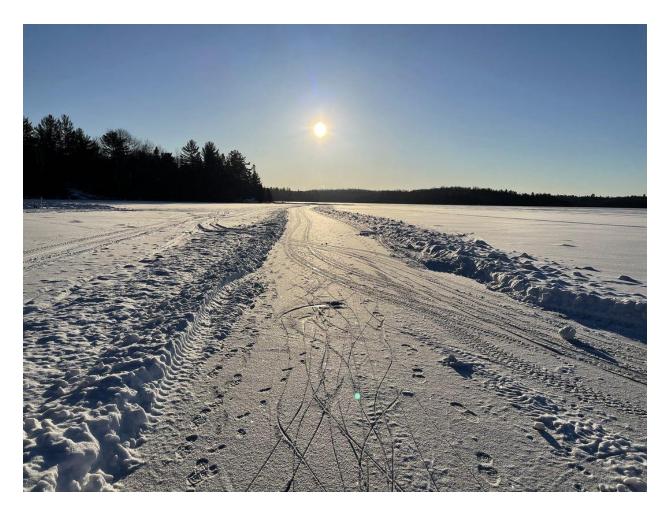
Starting in early January, conditions were right for the clearing of paths and skating rinks on the lake. With his snow blower, Marc Chiasson cleared three parallel paths (six feet apart to take into account proper distancing) along the Northeast part of the lake.





Barry Grover cleared a path on the central east side which soon extended to over 4KM of trail. Other cottagers with ATVs or tractors equipped with plows soon joined in and it was eventually possible to skate pretty much the entire lake. Other names of those involved taken from the Lac Sinclair Group Facebook page: Maurice Charette, Mark Johnson, Luc Beauchamp; Shane Dobson;

(Sorry if I missed some names)



All this work resulted in a great opportunity to encounter cottage owners on the trail whom we would not ordinarily have met. The feedback from skaters and walkers has been overwhelmingly positive. Whenever conditions permit, we hope it will be possible to continue the work on skate ways.

# Rosaire Gosselin – Plumber For all your light plumbing needs. Free estimate. Pumps of all kinds, heat-taps. Water treatment & softeners. Repairs and installations. Thawing of frozen pipes in wintersteam or hot water.



# Lac Sinclair Association Online

<u>http://lacsinclair.ca</u> <u>www.facebook.com/lacsinclairquebec</u> <u>lacsinclairinfo@aol.com</u>



# **Off Road Vehicles**

The following is a press release issued by the MRC Police:

# **PRESS RELEASE - LA PÊCHE, MAY 7th, 2021** ACT RESPECTING OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLES

With a territory of more than 2,000 km<sup>2</sup>, the MRC des Collines-de-l'Outaouais is an ideal place to drive an off-road vehicle, whether you are alone or with your family.

As you probably already know, there are strict rules governing the practice of this increasingly popular activity.

This is why the MRC des Collines-de- l'Outaouais Public Security service team would like to take a few minutes of your time to remind you of some of the rules in effect regarding the use of off-road vehicles.

One of the rules that generates the greatest number of complaints for the police service is, without a doubt, the use of off-road vehicles on a public road. It is important to remember that the use of off-road vehicles on public roads is prohibited at all times, unless it is a federated trail and/or an area where the signage allows it. The fine is \$350 plus fees.

The second most common offence is driving an unregistered off-road vehicle. In Quebec, it is mandatory to register this type of vehicle no matter where it is driven. The fine for this offence is \$300 plus fees.

The third infraction frequently reported is that the owner of the off-road vehicle does not have liability insurance. The fine for this is \$250.

The fourth offence that is occasionally reported is a driver not wearing a helmet. Needless to say, this equipment is indeed mandatory. The fine is \$350 plus fees.



Finally, our police officers often observe other infractions related to mandatory equipment that is missing, such as the white headlight, the red position and brake light, the side-view mirror and the speedometer. Complaints are also made for excessive noise or the presence foo many people on the vehicle or an illegal presence on private property.

It is important to understand that this is only a brief summary and that it is the responsibility of all owners or users to be informed and to respect the laws in effect.

To do so, we invite you to consult the following links:

#### Act respecting off-highway vehicles

http://www.legisquebec.gouv.qc.ca/en/showdo c/cs/V-1.2

#### SAAQ

https://saaq.gouv.qc.ca/fileadmin/documents/p ublications/vehicules-hors-route.pdf

For further information, please contact

Sergeant Martin Fournel Public Relations and Prevention Section Public Security Service MRC des Collines-de-l'Outaouais 7 Edelweiss Road La Pêche, Quebec JOX 3G0 819-459-2422 – extension 3262



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B. 819 459-4445



# Conclusion

Your Executive Committee whom I want to thank very much for their hard work and dedication, and their contact information:

Jocelyne Alain – President, jocelyne2855@gmail.com, cottage 819-456-3589 David Hallman – Past President, <u>david k hallman@hotmail.com</u>, home 613 747-7494 cottage 819 456-4474 Mark Farrell – Vice President and Director, Environment, <u>mfarrell@inspiredevelopments.ca</u>, cottage 819-456-1041 Chantal Vaillancourt Scott – Secretary, <u>chantalvs@rogers.com</u> Colin Chesterman – Treasurer, <u>Chestecc@sympatico.ca</u>, cottage 819 456-2939 Megan Farrell – Director, Water Testing, Social & Special Events, <u>megan\_gallagherfarrell@yahoo.ca</u> Luc Vezina – Director, Web Site and Facebook, <u>luc.vezina@gmail.com</u> (Vacant) – Director, Advertising (Vacant) - Director, Special projects

I particularly want to thank our volunteers who carry out these recurring responsibilities year after year:

Yvon Prégent and Louise Bellefeuille-Prégent – Membership / Database coordinator TBC – 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

The Association wishes to thank the Municipality of La Pêche for its annual grant, and grants for our activities; this financial support is much appreciated. We also wish to thank the CAC National Assembly of Quebec for their financial help this year and last with the purchase of the new buoys, and the Ste Sophie d'Aldfield Community Center for their much-appreciated cooperation and assistance with the Boat Washing Station.

Thank you very much everyone!

Jocelyne Alain







# Lake Sinclair Association MEMBERSHIP FORM 2021 lacsinclairinfo@aol.com

Please complete this form, and 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 also join or renew your membership online by following this link: <u>http://lacsinclair.ca/membership/membership.htm</u>

Renewal: \_\_\_\_

New Member: \_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_ Address at Lac Sinclair: \_\_\_\_\_\_

Tel. # at Lac Sinclair: \_\_\_\_\_\_ Tel. # at home: \_\_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address:	
0	

Language Preference: English \_\_\_ Français \_\_\_

Are you interested in receiving news of the Association via email? YES\_\_\_\_NO\_\_\_ If yes, please add the Association Lac Sinclair name in your contact list with the following Email address: <u>lacsinclairinfo@aol.com</u>

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: (How can the Association help you?)

In what way might you be interested in assisting the Association as a volunteer? What type of activity would interest you? (Executive, Environment, Social activities, etc)

Neighbourhood Watch Program at Lake Sinclair - 2021 - La Pêche



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 r	member:
Surname:			Given name:		
Street #:	_Street:			App #:	
City:		_ Province:_	Post	al code:	
Language:	E-mail:		Fa	x:	
Tel. home:	Tel. v	work:	Tel. co	ttage:	

Address at lake (if different than Residence):\_\_\_\_\_\_

Neighbourhood Watch Program at Lake Sinclair – 2021 -Low

Sûreté du Québec

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:			Apj	p #:	
City:		Province:_		Postal code:		
Language:	E-mail:			Fax:		
Tel. home:	Tel. w	ork:	T	el. cottage:		

Address at lake (if different than Residence):\_\_\_\_\_\_