

LAC POISSON BLANC

Newsletter

Hi everyone!

It's time to put together a summary of our last year, and also time to prepare for spring and get ready for new initiatives for 2016. We're open to all of your suggestions as we want to improve our little slice of heaven.

Let's have a look at the past months: what we've wanted to do and what we've put in place, what's developed over last summer, what we decided on and resolved in the fall and what we will pursue or change for this year.

In this newsletter, we will cover a number of subjects and have included an update prepared by Margaret on behalf of the buoy committee (Many thanks to Margaret, George, Jean and Denise for all of their great work!).

During summer 2015, we went around to the properties. This allowed us to increase the number of members but also to get to know lots of wonderful people that are ready to put in some time to help other members. We now have a database on our website under the 'Useful information' tab.

It's the time of year when we start getting out again and there is so much to do! Come take a deep breath of fresh air. Get out and play! We're hoping to see you soon during our outings in Whitefish!

Carla & Pierre

SECTOR NEWS

You made some requests when we visited you and we're listening. We have prepared three letters that were handed to the Lac-Sainte-Marie, Denholm and Bowman municipalities (if you'd like to read them... they are on our website under the 'Our concerns' tab, numbers 7, 8 and 9. The letters will be translated into English shortly.).

➤ Signage on the TO

Newton Bay ~
Trans-Outaouais rd

Last fall, we sent a request to the LSM and Denholm municipalities asking for the signage on the Trans-Outaouais to be improved. The municipality of LSM has removed the large wooden sign that was posted at the entrance of the TO and shortly, we will be meeting with Sylvain, the person in charge of the department of transport to indicate the areas for the new signs for the Newton Bay boat launch and the directions to get Lac Sainte-Marie village itself. They should be installed by this fall.

As for the municipality of Denholm, they are studying the signage file for this road, but it hasn't provided a firm date. We will give you more news at our annual meeting in August.

➤ New 'No Wake' signs



Following our request, the LSM municipality installed a 'No Wake' sign at the municipal boat launch in Newton Bay. The purpose of this initiative is to slow erosion and to create a more stable and safe environment for all of the lake's users. (Our members can buy a 12"x12" sign for \$10 for their own personal use.)

➤ New speed limit

Newton Lake ~
Grand Poisson Blanc rd

In order to address concerns surrounding how fast traffic is on Grand Poisson Blanc road, we've submitted a request last fall to decrease the speed limit on this road (and add new speed limit signs). As of today, the LSM municipality accepted our request to reduce the speed on it and new signs will be installed this spring.

➤ Parking for Green Lake (Lac Vert)

It looks like our request connected with the members on the road passed the wooden bridge (on Grand Poisson Blanc heading toward Green Lake) is partially solved. The LSM municipality will probably widen the road after the bridge in order to allow people to park and go canoeing and camping from there. It looks like the old parking lot for Green Lake has been abandoned, though the trash is occasionally picked up and as the road is occasionally worked on. We'll have more news in August.

➤ Parking lot and boat launch

Bowman
Denholm

Unfortunately, the Bowman municipality seems to be hesitating with our request to have a sign with rules and also to improve the services at the boat launch as requested by our members. We're committed to meeting Air-Eau-Bois' manager and the director for the Bowman municipality in order to settle this issue. However, Bowman accepted to repair the damage at the boat launch. We're still working on this file.

We're trying to have a "No Wake" sign installed near the Bowman boat launch for 2016.

Close-up on Water Quality



Did you know that the association is part of the RSVL?

The what? The RSVL?

We're registered with the RSVL [Voluntary lake monitoring network] whose goal is, among others, to put together a general overview of our lake's situation as well as that of other lakes in Quebec. Within the scope of our cooperation, we carry out water quality follow-up activities (we're monitoring station 771A), which are *water transparency measurements* (water clarity) and its *sampling* (water tests).

What are the transparency tests for?

The transparency measurement is a variable that is useful for highlighting changes over the long term in the lake's water quality and condition.

How does our water quality classify itself?

Roughly speaking, this question can be answered with a few factors. If we have a look at the 2015 results sheet for the water quality follow-up for Lac Poisson Blanc for our station, the measured physicochemical variables and their results are the following:

- ◆ **clear water:** transparency of 4.3 m (4.1 m in 2014) with the Secchi disk;
- ◆ **water has very little total phosphorus (nutrient*):** average concentration of trace total phosphorus (3.7 µ g/l in 2015 compared to 6.1 µ g/l in 2014);
- ◆ **elevated suspended microscopic algae biomass:** the average concentration of chlorophyll *a* reveals an environment having an elevated suspended microscopic algae biomass (3.9 µ g/l in 2015 compared to 2.9 µ g/l in 2014);
- ◆ **coloured water:** it's the average concentration of dissolved organic carbon (4.0 µ g/l for 2014 compared to 3.9 µ g/l in 2015).

*Generally, total phosphorus usually promotes algae and aquatic plant growth. The lake's nutrient enrichment promotes aquatic plant growth. Eutrophic lakes often have a high abundance of aquatic plants.

Although these physicochemical variables are giving conflicting signs, by integrating the data collected in each of the monitoring stations, **Lac Poisson Blanc's trophic status is likely in the oligo-mesotrophic transition zone.** Our lake is showing some signs of *eutrophication*. (see below). In order to slow this process down, the Ministère du Développement durable de l'Environnement et des Parcs [Ministry of the sustainable development of the environment and of parks] recommends the adoption of measures to limit the nutrients that our activities contribute. We can preserve our lake's condition this way.

So let's be proactive! ☺

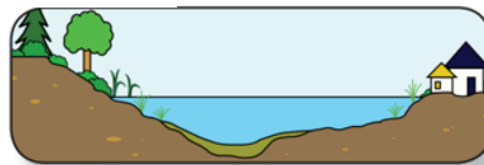
Sources: <http://www.mddelcc.gouv.qc.ca/eau/rsvl/methodes.htm> et <http://www.lacpoissonblanc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Poisson-Blanc-Lac 771A 2014 SA SM.pdf> and the 2015 follow-up report from the RSVL for our area (for a copy, contact us... the report will be published on our website shortly).

What's eutrophication?

Eutrophication is a natural and very slow process through which bodies of water receive a large quantity of nutrients (particularly phosphorus and nitrogen), which stimulates algae and aquatic plant growth. This process normally takes place over a period ranging from several thousand to tens of thousands of years. However, human activities have sped it up in several lakes by increasing how many nutrients reach them, causing changes in aquatic plant ecosystems. The diagram on the right shows this evolution in three distinctive phases called trophic levels.

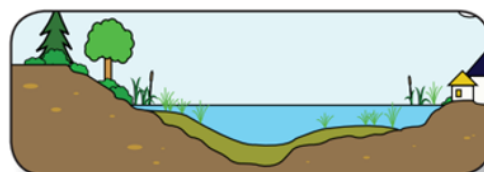
Lake trophic levels

Oligotrophic



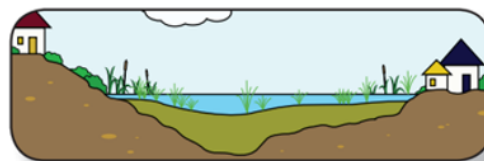
These lakes have clear water, are low in nutrients and have low biological production. They are generally deep and their drainage basin is relatively small.

Mesotrophic



These lakes receive a higher quantity of nutrients and have a moderate biological production. Changes in the species that are present appear.

Eutrophic



These lakes have a lot of nutrients. They have a high biological production and as a result, there may be a loss in species diversity.

Source of extract and images: http://www.mille-isles.ca/database/Image_usager/2/Environnement/fiche_eutro.pdf

Why does the water level fluctuate?

The Rapides-des-Cèdres dam, located on the Lièvre river in Notre-Dame-du-Laus, is intended to derive from or to hold the Poisson Blanc reservoir water. The rate of flow evacuated by the dam valves is according to information analysis such as weather forecasts, the water level and debit at the dam, the requirements placed on the electrical network... The dam is used to control floods, to regulate, hydroelectricity, recreation and a holiday spot. The water level fluctuates according to this data and needs.

For today's level:

<https://www.cehq.gouv.qc.ca/suivihydro/graphique.asp?NoStation=040602>

For Rapide-des-Cèdres dam details (in French):

https://www.cehq.gouv.qc.ca/barrages/detail.asp?no_mef_lieu=X0005424

Does our lake have algae?

As of now, we have aquatic plants, mainly in the Newton Bay canal and in front of the Newton Bay Association parking area. We have not been informed of the presence of Eurasian watermilfoil or blue-green algae in our body of water.



What's Eurasian watermilfoil?

It's an invasive aquatic plant proliferating in Quebec lakes growing along shores (in 1 to 3 meters of water), that prefers water high in phosphor and reproduces mainly through fragmentation, that is to say when it's cut with boat propellers and turbines.

Please let us know if you see any.



Myriophyllum spicatum L.



DID YOU KNOW

Lac Poisson Blanc surface area: **85 km²**
Reservoir's length: **25.8 km**
Reservoir's width: **4 km**
Average depth: **124 m** (406')
Number of islands: **55**
Flowing from the **Lièvre river**

We've asked the members who participated in last year's corn roast if they would like their association to plan a fishing tournament. The overwhelming answer was yes! So here we go! 😊



Volunteers
Please!!

New for 2016

ANNUAL FISHING TOURNAMENT

The association's first fishing tournament!

If you would like to take part in its preparations, let us know, we'd love your help 😊

Details coming

Types of fish in our lake: bass, catfish, lake trout, landlocked salmon, pike, walleye, whitefish, yellow perch



neighborhood watch – The program is in place since last fall. Everything seems to be fine as our volunteers have not mentioned anything out of the ordinary about the properties taking part in the program. We've installed a sign at the Lac Brochet and Grand Poisson Blanc intersection and at the Trans-Outaoais and Solitude intersection.

Charity donation

Thanks to our members' generosity at last August's corn roast, our association was able to donate \$120 to the Regroupement d'aide aux familles de Lac-Sainte-Marie, charity organization helping families in mourning.

You can renew your membership (\$25) one of the following ways (in all cases {except for PayPal payments}, please complete a new registration sheet in order to make sure we have your most up-to-date contact information and know what your interests are) :

- by sending a \$25 check made payable to the Association des Propriétaires du Lac Poisson Blanc (2014) Inc. to 486, chemin Grand Poisson Blanc, Lac-Sainte-Marie, QC, J0X 1Z0;
- by renewing in person – you can stop by to see Carla at the above address;
- by renewing either during the annual visit of one of the association's authorized representative's (we will inform you who it is beforehand) or during our annual general assembly or at the corn roast (respective dates to be determines);

New for 2016!

- You can now register or renew your membership with **PayPal**

Click on the link below to renew now (it only takes a minute! ☺):

<http://www.lacpoissonblanc.ca/renew-join-the-association/>

How to become a member?

If you know someone who wants to become a member, all they have to do is contact us by email, phone, mail, on Facebook or in person (contact information below).

** Please note that the \$25 annual membership fee must be paid before the annual general meeting in order to have a right to vote (owners).*

How many are members? As of today, we have **68** members! Come join us and stand with us!

Here are some projects for 2016 :

- ◆ Visit the islands;
- ◆ Expand the territory;
- ◆ Increase our membership;
- ◆ First annual fishing tournament;
- ◆ Cooperation with other associations;
- ◆ Bilingual association documentation;
- ◆ *Rebates with local businesses – member card;
- ◆ **Creation of a social committee;
- ◆ ***Creation of a recruiting committee;
- ◆ ****Team in charge of sponsors.

**Volunteers
please!!**

*Before August, we should have a member card that will give you rebates with local merchants (LSM, Denholm and Bowman). We need volunteers who would like to meet local business owners in order to lengthen our rebate list. It's a great opportunity to explore your playground and meet local companies ☺

** For those who like planning social events, we would love it for you to be part of the social committee! We need help with planning the annual corn roast, the fishing tournament, etc.

*** We would like to meet all the owners in person, but given how large the Lac Poisson Blanc territory is, we had to reassess our approach. Our solution is to create teams that could visit the properties we visited last year as well as properties located outside of the areas covered in 2015.

**** In order to lower our operating costs, we are looking for a team that will look after communicating with potential sponsors that are ready to add local advertising to our website with Matthew, our webmaster.



Buoy Committee Update *prepared by Margaret, George, Jean and Denise*

The Buoy Committee wrapped up the season this year with the removal of the Marker Buoys for winter storage. Jean Duschene & Denise Comtois collected the buoy that they look after in Bay Labelle (north of Mystery Island). The other 5 buoys were collected by Darrell and Margaret Robinson and are stored at their cottage. All the buoys were in good condition and the anchors supplied by George Mellean did a great job keeping them in place.

The Committee has recommended the purchase of two additional buoys to mark some rock piles near Ile Perdu, at the Bowman end of the lake. These will be purchased with funds left over from this year's buoy budget.

No Wake signs have been posted at the municipal boat launch in Newton Bay and at the entry to the Newton Bay channel, near Sutton's cottage. A third No Wake sign is ready to be placed at the entrance to Newton Bay from the main lake in the spring. Another one will be posted at the end of the first extension of Newton Bay near the property of Peter Foster/Sheila Petzold (630 Grand-Poisson-Blanc Rd). A No Wake sign will be posted at the boat launch at the Bowman end of the lake, near the Base de plein-air Air-eau-bois. (Thank you to Eric Légaré and Peter Foster who have agreed to post the signs for the Association). Another No Wake sign will be proposed for Newton Bay, near the Mathew Gibson property, opposite Sutton's.

In addition, smaller versions of the No Wake signs were offered for sale at the Association corn roast this past summer. All of the signs were sold and have been posted by cottagers around the lake. Our hope is that these signs will remind boaters to be considerate of their impact on the shoreline and to be careful around our docks and boats at anchor. If anyone would like to purchase a No Wake sign for their property, please contact a Buoy Committee member or post a notice on the Association Facebook page. Many thanks to Pierre Charlebois for securing the No Wake signs.

As always, the Buoy Committee would welcome suggestions about hazards around the lake that need markers.

Looking forward to seeing you this summer!

Pierre promoted the adoption of some orphaned rustic campsites by our members in order to eliminate vandalism. Four sites are currently monitored, in partnership with the Parc Régional du Poisson Blanc and the Base de plein-air Air-Eau-Bois. Thanks to our volunteers: Jean, Denise, Maxime, Ray, Tanya and Pierre.... If you're interested in taking part like them, write to us.



This year, we would like to have the association's annual meeting on the same day as the corn roast in August. If you have comments or suggestions or are not in favour of it, please let us know.

Ideas – Suggestions – Comments? Share them with us ☺

Contact us

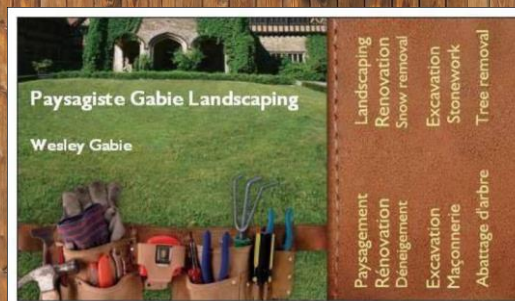
www.lacpoissonblanc.ca

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/LacPoissonBlanc/>

lacpoissonblanc@xplornet.com

voicemail: 819 815 4176

New! Our members now have a rebate with the following businesses (more to come!):



Tips and tricks

Warmer weather is coming fast and with it, so are summer insects... Black flies, mosquitoes, deer flies, horse flies and sand flies go to work on us.

How do we dodge them?
Here is some practical advice:

Avoid going outside at sunset and sunrise as this is when the insects are most active.

Use a mosquito net on your head if needed.

Use a good mosquito repellent like citronella or a DEET based product (Off, Muskol, Watkins...)

Block entries at the bottom of your pants and into your shirt.

Wear loose and lightly coloured clothing to cover yourself up.

Avoid stagnant water.

Spray your hat with insect repellent.



FOR SALE

To display these property details, please go to the following page:

<http://www.lacpoissonblanc.ca/cotages-for-sale/>

Peninsula and 2 small islands



636 ch. Grand Poisson Blanc



Vacant 3.7- acre lot



Poaching

If you witness poaching (fishing, hunting, trapping), contact a wildlife officer by calling S.O.S. Braconnage toll-free.



Thanks

A HUGE THANK YOU to our webmaster, Matthew Gibson, from

Flewid

Please share any ideas or suggestions you may have for the newsletter or anything else with us!