

Inside Scoop



So much happened in 2017!

We'll start by sharing that the Montée Jean-Marc evaluations are now completed (thank you Gary, Yvon and Patrick). We're awaiting the MRC's final decision. The LSM and Denholm municipalities have installed new signs (thank you!). In the Bowman area, a new dock was installed and new measures were taken to alleviate issues (thank you municipality of Bowman and Base de Plein Air Air-Eau-Bois).

There's more! Charlie-Anne, new LSM councilor, has taken interest in improving our situation. Thank you, Charlie-Anne, for your support and also for your gift from Mont Ste-Marie. We wish to thank Nicolas and Antoine from the Base de Plein Air for their continued support as well! We received generous donations from Marc Barbe (local entrepreneur) and Anton Sagh, one of our members - thank you both!! Mark Proulx organized our first fishing tournament last year (thanks Mark!). Many members participated in our Photo Contest, Fishing Tournament and Committees - we thank you!

Last year's corn roast was a success! A very special thank you goes to the Socks Over Pants (S.O.P) band, Jonathan Prud'homme (Joe) and Mylène Pilon for entertaining us! Thank you Robert from Marché Ami for supplying our beverages! And... Thank you to all the members who joined us and to those who brought a dish and donated their time!

Many thanks to Margaret and Darrell Robinson for coordinating the buoy committee and thank you to all of our active committee members!

As you can see, we're listening to you, improving, expanding and hopefully earning your support. This year again, we're doing our best to surprise you with new activities connected with the environment and our community. The winter blues are over! Enjoy getting back to the lake! **Pierre**



Are we in the red or in the black this year?
Come to the AGM! Gilbert has the numbers.



June 16

AGM (members only)
Lacalong Restaurant
101, ch. Lac Sainte-Marie
(in front of the fire station)

August 4

Rock & Roll Corn Roast (members and their guests)



2ND ANNUAL FISHING TOURNAMENT: This year, we want to improve our second annual fishing tournament with more participants and better weather! We hope! We need a team to organize it - please let us know as soon as possible if you're interested. It's a great opportunity to carry on our new tradition! Any group of members interested in taking the lead for this tournament **PLEASE CONTACT US BEFORE APRIL!**

Your Vice-President's at work

Bowman

The municipality of Bowman was receptive last year, toward our grievances presented by Éric Légaré.

The municipality installed a new dock to reduce congestion at the boat launch. Ron noticed some improvement. Trash management is better. We also now have a direct number to contact the SQ with if the area's peace and quiet is disturbed.

Sadly, Éric has resigned for personal reasons.

The Executive Board wants to thank him for all his volunteering on behalf of our members over the last two years.

As a result, no further actions will be taken by the board of directors until our next AGM. We'll be back on track to continue our talks with the municipal council to solve this delicate issue.

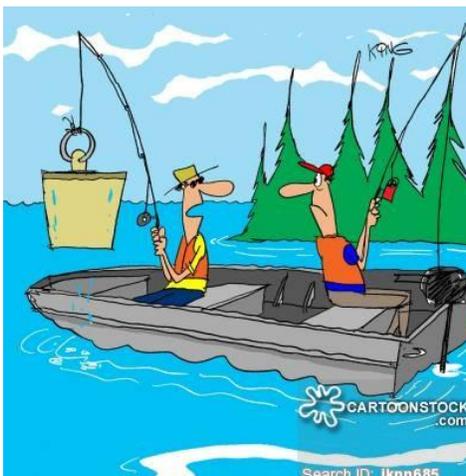
**Thanks for all your hard work
Éric!!**

Newton Lake

David Orfald, your vice-president, discussed possibly adding fish to their lake with other members of that area. The vast majority of owners weren't interested. We sent this information to Mr. Yvon Blanchard, Lac Sainte-Marie's general manager, who took it into consideration.

He also contacted the municipality regarding the installation of a new 'dangerous corner ahead' road sign, which was installed.

David will be at the AGM.



"Let me know if you notice the water level going down."

Newton Bay

Ronald Thomas, your vice-president and also founding member of the Newton Bay Property Owners' Association, prepared a questionnaire to Yvon, our municipality's general manager to follow-up on the Montée Jean-Marc / Solitude rd matter. The questions and answers are available online under 'Our Projects'. Click [here](#) to read them.

The municipality of LSM is ready, but we are waiting for the MRC's final decision regarding future development in this sector. The MRC's Multi-Ressources committee held a meeting on February 23. They're currently studying LSM's proposal. We're crossing our fingers the answer is positive.

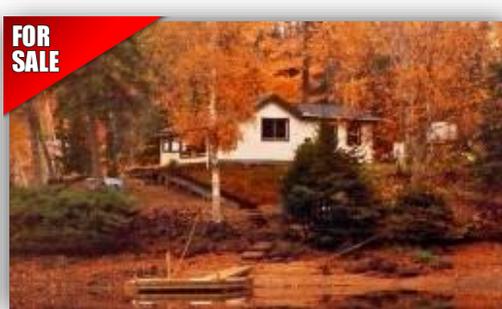
Our welcoming sign is in from our printer. We're sincerely grateful to the municipality of LSM for its \$250 contribution and also thank one our members, Anton Sagh, for his generous \$75 donation. The total cost will be approximately \$500.



We need help installing it that in the spring. Let us know if you're interested!

Ronald will be at the AGM.

For information about these properties, click [here](#).

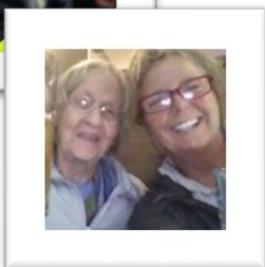
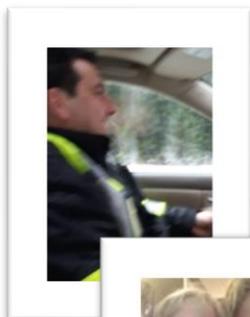


Queen for a Day!

You know you've moved to a great community when the municipality comes to your aid... On a very rainy Tuesday last February, Martin and Brian did just that!

I walked down my laneway wearing my "icers" to my car parked by the road. I had to get to work for a loaded day, regardless of what Mother Nature was offering up that morning... The road had been sanded, but a thin coat of ice now covered it, making it very slippery. Since I had to get to work, I ventured a very short distance on it, but decided it wasn't such a great idea after sliding down a section without any control. At this point, I thought it was wise to call the municipality.

By now, the crew had already been out for 3 hours working on the roads, but the rain was giving them a lot of grief. I got in touch with Martin from the municipality who would contact the snowplow driver and get back to me. After a short wait, the grader came along and to my surprise, stopped in front of my laneway. The driver – Brian - stepped out (and nearly landed on his back end it was soooo slippery!) and made his way over to talk to me. He delivered the message that the plow was still about half an hour out. He recommended I wait (even though he had passed with the grader, the surface was still slick). I was willing to wait – no point in chancing it.



I shared that we have been living here full-time since 2016. Without hesitation, he offered to ensure that the road was graded earlier for us now since we had to be on the road early each morning for work. For obvious reasons, our roads were left till after the main school bus routes and ski hill roads were tended to... Wow, I thought, how very kind.

While I waited, I spoke with my husband, Luc, for a few moments. My loving husband offered to bring me breakfast down from the house – on snow shoes!

Shortly after, Brian graded by again (quite quickly!) toward town this time. Soon after, a municipal truck drives up and stops in front of my laneway. Martin and Brian hopped out and "skated" their way over to me. Martin shared that that the plow needed to have chains put on before making it to our area, but the grader had roughed up the road on the opposite side enough to make it a bit safer than it was... He said I could drive on that side to get to the pavement, but also offered to drive my car with its all-seasons tires to the pavement. We had to go now though before the rain froze over again. Meanwhile, my husband was coming down with my breakfast... I ran up the laneway to meet him, grabbed my breakfast from him and kissed him, ran back to the car and got in the passenger side and off we went!

A voice from Martin's walkie-talkie said "all clear!" He drove us down the opposite side of the road. Parked at the corner of Grand Poisson Blanc and Lac Brochet road was the voice from the walkie-talkie. Another municipal employee was watching for oncoming traffic

He stopped the car at the Mountain Road intersection with Brian picking him up there. They showed great kindness through teamwork. I was astonished! From there, I drove to work (better late than never!) feeling reassured that Luc and I definitely moved to a great community, where our little Lac Sainte Marie is still in "traditional mode", looking out for its neighbours!

Thank you Martin and Brian and everyone at the municipality for your dedication and kindness! (and of course, my husband!)

Lori Bennett – Newton Lake Resident

Thank you municipality of Lac Sainte-Marie for maintaining our roads. As a full-time resident and compared to other municipalities around us, I must say that the municipal road department is exceptional. Thank you Martin, Brian and everyone working at keeping our roads safe! – Pierre



**Thank
You!!!**

New Community Activities

We want to innovate and develop our community spirit by offering new activities and improving some others.



Campfire

A new activity suggested by Lori and Luc. How about sitting around a bonfire (we'll provide the marshmallows!) in exchange for legends and stories (we'll invite a storyteller)? The evening would be punctuated with music, fireworks and good company! We're currently looking into renting a portable toilet. Details at our upcoming AGM.



Guided Tours

Many new and old property owners on our lake would love to learn about our area and its little secrets. We'll organize pontoon tours (thanks Marcel!) covering different places on the lake with some historical details and some anecdotes. If you want to share your knowledge while having fun, participate! We're looking for someone to be the historical guide. Interested? Details at our upcoming AGM.



Bike Exploration Tour

We'll try to organize a bike tour with a member (thanks David!) toward Ryan Road with a possible short guided tour of the Sage farm or a drink at the Mont Ste Marie Golf Club restaurant. Details at our upcoming AGM.



LSM Public Market

Saturdays from June until September

Forming our Committees

Do you want to actively participate in protecting our lake?

Transparency Testing



We need a volunteer to continue our transparency tests on our lake and in Newton Bay. Unfortunately we didn't find anyone volunteers last year. It takes an hour of your time every couple of weeks and you must be able to get around on the water. Pierre will provide the Secchi disk to measure the transparency as well as the observation sheet. Want to help? Let us know!

Our First Big Clean-up



A great opportunity to get together and get to know each other! The Base de Plein Air Air-Eau-Bois, the Regional Park and the Association will organize the clean-up of some vulnerable island sites mid-spring. We'll have boats, equipment and motivation. We just need people! Pierre is looking after this with Antoine from the Base. Interested?

Adopting a Neglected Island



We're improving our formula this year by taking your comments into consideration. We don't want to encourage new wild campsites, but want to raise user awareness regarding their footprint and keeping this place natural. As a result, we're changing our signs. We're asking that once or twice a month from June until September, you visit these sites with a bag, a shovel and a smile. If you're interested in adopting an island, check out our Website under environment.

How to Help

- Become a member or renew your membership
- Volunteer in a committee or donate a few dollars

Thank you!

WE ♥ OUR MEMBERS

Our Buoy Committee



The buoy committee has been working hard toward keeping boaters safe from rock piles on the water.

As a reminder, the buoys are placed in Newton Bay, in its channel, at McElvaney's Rock (Gull Rock), Manley's Rock, on the north side of Mystery Island and finally two buoys are located at the Bowman end of the lake.

One large buoy disappeared for a while, but magically re-appeared a few weeks later. That mystery was never solved.

Last fall, we left bleach bottles attached to the buoy sites to see if they will mark the rock piles until we can install the orange buoys.

Don't forget our committee has a budget from the Association. We're asking you to alert us to other dangerous rock piles you feel need to be marked. Feel free to contact us with your suggestions or post on our Facebook site.

The buoys are a small way our Association makes a big contribution to lake safety. Please keep an eye out for the buoys and inform one of the committee members if you see any damaged or loose ones.

Thanks once again to the committee members: Jean Duchesne who looks after the Mystery Island buoy, Gilles Proulx for the Bowman buoys and Darrell Robinson & George Mellea who helped with the other buoys.

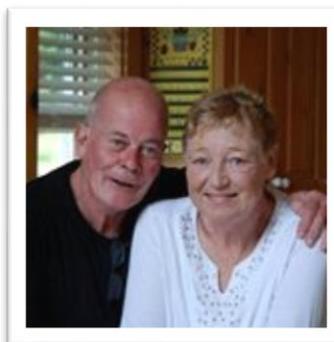
Margaret

Meet the Members

As part of our effort to bring us closer together, we've decided to introduce you to some of our members! First up is **Dave Gibson!**

How did he wind up being part of our community? Well, 35 years ago, Dave went golfing with some friends who told him there was a cottage for sale on Newton Bay (formerly Baie de la Vase). He bought the cottage in March 1983 without even seeing it! He trusted his friends!

Dave's place is at the beginning of the channel at the end of the bay. He loved fishing and held the annual "Billy Goat Landing" fishing tournament between friends.



We asked Dave to share something funny that happened here... Well, one fine day a number of years ago, he had left a steak on the table outside. Distracted for a few moments, a racoon seized the opportunity to help himself to Dave's steak! Without giving it a second thought, he ran after the thief and his lunch, but his focus was diverted back to his surroundings when his neighbour who had dropped by unexpectedly and called out 'Hi!'. It was an awkward situation since he was wearing nothing but his boxers!

To Dave, the lake represents peace and harmony and his biggest wish is to keep the lake's development slow and that new development and construction are well planned out.

Become a MEMBER



Click [here!](#)



Lac Poisson Blanc

member



In the spotlight this year is Jonathan Prud'homme! Since joining our association in 2015, Jo has enthusiastically and actively participated in our meetings, Facebook page, and corn roast! He's invested a lot of time since becoming a member. We want to acknowledge and highlight the energy he brings us! We asked him to share his story, so here it is!

To start, the Prud'homme family cottage –a self-sufficient log wood building located in the channel leading to the last bay in Newton Bay - was built in 1963. His father, Jacques, was only 12 then. Jo himself has been on the lake his entire life – since 1979! 39 years! His partner, Mylène, was introduced to the lake 6 years ago.

The lake is his second home and represents family, peace and a place to reenergize.

When he was younger, he loved waterskiing and much more. His father always encouraged him and his sister to enjoy water sports... Now that he's older, he prefers being on the water. He loves seadoing, going to the Sand Bar with friends and neighbours, ATVing, enjoying our wonderful paradise and sharing with great people around him.

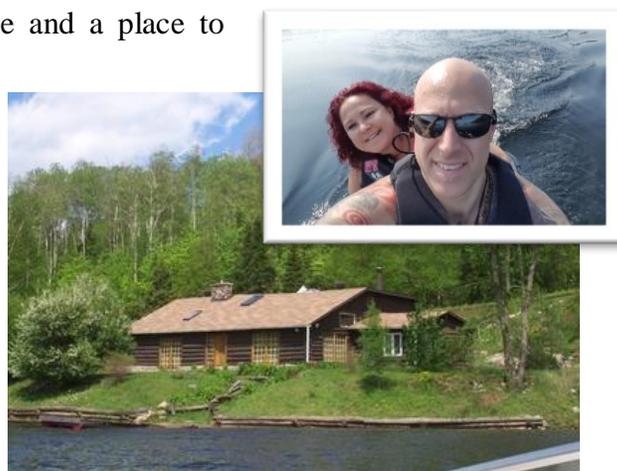
One of his oldest memories is of the family cottage being a place to gather and party. He remembers wine and cheese association gatherings with well over 100 people from the lake. Though he was young, he was in charge for parking the boats. When he and his sister were a little older, it was their turn to host gatherings with their family and friends on weekends. They wanted to show their father how the new generation partied and knew he would be on board.

One of the annual GPB (Grand Poisson Blanc) parties had 255 guests, a DJ, three live bands, games, water sports, and an open bar. It has been sponsored by Molson, Coors-Light and others. The music could be heard over 2 km away on the lake... Some will remember having lined up their boats in front of the cottage to watch the show.

"I have so many stories! I'd be happy to share them over a glass of wine!"

Jacques understood then that his kids had learned well! GPB went on for 10 years and a cherished period in their life.

Though he's seen the area develop and become more accessible and participated in its development, including working on Montée Jean-Marc, his greatest wish for the lake is for it to remain a paradise and for our community to continue having open, respectful communication. He hopes municipal support will continue for the maintenance of the access roads.



Historical Capsule

(presented by our historical expert, George Mellean)

It's 1943! It's Spring Break! The log cutting has concluded for the year. The logs are piled on the ice and we wait for the ice to thaw, the level of the lake to rise, and finally to



float the logs to the respective sawmills. This spring break takes longer than a week. In the meantime, some of the loggers participate in the making of Maple Syrup. Others take the time to visit family.

Wildlife Capsule: the Coywolf

The what? The coywolf... We share our paradise with it... You may have read about it, maybe seen it or its tracks... or even heard it. More often, its calls and howls ring out at night or early morning.

But what is it? Wolf... Coyote... Actually, it's a hybrid. It results from a cross between eastern wolves and western coyotes... and dogs. According to genetic research, this animal's DNA is made up firstly of a high percentage of coyote, then wolf and finally a small part of dog. According to an article published by a journalist on the matter, this represents respectively 60%, 25% and 15%. 6 out of 10 of Quebec's wolves have coyote blood.



Some advice:

Don't feed wild animals.

Don't feed your cats and dogs outside.

Keep your dogs on a leash.

Well over a century ago, wolves were found in Quebec and Ontario and coyotes out West. These two species lived differently and in different habitats. Their cross is surprising since wolves

tend to attack and kill coyotes. So how is this hybrid explained?

According to scientists, the near wipe-out of wolves following a number of factors including climactic changes, human's desire to rid itself of it and a lack of sexual partners led to their first mating in 1920 with coyotes having travelled from the West to Ontario's Algonquin Park.

Are they dangerous? What do we do if we meet one? Though they're curious and may observe us a few moments, they're generally wary of humans and will avoid us. However, if you're outside, be alert, make noise and bring a whistle.

According to the NCC, these animals are an important part of our ecosystem.

Article sources :
<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/eastern-coyote-a-wolf-hybrid-confirmed-in-qtineau-park-1.3265228>
<http://www.cbc.ca/nature/ottawa/features/urban-coywolf-guide>, <https://www.sentiexp.com/fr/chasse-articles/article-coywolf.html>
<http://www.easterncoyoteresearch.com/livingwithcoyotes/>

DON'T CROSS-CONTAMINATE our lakes!

Help protect the water quality of our lakes and rivers.

ATTENTION!

- 1 **Drain** foul water from boat and live wells.
- 2 **Remove** dirt (mud, plants, fish, bait) and dispose of at safe distance from water!
- 3 **Thoroughly clean** boat, trailer and other equipment!
- 4 **Repeat** operation every time.



Please watch for and tell us if you see these Invasive Aquatic Species:

Zebra Mussels

- Aggressive and prolific
- Decrease of certain fish populations
- Upsets the ecological balance of waterways
- Disappearance of several fresh water mollusk and aquatic invertebrate populations



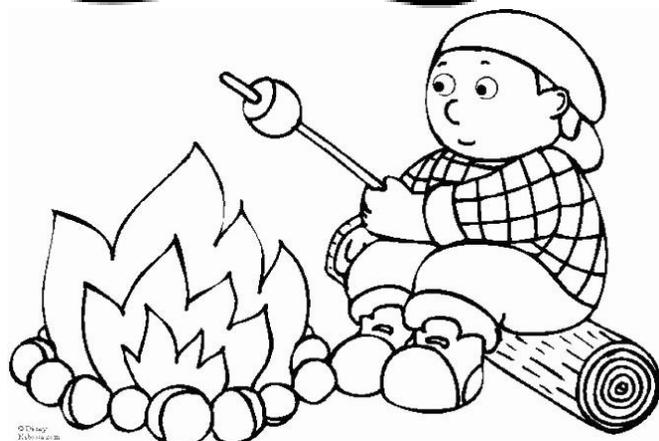
Eurasian Milfoil

- Deteriorates water quality and habitat
- Spreads through fragmentation (boat propellers, trailers, fishing gear)
- Accelerates lake ageing
- Inhibits swimming, boating and sportfishing



kids
corner

Thank you for working with us!



Flewid



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lacpoissonblanc.ca