

# Grand Lake Association / Association du Lac Grand

www.lacgrandlake.ca

C.P. 43, CSP RPO Perkins, Val-des-Monts, QC J8N 7X1

**FALL  
EDITION**  
OCTOBER 2012



Another amazing summer season has blessed us at the lake, and the spectacular fall colours now greet us as we prepare for the colder season to follow.

We are indeed fortunate to be part of the Grand and Green Lake experiences we share, and as you will read in this and future issues, we must all be continually diligent and vigilant to ensure that our lake environment remains as pristine as we found it - for future generations. We wish all a great and enjoyable off- season, despite having no hockey to watch.

At the first meeting of the Executive following the AGM, Harris Boyd was re-elected President for a third year, Tom Barber was re-elected Vice-President, Gary Beach was re-elected Treasurer and Ron Andrews was elected Secretary for the coming year. Brian Reynolds and Tom Barber were appointed directors-at-large for the coming year as well. See the last page of this newsletter for complete list of board members and their contact numbers.



## Membership

This year's membership stood at 215, which represents almost 100% of the cottages on the lake-we believe a record for Val-Des-Monts lake associations. As of early October, approximately 80 cottagers had also signed up for Winter Patrol.

The new database and Grand Lake directory will have double entries for surnames where indicated on the latest memberships form and in the order as submitted.

If you have any questions, or wish to provide your e-mail address for all Association communications, please e-mail [rpaul.fncsf@hotmail.com](mailto:rpaul.fncsf@hotmail.com)



## Treasury

Our treasury reflects a strong surplus position going into the fall season, with government-backed investments (GIC's) of over \$50,000 and a normal operating account balance of just over \$7,000 before paying for the winter patroller.

Membership dues essentially fund all annual operating costs, and, as a result of ongoing high levels of membership, it is not anticipated that any increase will be required for the coming year.

*We should be working towards increasing the size of our reserve fund to maintain its purchasing power.*

As most of you are aware, the Association maintains the reserve fund for contingencies and unexpected disasters that could arise and impact our Members.

We are exploring the establishment of a Grand Lake Trust Fund that would receive donations from philanthropic members. Its goal would be to be in a position to fund larger projects, such as the acquisition of crown land, with a view to preserving the lake and its surroundings to the extent possible. We expect to have a structure in place in 2013, and will keep you informed.

## 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament

The 19<sup>th</sup> Grand Lake annual golf tournament was held on July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012 on a perfect breezy and sunny day. Forty-eight golfers enjoyed the golf game and were later joined by other lake residents and friends for dinner and award ceremonies at the Edelweiss Golf Club. A great number of prizes were awarded and everyone was a winner. Participants contributed in a gift exchange by bringing an item to add to the gift pool. With a score of 68, the winning team was: Paul Méthot, Louise Potvin, Ron Barbeau and Joe Houghton. The winner of the Ladies' longest drive was Diane Cooper (again this year); winner of Ladies' closest to the pin – Line Robillard. Wayne Last won both the Men's longest drive and Men's closest to the pin. Another lucky (and skilled) winner was Sharon Phillips who won the putting contest as well as the 50/50 draw. An addition to the fun activities over dinner was an auction for two \$100 gift certificates to the Sterling Steak House (donated by Majic 100). This competition generated a lot of frenzy, shouts and

laughs while generating funds for next year's tournament organizers. We wish to thank all the volunteers who helped plan this fun event as well as the numerous sponsors – Mermaid Pools & Hot Tubs; Groupe Financier Beaudry Deschatelets Financial Group; Genesis Spa; Majic 100; Astral; The Ottawa Citizen; HOT Radio; CUBE Marketing; Le Droit; Edelweiss Golf Club; le Marché Richelieu; le Marché Songe, J.B. McClelland Hardware and M. Jean Lafrenière, Mayor of Val-des-Monts. Next year will be the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Grand Lake Golf Tournament and we hope to see you there. The reserved date for the 2013 golf tournament is July 26th.

### Memorable Grand Lake Golf Tournament



## Environment

In cooperation with the Federation of Lakes of Val-des-Monts, Grand Lake has continued testing the quality of the lake water for the past number of years.

In the spring, we test for Phosphorous, which is the primary nutrient/fertilizer for water plants. The results were better than 2011, but our 5 year trend is still upwards – we must try to stabilize it at least. Throughout the summer we test the water clarity using a Secchi disk. Some variability is to be expected but overall the lake continues to be quite clear.

**FYI:** Phosphorus in detergent and shampoos end up in lake waters and many lakes in Canada are dead or dying. It is our responsibility to preserve our lake and encourage others to do so as well. Make sure ALL your cleaning products are phosphorous free, and that all water containing cleaning product residue gets filtered by your septic system.

*Grand Lake is a member of the Federation of Lakes of Val-des-Monts. We believe the Federation is a very good vehicle for communicating the concerns of lake-front property owners to the municipality and on up the political food chain. For information about the activities of the Federation, check the web site <http://www.federationdeslacs.ca>*

## Water Safety

"It is apparent to everyone that the dramatic increase in the number of boats with very powerful motors ranging up to 300hp or even more poses significant hazards. We have received several reports this year of canoes and other non-motorized craft swamped or nearly hit by motor boats. Equally significant is the unrelenting and increasing damage to shorelines in a great many areas of the lake. The collapse of soft shoreline banks into the lake, exposure of tree roots of large pines and other trees, and the collapse of many of these beautiful trees into the lake are obvious consequences of too many powerful boats creating excessive wakes. The problem is

not only disruptive noise and unpleasant bobbing of one's dock, it's the high propulsion forces against the shoreline that erode the lakefront, stir up sediment, interfere with enjoyment of the our properties, and do irreparable harm to the environment and aquatic life of the lake. Bays which previously provided habitat for nesting birds, for example, are being stripped of that form of wildlife. Many property owners are losing shoreline and ugly scarring appears where rocks, earth and trees have collapsed into the water.

Our traditional approach to the lake and water safety has focused on motor-boating. We've issued guidelines related to speed, promoted practices such as travelling at right angles to the shore line and installed buoys to mark shallow areas etc. And the Association has encouraged members to get their Pleasure Craft Operator's Card.

While these measures are helpful, Association members have increasingly commented that they are not doing the job of keeping people safe. And they are not effective when it comes to protecting the physical environment in and around the lake, and the related value of our properties.

We still see people speeding through the two narrow areas of the lake, skiing through blind curves, boats annoyingly towing tubers round and round in the same area of the lake deliberately creating large wakes, and extremely noisy boats doing speed tests up and down the lake at dinner time. In many cases it is quite evident that boat operators think driving on plane means they aren't creating damaging wakes. Unfortunately, powerful wakes appear long after the boat in question has passed by or rounded the next curve and aren't seen by the operator.

## **Water Safety Cont'd**

Non-motorized boats and swimmers can also create risks to themselves and to others if they don't take care and use common sense on the lake.

The bottom line is that we're close to the tipping point in terms of security for all lake users and abatement of permanent environmental damage.

Abby Hoffman heads up a committee to review water activities and make recommendations to the Executive for approval and presentation to the membership. We expect to present a report at the 2013 AGM. The intention is to appropriately consider the needs and safety of all users.

Our objective should be to put in place measures which protect the lake and allow people to enjoy it in a sustainable and respectful manner. We can learn from measures introduced on other lakes. Our approach will consist of guidelines, awareness, signage and some control measures. Specifically, proposals on the following will be presented:

1. Revision of the Boating Guidelines to identify more no or low wake zones and address safety concerns of non-motorized boats and swimmers
2. Production and distribution of new information materials on safe and environmentally sound lake activity similar to campaigns on some of our neighbouring lakes
3. Increased signage on the lake to identify reduced speed zones
4. Designation of a small team of "lake stewards" to identify and follow up on problematic activities such as tubing in the same general area, deliberate production of wakes, excessive noise etc.
5. Meet with Dam Lake Association reps to review concerns related to reciprocal use of the two lakes by Grand and Dam Lake cottagers

As many people have expressed interest in these issues, we will be using the Grand Lake Association website to post information and proposals, and to get feedback. Please check the website for further information.

If you have views you would like to share or if you wish to get involved in this project, please get in touch with Abby at [abby.hoffman@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:abby.hoffman@hc-sc.gc.ca) or 819-457-1289."

## **FYI – POINTS OF INTEREST**

We continue to closely monitor all indications of development activities that could impact our lake and environment in any way, and regularly meet with appropriate representatives of the various authorities who have some role in this domain. A committee of past presidents and our incumbent president has a mandate to make appropriate enquiries and report regularly to the Executive and in due course to the members. If you are aware of any such activities that warrant further research, please advise one of our executive whose co-ordinates are on page 8.

We note that Val des Monts has constructed new access prevention and safety fences on the Dam Lake Dam. This will presumably allow them to make floodgate adjustments safely, if they ever decide to actively manage water levels, and in the meantime preventing unauthorized tampering or risky access. Given the lower water levels in Grand Lake this year compared to previous years, the Executive did not make any request for removing logs this fall.

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## Sailing 2012: GLSA.ca

The annual Awards Mug-up was held at Sarah Pothecary's green cottage in the afternoon following our fun race on Labour Day weekend. Attendees enjoyed a few liquid refreshments and a variety of finger nibblers.

We did get a few more sailors out this season - achieving double digit numbers on two race days. Joy Maclaren's Sunfish and Lawrence O'Grady's Laser were graciously offered on loan to sailors without boats. Most importantly, the weatherman cooperated and only one race was scratched due to a thunder storm in the area. All-in-all, it was a pretty good sailing season.

The Laser Award was presented to Duncan Vipond and it was a close

decision with Sarah Pothecary who also had a very successful sailing season. Duncan was a force to be reckoned with at each race he was out.

The Albacore Award was won hands down by Ken & Cathy Monds. Their sailing prowess was admired by everyone this year.

This year the Beaver Award was taken by Sarah Pothecary who was first across the finish line in our season ending fun race. Congratulations Sarah!

It was great to see a few junior sailors join in some of our Sunday races when they were available. One performance stands out - Alexandra Witt sailing her Laser, managed a first place finish on the only occasion she was able to sail with us this summer. For her individual effort she was awarded the Junior Sailing Honour.

## Poker Run

Thanks to all who attended the poker run this year. Although attendance was down a bit, some last minute sales of extra hands by Past President Dale Smith helped make it a lucrative win for the best three hands. As usual, great burgers, hot dogs and corn were enjoyed, and lots of prizes amused the younger set. Thanks to the organizers, cooks and a special thanks to Brian and Glennis Reynolds for the use of their property once again to host this final event of the season.

And the poker hand winners, who "volunteered" to organize next year's run, are Sue Goodwin and her team.

Everyone is encouraged to come out next year and enjoy the food and socializing!

Apparently the Witt sisters are thankful to the GLSA for inspiring them to get involved in sailing and for providing them an incentive to take sailing lessons. This experience will have life-long rewards. Let's hope this will inspire more junior sailors to join in. Encourage your youngsters to come out next summer.

Ken & Cathy Monds were recognized as the Grand Champions for the 2012 season. Breaking with the tradition, whereby the Monds would normally have become Commodores next season, the attending members reverted to the "railroading tradition" and announced that Don & Jan Poole should continue their responsibilities as co-commodores again next season.

Many thanks go to our small team of volunteers lead by Cindy Butler and Guy Cogan who helped out with the timing, starting, and rescuing functions. A special thank-you to Sarah Pothecary for the use of her green cottage for both starting and wind-up Mug-ups.

Don & Jan Poole  
Co-Commodores

*Poker Run 2013 is planned for Saturday, August 31st with a rain date of September 1<sup>st</sup>*

*Save the date!*



## Walking Trails



We had three very successful work parties on the Grand Lake Trail system this summer and early Fall. In addition several independent trailblazers helped clear debris, fallen trees and overhanging branches. The result of all these efforts is that our two main Trails - east to the heights above Lac de la Montagne and west to lookout points above the Culbute area are now well marked by white blazes and cleared of major impediments. Thanks are due to trailblazers Sarah Pothecary, Guy Cogan, Ann Croll, Don and Janice Poole, Diane and David Gibbard, Jane Newcombe, Eric Newcombe, Nathan and Diane Cooper, and Sue Neill. Thanks as well to the many lake residents and their visitors who keep the trail in shape by walking on it! The footfalls of intrepid hikers are the ideal method of maintaining the trails. A great many entertaining accounts of

adventures on the trail of the young and the youthful are recorded in the log book at the Trailhead.

For 2013, there will be some organized group hikes starting before the blackfly season on Sunday, May 5th with an all-trails end-to-end event. We'll do a modified figure 8 route covering the Lac de la Montagne and Culbute trails. This will be about a 4.5 hour hike with a 10:30am start from the Trailhead! Mark your calendars. Watch the Grand Lake website for more details closer to the date. Other group hikes for the summer and fall of 2013 will also be listed on the website in the spring.

For more information including how to sign up for hikes and work parties, please get in touch with Abby Hoffman.

abby.hoffman@hc-sc.gc.ca  
819 - 457 1289 (cottage)

## Website

Over the last year, the Grand Lake website ([www.lacgrandlake.ca](http://www.lacgrandlake.ca)) has evolved and now provides more news on happenings around the lake and other events of interest to Grand Lake residents. This information is updated regularly and kept current as much as is possible. The Association will be able to use this website to get feedback from lakers throughout the year.

Grand Lake residents are all invited to submit information/ideas to be included on the website but it must be reviewed by the Website Committee before it can be posted.

Association members and suppliers of goods and services to lake residents are invited to advertise the sale of their products. To help offset the cost of operating the website, there will be a charge for advertising: for cottages/land for sale - \$100.00 for 3 months (for rentals the charge is \$50); other items for sale - \$10.00 for 3 months; services for hire - \$100.00 for one year. There will be no charge for items Grand Lake residents want to make available to other residents at no cost. To view the full set of website policies, please refer to [www.lacgrandlake.ca](http://www.lacgrandlake.ca).

We are looking for volunteers to help us keep the web information up to date. If you are interested in "adopting" a section of the website, please contact a member of the Website Committee: Harris Boyd at [harrisboyd@rogers.com](mailto:harrisboyd@rogers.com), Louise Dubois at [loudubois@rogers.com](mailto:loudubois@rogers.com) or Jon York at [info@yorkdigitalsolutions.com](mailto:info@yorkdigitalsolutions.com).

We hope that Grand Lake residents come to see their website as a great source of current information about the lake and its activities.



## Canada Day Celebrations



Under beautiful sunny skies over 50 boats participated in the Canada Day flotilla on Grand Lake on July 1<sup>st</sup>. They proceeded in grand form from the North end to the South end of the lake where George Avon raised a ceremonial flag high up on the mountain overlooking the lake. With so many floats to choose from judges had a difficult time selecting the three winners to receive trophies at the Annual General meeting on July 7<sup>th</sup>. After much deliberation, trophies were presented to Kester and Helen Hamilton, Paul Migas and Eva Kmiecic and Brian and Glennis Reynolds.

The day culminated in a traditional fireworks display organized again by Mike Avon from his lake front property. Dozens of residents watched from their boats while others selected various vantage points to take in the spectacle. The reaction clearly demonstrated that it was even more spectacular than those of previous years.

The Grand Lake Association and its members thank The Department of Canadian Heritage, the Municipality of Val-des-Monts and the Office of the Minister Delegated for Transport, the Honorable Norman MacMillan, for their generous financial support for our festivities.

## Get Your Grand Lake Bestseller – “The Grand Experience”!

Out of the 750 books printed of “The Grand Experience” there are only about 20 books remaining. It is an ideal gift for those who have had connections with Grand Lake over the years or for new cottagers wanting to learn about early cottage life in the area. To acquire one of these books, please contact Don or Janice Poole at [donjan.poole@gmail.com](mailto:donjan.poole@gmail.com) or telephone them at 819-671-1034.

## Condolences

We regret to report the passing of Charlie Greene, a long standing member of the Grand Lake Sports Club. Our sincere condolences to his family. Whenever members hear of someone passing, please make sure you advise a member of the Executive so the person can be appropriately remembered in the next newsletter.

**Grand Lake Executive 2012-2013**

<b>President</b>	<b>Harris Boyd</b>	<b>(H) 613-421-3597 (C) 819-671-0584 harrisboyd@rogers.com</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Tom Barber</b>	<b>(H) 613-730-5460 (C) 819-457-2871 tbarber@burkerobertson.com</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Gary Beach</b>	<b>(H) 613-238-1616 (C) 819-671-2418 (H) 613-234-8717 (answering machine) (F) 613-231-6576</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Ron Andrews</b>	<b>(H) 613-234-8058, (C) 819-671-5618 ron_andrews@sympatico.ca</b>
<b>Membership</b>	<b>Roger Paul</b>	<b>(H) 613-236-1526; (C) 819-457-1752 rpaul.fnscf@hotmail.com</b>
<b>Sports Club</b>	<b>Robert Potvin</b>	<b>(H) 613-744-1243 bobnlouca@yahoo.ca</b>
<b>Directors At Large</b>		
	<b>George Avon</b>	<b>(H) 819-663-7497; (C) 819-671-2189 glavon@sympatico.ca</b>
	<b>Paul Butler</b>	<b>(H) 613-233-4680 (C) 613-868-7768 (F) 613-728-4523 pbutler@artech.ca</b>
	<b>Gen Gunther</b>	<b>(H) 613-241-6548; (C) 819-671-4420 genadigunther@hotmail.com</b>
	<b>Brian Reynolds</b>	<b>H) 819-669-2062 (C) 819-671-3711, (F) 819-671-2945(Summer), (F) 819-669-0297 Winter) brian.rey@bell.net</b>
<b>Past President</b>	<b>Dale Smith</b>	<b>(C) 819-457-4136 (F) 514-371-4222 (Cell) 514-891-9805 dale@dalesmith.ca</b>



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