

Grand Lake Association / Association du Lac Grand

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

**SPRING
EDITION**
JUNE 2011

“The lakes are something which you are unprepared for; they lie up so high, exposed to the light, and the forest is diminished to a fine fringe on their edges, with here and there a blue mountain, like amethyst jewels set around some jewel of the first water, - so anterior, so superior, to all the changes that are to take place on their shores, even now civil and refined, and fair as they can ever be.” ~Henry David Thoreau

Even with all the wet weather, it is spring again at Grand and Green Lakes, and a time when residents and cottagers alike find themselves caught up in the beauty of our environment. Your Lake Association Executive invites you to enjoy this Spring Newsletter – and our new website – and learn of the various activities planned to make this a truly enjoyable season! Now to see some sun!!!



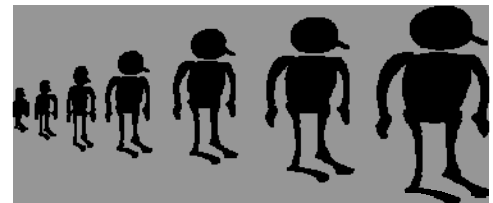
We hope you find this issue to be of beneficial reading and informative. Please contact any member of the Executive if you have any questions, comments or information that could be of interest to your Association.

Membership

Last year's membership stood at 210 out of 214 possible members from our two lakes.

pbutler@artech.ca

Our Association's 2011 year starts June 1st and you will be receiving your membership renewal forms by mail shortly at your permanent residence address. Forms will also be available on our website for those who prefer more modern modes of communication. The membership fee is again \$20 if received before or at the AGM on July 9th. Otherwise, it is \$25. Winter Patrol (including annual membership) again is \$60 before the AGM and \$65 afterwards.



If you have any questions please e-mail



Treasury

Your Association continues to be in excellent financial condition, with GIC's of approximately \$50,000 current value and a normal operating account balance of just over \$2,000 having paid for the winter patrol.

Membership dues replenish the operating account balance, and we have not raised dues in over a decade. This year, we may want to discuss a small increase and/or a way to support some special initiatives we will discuss at the upcoming Annual General Meeting, on Saturday, July 9th.

As most of you are aware, the Association maintains the reserve fund for contingencies and unexpected events that could arise and impact our Members. We continually seek ways to increase reserves and always appreciate Members suggestions and

We have been good stewards of your membership dues and the health of our reserve and operating budget reflects this.

assistance.

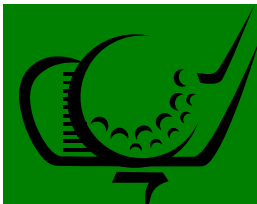
The Grand Lake Calendar project which came to fruition in July 2010 grossed sales of \$9,000, all within 3 months of calendar availability. A few remain for newcomers and those wishing an extra souvenir copy. Hats off to Brian Reynolds (project leader) and photo processor Alan Landsberg for their commendable production efforts and to all those who contributed photos and to those who helped sell the calendars.

Golf Tournament – 18th Anniversary

The 2011 Annual Grand Lake Golf Tournament will be held on July 22nd at the Edelweiss Golf Club in Wakefield, Quebec. Start time will be 11:00 a.m. The cost: \$64 per person includes 18 hole green fee, shared power cart and dinner; for golf only – \$47 per person includes 18 hole green fee and shared power cart; for dinner only – \$26 per person. To register, contact: judymeloche@ymail.com or telephone: 613-843-0012 or 819-671-2722; or telephone Leon Lavergne at 819-671-5089; or telephone Terry Ford at 819-671-1331. Payment can be made at the Grand Lake Association Annual Meeting or at the golf tournament itself. Invite your family and friends.

All participants are asked to bring a prize valued at \$15.00 maximum so that all participants can then receive a prize.

Memorable Grand Lake Golf Tournament



Notice of 2011 Annual General Meeting

It will be held on Saturday, July 9th at 2 p.m. The agenda and proceedings from last year's AGM are in your package!!!

Please bring your chairs and hope for sunshine!

Environment

2011 is the 8th year we have tested Grand Lake for Tp (phosphorous); the principal indicator for the nutrient level in the lake which promotes weed growth. When we started the advice from the biologist was that we should not put too much stock into any particular year because of the many variables that could affect the results, but if we kept at it there would be trends to consider. Over the first 7 years, for example, the ice went out within 1 day either side of April 20; last year it was March 27th. This year it was April 25! In that context, the Tp readings this year are the highest since we started testing:

If this trend continues the lake will move from "Oligotrophic": "clear water with very low levels of phosphorous, algae and nutrients" to "Mesotrophic": "moderately clear water with - - -". We are not the only

Water Safety

Despite having published revised Grand Lake/Green Lake Boating Guidelines last year, there are still people who insist on making large wakes in no wake zones. In some cases it seems that boaters simply pay no attention to what is happening BEHIND their watercraft. Others refuse to OBSERVE THE 90 DEGREE RULE when leaving or approaching their docks. There is no way to police this abuse, except for each member bringing it to the attention of the people they see disregarding the rules.

On several occasions boats towing a skier or boarder were observed going at sporting speed through the winding channel en route from the North Basin to the Culbute, generating large, destructive wakes in a very narrow part of the lake.

"We have an obligation to our children and grand children to ensure the lakes we enjoy will be there for them and their successors"

cause for this downward trend: high water, more run-off than usual may contribute; but they contribute by carrying nutrients into the lake, which reinforces the need for us to protect the lake: no fertilizers, no mowing within 5 metres, revegetate where there has been clear-cutting, maintain your septic system, keep soap/chemicals/gas out of the lake.

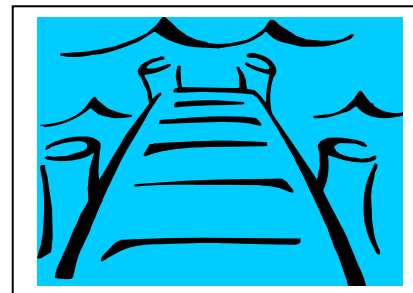
Grand Lake is a member of the Federation of Lakes of Val des Monts. We believe the Federation is a very good vehicle for communicating the concerns of lake-front property owners to the Municipality and on up the political food chain.

For information about the activities of the Federation, check the web site and come to Water Quality Day: Parc Thibeau (#307 @ Ch. Du Parc) Saturday July 16 @ 10:00.

FYI: Cleaning Kills: 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.

We also have reports of several boaters practicing these activities in the Narrows and elsewhere far too close to shore.

Abby Hoffman heads up a committee that will review all water activities and make recommendations to the Executive and to Members for approval. The intention is to appropriately consider the needs and safety of all users. Severe shoreline erosion and property damage has increased dramatically in the past few years and we need to reverse this trend along with excessive noise from high powered boats and craft circling repeatedly in the same area.



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 Hoffman at abby.hoffman@hc-sc.gc.ca or 819-457-1289.

We ask that all members and guests refrain from such unnecessary damage to our precious environment. Our lake has huge areas to play-please use them!



Meeting with Mayor, Jean Lafreniere, in 2011

A number of members of the Executive are meeting with the Mayor of Val des Monts in June based on a commitment from the Mayor to meet at least twice a year. A report on the meeting will be given at the Annual General Meeting which the Mayor has also been invited to attend.

Get Your Grand Lake Bestseller “The Grand Experience” While Quantities Last!

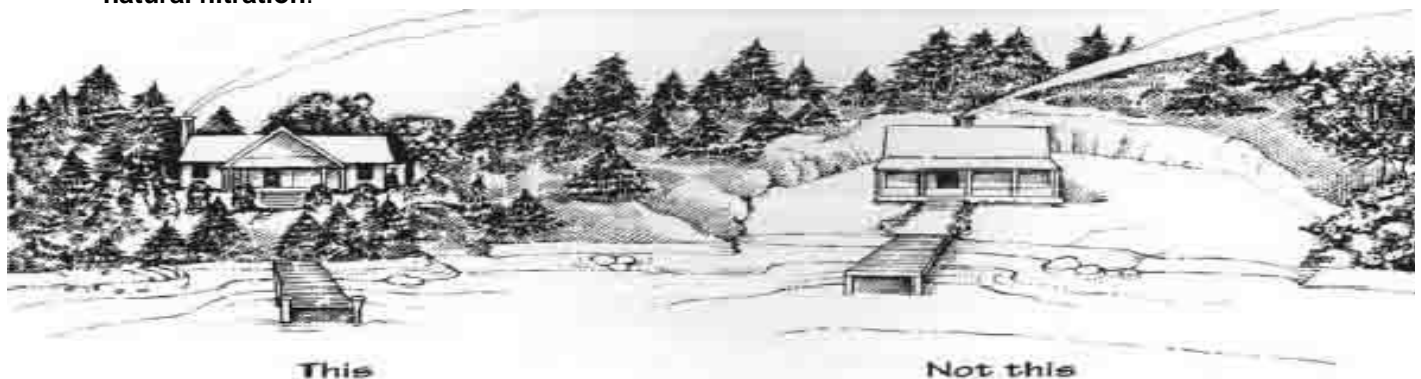
Out of the 750 books printed of “The Grand Experience” there are only about 40 books remaining. It is an ideal gift for those who have had connections with Grand Lake over the years or for new cottagers wanting to learn about early cottage life in the area.

To acquire one these books please contact Don or Janice Poole at donjan.poole@gmail.com or telephone them at 819-671-1034.

FYI – Points of interest

Recommendations to limit runoff from your property into the lake:

- Leave trees and shrubs in a strip as wide as possible along the shore.
- Replant native trees and shrubs between your house/cottage and the water
- Reduce lawn size adjacent to the lake and maintain a “no-mow” strip along the shore. Lawns are not effective at erosion control or filtering.
- Don’t use fertilizers or pesticides on lawns near the lake. Fertilizer and pesticide runoff unnecessarily pollutes the lake with nutrients and toxins.
- Maintain your driveway and so that runoff from it cannot reach the lake
- Manage runoff from your roof, deck or other structures so that water is directed into vegetated area for natural filtration.



Sailing 2011: GLSA.ca

Organized sailing has been a summer activity on Grand Lake for more than 50 years. Sailing is fun, somewhat challenging (with the occasional dunkings) and the competition is always friendly. We are fortunate to have a lake well suited for sailing. Sailing races take place Sundays starting at noon and have traditionally alternated between the north and south basin. All ages and skill levels are welcome and everybody is encouraged to participate.

There are some wannabe sailors of the lake who do not currently own a sailboat. There are several sailboats

on the lake whose owners have chosen not to participate in the Sunday sail races. We want to encourage more to give it a try. If you need to build your confidence – we can put you with an experienced skipper or let you try on your own.

For all information relating to our club please call Don or Jan Poole at (819) 671-1034 or at donjan.poole@gmail.com.



This year we are taking a survey of all those who own a sailboat on Grand Lake. If you have one and would be willing to loan it out for an afternoon to help someone on the lake try sailing, please call Don or Jan Poole at (819) 671-1034 or at donjan.poole@gmail.com

Poker Run

Poker Run 2011 save the date: Saturday September 3, 2011 start time at noon, and ending with a barbecue at Brian Reynolds, weather permitting. Rain day is September 4, 2011.

To participate, please contact Hugh Campbell (hughanddeb@yahoo.ca) or 819-671-6497 (home) or 613-728-1616 (work).

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

“This year’s event is scheduled for Saturday, September 3, 2011”



Walking Trails



We now have two well-marked routes departing from the trailhead at the north end of the lake. One trail heading north and then west is an out and back trail taking hikers up to a series of lookout spots with spectacular views of Grand Lake and the Culbute. The second trail is a circular route heading east from the trailhead along the shoreline of Green Lake and then through wooded areas and up along the cliffs above the lake and then north to the old logging road eventually circling back to the trailhead dock.

Both trails are well marked with white blazes. Trail maps and guidance on trail markers are available at the sign-in box. If you would like to help maintain the trails please get in touch with Abby Hoffman at abby.hoffman@hc-sc.gc.ca or by phone at 819 - 457 - 1289.

Website

The Grand Lake website located at www.lacgrandlake.ca is launched and filling up with great news and updates, as well as important information about your Association and activities planned for this year. The Executive has set up a small committee to help manage content and quality of the site, and they will be updating this regularly with information for lake events and activities, lost and found, local events, news and much more. The members are Harris Boyd (harrisboyd@rogers.com), Louise Dubois (loudubois@rogers.com) and Denise Soucy (danielle8@295.ca). You are invited to contact committee members to suggest ideas or send articles to post on the site or inquiries about how you may help or publish your content to the site. The Association will be able to use this website to get feedback from lakers throughout the year.



Condolances

This recent winter, we were advised of the passing of Christopher Clarke, the son of Joyce and John Clarke. We extend our sincere condolences to his family and friends.

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.

Canada Day Celebrations

Our thanks to the Avon family for again hosting this event from their beach and to those exuberant onlookers enjoying the show and making their way home safely in the dark.

On Canada Day 2011, our boat flotilla will be starting at 11:30 at the north end of the lake. Once again, we will have an independent panel of judges to review the boat decorations and determine who might win the prestigious Grand Lake award! Given our President, Harris Boyd is not in the running (for obvious conflict-of-interest reasons), we encourage all of you to participate this year.

We will also celebrate with our traditional fireworks display at sunset (usually around 9:30-10pm), weather permitting. The fireworks display will take place at Mike Avon's again this year and we look forward to his creativity!



Executive 2010-2011

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	Louise Dubois	(H) 613-741-8085, (C) 819-671-7526 loudubois@rogers.com
	Denise Soucy	(H) 819-671-4069 danielle8@295.ca
	Brian Reynolds	H) 819-669-2062 (C) 819-671-3711, brian.rey@bell.net (F) 819-671-2945 (Summer) or 819-669-0297 (Winter)
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