

NEWSLETTER - FALL 2021

CONTENTS

- President's Message
- Website
- Environment
- Treasury
- GLAPC
- Events
- Sailing
- Trail News
- Board of Directors
- Membership



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The beautiful fall colours have disappeared once again, as we will soon welcome the winter season. Another great summer season at Grand and Green Lakes, despite having to deal with ongoing COVID gathering restrictions. There was a lot of lake activity participating in a multitude of water sports including paddle boarding, swimming, snorkeling, sailing, fishing and various motorized water sports. Our Golf and Poker Run traditional gatherings once again were not permitted, but will return-most probably in 2022.

The 2021 AGM approved a new Grand Lake Activity and Protection Committee ("GLAPC") proposed by Abby Hoffman, who was elected as Director at Large at our first Board meeting following the AGM. The LAPC's mandate is to oversee all aspects of use of our treasured waters. 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 are all responsible for this legacy.

Considerable time has been spent since July assisting GLA members bordering the Crouch Road MCL property development (called L'Orée du Lac Grand) to establish their rights to protect the lake from potential significant access from this development's back lots.

The Board is proud to represent all members of the Grand Lake Association and appreciates the diversity of interests and views that members have expressed over the past year. Feedback received has helped to identify key issues on which to focus our efforts and we encourage all members to continue to share their suggestions and ideas about protecting our environment and fostering a healthy lake community.

Wishing everyone a safe and healthy winter.

Dale Smith, President

WEBSITE

The website and archives have been updated and include the Fall 2021 Newsletter and will include the Autumn 2021 Water Test Results when available. When the minutes of the July 2021 AGM are approved they will be posted, as some had asked about that.

Apart from the Grand Lake Sailing Sunday races, all other annual events were once again cancelled this year because of the Quebec COVID public health restrictions in force at the time. So the existing Canada Day, Poker Run Golf Tournament, etc... on the site are all still 2019 - hopefully next year all will be back to "normal".

The For Sale and Wanted was very active this spring and summer, which included cottage rentals. For Services, Sale or Rent we post in the language we receive. Submitting your ad in French and English guarantees the largest audience.

We're always looking for ideas, photos and other content that would be of interest to our members. You can contact Paul Butler at butlerpauld@gmail.com

TREASURY

Our treasury, as usual, reflects a strong surplus position going into the winter season, with government-backed investments (GIC's) of \$63,255 and a normal operating account balance of approximately \$5,000 before paying for the winter patroller.

Our membership dues essentially fund all annual operating costs of the Association. Great value for \$25 a year, and we very much appreciate the tremendous ongoing support of our members!



We continue to work towards increasing the size of our reserve fund for contingencies and unexpected disasters to maintain its purchasing power.

Note from the Milfoil Committee

We started the year by installing the five Milfoil Information buoys in the same location as previous years. No green buoys because of Transport Canada rules. However, it seems that these green buoys have provided a great awareness to our lake users, as generally people have been respectful and kept out of the weeds!

In early summer, the Milfoil Committee toured the entire lake to identify whether milfoil had subsided, or spread in order to determine where the Milfoil buoys and new yellow buoys will be placed. These yellow buoys are on order, but like everything, the supply chain is long and slow, but we expect to receive them over the winter, get them properly marked to conform with Transport Canada's rules, and placed in the spring. These yellow buoys will be used to mark milfoil as well as rock hazards, so please be careful where you go!

Because water levels were high, the weeds did not reach up and grab motors and swimmers as much this year, which helped prevent the spread. With your help in scooping up stray weeds and taking care of your own shoreline, we are keeping this under control. Thank you to everyone.

WATER QUALITY

This year (2021) marked the introduction of a new municipal-run water testing program. Under the direction of the newly created position of Cadre Conseil...(or roughly, Environmental Advisor) Samantha Rhinds, several Grand Lake volunteers drew three sets of samples at three locations on the lake in early June, early July, and early August. Thank you Gill Toll, Ros Frith, and Tim Frank!

In addition, we performed 6 sets of Secchi disc readings at the three locations - early June, mid-July, early August, late August, early September, and early October.

The Green Lake water samples and Secchi readings were taken by Michel Rossignol.

Because of the learning curve and the large amount of data to be processed, (**there are 49 lakes in the program!!**) we are still waiting for the results to be compiled and to be distributed to all the lakes involved. When we have the results from the Municipality we shall post them on the Grand Lake website with an advisory note to all members. Those who are interested can review the numbers and the analysis at that time.

This entire initiative is an extremely positive development, especially as it is funded by the Municipality. (OK, that really means it is funded by us, but there is no doubt that it is a great use of our tax dollars.)



Grand Lake Activity and Protection Committee (GLAPC)

Whether we became Grand Lake cottagers because our parents discovered the lake years ago when it was sparsely populated or because we were lucky enough to acquire a property more recently, it probably didn't take long to realize that 'our' lake is a real gem. And no doubt we want to maintain that high regard for the lake for generations to come. But that won't happen without some deliberate and conscious effort on our part now, and into the future.

Over time, more lake users and technological 'advances' have put increasing pressure on the lake from the standpoints of water quality, shorelines, and aquatic and wildlife habitat. With 200+ cottages on the lake and a huge array of activities (passive, active and high-powered) it is inevitable that there is concern about the sustainability of the lake environment and continued enjoyment of the lake and cottage life generally.

Over the years, a lot of volunteer time and energy has been devoted to making the lake safe and preventing the encroachment of pollutants and invasive species. Regular water quality testing, production of boating guidelines, and milfoil attenuation are just a few of the important initiatives undertaken by the Grand Lake Association.

Nonetheless, many lake residents are understandably concerned about the rapidly increasing rate of shoreline erosion and collapse of soft banks and large trees, damage to docks and other property from wakes, noise, the inadvertent relegation of activities like swimming, stand-up boarding, kayaking and canoeing to a thin ribbon close to shore, while bigger boats seem to have the run of the open areas of the lake. The advent of a growing number of wake sport boats has heightened concerns, but this activity is not the only source of anxiety.

In this context, a proposal to create a new Lake Association Committee with a mandate to protect and sustain the lake over the longer term as a natural recreational asset was approved by the membership at the 2021 AGM.

This Fall, the GLA Executive approved the terms of reference for the new Committee which include the following: (1) recommending to the GLA Executive and membership, overall strategies to protect and sustain the lake; (2) promotion of policies which facilitate lake activities with minimal adverse impacts on the well-being of the lake and the enjoyment of cottage properties; (3) developing and

implementing more effective mitigation measures to protect the lake and its shoreline areas from damage caused by activities ill-suited to Grand Lake's size, topography and population density; and, (4) developing principles for safety standards and guidelines for lake users and activities reflecting a broad array of interests. The latter is intended to include a wider range of lake users (for example, low power boating, kayaking, canoeing, rowing, stand-up boarding, swimming, fishing etc.). And it may include designation of more safe spaces for non-motorized activities. It is also intended that the Committee would help the Association pro-actively address the relationship between various lake activities and the sustainability of the lake.

The initial membership of the GLAPC is drawn from the Lake Association Executive and is comprised of Dale Smith (GLA President), Gary Beach, Rosaline Frith, Dorothy Laflamme, and Abby Hoffman (Chair).

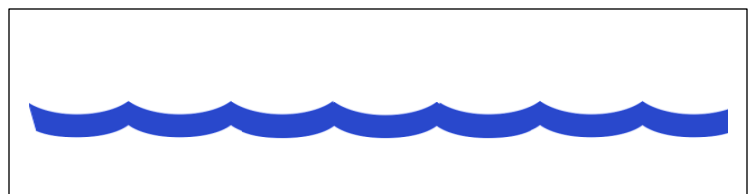
Now that the GLA Executive has approved the terms of reference and membership, the immediate next task of the GLAPC is to develop and secure Executive approval for a set of principles that will be used by the Executive (and ultimately the Association) to assess and revise as appropriate existing and proposed policies and practices related to lake activities – especially where the sustainability and protection of the lake is at issue. The next task will be a review, and possible revision and re-orientation, of the GL Boating Guidelines so they serve the broader range of lake-related activities and interests noted earlier.

As the GLAPC gets underway over the coming months, we will post information on the GLA website and through the GLA newsletter and invite comments and feedback from members on our activities. The Committee will liaise with other formal committees and informal groups with common interests and concerns.

The complete mandate of the GLAPC as approved by the Lake Association Executive will be reproduced on the GLA website in the near future.

Abby Hoffman

Chair – Grand Lake Activity and Protection Committee



EVENTS

WAKE SPORTS GROUP

Let me introduce myself! My name is Michelle Houle and I have volunteered to spearhead this new group. I have been on Dam/Grand Lake for almost 20 years. I love the lake and I fiercely want to protect it! I'm an avid kayaker, I love to fish, paddleboard, ski, tube, wakeboard and in the last few years, took up wake surfing. I am also a semi-retired CPA tax accountant. This new group will build on the first steps taken on August 7 (meeting and discussions on best practices for safe and respectful wake-related sports) and continue to develop additional information and recommendations and also liaise with the newly-created Grand Lake Activity and Protection Committee. Our objective is to address wake-related sports practices that do not contradict our collective goal as neighbours-which is to keep the lake healthy and also to allow all activities to take place in a safe manner that respects the whole lake community. I am welcoming any comments or suggestions and I can be reached at michellehoule@gmail.com.

27th Grand Lake Annual Golf Classic – Cancelled again

Unfortunately pandemic rules did not permit golf tournaments again in 2021 for groups our size, and we were forced to abandon this event one more time.

We are cautiously optimistic for 2022 to once again hold this long-standing fun event.



GRAND LAKE POKER RUN & FAMILY BBQ

***The 2022 POKER RUN is planned for Saturday, Sept 3rd with a rain date of Sept 4th.
SAVE THE DATE!!!***



Unfortunately COVID rules prohibited this great event again in 2021, the traditional wind up of our special summers at the lake. Hopefully 2022 will see it return and be the best ever. Thanks to Don and Sue Goodwin, perpetual organizers, for being on standby. Let's save the day for 2022-Saturday September 3.

CANADA DAY



We were able to get appropriate health authority permissions to hold our traditional Canada Day Boat Parade and once again an impressive number of creatively decorated watercraft made their way around the lake. The GLA also sought and obtained the OK to support Mike Avon's fireworks, which were enjoyed by a number of lakers in their watercraft observing proper COVID protocols.

GRAND LAKE SAILING ASSOCIATION (GLSA)

The GLSA looks forward to welcoming new sailors in 2022. Assuming Covid regulations allow it, we will be reinstating the Mug Up at the beginning of the summer. The Mug Up provides an opportunity for existing sailors to meet each other on land and for newcomers to learn the racing rules.

We saw some changes in 2021. Three of the eleven races were cancelled due to rain - more cancellations than we've experienced for several summers. Also, the winds were generally lighter for the races. This resulted in two races being shortened to finish in a reasonable time and necessitated towing assistance for some boats to get to/from the race course!

Given the Covid situation, there was no Founders Regatta held this year. However, the Regatta format was used on two occasions: multiple short races in place of one long one. This keeps the action tight, with closer racing and mark rounding. This change was positively received. The format will be continued next year in a selected number of races.

Participation was slightly off, with some familiar faces unable to race this year for various reasons, but several hope to be back with us next year. It was great to see Sally Lee back in action in her Laser -- Dandelion -- and to see Emily Segal out in her Hobie Cat for one of the races.

The results prove that consistent participation was a key success factor this year. Congratulations to Dan Gray, who sailed all eight Sundays, and Duncan Vipond, who sailed in seven of the eight races. Ian Maclaren injured his foot (not sailing) and was able to sail only four of the eight in his Laser, and one with his daughter, Kaleigh, in their Albacore. Tyler Gray, who placed top last year, missed a few races this year (proof that pre-season football training and sailing don't mix) and scored fourth.

Sarah Potheary with Guy Cogan timed most of the races (they deserve to share the Submariner Award for managing to time two races on August 22 in very wet conditions) and hosted a BBQ luncheon for sailors at the end of the season. Many thanks to the many people who put the marks out each week – future volunteers would be much appreciated.

The GLSA would like to express their appreciation to Ian Maclaren for all the work he has done, and we look forward to seeing him back on Grand Lake as soon as possible.



FINAL RESULTS - 2021

1. Dan Gray
2. Duncan Vipond
3. Ian Maclaren

For 2022, the GLSA committee is as follows:

Commodore, Duncan Vipond,
devipond@rogers.com

Treasurer, Terry Ford,
ttford@outlook.com

Secretary, Sarah Potheary,
spotheary@strabo.ca

Social Secretary, Sally Lee,
sallyblee@gmail.com.

TRAIL NEWS

As many of you know from your own experiences this summer and through the fall, hiking the Grand Lake trails continues to be a very popular activity for cottagers on the lake. It was great to see the accounts in the log book of so many first time visitors to the trail.

The entire trail system is in good shape with exception of the huge berry bushes still blocking sections of the old logging road. A lot of energy has been devoted to taming these beasts by several machete and scythe-wielding stalwarts who are fighting the good fight to maintain a metre wide swath through the thick berry-bush canes with their massive thorns. The route hasn't been cleared entirely yet, but we are getting close. An early start next Spring should give us a jump on things so we can keep the whole route open all summer. (The objective is to clear a route just wide enough for walking while allowing the bushes on both sides of the path to continue producing the most amazing crop of huge sweet blackberries through all of August and well into September. Eventually the scrubby trees growing back after the logging clear cuts will cast too much shade and the berries will be a distant memory.)

By next summer, enthusiastic hikers should be able to complete both the Lac de la Montagne and Culbute Heights trail sections, linked by the shoreline path between the 2 docks, without covering any of the same ground. See the route marked out on the map on the GLA website.

For winter visitors to the trail, the old logging road accessible from either dock makes for a great outing on cross-country skis or snowshoes. It doesn't take many snowshoers to keep the snow sufficiently tamped down to make for some exhilarating exercise in pristine snow. The wildlife is rarely visible, but let your imagination run when you come across the readily identifiable paw prints in the snow of fox, rabbit, lynx, deer and the occasional domestic dog. Some of these animals are real creatures of habit and will follow exactly the same routes no matter how much new snow falls. You can retrace your steps on the trail or return via Lac de la Montagne. For new winter users of the trail, just a reminder not to venture too far into the NW arm of the lake after you pass through the northern narrows. The Culbute stream spills fast moving water into that part of the lake preventing total freeze up of this part of the lake beyond the first island.

A 'new' ramp from the main trailhead dock to the shore will be constructed and installed this winter. This is another recycling project. The wood is from a disused dock that was given to the

trail when it was no longer serviceable for its original owner. It was used as a dock for a while, but when it became unsafe for that purpose it was taken apart and the remaining solid boards will soon start a new useful life as a ramp.

There are several projects in the queue for 2022. For example, all of the original picnic tables save one at the main Trailhead have disintegrated and it would be nice to replace them. A couple of short bridges over wet sections of the Lac de la Montagne Trail are needed to avoid erosion (and muddy feet in the Spring). There is ample wood already cut or fallen in the general areas in question. Strong arms to move the logs into place, top them with some old deck boards and some fasteners to hold everything in place is all that's required. Several cottagers have expressed interest in pitching in. If you are interested, please pass along your co-ordinates to me at the e-mail address below. Covid-permitting we will organise to get these jobs done once the ice is out of the lake in the late Spring.

In the meantime enjoy the winter – hopefully some of it at the lake and on the Trail. Looking forward to the 2022 hiking season – all 365 days of it. If you have any suggestions about how to make the Trails more interesting or accessible, please pass along your ideas, or better yet, write them up in one of the log books at either of the Trailheads so others can add their thoughts.,

Abby Hoffman / Trail Co-ordinator

abby.hoffman@hc-sc.gc.ca

text – 613 614 3878



BOARD OF DIRECTORS UPDATE

The 2021 AGM, held by Zoom again this year, resulted in Rosaline Frith, Dorothy Laflamme, Ray Otten and Dale Smith being elected to 3 year terms ending at the 2024 AGM.

At the first meeting of the Executive following the 2021 AGM, Dale Smith was appointed President, Gary Beach was re-appointed Treasurer and Paul Butler was re-appointed Secretary for the coming year. Ray Otten was re-appointed Vice-President. Abby Hoffman, James Levesque and Michel Rossignol were appointed directors-at-large for one year as provided in our GLA By-Laws, as amended.



GRAND LAKE ASSOCIATION 274 Chemin du Lac Grand, Val-des-Monts, QC J8N 5J7 2021-2022 Contact Information

Dale Smith	Director and President	(Cell) 514-891-9805; dale@dalegsmith.ca
Ray Otten	Director and Vice President	(H) 613-729-6865; (C) 819-671-0885 rayotten@outlook.com
Gary Beach	Director and Treasurer	(H) 613-238-1616; (C) 819-671-2418 jamesgarybeach@gmail.com
Paul Butler	Director and Secretary	(C) 613-868-7768 butlerpauld@gmail.com
Rosaline Frith	Director and Membership Chair	(H) 613-262-2831; (C) 819-671-0401 rosfrith@outlook.com
Jim Nicol, Sr.	Director and Past President	((H) 613-523-2216; (C) 819-671-2625 (Cell) 873-688-8786; jim@jimnicol.ca
Nick Barber	Director	(H) 514-945-5804; (C) 819-457-2871 nccbarber@gmail.com
Abby Hoffman	Director-at-large	(C) 613-614-3878 abby.hoffman@canada.ca
François Jacques	Director	(H) 613-829-1375; (C) 819-671-3401 Jacla5@yahoo.ca
Dorothy Laflamme	Director	(H) 613-447-1519; (C) 613-671-0915 Dot10@rogers.com
James Levesque	Director-at-large	(H) 613-220-3824 jlevesqueca@yahoo.ca
Michel Rossignol	Director-at-large	(H) 819-684-0979 Michel.rossignol@hotmail.com

MEMBERSHIP

We have 198 paid in full members this year out of a total of 221 possible members of Grand Lake and Green Lake. Of the 198, 70 members have opted for winter patrol. Again this year, the Covid-19 Pandemic has taken away our enjoyment of larger social gatherings. Nevertheless, the Executive has made every effort to stay in communication and to keep members abreast of the lake news. If you have news to share that is date sensitive, please try to give me a heads up so that the information can be communicated in a timely fashion. You can reach me at rosfrith@outlook.com or (613) 262-2831.