

Grand Lake Association / Association du Lac Grand

www.lacgrandlake.ca

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**FALL
EDITION**
OCTOBER 2017



Fall is upon us once again, the leaves have changed colour and are very slowly starting to fall, creating again that spectacular scenery at the Grandest spot we know.

We are indeed fortunate to be part of the Grand and Green Lake experiences we share, and as you will continue to 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 are all responsible for this legacy. Enjoy the off-season, wherever you spend it!

At the first meeting of the Executive following the AGM, President Dale Smith was elected President, Jim Nicol, Sr. was elected Vice-President, Gary Beach was re-elected Treasurer and Paul Butler was elected Secretary for the coming year. Brian Reynolds and Dorothy Laflamme were appointed directors-at-large for the ensuing year, and Rosaline Frith as a third director-at-large until we have another retirement. We welcome Nick Barber to the Board, elected at the AGM in July. See the last page of this newsletter for a complete list of board members and their contact numbers.



Membership

Association memberships for 2017/2018 are mostly in hand. We are always pleased with the support and participation level of virtually 100% every year, the envy of lake associations in Val-des-Monts. We will accept registrations for winter patrol (which commences late October and runs through mid-May) until November 15, 2017 when we will submit our final patrol list to our winter patroller, James Levesque. If you have still not renewed your membership for 2017/2018, please complete the attached form and mail with your cheque to the address indicated, or email funds and the form to jamesgarybeach@gmail.com.



We should continue to work towards increasing the size of our reserve fund to maintain its purchasing power.

Treasury

Our treasury as usual reflects a strong surplus position going into the fall season, with government-backed investments (GIC's) of approximately \$60K and a normal operating account balance of approximately \$4K before paying for the winter patroller.

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

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

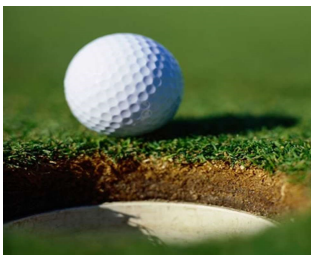
We are reviewing some potential expenditures from our reserves to deal with the ever increasing proliferation of our lake by milfoil. At our AGM this year, we also approved a recreation fund of \$2,000 be set aside for specific requests from Members.

24th Annual Golf Classic

In a summer that has been somewhat less than ideal, we were blessed with a beautiful day on July 21 at Edelweiss Golf Club for our Annual Golf Event—started no less than 24 years ago by Brian Reynolds. Following golf and cocktails, almost 80 people enjoyed a fine buffet dinner, golf awards and prizes for all. Eager wine raffle participants coughed up over \$700 to get a chance at several one case and half case lots. The night was emceed again by Dale Smith. Music by “The New Classics”, including a sax player this year as well, kept a number of folks dancing well into the night following dinner and prizes. Grand Champions (low gross score) – Dale Smith, Alex Smith, Grant Rivett and John Wickenden (net 63), Most Honest Team – John Morrow, Marlene Morrow, Barry Martin and Sherri Rose. Closest to the Pin Women – Janice Dempsey (again). Longest Drive Women – Julie Bergeron. Closest to the Pin Men – Dale Smith. Longest Drive Men – Tom Martin, Longest Drive Senior Men—John Wickenden. Putting Contest – Julie Bergeron. Opposite Hand 7 Iron Contest

Women – Julie Bergeron, Opposite Hand 7 Iron Men – Merv Schuetzle. A special thanks also goes out to all our sponsors who supported the tournament with financial donations, gift certificates and/or prizes. Great West Life, Fidelity Investments, Beaudry Deschatelets, Franklin Templeton Institutional, Edelweiss Golf Course, McClelland's Home Hardware, Mermaid Pools, Rona Whalen St Pierre de Wakefield and Warren Stroud. Continued success of this event requires enthusiastic participants and a capable organizing committee and volunteers: Organizers Dale Smith (Chair), Siobhan Devlin, Janice Dempsey and Dave Helgason and volunteers, Sue and Don Goodwin, Roz and Katrina Helgason (putting contest), Kori Smith and Rachel Reitz. Special thanks once more to Gaetan Deschatelets for sourcing significant financial sponsorships. Tune back in next year for a special 25th Anniversary Edition...

Memorable Grand Lake Golf Tournament



Environment

Grand Lake is a member of the Federation of Lakes of Val-des-Monts. The Federation has put forward its most ambitious project to date for the protection and improvement of lake water quality in the Val-des-Monts area. The *Val-des-Monts Integrated Watershed Management Project* (PGLVDM) is a study of all the accessible and inhabited lakes of the Rivière Blanche watershed in Val-des-Monts with a view to create a Water Master Plan (PDE).

This would see the Federation participating with VdesM to develop an action plan to seek proper funding (various levels of government) and then implement actual plans that will help us protect our watershed. This process will inevitably be slower than we want, but at least it is starting. We as the GLA are supporting this cause and the Federation's role.

Walking Trails

In the Spring 2017 Newsletter, I reported on the major logging operation last winter that devastated large sections of the Crown Land forest at the north end of the lake. Unlike the logging activity in the 1990s, a newer technique known as 'strip cutting' was employed. Think strip-mining and you'll get the general picture. The result was that many sections of the trail were impassable and the old logging road which had been a pleasant path through the boreal forest had been turned into a hideously ugly superhighway for logging trucks and equipment.

I am happy to report that due to the efforts of a number of your friends and neighbours on the lake, our two main trails to the Culbute heights (to the west) and the viewpoints over Lac de la Montagne (to the east) have been restored - not quite to their former glory, but close. This involved a lot of clearing of felled trees, removal of large piles of brush, rerouting of the trail and installation of new trail

In early September we tested for E-Coli and Total Coliforms at several sites around the lake; water samples were taken at 6 sites around the lake. Results showed negligible levels....i.e. the lake water is safe for all recreational activity. Because the lake is classified as surface water, it cannot be deemed safe for drinking.

In the spring of 2018, just after the ice leaves, once again we will test for Phosphorous. The 2017 results were summarized in the spring newsletter. Please remain vigilant by watching the products you use for cleaning and ensure that they have zero Phosphate content.

Our water testing methodology is being reviewed with a goal of looking closely at what other similar lake associations and association groups are doing, and the magnitudes of annual budget that is accepted as good stewardship.

Thanks to the efforts of Brian Reynolds and others, the "how" of OUR methods appears to be aligned nicely with best-practices. But the "when" (that translates to "how often?") is really where the financial reality becomes a constraint.

markers. We were very fortunate to have a keen group of trail enthusiasts who turned out for several major work parties this Fall. And it was great to have a mix of long-standing stalwarts and quite a few new faces contributing their time and sweat equity to trail restoration on several beautiful weekends in September and October.

If you are out on the trail later this Fall or next Spring, please watch out for and follow the white metal signs as the trail has been rerouted in several spots. More details about trail signage and symbols is available at the Sign-in box at the Trailhead, but the basic rule of thumb is that the trail markers are 3" by 8" white metal blazes affixed to trees on the right hand side of the trail. Two blazes side by side indicate that the trail turns in the direction of the higher of the two parallel blazes.

The annual Fall Colours Hike and Lunch took place on Thanksgiving Sunday. Despite heavy rain in the preceding and following hours, the hike and after-party took place in near perfect conditions. This event is held each year to celebrate the trail and acknowledge the efforts of people who help maintain it.

The frequency of testing should be consistent and firmly established by membership input and budget approval.

At the 2018 AGM we will have an item on the agenda which will address this.

We are looking for recruit(s) to get involved in the water testing (in particular if anyone is interested in getting involved in water testing from Green/Mountain Lake) and the work of the Federation of Lakes.

If you are interested please speak to Claude Turgeon, Tim Frank, or Dale Smith.

For information about the activities of the Federation, check the web site
<http://www.federationdeslacs.ca>

In a practical and symbolic effort to accelerate the restoration of the Crown Land forest, the Fall Colours hikers planted about 30 red pine seedlings on clear-cut territory. Nature will look after the long term regeneration of the woods. But to move things along and block out visible evidence of the ugly aftermath of the logging operation we'll plant more trees next year.

Just a reminder that the main hunting season includes the first three weekends of November. Staying off the trail in that time period is strongly advised. The Lake Association doesn't have a budget to erect memorials to anyone inadvertently felled during the hunting season!

The trail is a great place for snowshoeing in the winter months. Feel free to make the trail part of your winter activity plan. If you would like more information about the Trail, would like to volunteer for trail maintenance work, or have other ideas, feel free to get in touch.

Some great photos of activities on the trail have been posted on the Grand Lake Association website. Go to: lacgrandlake.ca > information > hiking trails.

FYI – POINTS OF INTEREST

We continue to closely monitor all indications of land 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. George Avon has been delegated the 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 George or any other member of our executive whose co-ordinates are provided on page 8.

The Executive has been doing battle with various levels of government to prevent a proposed purchase by a developer of a piece of Crown Land with access to Grand Lake, to join to one of their last, landlocked lots near Canotier. We were disappointed that this sale was unanimously approved by the MRC (of which Jacques Laurin, our Mayor is a member) on June 15, 2017, it was then proposed by Claude Bergeron and unanimously approved by VDM at its August 1, 2017 Council meeting. As a result of our interventions in the process, we have been advised (only verbally so far, but we expect written confirmation soon) that the final approval at the MERN level (Minister of Energy and Natural Resources) will be denied.

A few members complained last winter that they had received no evidence of winter patrol visits. If you have subscribed for winter patrol this season, please make sure you have in plain view at your residence entrance an appropriate receptacle (e.g., clothespin or box of some sort) where James can deposit or attach your patrol receipt, otherwise it will be blowin' in the wind!

For those who need to arrange lake access via the Dam Lake landing for their boats in the spring of 2018, call Peter Kearns at 613-736-1869.

As a result of recent torrential rains in VDM, the lake level is very high for this time of year-please take into account when winterizing. In addition, we understand that there may be some special provincial aid for private road (not private driveway) repairs necessitated by these rains. Unfortunately we have no details to share yet.



Sailing 2017: GLSA.ca

2017 was a very successful and highly enjoyable season for the GLSA. Some interesting statistics: sixty percent of the sailors are women; fifty percent of the people who sailed this year are new or novice sailors. The third annual Founders Regatta continued to draw much interest. A written account of all races and the Regatta can be found on the Grand Lake website, where they are posted after each race. Many thanks to Paul Butler for the time he spends updating these results.

We had a lot of help with timing this year. Many thanks to all the volunteers concerned. Also, thanks to the Grand Lake boating community for giving the right of way to sailing boats in the races.

A schedule of next year's races will be available at the Grand Lake AGM next year. We look forward to welcoming more new sailors in 2018.

Awards.

The Lou Langlois cup for best overall sailor was awarded to Ian Maclaren. The trophy for best performance by a

Laser went to the Maclaren boat (sometimes sailed by John Maclaren). The trophy for best performance by an Albacore went to the Ford boat sailed by Terry Ford and Ann Croll. The Junior Cup was awarded to Olivia Frith; and the Most Improved Sailor trophy went to Julia Avon.

Among the less serious awards, the Lunch Box award was presented to Janice Dempsey; the Submariner award to Duncan Vipond; the Headbanger award to Sarah Potheary; the Oxyclean award to Ian Maclaren; and the Clock award to Anne Witt!

For further information, contact Duncan Vipond (devipond@rogers.com) or Ian Maclaren (ikmaclaren@gmail.com).



Grand Lake Poker Run-Family BarBQ

Thanks to all who made the 2017 poker run great again! A record number of lakers and guests gathered at the Goldberg Cottage for the annual get together for corn, hot dogs, hamburgers (and veggie burgers) and drinks, as well as prizes for all children. Barry Martin (guest of Gary Beach) had a straight for first prize, second was won by Adnan Hadziomerovic and third to Lyra Butler George. John Phillips took honours for the lowest hand. Thanks to Susan, Don and Andrew Goodwin (and his friend _____) for organizing the event, to the other volunteers for the help with the set up and tear down; to the Houghton's, Gunther's, Grand Lake Fishing Club, Coopers, and Sue and Abby for "dock dealing". A very big thank you to the Goldberg's for the use of their property to host this final event of the season.

Susan has volunteered to organize next year's poker run which will take place on Saturday September 1, 2018 (rain date is September 2). All are welcome and hopefully we will again meet at the Goldberg's cottage following the poker run. Even if you can't do the run, come buy a hand or just buy the food. It's a great venue to meet your Grand Lake neighbours and celebrate the summer past.

Poker Run 2018 is planned for Saturday, September 1 with a rain date of September 2.

Save the date!



Website (www.lacgrandlake.ca)

As we had a number of requests from groups to post 3rd party lake related material on the website, we created a new Community Page this year. Currently some Road Associations have meetings and minutes which are posted there. Also we've added the Cottagers Map of the Lake from the latest Directory, which some cottagers and visitors might find useful. Names and phone listings have been excluded. The map shows just that there is a cottage there and the associated road address.

Reports and photos from lake activities ... Canada Day, Golf Tournament and Poker Run etc. get posted as received. Sailing results go up each week but apart from that there is no actual recurring content.

We always need new content to make the web site engaging ... lake related content and volunteers are always welcome. Please contact butlerpauld@gmail.com



Canada Day Celebrations



Weather caused the parade to be moved to July 2 and we still had a great turnout of enthusiastic and creatively decorated boats. Led by President Dale Smith, paraders proceeded in grand form from the South end to finish in the North bay. Difficult choices were again required by our esteemed judges, who eventually agreed on three winners, who were presented trophies at the Annual General Meeting held on July 15th. . Kudos to Mike Avon's fireworks display, which attracted a large group of boaters Sunday night, and to VDM who contributed \$200 towards the festivities.

CONDOLENCES

Commander (E), Retd. John Frederick Frank, on June 29, 2017. A long history of active participation in Grand Lake activities, and two of his children, Debbie and Tim, continue to enjoy properties on the lake.

Reo Belhumeur, on July 5, 2017, retired member of RCMP and member since 1978 of the Grand Lake Sports Club.

Bob Carisse, on October 8, 2017, longtime owner at 31 Denzil.

Our sincere condolences to all family and friends.

Grand Lake Executive 2017-2018

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