

# Grand Lake Association / Association du Lac Grand

www.lacgrandlake.ca

274 Chemin du Lac Grand, Val-des-Monts, QC J8N 5J7

**FALL  
EDITION**  
NOVEMBER 2019



Leaves are all down, marking the end of yet another Grand summer and spectacular fall at Grand Lake. New memories, new members and no serious incidents or accidents to report. Enjoy the off-season, wherever you spend it!

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.

At the first meeting of the Executive following the 2019 AGM, Jim Nicol, Sr. was re-appointed President, Gary Beach was re-appointed Treasurer and Paul Butler was re-appointed Secretary for the coming year. Ray Otten was appointed Vice-President. Past President Dale Smith and James Levesque were initially appointed directors-at-large for the ensuing year, but by good fortune we had two more director candidates, Melanie Boivin and Michel Rossignol, who were welcomed to the Board at our October meeting. Dale gave up his director-at-large spot to make this happen, as he continues on the Board by virtue of his lifetime non-voting appointment by the membership. See the last page of this newsletter for a complete list of board members and their contact numbers.



## Membership

The Association is pleased to report that we now have 89% membership (194 out of 219 possible members) of whom 62 have paid for winter patrol. As a voluntary Executive, the prompt payment of membership dues makes the accounting responsibilities less onerous. More time can be devoted to keeping members informed about lake activities. We encourage everyone to speak with your neighbours and let them know that the Association is working to keep the lake a wonderful place to live or visit. If you have any membership related questions, please contact Rosaline whose co-ordinates are on page 8. Have a great winter season!

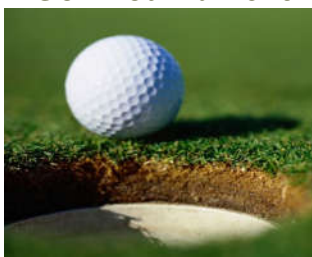



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*We continue to work towards increasing the size of our reserve fund for contingencies and unexpected disasters to maintain its purchasing power.*

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**Memorable 26th  
Grand Lake  
Golf Tournament**



## Treasury

Our treasury, as usual, reflects a strong surplus position going into the fall season, with government-backed investments (GIC's) of approximately \$58K and a normal operating account balance of approximately \$7,500 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!

During 2018 and 2019, we have made expenditures of approximately \$8,000 to implement a program of sensitization, education and some basic control mechanisms designed to slow the spread of milfoil. We will now design a program to measure its value to the extent possible.

The Loon Raffle raised \$610 to help rebuild our coffers.

## 26th Annual Golf Classic

Somehow we were again blessed with a beautiful day on July 26 at Edelweiss Golf Club for our 26<sup>th</sup> annual golf event. Following golf and cocktails, over 70 people enjoyed a fine buffet dinner, golf awards, wine raffle and door prizes. Dale Smith led us through the golf awards and prizes in record time and a number of folks enjoyed music and dancing to Merv's Electronic Tunes. Grand Champions (low gross score) – Dale Smith, Alex Smith, Grant Rivett and John Wickenden (net 63), Most Honest Team – Siobhan Devlin, Celeste Irvine-Jones, Bernadette Irvine and Marysa Irvine. Closest to the Pin Women – Celeste Irvine-Jones. Longest Drive Women – Marysa Irvine. Closest to the Pin Men – David Gibbard. Longest Drive Men – Jamie Helmer, Longest Drive Senior Men – Tim Frank. Putting Contest – Dave Helgason. Opposite Hand 7 Iron Contest Women – Marysa Irvine, Opposite Hand 7 Iron Men – Travis Lyndon. 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, Chez Renaud, CI Investments, Golf Mont Cascades, Edelweiss Golf Course, Familiprix, Gauvreau Transport, Les Fougères, J.B. McClelland et Fils Home Hardware, Mermaid Pools, Rona Perkins, Quincaillerie Whalen, Marche Alimentaire R Tessier ("Axep"). Continued success of this event requires enthusiastic participants and a capable organizing committee and volunteers: Thanks again to organizers Dale Smith (Chair), Siobhan Devlin, Jocelyne Lemery, Dave Helgason and Janice Dempsey and volunteers for the day Sue and Don Goodwin and Catherine Mullen. Mark off the last Friday in July next year now...

## Environment

### General

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.

For information about the activities of the Federation, check the web site

<http://www.federationdeslacs.ca>

### Water quality

In mid-July we tested for E-Coli and Total Coliforms at 6 sites around the lake. Results showed negligible levels, but not zero.... i.e. the lake water is safe for all recreational activity. Because the lake is classified as surface water, it cannot ever be deemed safe for drinking. Curiously, the highest reading was at the inflow of the Culbute. Still negligible, but we still monitor this situation to determine whether there is an ongoing problematic trend.

On Thanksgiving weekend, we tested a final time for Total Phosphorus at our 5 traditional sites; the results are not available from the lab at this writing. They will be posted on the website when they arrive. Secchi depth measurements all fell within a band of 6.3-6.5 metres. The lake continues to balance on the boundaries of Oligotrophic and Mesotrophic states.

In the spring of 2020, just after the ice leaves, once again we will test for Phosphorous. The 2019 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.

For those with an inclination towards, and interest in the science and significance of these figures, we are expanding the resources on the Grand Lake website to include a summary of our testing, and various selected external links. Several people have commented on the length of these newsletter updates and they are not wrong. The website should be the go-to source for more in-depth information.

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## Walking Trails

On the Saturday of Thanksgiving weekend 2019, 23 enthusiastic hikers (and 3 dogs) set out from the West Dock at the north end of the lake for the annual Fall Colours Hike on the Grand Lake Trails. This event was the first organized hike on the new, and newly rehabilitated, circle trail to cliffs high above Lac Grand and Lake MacArthur. The new section of the trail runs west along the Grand Lake shoreline toward the Culbute and then heads up to several look-out spots with panoramic views of Grand Lake and the surrounding hills, and then to even higher vantage points with gorgeous westerly views of row upon row of blazing hillsides. The Fall colours were just about perfect with an endless array of yellows, reds and chartreuse stretching out to the horizon. Following the trek, the group convened at the Neill-Hoffman cottage for the traditional post-hike lunch.

The original Culbute trail heading directly away from the shoreline into the woods has been re-routed to avoid some nasty berry bushes, swampy ground and slash piles. It then follows several switchbacks up through wooded and rocky areas that have been

cleared of the considerable debris from logging operations. Old blazes have been removed where the trail has been re-routed, and new blazes installed on the entire route providing guidance to hikers whether you choose a counter-clockwise or clockwise trek. Much of the credit for getting this western section of our trail system into shape goes to Cam and Suzanne Goure who devoted a lot of time and sweat equity to establishing the new trail along the shoreline and to removing stumps, felled trees, branches and other debris from the trail. The advent of battery operated chain saws and weed whackers which are relatively quiet and powered by clean energy helped make a difficult job more manageable.

The eastern trail from the main trail head to the heights above Lac de la Montagne is generally in good shape with just a short section near the very top needing removal of felled trees. This is a project for the early Spring of 2020.

The main project for Spring 2020 is marking and clearing a new path along the shoreline linking the main Trailhead dock and the West (or Green) dock. The idea is to create a route in the riparian zone by the water where logging is not permitted. This will help ensure that we aren't faced with another rehabilitation project if and when another round of logging occurs.

If you are interested in helping out with the 2020 trail projects, or would just like more information about the trails, please get in touch with me. Updated maps are posted at the trailheads by the two docks, and on the Lake Association website.

Abby Hoffman

[abby.hoffman@canada.ca](mailto:abby.hoffman@canada.ca)

819 – 457 – 1289 (cottage)

613 – 614 – 3878 (mobile/text)



## **FYI – POINTS OF INTEREST**

Our 2018-2019 Milfoil campaign has proven to be a great success in starting our plight to control this invasive weed in our beautiful lake(s). This year, we did not see a major increase in new growth areas and we want to thank you all for respecting the green buoyed areas! It really does have a big impact. To remind you, please contact Stéphanie Milot of FDLVDM at [federationlacsudm@gmail.com](mailto:federationlacsudm@gmail.com) if you have any questions and/or Dorothy Laflamme at [dot10@rogers.com](mailto:dot10@rogers.com).

Although it is not possible to determine exactly what happened, clearly milfoil growth was delayed considerably in getting started in its growth cycle this spring because of late ice out, record high water levels and generally colder water through June. By September in 2018, you could see huge patches of milfoil plants protruding from the surface of the lake. Not so this year.

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. If you are aware of any such activities that warrant further research, please advise a member of our Executive, whose co-ordinates are on page 8.

For those who need to arrange lake access via the Dam Lake landing for their boats in the spring of 2020, call Peter Kearns at 613-724-3582 after ice out.

We continue to press VDM to do something about the unnatural restrictions on the waterflow between Grand and Dam lakes namely the huge landfill that was mistakenly allowed when the bridge was constructed, and now the significant erosion that severely impedes waterflow under the bridge. We have proposed several solutions for them to consider, and so far we have no concrete responses that are satisfactory at all. We are fortunate that 2019 precipitation levels and days of sun (evaporation) combined to give us significantly lower water levels by the end of October and if this continues to freeze up, we may be spared the record flood waters of spring 2019.

**HOT TUBS AND LAKE POLLUTION** It's never safe to drain straight into the lake, and in Quebec, it's illegal to discharge grey water directly onto your property—it must be disposed of through a sewage system. But loading up your septic tank with 1,700 litres of water at once is going to flush out the bacteria that keep the system functioning.

Instead, one week before you intend to drain the tub, stop adding chemicals and leave the cover off. Chlorine and bromine, the most common sanitizers in tub water, evaporate when they're exposed to air. You can help expedite this process by turning off the heater and running the jets for a few hours.

Once the chlorine or bromine levels are close to zero, you can start pumping out the water into your septic system in small batches over a few days. It is critical that you do not drain directly into the lake.

### **Annual Lake 5K Swim Event (see photo on page 9)**

Twenty one swimmers and several volunteers braved a cool august morning to participate in the first Grand Lake 2.5/5km open water swim. Swimmers jumped in at Dorothy Laflamme's dock and swam to Gary Beach's cottage and later enjoyed a well-deserved potluck brunch at Francois and Lucie's Cottage.

Victoria Witt was first to complete the 2.5 km in a time of 51 minutes and James Verreault the 5 km in 1:18 minutes. We hope to make this an annual event, so keep training and see you next August.



## Sailing 2019: GLSA.ca

Eleven sailing races were held in 2019. The winds were dramatic, especially at the start of the season, putting the lie to those who claim conditions on Grand Lake are not good enough for sailing. The winds were so strong that some sailors had to pull out of the early races, recognizing that the winds were above their competence level. This serves as a reminder that all sailing on Grand Lake is done at one's choice. Only you can decide whether the conditions are right for your own level of expertise.

The highlight of the season was the 5th Annual Founders Regatta on Sunday August 11, with young sailors and new sailors, and old sailors in new boats. It was a great mix. This year, 8-year old Sam Bourdon was sailing in his fourth regatta and took the helm for Duncan Vipond to win, '1st Novice Helm' in the novice race. We may have to categorize him as an old and experienced sailor next time. Overall in the regatta went to Ian Maclaren sailing with Janice Dempsey.

The Founders Regatta commemorates those who initiated sailing and racing on the lake in the 1950s, along with those who have continued to nurture and evolve it over the years. It will be held again next year at a weekend near the beginning of August. Please mark it in your calendars. If you only make it out for one race next season, aim for the Founders Regatta.

Most of the familiar faces were out this year, together with some guest appearances, which are always welcome. Don't forget to read the race reports -- often containing useful sailing hints -- which are posted each week on the Grand Lake website. Thanks to Paul Butler for his help in getting them posted.

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

### Season Winners:

- \* Lou Langlois cup (overall winner), Ian Maclaren
- \* Albacore class, Terry Ford and Ann Croll
- \* Laser class, Ian Maclaren
- \* Sunfish class, Chris Wanczycki
- \* Egg beater award (beating an older? relative), Warren Stroud
- \* Beaver award (final race), Duncan Vipond



## Grand Lake Poker Run-Family BarBQ

Thanks to all who made the 2019 event a Grand success again. Despite temperature that struggled to hit 20, large numbers of all ages, including several well-behaved canines, gathered after the run at the Goldberg's beach for the final Association get together for corn, hot dogs, burgers and drinks, as well as prizes for all the children. In the end, all the hands were sold and the winning hand (worth a hefty \$250), a heart flush, was held by Siobhan Devlin. Past President Dale Smith also presented Brian Reynolds with a beautiful bloodwood plaque engraved *Mr Grand Lake* in tribute to his tireless efforts over many years for our Association. The two winners of the magnificent Dennis Danheiser loon prints were also drawn, being Carol-Ann Joannisse and Jean-Sebastian Deschatelets. Thanks to Dave Helgason and his team of volunteers for organizing and executing the event in flawless fashion. Kudo's to the Brisebois's, Gunther's, Grand Lake Sports Club, Cooper's, and Sue and Abby for card distribution and to the Goldberg's for the use of their property once again. Although Susan and Don Goodwin were away this weekend, they helped Dave and his team with a lot of advance preparation-special thanks! The Goodwin's will reclaim the task to organize next year's poker run which will take place on Saturday September 5, 2020 (rain date is September 6). Everyone is welcome even if you don't boat-you can just join the boating participants at the Goldberg cottage where you can buy a hand or just food if games of chance are not your thing. Come and meet your Grand Lake neighbours and celebrate the great summer just enjoyed at Grand Lake.

*Poker Run 2020 is planned for Saturday, Sept 5 with a rain date of September 6.*

*Save the date!*



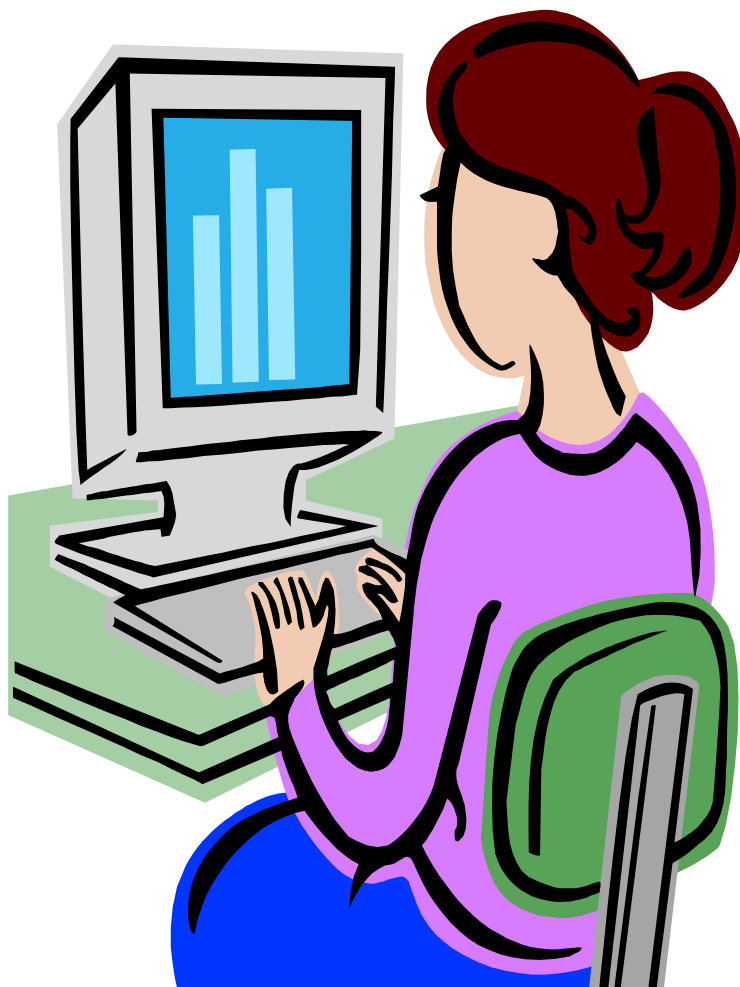
## Website ([www.lacgrandlake.ca](http://www.lacgrandlake.ca))

Thanks to all who contributed to the website this season including write ups, photos and Sailing Race results.

Reports and photos from lake activities, most recently the October Fall Trail Hike, Canada Day, Golf Tournament and Poker Run etc. have all been posted and are up to date. Sailing results go up each week as received.

We always need new content that would be of interest to cottagers to make the web site engaging. Contributors and volunteers are always welcome!

Please contact [butlerpauld@gmail.com](mailto:butlerpauld@gmail.com)



## Canada Day Celebrations



An impressive number of creatively decorated watercraft were led by Past President Dale Smith from the south to the north end of the lake, where Dave Helgason and his team hosted a first (of many we hope) floating BBQ, complete with music and dancefloor. Difficult choices were again required by our esteemed judges, who eventually agreed on three winners for best decorated boat and trophies were awarded at the July 13 AGM. Kudos once more to Mike Avon's fireworks display, which attracted a large group of boaters Sunday night.

## CONDOLENCES



Sylvia Akerlind-Roy

1949-2019

Pierre Bourque

1932-2019

Our sincere condolences to each of their family and friends.

# Grand Lake Executive 2019-2020

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## Environment - Continued

Our water testing methodology is being continuously 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.

We are looking for recruit(s) to get involved in the water testing. Our goal is to test three times per year for total phosphorus and twice for e-Coli and Total Coliforms. We have the budget, but not yet the human resources. Each testing requires less than 3 hours.

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

## Annual Lake 5K Swim Event

