

# Grand Lake Association / Association du Lac Grand

www.lacgrandlake.ca

274, Ch. Du Lac Grand, Val-des-Monts, QC J8N 5J7

## **SPRING EDITION JUNE 2020**



## **NOTICE OF 2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

This year's meeting will be held via Zoom on Thursday July 9 at 7PM as a result of COVID-19 Gathering Restrictions. The link will be sent to all members in due course.



The ice left us in late April, making way for the first summer of a new decade at Grand Lake and Green Lake. With the ongoing threat of COVID-19 and the new realities it is forcing people to adjust to, 2020 at the lake will be different for sure. For a number of people who self-isolated here since March, it has been a very special experience already.

Your Lake Association encourages members to communicate with any member of the Board if you have any questions, comments or information that could be of interest to your Association. Please refer to the last page of this newsletter for a complete list of directors and contact details.

## **Call for New Members for the Board of the Grand Lake Association**

We are always seeking energetic candidates with new ideas interested in joining the Board of the Grand Lake Association, or volunteering to chair and manage special projects or activities. If you are interested in submitting your name for consideration, please do so by using the form attached to this newsletter. You may also submit the name of another member for consideration, with his/her approval of course. All submitted names will be reviewed by the Nominating Committee who will report at the AGM. We have had a significant renewal on the Board and special project committees and the future looks good for our Association. We currently have 12 Board members (9 appointed by the Members and 3 appointed by those 9 Board members). Of the twelve, three were appointed for the first time in 2019.

## **Membership**

We are pleased to report that in 2019, 197 out of 220 families were paid members of our Association. Of those, 63 used the winter patrol. In order to provide the strongest voice for our members, this summer we are seeking to increase our membership levels. If you know anyone who has not joined the Association, please encourage them to do so. As Membership Chair, I have had the pleasure of communicating with many of you. Thank you for your support of the Association. **IF ANYONE HAS THE COORDINATES OF THE NEW OWNERS OF 240 CHEMIN DU BARRAGE, PLEASE LET ME KNOW.** Rosaline Frith at [rosfrith@outlook.com](mailto:rosfrith@outlook.com)



### Treasury

Our treasury continues to reflect a strong surplus position, with reserves of \$60,157 invested securely and conservatively in CDIC-insured instruments plus a current account balance of just over \$2,300. As usual, our annual fees cover all administrative costs, which are minor, and all Association events are designed to be self-financing. In fact, some events actually contribute funds to the Association.

We believe that it is prudent to continually seek means of increasing reserves creatively to allow us to be in a position to make a meaningful contribution to any significant problem that may surface, as well as provide critical funding to spending initiatives that could be brought to us by members to maintain, protect or enhance the lake environment and water quality we all cherish. A guiding principle for reserve spending is that the result will benefit all members.

*We continue to work towards increasing the size of our reserve funds to maintain their purchasing power.*

As most of you are aware, the Association maintains the reserve funds largely for contingencies and unexpected events that could arise and potentially impact our Members. Certain reserves are also earmarked for specific purposes.

### Annual Golf Tournament - 27th Edition

*Remembering the 2019 Grand Lake Golf Tournament at the Edelweiss Golf Club*



As a result of current COVID-19 restrictions relating to gatherings, the Golf Committee has decided to forgo this event for 2020. Although we could definitely play golf under current COVID-19 rules, the more significant part of our annual golf tournament has always been the social aspect, which could not be safely carried out this year. Edelweiss has suspended all clubhouse activities for the foreseeable future.



## Environment

### Water Quality

The ice went out of the lake in Spring 2020, in late April.

Due to the restrictions caused by the pandemic we were unable to perform the normal ice-out testing until May 19<sup>th</sup>.

Unlike many wet, cold, and miserable late-April days on which we have done this testing in past years, with substantial ice floes still in evidence, we were fortunate to enjoy a spectacular mid-May Tuesday ~ not an iceberg in sight, which was most welcome as Captain Smith was at the helm.

We drew water samples at our five traditional (and now GPS-referenced) sample sites. Three samples were taken at each location and the test results for Total phosphorous were averaged. The results were: Culbute Basin - 9.0 ; North Basin – 9.0 ;

South Basin – 4.0 , South-east basin- 7.0 and South-west basin– 4.0 .

On May 29<sup>th</sup>, we completed the testing in Green Lake, taking samples at two sites. The averaged analysis was: Site GL-01 ~ 16.0 and GL-02 ~ 19.0

GPS locations will be posted on the Grand Lake website for reference.

### Interpretation

We have been in contact with some “outside organizations” for input on interpreting these results. The two of most significance being Caduceon, the laboratory that does the analysis of our samples, and a biologist with the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) who spend a great number of hours conducting water tests on myriad lakes in Eastern Ontario.

Continued on page 9

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

*<http://www.federationdeslacs.ca>*

*Later in the summer we will test for e-coli. This is done to reassure us that the lake is safe for swimming which has far and away been the case every summer we have tested.*



*This is what Eurasian Milfoil looks like- please remove carefully any floating pieces you see! If not, they eventually sink to the lake bottom and multiply like rabbits.*

## Boating and Swimming Safety

EVERYONE who operates a motorized pleasure water craft (PWC) must carry on board at all times a proof of competency (such as a Pleasure Craft Operator Card, a Boating Safety Course Completion Card, proof of the successful completion of a boating safety course, or a certificate or other document pertaining to boating safety). Proof of competency is not required for pleasure craft without motors. Visit [www.boatingsafety.gc.ca](http://www.boatingsafety.gc.ca) to get details. Please refer to the new map in the latest Directory.

### Action Checklist for Recreation and Water craft Use:

- All watercraft (powered or not) must be equipped with navigation lights if operated after sunset or before sunrise.
- Operating a boat or PWC if you are under age is subject to a fine of \$100.
- Scan constantly for people, objects and other watercraft on the water.
- Be alert for conditions that limit your visibility or block your vision of others.
- As you leave or arrive at your dock with your boat or PWC, you **MUST BY LAW** use a 90 degree angle in order to avoid unnecessary wake (causing shoreline erosion), hitting swimmers or collision with other boats.
- Please practice **BOATING** sport activities as far as possible from the shoreline where the lake is wide and clear of obstructions. This will reduce, although not eliminate, the damage of wakes on our precious shores.
- Swim in designated swim safe zones (**WITHIN 100 feet from shore**) and boaters use extreme caution in these zones where most people swim.
- Be visible at all times while swimming. There have been reports of swimmers crossing the lake without proper accompanying spot boats or markers. This is a very dangerous situation, and we have had near misses.

## FYI – Points of Interest

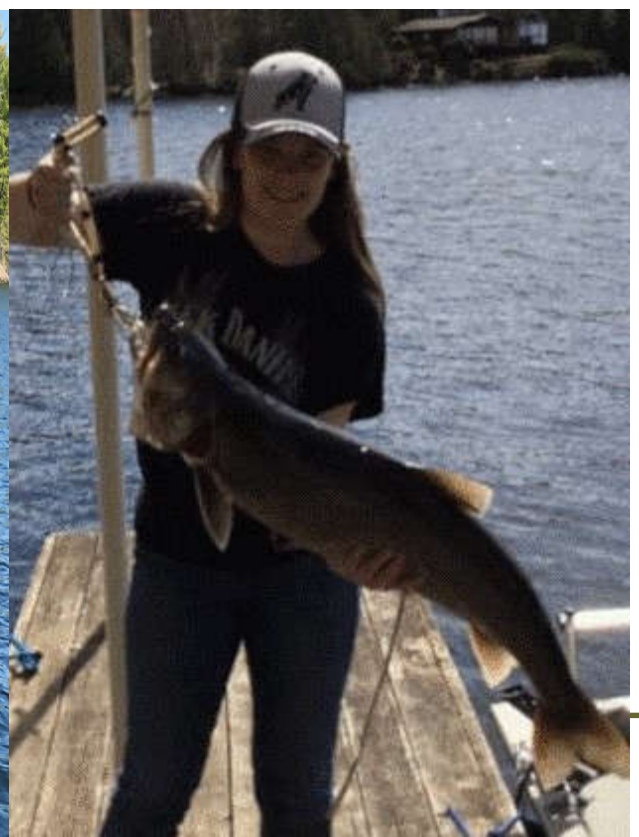
Spring came slowly this year with limited rains, and the resulting water levels caused much less damage than 2019. We continue to press the Municipality to do something about the water flow restriction at the Barrage landfill/bridge that simply gets more restrictive each year because of erosion. As we are all aware, proper dam management protocols on the Dam Lake dam would also help, but they have been perpetually denied by the Municipality. As we always request, please take extra precautions with your boat wake management at all times, as our shorelines continue to show devastating effects and we are losing very special old trees.

We continue to closely follow any 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. Peter Kearns has a mandate to make appropriate enquiries and report regularly to the Executive and in due course to our Association members. If you are aware of any such activities that warrant further research, please advise Peter or any one of our executive whose co-ordinates are on page 8. At the Zoom AGM, we will invite the Mayor to speak on the latest development activities that could impact us, as well as other matters.

We remind folks of the latest septic inspection rules and also new garbage collection and composting rules being imposed by Val-Des-Monts. Some carry significant fines for non-compliance. Details are available on our lake website or on the Municipality website as well.

We hear a number of complaints about noise and frequent fireworks, as well as broken glass, campfires and related mess at Crepin Beach. We ask that all neighbours of Crepin Beach be respectful of that beach property and of the rights of others to peaceful enjoyment of their time at the lake.

Who said there are no fish left in Grand Lake-these were both skillfully caught and released this year. If you have pics you would like to share, please send to us!



## Sailing 2020: GLSA.ca

Welcome to the 2020 sailing season! It's finally here, albeit in view of COVID-19 it will be different. We are monitoring current regulations and assessing options for how to proceed. The good news is sailing in the province is now permitted - but only under certain conditions. This is based on guidance from Voile Quebec, and is apparently in accordance with the ministry responsible for recreation, sport and the outdoors, as well as Quebec public health. So do plan to get your boat ready and out on the water. Holding races, however is currently restricted. As are any of our traditional onshore social events. (See below for further relevant Voile Quebec information).

We hope to see the constraints relaxed enough at some point during the coming weeks to allow at least a partial season to be completed. In the meantime, Grand Lake Sunday sailboat races have joined the ranks of the NHL and are on hold.

You'll be advised of any update via email once we know more and have a plan that complies with the regulations in place. If you have any questions or comments you can contact any of the committee members or email [ikmaclaren@gmail.com](mailto:ikmaclaren@gmail.com).

*Voile Quebec guidance applicable to our Grand Lake sailing: (as of 20 May).*

*1. For this first phase of recovery, only recreational sailing is permitted. This is limited to sailing alone or with people you reside with. Unfortunately, if you normally sail with crew members who are not from your family, you are not yet allowed to go on the water.*

*2. The announcement allowing gatherings of a maximum of 10 people from up to 3 households from May 22 does not change the above rule, unless the sailboat is large enough to ensure a distance of 2m at all times (and wouldn't a boat like that look fine on Grand Lake!)*

*3. While on the water at the same time as other boats, you must respect the physical distance and stay at least two meters away.*

*For more information, refer to the Voile Quebec website <https://voile.qc.ca/index.php/en/>*

## Condolences

Arnis Mierins passed away May 29, 2020 at the Manotick Place Retirement Community with loved ones by his side.

Mervin Arthur Schuetzle (beloved partner of Janice Dempsey) died suddenly at the lake on June 16, 2020.

Our sincere condolences to family and friends

*Get those  
boats in the  
water and  
ready to sail.  
See you on  
the water.*



## Hiking Trail Update – June 2020



Tired of trying to estimate just how far 2 metres is? Worried about intruding on someone else's personal space? Looking for somewhere to go that doesn't involve sanitizer and hand washing every time you touch something?

A great place to relax and enjoy some solitude and our great out-of-doors is the Grand Lake hiking trail system accessed from two docks at the north end of the lake. Access to the eastern section (an out and back trail) leading to the heights above Lac de la Montagne is from the dock on your right after you pass through the northernmost channel of Lac Grand. The other trail section – a circle route which threads its way up to look-out spots above the Culbute – is accessible from the so-called Green Dock (it isn't actually green) located on the north shore about 300m from the Culbute stream. Maps are posted near both docks.

Work is underway on a new trail close to the shore linking the two docks and their respective trail sections. This pathway should be blazed and available for use by early July.

Until conditions allow some relief from social distancing we won't organize any formal trail maintenance work parties this summer. However, if you are out on the trail, please feel free to pitch in with some light maintenance by tossing aside fallen branches or other debris on the pathway, pulling ferns on the trail, clipping low overhanging branches and any saplings or exposed small tree roots that have sprung up on the surface (right

down to the ground level please) and removing loose rocks or logs that pose a hazard.

Oh, and by the way, when you get back to your cottage, probably a good idea to wash your hands!

If you would like more information about the trails or want to volunteer, get in touch with me at [abby.hoffman@canada.ca](mailto:abby.hoffman@canada.ca).

Abby Hoffman  
Trail Coordinator  
[abby.hoffman@canada.ca](mailto:abby.hoffman@canada.ca)  
819 – 457 1289 (cottage number)  
613 – 614 3878 (mobile)

## WEBSITE

We're always looking for ideas and content that would be of interest to our members and volunteers.

Reports and photos from lake activities, Lost and Found (very important), Canada Day, Golf Tournament and Poker Run, etc. get posted promptly when received. Sailing results go up each week but apart from that there is no actual recurring content. In COVID times, we should probably post more information to help disseminate important information. A number of Road Associations have meetings and minutes which are posted on the Community Page, and the Cottagers Map has proven to be quite popular. For Services, For Sale or For Rent we post in the language we receive. Submitting your content in French and English guarantees the largest audience.

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



## Canada Day Celebrations

Current pronouncements in force in Quebec as of June 17, 2020 do not permit organized gatherings of more than 10 people (from a maximum of 3 households). Although outside gatherings under the current rules do allow up to 50 people to be gathered in a public place (which the lake is not), there is no way the Association could enforce distancing and control the number of people to 50 for our traditional Canada Day Parade. Accordingly, the Board decided to cancel the Association's parade/judging of best decorated boats and related trophies. We believe that there will still be members who decide to make their way onto the water at some time during the day to celebrate Canada Day and proudly show our colours and flag, each respecting distancing and maximum of 10 gathering rules. There will simply not be any organized pattern to this and people will figure out their own way to celebrate safely under the Quebec Health rules in place.

We are advised that Mike Avon (south end of the lake at Mike Avon's dock) will initiate a personal fireworks display on his property to take place on Saturday July 4 at about 9:30 p.m. (dark). If you wish to observe same from the lake, please be careful and drive slowly when entering and leaving the viewing area, and respect nighttime boating rules. Rain date for this will be July 5.

## Poker Run 2020

For the same reasons as outlined under Canada Day celebrations we do not believe that organizing a poker run would comply with current Quebec government pronouncements relating to COVID-19. We will continue to monitor the situation and should circumstances change sufficiently to allow us to have some form of poker run, we will so advise our members.

Contact Susan Goodwin at [smlgoodwin@gmail.com](mailto:smlgoodwin@gmail.com) for further information.

*This is not a race or a gambling event! Come and join the fun!!! And meet fellow lakers!*



# PAGE 8

## Grand Lake Executive 2019-2020

<b>President</b>	<b>Jim Nicol</b>	<b>(H) 613-523-2216; (C) 819-671-2625 (Cell) 873-688-8786; jim@jimnicol.ca</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Ray Otten</b>	<b>(H) 613-729-6845; (C) 819-671-0885 rayotten@outlook.com</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Gary Beach</b>	<b>(H) 613-238-1616 (C) 819-671-2418 (F) 613-231-6576; jamesgarybeach@gmail.com</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Paul Butler</b>	<b>(C) 613-868-7768 butlerpauld@gmail.com</b>
<b>Membership</b>	<b>Rosaline Frith</b>	<b>(H) 613-262-2831; (C) 819-671-0401 rosfrith@outlook.com</b>
<b>Past President</b>	<b>Dale Smith</b>	<b>Cell 514-891-9805;dale@dalegsmith.ca</b>
<b>Directors At Large</b>		
	<b>Nick Barber</b>	<b>(H) 514-945-5804; (C) 819-457-2871 nccbarber@gmail.com</b>
	<b>Melanie Boivin mel.boivin74@gmail.com</b>	<b>(H) 613-404-5532;</b>
	<b>Francois Jacques</b>	<b>(H) 613-829-1375; (C) 819-671-3401 jacla5@yahoo.ca</b>
	<b>Dorothy Laflamme</b>	<b>(H) 613-447-1519; (C) 613-671-0915 dot10@rogers.com</b>
	<b>Michel Rossignol</b>	<b>michel.rossignol@hotmail.com</b>
	<b>Peter Kearns (GL Sports Club)</b>	<b>(C) 819-671-4049 (Cell) 613-724-3582; pkearns@rogers.com</b>



## Page 9. *Cont'd for Environment*

On the analysis front, our Caduceon rep pointed out that our small sample size, the comparatively low values that we measure, and their individual variance should not be any cause for alarm at this time.

On the sample collection side, the RVCA rep offered similar counsel, in that with our methodology, we should be concerned with longer term trends rather than a specific set of measurements. Her rationale was that *their* sampling utilizes quite sophisticated equipment (our protocol of 3 samples per site produces a significant variance between samples...which we average. Our equipment has a value of ~ \$25-...it is homemade but more than adequate. The RVCA incorporates filtration and optical analytical gear worth ~ 1000x more.) ...and to a degree, focuses on “problem” water bodies. Our 2 lakes would NOT fall into that category.

**Total Phosphorous ~ Grand Lake** - while the results appear to indicate a decrease over last year, a review of past results does show that there have been previous peaks and valleys of equivalent magnitude. But behind occasional spikes and dips, the 20 years of data which we have indicates an upward long-term trend, which should be the focus and concern of us all.

**Green Lake** – Our testing history on Green Lake has been erratic and the data is not sufficient to make any meaningful assessment. We shall try to match Grand Lake testing frequency, but the logistics of accessing Green Lake will require that we acquire sufficient volunteer assistance from interested Green Lake residents.

**Water clarity** ~ While long-time residents often discuss the decrease in water clarity over many decades, the Secchi Disk results have continued to be consistent with the classification OLIGOTROPHIC: “clear water with very low levels of phosphates, algae, and nutrients.”

We will take Secchi disk readings in mid-June and mid-August.

Perhaps most disconcerting is the constantly increasing spread of European milfoil. This is an invasive species which is difficult to control, but which is frequently assisted by careless human activity, most commonly, boat traffic through milfoil patches. This results in quantities of milfoil “cuttings” which are capable of drifting with currents, settling to the bottom in a new site, rooting, and spreading further in this new location.

There is an active and dedicated group of volunteers who have accepted the challenge of combatting this invader and their efforts are nothing short of heroic. These will be described in a separate section of the newsletter.

### **The way forward**

The direct link between human activities on a lake and phosphorous increase/water clarity decrease is irrefutable. Short of Draconian measures, which would be totally unrealistic and unupportable, there is really no action that will halt or reverse the gradual degradation of the lake without complete buy-in and cooperation of all lake residents. Simply, water quality and environmental stewardship is and will be the responsibility of all of us.

## Page 10. *Cont'd for Environment*

The three most significant *contributors* to this degradation are shoreline erosion, chemical runoff, and careless operation of boats.

The four most effective *countermeasures* to which we can all contribute are:

- 1) **Maintain your shoreline in the most natural state possible.** Native vegetation does an effective job of retaining many of the products of surface run-off, particularly phosphates and nitrates, and offers some protection against shoreline erosion.
- 2) **WYW** ~ Watch your wake. There are still numerous boaters who seem completely unaware of the serious impact of their wakes on the lake shoreline.... or are simply unconcerned with the results.
- 3) The Grand Lake Association Boating Guidelines were not formulated as an attempt to restrict fun or use of the lake; rather, they were intended to acknowledge the large increase in lake population over the years and the need to try to balance the varying uses of the lake with a minimal impact on its ecosystems. Wakes require time and distance to expend their energy, otherwise, the full impact of that energy will be absorbed by the shoreline directly. A wake that drives hard onto shore will drag sediment back into the shallow water, causing silt to cloud the water and gradually smother the bottom in narrow channels it can rebound of shore and cycle back and forth several times before expending its energy.

The first 10 feet of lake bottom supports almost 90% of the aquatic life in the lake. It is not rocket science to extrapolate the importance of protecting that buffer zone.

If you are within 100 feet of shore, you should be travelling dead slow, and producing no wake. Try to avoid patches of weed. There is more than likely milfoil within the patch and if it is cut loose, will continue its invasion of the lake.

- 4) Perhaps the easiest, make **“greener” decisions regarding many household products** (we are a long way from a municipal drainage system with sewage treatment etc.) For example, if you operate a dishwasher, consider using an environmentally-gentler brand of detergent.... same with laundry soaps. There are many other examples. Specialty shops now cater to this market niche. In most cases, the cost is comparable to “less-green” items.

### Testing Schedule 2020

Item	Test	Planned Schedule
A	Total Phosphorous 1	ASAP after ice-out. This year ASAP came with some “restrictions”. ☺
B	Secchi Disk and e-coli 1	Late June
C	Total Phosphorous 2	Late July
D	Secchi Disk and e-coli 2	Late August
E	Total Phosphorous 3	Early October

Attachment

**Notice of Intent to be a candidate for  
the Board of Directors of the Grand Lake Association**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby place my name in nomination as a candidate for the Board of Directors of the Grand Lake Association. I am enclosing an information sheet (\*) about myself.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_ nominate

\_\_\_\_\_ as a candidate for the Board of Directors of the Grand Lake Association.

I am enclosing an information sheet about the candidate. I confirm that I have his/her agreement to submit his/her name as a candidate. I attach an information sheet (\*) about her/him.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

*\*time of residency on the lake/ areas of personal interest/ any area of expertise relevant to issues impacting Grand Lake/ etc...*

Please mail before July 1., 2020 to Past President Dale Smith, 274 Ch du Lac Grand, Val-des-Monts, Québec J8N 5J7 or email to [dale@dalegsmith.ca](mailto:dale@dalegsmith.ca).

# Grand Lake Association/Association du lac Grand

219 chemin H.-Vipond, Val-des-Monts, QC J8N 5J5

*Membership Form / Formulaire d'adhésion*

2020 - 2021

Names/Noms : \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address/Adresse à la maison : Unchanged Please check \_\_\_ Inchangée : SVP cocher \_\_\_  
New Address/Nouvelle adresse : \_\_\_\_\_

Cottage Address/Adresse du chalet : Unchanged : Please check \_\_\_ Inchangée : SVP cocher \_\_\_  
New Address/Nouvelle adresse : \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Numbers/Numéros de téléphone:

Unchanged : Please check : \_\_\_

Inchangé : SVP cocher : \_\_\_

New Numbers/Nouveaux numéros :

Home/Maison : \_\_\_\_\_

Office/Bureau : \_\_\_\_\_

Cottage/Chalet : \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail/Courriel : \_\_\_\_\_

*Please send all correspondence by email / Veuillez faire parvenir toute correspondance par courriel*

I accept to having my name, address and telephone number appear in the next Grand Lake Directory:

Please check : \_\_\_

J'accepte que mon nom, adresse et numéro de téléphone soient inclus dans le répertoire du lac Grand :

Cocher svp : \_\_\_

Language Preference / Langue préférée : English /Anglais  French/Français

**Membership (June 1st 2020 to May 31<sup>st</sup> 2021) / Adhésion ( 1er juin 2020 au 31 mai 2021)**

Membership & Winter Patrol : **before** July 1st \$75 ( ) **after** July 1st \$80 ( )

Adhésion & patrouille d' hiver : **avant** le 1 juillet 75 \$ ( ) **après** le 1 juillet 80 \$ ( )

Contact name, telephone number and address for winter patrol: \_\_\_\_\_

Nom, numéro de téléphone et adresse pour la patrouille d'hiver : \_\_\_\_\_

**OR/OU**

Membership Only : **before** July 1<sup>st</sup> \$25 ( ) **after** July 1st \$30 ( )

Adhésion seulement : **avant** le 1 juillet 25 \$ ( ) **après** le 1 juillet 30 \$ ( )

Please make cheque payable to **Grand Lake Association /**  
Veuillez faire le chèque à l'ordre de : **l'Association du lac Grand**

*If you prefer, you can e-transfer funds to [rosfrith@outlook.com](mailto:rosfrith@outlook.com)*

*Si vous préférez, vous pouvez effectuer un virement bancaire à [rosfrith@outlook.com](mailto:rosfrith@outlook.com)*