

# Grand Lake Association / Association du Lac Grand

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



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-NC-ND](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/)

## NEWSLETTER - SPRING 2022

### CONTENTS

- President's Message
- Website
- Water Safety
- Membership
- Sailing
- Development
- Golf Classic
- Poker Run
- Hiking Trails
- Environment
- Treasury
- Contact information
- Condolences

### A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Ice out came in late April and soon after the leaves and bugs arrived to usher in another spring season at the lake. The short-lived, but very violent storm that passed through on May 21 caused severe damage to trees on properties at Grand and Green Lakes, and cleaning up the aftermath will take considerable time. Fortunately, it appears that nobody was injured at the lake, though a number of people were at their homes here when the storm swept through.

It appears that most, if not all, of the activities we were accustomed to over the summer season pre 2020 will be allowed this year, as we are learning how to cope with COVID better. Our Golf and Poker Run traditional gatherings will happen once again. We will go one more year with a virtual AGM, as we enjoyed wide attendance and had favourable comments - for some it was the first meeting they were able to attend in some time.

Our main focus as the Association will remain on water quality, property development and wake-related sports/shoreline erosion. We are looking again for new members to join the Executive and also to encourage members to put forward and lead new initiatives to better protect our environment, foster a healthy lake community and have more fun. Nick Barber and Francois Jacques have indicated that they will not seek to continue on the Executive and we thank them for their service.

Wishing everyone a safe and healthy summer at the lake.

Dale Smith, President



### WEBSITE

Apart from the Grand Lake Sailing Sunday races, all other annual events were once again cancelled last year because of the Quebec COVID public health restrictions in force at the time. So the Canada Day, Poker Run Golf Tournament, etc. on the site are all from 2019! This year we expect all will be back to "normal". Check the *Lost and Found* for items washed ashore this spring or missing after the disastrous 130 KMH "derecho" mini tornado we experienced May 21. For *Services, Sale or Rent* we post in the language we receive. Submitting your ad in French and English guarantees the largest audience.

We are 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](mailto:butlerpauld@gmail.com)

## MEMBERSHIP

Our membership drive is off to a good start. Of a possible 215 properties, we have 78% paid in full memberships as of June 25, 2022. Everyone with a property accessing Grand Lake and Green Lake is welcome to join. The more members, the better the Association can represent us when dealing with the Municipality on environmental and other issues. It also gives us an on-line presence to post and share information. The lakes are ours to protect and enjoy. Please join.

Rosaline Frith, Membership Chair

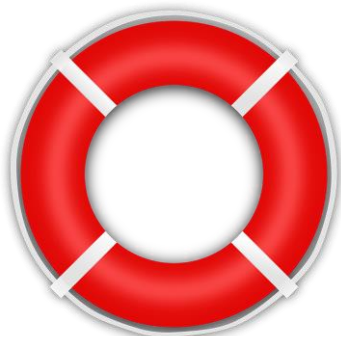
## WATER SAFETY



Navigational safety buoys continue to be maintained by our Association and volunteers. Two new “Dead Slow No Wake” buoys are being prepared in compliance with Transport Canada requirements and will be placed in the entry and exit to the Culbute bay.

### Important Safety Measures

- 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 map in the latest Directory or website for speed and distance guidelines.
- 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, 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.
- 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.



## 2022 SAILING SEASON

There will be four sailing races held in 2022, on Sunday July 3rd, Sunday July 24th, Sunday August 7th, and Sunday August 21st. Please mark your schedules and plan to be at the lake on those dates!

Races will start at 12 noon from the Ford dock (on the north shore as you enter Priests Bay) EXCEPT JULY 24th WHICH WILL BE A FAMILY-THEMED REGATTA DAY STARTING FROM THE POTHECARY DOCK (south end of the lake). More information to follow.

As always, if you would like some sailing advice — even just basic information concerning the course or racing procedure — contact any member of the sailing committee:

Duncan Vipond ([devipond@rogers.com](mailto:devipond@rogers.com))

Terry Ford ([ttford@outlook.com](mailto:ttford@outlook.com))

Sarah Potheary ([spothecary@strabo.ca](mailto:spothecary@strabo.ca))



## GRAND LAKE PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT

As an Association, we continue to work with members who bring new property development situations to our attention, and we try to monitor Val-des-Monts releases, Council Meeting Agendas and the French-language press to detect issues before they are cast in stone. We do this in order to be in a position to mount proper opposition to development initiatives that we believe would lead to over-crowding the lake, additional stress on water quality and shorelines, and general interference with the enjoyment of properties by existing owners. Over the past 18 months we have expended considerable effort teaming up with immediate neighbours to the Crouch Road MCL development, which is attempting to provide footpath access to Grand Lake for 24 planned backlot properties via a 3.45M strip of land. We are currently awaiting recommended actions from legal counsel to guide our collective next steps. To make clear the views of the Grand Lake Association membership, we were successful in getting close to 100 letters written to VDM in early 2022 in order to protest a new variance application which we have successfully blocked in a previous attempt.

Should you hear of any development activities that could negatively impact our lakes (Grand and Green), please make sure you bring them to our attention as soon as you become aware of them.

# Grand Lake Annual Golf Classic

## Poker Run 2022

Welcome back and join us for the annual Grand Lake Poker Run starting at 1:00pm on Saturday September 3, 2022 (rain date Sunday September 4, 2022, but the forecast always is Grand!). The first stop has yet to be determined but we will let you know.

For \$20 per hand of cards (max. 2 adults per hand) you will get your first card, sealed in an envelope, and a map of where to get the other 4 sealed cards at different docks around the lake. When you have all 5 cards, take your poker hand(s) to the Goldberg cottage (Thank you Dan and family for letting us use their cottage property once again) at 347 Barrage where your 5 envelopes will be opened by the Dealer. All cards must remain in their sealed envelopes ... no peeking!

The BBQ lunch (BYOB and please bring your own chair) will be starting at 3:00pm. Cash prizes will be awarded to the best 3 hands and to the holder of the worst hand. Children under 17 eat free but lunch is also available for adults over 17 not participating in the poker hands at \$5 per person. All children 12 and under will receive gifts!

Contact Susan Goodwin

h 613-692-0734, c 613-851-9066  
smlgoodwin@gmail.com

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



The 2022 Annual Grand Lake Golf Tournament will be held on Friday, 22nd July at the Edelweiss Golf Club in Wakefield, Quebec. Check-in will start at 11:30 AM with a shotgun start at 1:00 PM sharp for all teams.

A registration form with all the details required is part of the newsletter package for you to easily complete and scan and e-mail or fax or mail to the co-ordinates on the sheet. We will also accept e-mailed funds for those who dislike using any paper transactions - like cheques.

Please contact Dale Smith at [dale@dalegsmith.ca](mailto:dale@dalegsmith.ca) or Siobhan Devlin at [devlinsiobhan@gmail.com](mailto:devlinsiobhan@gmail.com), or by text to Dale at 514-891-9805.

Please register and commit by July 8, latest, (by July 2 will save you \$5 each!) as it assists with planning the event properly and as well allows us to confirm the correct number to the Golf Club to avoid paying for people who do not show. We need at least 60 golfers to allow us a shotgun start - the only way to go to allow for proper socializing after golf/before dinner.

We are hoping to field a good mix of young and not-so-young golfers who want to enjoy a fun outing in a beautiful setting. Please encourage your neighbours, family and friends to share in a "Grand" experience and join us for a memorable day!



## CANADA DAY



For 2022 we will hold our traditional Canada Day Boat Parade starting at 12Noon on July 1 (raindate July 2) from the South Bay, and hope that we will have a record number of creatively decorated watercraft on display. We are hoping that Mike Avon will again create an amazing fireworks display which the Association will contribute to as we have for many years. We expect this will occur on the evening of July 1, but will confirm exact timing by email close to the date.

# GRAND LAKE TRAILS

<http://lacgrandlake.ca/en/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/GL-Trails-Oct-15-2020-Rev3D-with-Notes-.pdf>

What Grand Lake amenity is open 24-7 365 days of the year, requires no special equipment, taxes or fees, and relies entirely on human power for enjoyment? Right: the hiking trails on the crown land at the north end of Lac Grand and Lac de la Montagne (Green Lake).

Over the winter, the trail system saw good use for cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and hiking. Some of us used the winter months to tackle (yet again) with machetes the massive, thorny blackberry bushes that make use of sections of the trail which follow the old logging roads truly miserable (despite the fabulous berries).

Early season maintenance by some of the trail stalwarts ensured that the route was free of debris, signage up-to-date and in some cases even cleared of leaves by hand raking. By mid-May the trails were in great shape. And then there was the Derecho storm of May 21st.

The same high winds that uprooted huge trees and knocked out power lines all over Ontario and Quebec and wreaked havoc on several properties around the northern basin of Lac Grand, then hit the north shore of Lac de la Montagne and the wooded areas beyond. The net result is that many large trees have fallen across the trail. And in some areas, notably where the trail heads away from the lake and up to the look out spots above the cliffs on Lac de la Montagne, there are so many downed trees that we will have to decide whether we should re-route the trail or attempt to clear the way.

For now, the trails heading toward the Culbute (and the heights above) from both the main Trailhead and the 'West' dock trailhead are in excellent condition. Trail maps are posted at the sign-in boxes at both locations. You can find a printable version of the trail map (with notes) on the Lac Grand Association website: <http://lacgrandlake.ca/en/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/GL-Trails-Oct-15-2020-Rev3D-with-Notes-.pdf>

Work parties will be arranged over the summer and fall to tackle several projects, including as top priorities: clearing or re-routing the Lac de la Montagne sections damaged by the storm, constructing new ramps to the docks at the Main Trailhead, restoring some of the old side trails buried under debris from the last logging operation, and minor re-routing and clearing around some rocky areas that are dangerous in wet conditions. Extra hands are always welcome, so if you would like to help out, please get in touch.

We hope to reinstate the annual Fall Colours hike on Thanksgiving weekend this Fall.

In the meantime, follow the white blazes and enjoy the trail. And please leave a note on your visit and any special sightings in the log books at either of the trailheads.

Abby Hoffman

[abby.hoffman@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:abby.hoffman@hc-sc.gc.ca) (please also cc: [abbyhoffman800@gmail.com](mailto:abbyhoffman800@gmail.com))

# ENVIRONMENT

## Current Events

The Derecho storm that devastated numerous lake properties was part of a fast-moving group of severe thunderstorms known as a mesoscale convective system. (We looked that up 😊)

Many of us lost a substantial number of trees.... either sheared-off or uprooted.

As we clean up our properties, it is notable that Samantha Rhains, Municipal Biologist, points out that trees that have fallen into the lake can provide numerous ecosystem benefits; great fish habitat, shade for the littoral zone, and even shoreline protection against wave erosion.

Her recommendation: if the fallen tree is not a hazard or major nuisance to the use of your property, leave it alone.

## Developments in water testing program and protocols

The Municipality of Val-des-Monts has undertaken, beginning in 2021, a centralization of water testing in our lakes. Details can be found on the website => [Municipality of Val-des-Monts](#)

The Coles Notes version is that they have hired a staff biologist who has developed a cadre of volunteers on most of the lakes in the Municipality who will perform an enhanced program of water testing. Among the advantages of this approach are:

- 1) continuity of recording
- 2) standardized methodologies.
- 3) professional guidance and an increased scope of testing.

A collateral benefit is that the Municipality provides the funding.

This program has great potential, and after some teething pains in the early stages, it has developed the momentum that was anticipated and hoped for. The Grand Lake volunteers took the first samples of 2022 in early June. There will be further samples taken in July and August.

## Milfoil Committee

**We are looking for a replacement chair for this Committee as previous chair has sold cottage this year. If interested please contact Dorothy Laflamme at [dot10@rogers.com](mailto:dot10@rogers.com)**

The 5 white milfoil information buoys will be installed at the same locations as last year. Yellow buoys will be dispersed as needed. If you notice milfoil starting to grow in an area that is not marked by a yellow buoy please let me know and I will provide you with a yellow buoy.

Water is particularly high this year which could slow the growth of milfoil as we saw last year. This being said, please continue to be aware of the locations of milfoil buoys. Heavily infested areas are clearly marked.

Continuing to scoop out fragments. and disposing of them as far away from the lake as possible will also make a difference.

Thank you to Gill Toll, who has now left the lake, for all of her hard work on the milfoil committee. We are looking for a replacement so please contact me if interested in being a part of this important work.

Dorothy

# THE WAY FORWARD

The direct link between human activities on a lake and phosphate increase/water clarity decrease is irrefutable. Short of Draconian measures, which would be totally unrealistic and unsupportable, 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.

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

The three 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 a number of boaters who seem completely unaware of the serious impact of their wakes on the lake shoreline. 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.

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.

- 3) 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. In conversation with the president of a Muskoka area lake association, she described a great result that they achieved by a concerted effort to convince cottagers to use 100% non-phosphate dishwasher detergents. Most supermarkets have products of this type; it is an easy switch and most users found that the performance was as good or better than the phosphate-containing types.

## TREASURY

Our treasury, as usual, reflects a strong surplus position going into the 2022/2023 fiscal year, with government-backed investments (GIC's) of \$63,646 and a normal operating account balance of approximately \$6,000.

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!



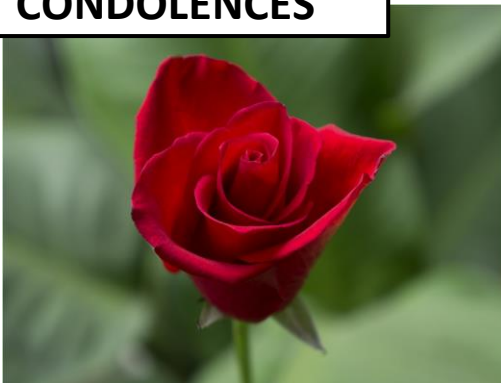
## GRAND LAKE ASSOCIATION

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

### 2021-2022 Contact Information

<b>Dale Smith</b>	Director and President	(Cell) 514-891-9805; <a href="mailto:dale@dalegsmith.ca">dale@dalegsmith.ca</a>
<b>Ray Otten</b>	Director and Vice President	(H) 613-729-6865; (C) 819-671-0885 <a href="mailto:rayotten@outlook.com">rayotten@outlook.com</a>
<b>Gary Beach</b>	Director and Treasurer	(H) 613-238-1616; (C) 819-671-2418 <a href="mailto:jamesgarybeach@gmail.com">jamesgarybeach@gmail.com</a>
<b>Paul Butler</b>	Director and Secretary	(C) 613-868-7768 <a href="mailto:butlerpauld@gmail.com">butlerpauld@gmail.com</a>
<b>Rosaline Frith</b>	Director and Membership Chair	(H) 613-262-2831; (C) 819-671-0401 <a href="mailto:rosfrith@outlook.com">rosfrith@outlook.com</a>
<b>Jim Nicol, Sr.</b>	Director and Past President	(H) 613-523-2216; (C) 819-671-2625 (Cell) 873-688-8786; <a href="mailto:jim@jimnicol.ca">jim@jimnicol.ca</a>
<b>Abby Hoffman</b>	Director-at-large	(C) 613-614-3878 <a href="mailto:Abby.hoffman@canada.ca">Abby.hoffman@canada.ca</a>
<b>Dorothy Laflamme</b>	Director	(H) 613-447-1519; (C) 613-671-0915 <a href="mailto:Dot10@rogers.com">Dot10@rogers.com</a>
<b>James Levesque</b>	Director-at-large	(H) 613-220-3824 <a href="mailto:jlevesqueca@yahoo.ca">jlevesqueca@yahoo.ca</a>
<b>Michel Rossignol</b>	Director-at-large	(H) 819-684-0979 <a href="mailto:Michel.rossignol@hotmail.com">Michel.rossignol@hotmail.com</a>

## CONDOLENCES



**Alan Landsberg**  
**Sheila Castledine**  
**Denis Makepeace and Joyce Girard**  
**Allan Sackman**

*Our sincere condolences to family and friends.*