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## NEWSLETTER - FALL 2022

### CONTENTS

- President's Message
- Website
- Sailing
- Environment
- Membership
- Events
- Hiking Trails
- Treasury
- Contact information



### **A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Summer in 2022 was almost back to normal times at the lake, despite the fact that COVID is still out there and that all precautions related to it cannot be thrown away. For a number of people, cleanup from the freak derecho storm in May continued into the fall. We were able to once again have a golf day and poker run-the first since 2019 as it was deemed too risky in 2020 and 2021 with rampant COVID. Although we still had a Zoom AGM in 2022, we hope to return to a live AGM in 2023 so we can once again get together and enjoy some post meeting socialization and BBQ.

We are getting a new bridge on Barrage, and every effort is being made to convince the authorities that a proper bridge spanning the channel from the natural shoreline (i.e., removing the huge landfill that formed part of the existing bridge structure) makes much more sense and will improve water flow from Grand to Dam Lake in the springtime and create safer traffic flow between the neighbouring lakes.

As always, it was really great to see so many water activities taking place in 2022 such as paddling, swimming, snorkeling, sailing, fishing, water sports, hiking and cliff jumping.

Wishing everyone a safe and healthy winter.

Dale Smith, President

### **WEBSITE**

Summer 2022 was a return to normal, finally, after two years of event cancellations due to Covid. Write ups and photos for Canada Day, Golf Tournament, The Poker Run and other events can be found once again on the website. Thanks to all those who participated and who sent in photos and reports.

The Lost and Found was very active this year and thanks once again to Nathan Cooper for managing that. 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 - contact Paul Butler at [butlerpauld@gmail.com](mailto:butlerpauld@gmail.com)

#### **KEY ISSUES**

*Derecho*

*Post COVID activities*

*Barrage bridge*

*Environment*

*Hiking Trails*

### SAILING 2022

The GLSA held several races over the summer, with the competition usually being between Dan Gray, Tyler Gray, Duncan Vipond, and Terry Ford with Ann Croll.

Chris Wanczycki and Warren Stroud reappeared this year, shadowing the races rather than officially entering them. Sally Lee made strenuous efforts to take part but was plagued by boat problems — that ‘sinking feeling’. Terry has ‘upgraded’ (we think!) his Albacore. Clayton Polan was out in his catamaran on a number of occasions, planning his entry into the Grand Lake races.

Thanks to Sarah Potheary and Elizabeth Vipond for timing the races, and to Terry Ford and Guy Cogan for putting out the markers. Official results will be published in the Spring Newsletter.

The GLSA was sorry to say goodbye to Keith and Cindy Butler this summer, who left the lake after many years of sailing in the races and supporting the Sailing Association.

Bon voyage!



### ***Note from the Milfoil Committee***

Although still very present in our lake, the milfoil this past year seems to have not become worse and indeed in some areas it appears to be less prevalent. We cannot let our guard down though, as it appears that its voracity is cyclical and dependent on many factors such as lake levels, mean temperatures, pH of the water to mention a few. Keep up the good work! Scooping out and safely disposing of any floating Milfoil fragments and being mindful to stay out of areas marked with the Milfoil buoys is working in helping to control the spread of this very invasive plant. Please wash any boats coming into the lake from other waterways as well.

### ***Municipal Water Testing Program***

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, and
- 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 samples of 2022 in early June, July, and August. In addition, we took Secchi Disc measurements in June, July, August, September, and October.

At this time we have not received the compiled results from the Municipality but expect to include them in the Spring newsletter and will post them on the website as soon as we have them.

## MEMBERSHIP

The Association has 85% (190 properties out of 223) paid in full memberships as of December 14, 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.

# EVENTS

## 27<sup>th</sup> Grand Lake Annual Golf Classic

After a 2 year COVID hiatus, Edelweiss welcomed us back to resume this long-standing tradition on July 22. The weather was perfect, and we had a good turnout for golf and several others joined us for cocktails, dinner, prizes and comradery. Dale and Siobhan once again organized the event, and special thanks to Sheila, Kathy and Jody Smith for many tasks to make it happen.

Thank you to Janice Dempsey for rounding up many of these gracious sponsors: Entre Vous Moi, Maison Melda, Le Pic Resto, Pizza Val-des-Monts, Pub St. Pierre, Les Fougères, Duss Bros.(BMW), Quincaillerie Whalen, L'inter Marche, Mezza, La Cabane a Paul, Pancho Villa, Transport Dominic Gauvreau, and Fratelli.

*Grand Champions (low gross score) and the Brian Reynolds Trophy – Warren Stroud, Paul Methot, Tony Hayton and Randy Wilson (by retrogression)*

*Most Honest Team – Janice Dempsey, Paul Gardner, Gage Strelbisky and Damon Hillier*

*Closest to the Pin Women – Deb Campbell*

*Longest Drive Women – Diane Parent*

*Closest to the Pin Men – Blair Duffy*

*Longest Drive Men – Justin Poole*

*Longest Drive Senior Men –Nathan Cooper*



## POKER RUN 2022

Thanks to all who made the 2022 event the biggest yet. More than 100 of your fellow Grand Lakers were at the Goldberg's party place for the annual get together for corn, hot dogs, burgers and drinks as well as prizes for the children. Elizabeth was the 2022 best hand winner and with that win, this lucky person has committed to getting the corn for next year.

Thanks to Susan and Don Goodwin for organizing the event, to the cook Andrew Goodwin, and to other volunteers for the help with the set up, tear down and garbage removal; to the Brisbois's, Methots, Friths, Coopers, and Martins for card distribution and to the Martins for the ice cream treats (which will now become part of the annual Poker Run fun); to Siobhan Devlin for getting and husking the 9 dozen corn cobs; and a very big thank you to Dan and Whitney Goldberg for the use of their property once again 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 2, 2023 (rain date is Sunday September 3)**. All are welcome and you can just join the participants at the Goldberg cottage where you can buy a hand or just the food. Come and meet your Grand Lake neighbours and celebrate the summer past.

## CANADA DAY



We had an impressive number of creatively decorated watercraft make their way around the lake on Canada Day, with several showing support for the suffering in Ukraine. Your Association once again provided financial support to Mike Avon who put on another spectacular fireworks display in Priests Bay. The fireworks were attended by approximately 50 boats.

# GRAND LAKE TRAILS

In the Spring 2022 Newsletter, I reported on the very considerable damage done to the hiking trails as a result of the May derecho storm. The Lac de La Montagne/Lac Vert route was impassable due the large number of uprooted and fallen trees blocking the path along the north shore and into the forested areas away from the lake.

I am pleased to report that the mighty efforts of a couple of our fellow cottagers who love the trail have succeeded in restoring the original trail route with just a couple of very minor diversions. Evidence of the power of that storm remains. Upended 15' wide but shallow root systems of 150' pines and the way in which hardwoods like oaks with deep tap roots were ripped from their moorings – are testaments to the force of the storm. I want to single out in particular JP Spessot and Jane Newcombe who made endless trips to the trail carrying chain saws, fuel and other clearing paraphernalia. And as if removing 150' pine and hardwood trees from the trail wasn't enough, JP and Jane did a thorough raking of many sections of the trail as well. Cam and Suzanne Goure maintained their long-standing commitment to the trail with clearing and clean up activities that helped get things back to normal by early Fall. Many others pitched in as well. Many thanks to all of you.

Let's hope we don't have a repeat of the derecho storm of '22 for a good long time.

If you are at your cottage over the winter just a reminder that once the lake is well frozen a snowshoeing excursion starting at either of the trailhead docks and up to the old logging road and then eastbound to the end of Lac de la Montagne, returning on the lake or by the trail, makes for a great winter outing. (Check the map on the lake association website.)

If slogging through snow isn't your thing, no matter how spectacular the scenery, you can always stay up on your forest lore by immersing yourself in one of the following books. You may discover there is a lot more going on in the forest than you ever imagined.

*The Hidden Life of Trees* – Peter Wohlleben (Greystone Books, 2015)

*Finding the Mother Tree* -- Suzanne Simard (Penguin, 2021)

*Into the Forest – The Secret Life of Trees* – Susan Hitchcock (National Geographic 2022)

Once the lake thaws in the spring we will get back to the usual maintenance – clearing debris, adding blazes where needed and repairing docks and ramps.

We are still looking for a couple of docks in reasonable, or at least salvageable, condition that are no longer suitable for the original owner, and can be towed to one of the trailheads. If you are thinking of replacing your dock and have an older, disused one on hand, please let me know.

Enjoy the winter hiking, snowshoeing and cross-country ski season ... see you in the Spring.

Abby Hoffman

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



## TREASURY

Our treasury, as usual, reflects a strong surplus position going into the fall season, with government-backed investments (GIC's) of over \$65K and a normal operating account balance of over \$5K, sufficient to pay all our normal operating costs and 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!

With the recent increases in interest rates, we expect that our reserve funds will grow sufficiently to keep pace with inflation over time.



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

## GRAND LAKE ASSOCIATION

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### 2022 Contact Information

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## CONDOLENCES



**Ken Maclaren**

Passed away on October 13, 2022

**Bob Boland**

Passed away on November 10, 2022

*Our sincere condolences to family and friends.*