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## NEWSLETTER - SPRING 2023

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### A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome back to the lake and hopefully another beautiful summer and fall season where we can enjoy one of the most magnificent places to be on this planet. Blackfly season seems to have come and gone in its usual 3 weeks, and the mosquitos have moved back too - they do seem to be bigger and hungrier every year! We are hearing lots of haunting loon calls, so they have made a safe journey as well.

We will have our first in person AGM since 2019 on Saturday July 8, so hopefully we will have a record number come out and enjoy a BBQ after the formal proceedings.

It appears that all of our traditional lake activities will take place this year as they did pre-COVID, and it will be great to get back to that sense of normality. Thanks to the efforts of Rosaline as Membership Chair, our membership has continued to be the envy of other VDM lakes, with well over 90% of our properties being represented. This is important for us to have a strong voice in dealing with various levels of government on important issues that impact the lake.

The Association's main focus will remain on lake environmental protection and safety, including water quality, property development by-laws and wake-related sports/shoreline erosion. We are always seeking new members to join the Executive and also to encourage members to put forward and lead new initiatives that will better protect our environment, foster a healthy lake community or bring more fun.

Wishing everyone a safe and healthy summer season at the lake.

Dale Smith, President



### WEBSITE

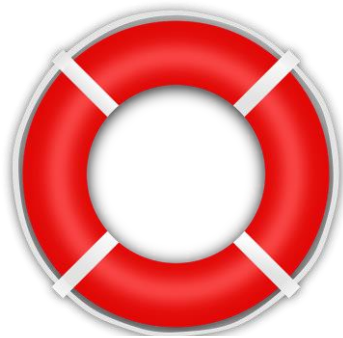
Again, this spring with the very high flood waters, many items were washed ashore or are still missing. Please check the Lost and Found! Spring is a good time to post items for sale or wanted for the busy summer season, so check back often as the listings change week to week. For Services, Sale or Rent we post in the language we receive. Submitting your ad in French and English guarantees the largest audience.

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

## MEMBERSHIP

Our membership drive is off to a good start. We have 124 paid in full memberships as of June 9, 2023. 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.

### 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 the [Transport Canada](#) website 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 without a permit is subject to a fine of \$250.
- 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.

# GRAND LAKE SAILING ASSOCIATION

With 100 years between them of taking part in and then running the Sunday sailing races, the current Sailing Association committee is looking for new or existing sailors who might be willing to take over the organisation of the races.

This is your chance to run future sailing races for yourself and other Grand Lake sailors, regularly or on an *ad hoc* basis, as competitively or as non-competitively as you wish, and in whichever parts of the lake are convenient for you.

The sailing committee is willing to provide any assistance you need. Please contact us by e-mail if you think you would like to try your hand at running one or more races this summer.

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))



## YOGA ON THE DOCK

Yoga on the dock will resume starting Monday June 12 at 4 pm. Location is at Dempsey's dock in Priest Bay or by road 187 H-Vipond. Come with water, a towel for a prop or a swim after and a yoga mat if you have one. Spares are available if you don't.

Classes will be a mix of qi gong, gentle or restorative yoga and some strength building.

Classes will be canceled due to inclement weather conditions. Rain, heat, smoke!!!

If you have questions contact Janice Dempsey at 403-506-7433 or [9janice9@gmail.com](mailto:9janice9@gmail.com)



# 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.

We continue to partner with immediate neighbours to the Crouch Road MCL development in discussions with the municipality and are closely monitoring developments. As a reminder, the development is attempting to provide footpath access to Grand Lake for 24 planned backlot properties via a 3.45M strip of land. (See image on page 4).

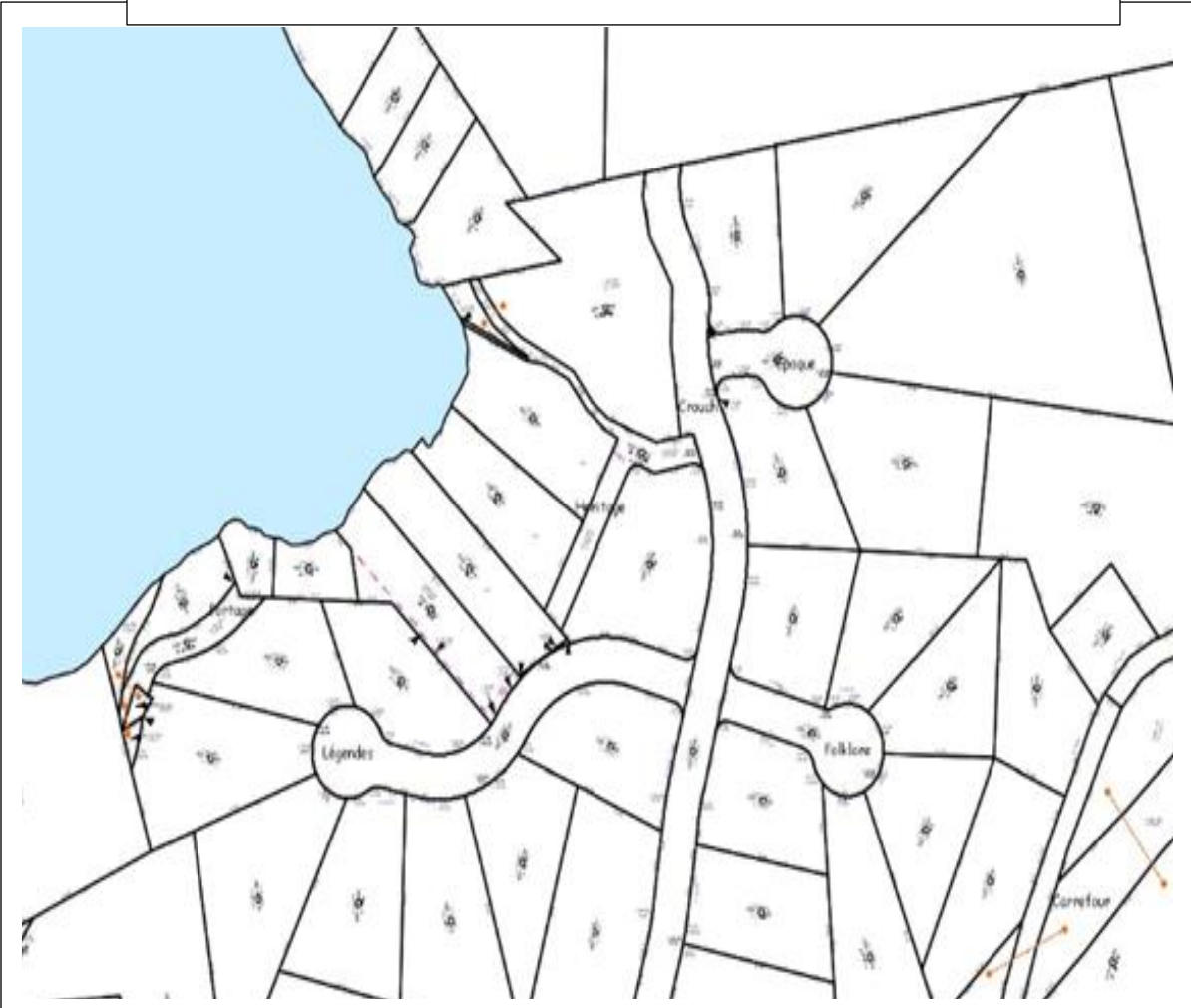
Over the winter, MCL and their partners redeveloped the lower part of Crouch Road in preparation for it to be accepted as an official municipal road including the creation of three cul-de-sacs (Légendes, Folklore and Époques). Construction on the road has stalled and neighbours are preparing complaints based on safety and ecological concerns.

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 PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT (Cont'd)

You are probably aware of the VDM initiative to form a committee to study the long-standing issue of the Municipality being able to help fund private road association maintenance costs. Indeed for 2023 VDM essentially budgeted approximately 1% of the annual budget (\$300,000) to be spent to assist private road associations. They are still trying to wrestle with the mechanics as to how these funds can be distributed, but one thing is for certain, if an Association qualifies to receive any of these funds, their now private roads will no longer be private-they will become open to the public by tolerance of the current owners (concept of Chemin de Tolerance). Be very careful of this tactic.

CROUCH ROAD MCL DEVELOPMENT



## Poker Run 2023

Join us for the annual Grand Lake Poker Run starting at 1:00pm on Saturday September 2, 2023 (rain date Sunday September 3, 2023, but the forecast always is Grand!). The first stop is Sonja and Sylvain Brisebois at 11 Albert at the south end of the lake.

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 hands to the Goldberg cottage 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) will be starting at 3:00pm. Cash prizes will be awarded to the best 3 hands and to 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](mailto:smlgoodwin@gmail.com)

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



## Grand Lake Annual Golf Classic

**DATE: July 28, 2023 - 28th Anniversary**

Started by Brian Reynolds, this represents a long-standing Grand Lake tradition for old and new cottagers and their friends. Each year seems to generate new participants, as well as most of the "regulars" and a good time is always had by all.

Once again, we will play and dine at the nearby Edelweiss Golf Club, a venue that has served our needs well for many recent years. We are hoping to have at least 60 golfers, the minimum number required for a shotgun start. A shotgun start works very well, providing more social time with our fellow cottagers and guests since all golfers finish at virtually the same time.

The shotgun start will be at 1:00pm and dinner will follow at 7:00pm. Register early to assure a spot.

Invite your family and friends for a full day of friendship, fun and golf! Prices are same as last year, which you cannot say for much else that we buy these days.

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 as it assists with planning the event properly and allows us to confirm the correct number to the Golf Club. Registration form attached.



## CANADA DAY



For 2023 we will hold our traditional Canada Day Boat Parade starting at Noon on July 1 (rain date July 2) from the North End of the lake, and hope that we will have a record number of creatively decorated watercraft on display. We understand that Mike Avon will again create an amazing fireworks display to which the Association will contribute as usual. We expect this will occur on the evening of July 1, but will confirm exact timing by email closer to the date. We hope the fire ban will be lifted by Canada Day.

# GRAND LAKE HIKING TRAILS

Just when we thought there couldn't possibly be a repeat of the catastrophic damage to trees caused by the derecho storm in May of 2022, a freak late winter ice storm this year wreaked havoc again on trees and power lines. While the power was out for some cottagers for nearly a week, the number of downed trees on the hiking trails, while significant, was considerably less than what we witnessed after the derecho last year.

Heureusement, JP Spessot et Jane Newcombe étaient au travail en peu de temps pour enlever les arbres et les branches tombés, et l'ensemble du réseau de sentiers est maintenant en excellent état grâce à leurs efforts pour dégager les sentiers ce printemps et l'année dernière.

There is a small rerouting of the trail from the West dock just as the path starts to move away from the lake before heading up the slope toward the lookouts high above the Culbute. This deviation, marked with the usual white blazes on the right-hand side, is just to avoid a section of the trail that is frequently very wet.

Thanks to Cam and Suzanne Goure there is also now an additional dock which can accommodate canoes and kayaks just a little further along the shoreline as you approach the larger dock at the West trailhead.

For anyone who hasn't yet ventured on to the trails, we encourage you to 'take a hike'. Access to the trails for property owners on Grand Lake (and Green Lake) is only possible by boat. There are two trailheads (with docks) in the northwest arm of the lake heading to the Culbute: the Main trailhead is on the righthand side of a small bay at the east end of that arm of the lake; and a second (West) trailhead is about two-thirds of the way along the north shore of that same arm of the lake. Please take care on the docks and ramps. They are older docks donated by trail enthusiasts on the lake, but they do need repairs periodically.

Trail maps are available at the two trailheads. Or, you can view and download the map from the Grand Lake Association website ([lacgrandlake.ca](http://lacgrandlake.ca) – follow the links

under *Information* to the hiking trails tab). You will see from the map that there are two trails – one heading east along the north shore of Green Lake (Lac de la Montagne), and another which heads west initially along the shore of the NW arm of Lac Grand. Both trails have significant uphill sections when they move away from the lake to some fantastic lookout spots where it is possible to see almost all of the lake and surrounding hills. The trail system allows for an endless variety of short or longer hikes, out and back or circular routes, and for the really ambitious the prospect of a modified figure 8 covering the entire trail system over about 4.5hrs. Other hikers always like to hear about the adventures of both new and longstanding hikers of any age and ability. So please write up a short note in one of the log books at the trailheads and tell us what you experienced on the trail. If you have any comments on the trail or suggestions about improvements, by all means leave a message to that effect in the logbook.

Many people have asked about pitching in with maintenance of the trail. Currently, the best way to keep the trails in good shape is for any hiker so inclined to remove fallen branches or loose rocks from the trail and to pack a pair of pruning snips to remove any overhanging branches or to cut out any small roots protruding into the surface of the path. Please take care to cut any roots at or below grade so you don't inadvertently create a tripping hazard.

Once upon a time there were three picnic tables on the trail. Years and weather have taken their toll, and now there is just one (at the Main Trailhead). If you would like to volunteer to help rebuild some picnic tables or benches, or pitch in on some other aspect of trail maintenance, please get in touch with me. With Covid pretty much behind us, group activities on the trail, including work parties, are more feasible.

Happy trails!

Abby Hoffman (Hiking trails co-ordinator)

[abbyhoffman800@gmail.com](mailto:abbyhoffman800@gmail.com)

# ENVIRONMENT

## CURRENT EVENTS

This spring brought a particularly roller coaster-like weather pattern. A week of 30 degree weather in early May that broke a number of records, followed by some overnight frost warnings. Only in Canada. 😊

The 2023 water testing program has begun; there are some changes this year that are described below.

## 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 their 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. This year the Municipality has hired two students to work for the summer with the staff biologist, Samantha Rhainds. They will add coverage to a few of the smaller lakes that are struggling to find volunteers.... or are uninhabited.

They will also do additional parameter tests beyond the core program.

The reporting has been enhanced via a partnership with the Water Rangers group.

The Grand Lake volunteers took the first samples of 2023 in early June.

There will be further samples taken in July and August.

## INFORMATION AND TEST DATA

One significant enhancement this year is a partnering with the Water Rangers organization. They operate a particularly comprehensive platform.

Current and past data can be viewed at: <https://app.waterrangers.ca/observations?search=lac%20grand>

We shall put this link on our own website also. <http://lacgrandlake.ca/>

At the conclusion of the testing year and after the results are compiled, we will share them with members via the Grand Lake website.

## MILFOIL COMMITTEE

We won't be seeing the strength of the Milfoil this year until about August due to temperatures and water levels. However, if last year was any indication, we seem to be battling the Milfoil monster well, and your continued support in scooping up weeds and staying out of areas that are marked with the buoys are really working. In the fall newsletter, we will have a better idea of where we are and will report accordingly.

Contact Dorothy Laflamme at [dot10@rogers.com](mailto:dot10@rogers.com)



# 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.

**An excessive wake created in a narrow channel can rebound several times since it does not have sufficient distance to dissipate.**

The first 10 feet of lake bottom supports almost 90% of the aquatic life in the lake. It is not difficult 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. And 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.

As one example, the item pictured below is a particularly eco-friendly dishwasher detergent.

It is available at Terra20 - several locations in Ottawa and online here => [Dishwasher Powder | Nellie's Canada \(nelliesclean.ca\)](https://www.nelliesclean.ca)



This is not an endorsement by the Association per se. This is simply a product that ticks most of the eco-friendly check-list boxes.... septic friendly, no phosphates etc. If you are using a similar product, please let the association know and perhaps we can start a list on the websites of lake-friendly products. We will have some samples available at the Annual Meeting for anyone interested in trying the product.

Enjoy your summer and stay safe!



## TREASURY

Our treasury, as usual, reflects a strong surplus position going into the 2023/2024 fiscal year, with government-backed investments (GIC's) of \$66,143 and a normal operating account balance of just over \$1,200 residual from the year's operations ended May 31, 2023. Money for next year's memberships is already piling up, so we are fortunate to be financially sound. With interest rates continuing to increase, we should be able to bolster our reserves even more to hedge for the stubborn inflationary pressures we all face.

Our membership dues essentially fund all annual operating costs of the Association. This year we hope to again have our AGM BBQ. All things considered, a great value for \$25 a year, and we very much appreciate the tremendous ongoing support of our members!

## GRAND LAKE ASSOCIATION

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### 2023 Contact Information

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## Congratulations!!

John Croll, one of our long time lake neighbours was inducted to Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame in 2022.

***Grand Lake salutes John.***



## Condolences

**John Clarke**

***Our sincere condolences to family and friends.***