



**APPROVED
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
JULY 15, 2007
LAC BATAILLE BEACH**

Registration: 9:30 am

Board Members in Attendance: Raymond Guenette (President); David Hodgkin (Treasurer); Jean Fournier, Chris Hemmingway, Constance Hudak, Mark Mongeon, Odette Surch, Laurent Roy, Don Stanley, and Paul Strigner as Lake Representatives

Regrets: Thérèse Lauzon (Secretary)

Guest: Patrick Fredette (Coordinator and Biologist, Federation of Lakes of Val-des-Monts)

The voluntary attendance sheet had 80 signatures (including 14 couples, 3 non-members and 1 guest), of which 62 were eligible to vote.

For ease of reference, the Minutes are presented in Agenda order.

Constance Hudak opened the meeting at 10:00 am. A moment of silence was held for Alban Garon, a Board member and esteemed colleague, and his wife, Raymonde.

1.0 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Raymond Guenette informed the Assembly that France Joncas would be acting as the AGM Secretary as Thérèse Lauzon was unable to attend the meeting. The President noted that Patrick Fredette, from the Federation of Lakes of Val-des-Monts (FLVDM), would be presenting information on “Cyano Bacteria” (blue algae) and that in light of this, that the agenda item on “Water Quality Update” would immediately follow the “President’s Report”. He also mentioned that Laurent Roy would be chairing the upcoming elections. Raymond then introduced the Board members in attendance.

PROPOSED BY: *Larry Surch*
SECONDED BY: *Kim Courtney*

THAT the Agenda be approved as presented.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

2.0 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTE

2.1 AGM of July 16, 2006

France Joncas noted a translation and typographical error in the French minutes. The word “modified” was omitted in the motion, under item 2.2, “Special General Meeting Minutes of October 2, 2005”.

- ❑ **PROPOSED BY:** *Kim Courtney*
SECONDED BY: *Larry Surch*

THAT the English Minutes of the July 16, 2006 Annual General Meeting be approved as presented and that the French Minutes be approved as modified.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

3.0 PRESIDENT’S REPORT

3.1 Association Newsletter

Raymond Guenette stated that the *Newsletter* had been sent out to all property owners last month and that copies were available for members who had not received it. He also noted that there are currently 495 property owners of which only 44% were members. He encouraged those assembled to reach out to their neighbours and to ask them to become members.

The President reported that the following Board members had resigned over the course of the year, due to personal, health or work-related reasons: Kim Courtney, Johanne Désormeaux, Louise Lemieux and Jean Fournier.

Odette Surch presented an overview of the roles of each of the Board committees, noting that there was a document available at the display table. She stated that members need not be on the Board to volunteer for committee work, noting that their help would be most welcomed. She also reported that the Property Holdings Committee had been tasked three years ago to do a total inventory of the Association’s property holdings, including rights-of-ways, and was in dire need of volunteers if it was to complete this work on time.

Raymond Guenette informed the Assembly that the Board was recommending moving the AGM date from the third Sunday in July to the second Sunday in August, citing weather concerns.

- ❑ **PROPOSED BY:** *Constance Hudak*
SECONDED BY: *Kim Courtney*

THAT the Annual General Meeting date be moved from July to the second Sunday of August.

Discussion ensued.

The vote was called: In Favour: 12; Against: 37

MOTION DEFEATED

- ❑ **PROPOSED BY:** *Constance Hudak*
SECONDED BY: *Kim Courtney*

THAT the Association not postpone the 2008 Annual General Meeting and in the case of rain that the AGM be held indoors at either the Perkins Library or Arena.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

3.2 Update on Grand Pic File

Raymond Guenette reported that Alban Garon had been responsible for this file. He noted that several court dates had been set but have been postponed due to the other party; the next date is set for sometime in September.

4.0 TREASURER'S REPORT

4.1 2006 Financial Statements

4.2 Projected 2007 Budget

David Hodgkin stated that all paid up members in 2006 had received both financial statements in the mail. He also reported that, as of today, the Association had 170 paid up members, still shy of the 250 that the Association was seeking for 2007.

The Treasurer briefly reviewed the actual budget. He noted that the membership target had fallen short creating a \$1,200 shortfall in the 2006 budget for the year. He noted that fish stocking was distributed proportionally to membership and that monies donated specifically for stocking were directed to the lake of the donor. The Treasurer then proceeded to review the projected budget, noting the sharp increase in the cost of water testing due to higher lab costs.

- ❑ **PROPOSED BY:** *Laurent Roy*
SECONDED BY: *Constance Hudak*

THAT the Association's "Revenues and Expenditures for 2006" and the "Statement of Projected PSLL Revenues and Expenses for 2007" be approved as presented.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

5.0 REVIEW OF THE ASSOCIATION WORKPLAN

5.1 Environmental Committee

Chris Hemmingway, the Environmental Committee Chair, noted that Patrick Fredette's presentation covered much of what the Committee is tasked with, although he did stress the need for volunteers. Other planned pieces of work includes improving the health of our lakes, a cost-benefit analysis for fish stocking (noting that France Joncas had prepared a report in 2004, which can be found on the Association's website), seeking advice from foresters on the status of our woods, water testing, tree planting and information exchanges with our lake associations within Val-des-Monts.

6.0 REPORTS FROM LAKE REPRESENTATIVES

6.1 Lac Rhéaume

Mark Mongeon reported that “use at own risk” signage for private roads had been installed at Barrière and Rhéaume North Roads, as well as a “no parking” sign at the culvert on Blackburn Road. “No camping” and “no fire” signs had been installed on two islands on Rhéaume (“Rock Island” being one) and that signs had been prepared but yet to be installed on Lac Bataille’s island. A “use at own risk” sign had also been posted at Lac Bataille Beach.

As Chair of the Social Committee, Mark Mongeon reported that he had received quite a few requests for youth activities, such as swim meets, canoe races and fishing derbies. He stated that he was committed to following up on some of these suggestions but to do so would require volunteers.

6.1 Lac Barnes

Paul Strigner reported that the Lac Barnes property owners supported much of the Association’s work, such as fish stocking, road allowance program and water testing although he had some reservations on the methodology used for water testing.

Property owners on Barrière Road are seeking clarification regarding the ownership of the said road. It appears that there are three owners, with the Association being one of them. In addition, it appears that a section of Barrière Road has been built on private property rather than the road allowance.

7.0 WATER QUALITY UPDATE

7.1 2007 Water Test Results

David Hodgkin reported that spring water testing had been done on most of the lakes during ice-off using the “Reynolds Protocol” (information on the protocol was available at the display table, as well as the testing equipment). He stated that any levels of e-coli were unsafe to drink, although very low levels could be boiled. David also mentioned that water is safe for swimming as it falls into “recreational class A” category, i.e. $\leq 100 \mu\text{g} / \text{L}$. It was noted that the lakes within the Domain are considered to be in the “oligotrophic” phase.

A consolidated report of the results, by lake, for the past five years was available and would be e-mailed to those wishing a copy (a sign-up sheet was available at the display table).

One member asked whether the Municipality had checked grey water evacuation as part of the septic system inspection program. Patrick Fredette responded no, but stressed that all grey water, by law, had to be evacuated to a septic system or holding tank.

Those in attendance sincerely thanked David Hodgkin for his ongoing work on the water testing program.

7.2 Patrick Fredette, Federation of Lakes of Val-des-Monts (FLVDM)

Patrick Fredette, a biologist working on contract with the FLVDM, thanked the Association for inviting him today. He noted that the Federation was currently comprised of 23 lake associations, representing 35 lakes. He also thanked David Hodgkin for his continued water testing efforts, as well as his involvement with the FLVDM.

7.2.1 Water Quality Testing Program

Patrick Fredette started his presentation by stating that the ongoing water testing program is to help determine a lake's aging process (evolution). The "Reynolds Protocol" is used to verify water transparency and to collect water samples which are then tested for phosphorus and oxygen levels (in parts per billion). The test is usually conducted in the spring, immediately after ice-off, when the lake "turns over" and when phosphorus levels are at their highest and the lake water is not stratified. (Lake "turn over" is the process of the bottom lake water rotating up towards the surface, and then rotating back down towards the lake bottom; the process happens immediately following ice-off.) Results will also vary from year-to-year. A ten-year baseline of results provides fairly reliable data in determining the lake's health, although he noted that the five-year data that the Association currently has are helpful indicators. He stressed the importance of continued testing and noted that the "Reynolds Protocol" was a simple, yet, cost-effective method.

7.2.2 Municipal News

Patrick Fredette mentioned the Municipal ban on all pesticides and fertilisers – the major contributors of phosphorus. He stated that regular household cleaning products, such as dishwasher soap, shampoo, etc., eventually seeped phosphates from the septic tile beds and into the lake. Residents and cottagers were urged to buy eco-friendly products. It was noted that Outaouais stores carry eco-friendly products.

The Municipality and MRC des Collines have received a \$70,000 grant from Natural Resources Canada (NRCAN) to conduct a two-year project to determine lake development / sustainability and to map the watershed trajectories within the area.

Lac St. Pierre is currently doing a door-to-door pilot project on lake shore regeneration in conjunction with the Municipality. Part 1 consists of a home visit to review the property owner's shoreline and to provide advice. Part 2 consists of a professional landscaping proposal. Participants are charged 40% of the cost, the balance being borne by the Municipality as part of the NRCAN grant.

7.2.3 Cyano Bacteria (Blue Algae)

"Cyano Bacteria" is a natural occurring organism. The bacteria can be found in almost every conceivable habitat, from oceans to fresh water, to bare rock to soil. It is considered to be one of the oldest living organisms. It is also one of the few types of algae that photosynthesise. Lakes that are in the "eutrophic" phase (the last stage of a lake's life) are more susceptible to outbreaks.

Blooms are caused by existing high levels of phosphorus, which in turn are caused by nutrient loading. Stagnate waters and elevated temperatures can lead to a phosphorus spike causing the algae to bloom and oxygen levels to drop. Once the algae have bloomed, the water becomes extremely toxic to aquatic plants, fish and humans. Property owners are cautioned against swimming, bathing in or drinking the water, even if it has been boiled (boiling the water makes the cyano bacteria more toxic). Symptoms of cyano bacteria are hard to diagnose because of their simplicity and can include sore throats, nausea, diarrhoea, and skin rashes. Left untreated, the bacteria can damage the liver and nervous system.

The algae itself is very green and dense, similar to cream of broccoli soup in consistency. Lake closures average four to six weeks, although some outbreaks can continue well into the winter months. Affected fish can be eaten. There are currently eleven known outbreaks in the Province of Quebec, of which several lakes have been shut down by the Health Department.

Suspected outbreaks of blue algae can be reported to local health authorities although you may be asked to e-mail digital photographs of the bloom. If deemed a risk, inspectors will be sent.

Patrick Fredette noted that the lakes within Val-des-Monts are considered low risk and that cyano bacteria can still be prevented. (A level of 10 µg / L of phosphorus is considered low risk; most of the lakes within the Domain average 12 µg / L of phosphorus.)

7.2.4 Questions and Answers

Paul Strigner disagreed with the “Reynolds Protocol”. He reported that he and Don Stanley conducted the total phosphorus tests on two separate days on Lac Barnes this past spring and that the results were markedly different. Such wide variations precludes ascribing trends, i.e., are phosphorus levels increasing or decreasing?

Patrick Fredette replied that testing provides a “snap shot” on a particular day and that results will vary from day-to-day. He noted that weather also affects the results, e.g. heavy spring rains when the ice is melting will have an adverse affect on transparency and phosphorus levels. He also mentioned that inconsistent sample collection will produce varying results. It was noted that David Hodgkin’s collection technique is very consistent and systematic from year-to-year.

France Joncas asked if weather conditions leading up to, during, and after ice-off have been taken into consideration. Patrick Fredette replied yes, noting that “coefficients” for weather are part of the water testing database. France then proceeded to ask whether compost in gardens was also banned as fertilisers. He replied that compost does have nitrogen which does contribute to phosphorus; however, he did note that compost was a natural compound and broke down more efficiently than chemical fertilisers.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ASSEMBLY TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

No recommendations were made from the floor, although the members took this opportunity to thank the Board members for the good work they had done over the year.

9.0 ELECTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Raymond Guenette thanked the outgoing Board members, as well as those who had resigned, for their efforts. Special thanks went to Odette Surch and Constance Hudak for their extraordinary efforts and support over the course of the year. The President also thanked France Joncas for re-designing the Association's website, as well as Paul Pothier for looking after and tidying the Beach for the AGM. He then introduced Laurent Roy, Chair of the election process. The Election Chair noted that he would be conducting the elections as per the *Code Morin*, without fuss.

President (Two-Year Term)

- *Raymond Guenette* was nominated by **Odette Surch** and seconded by **Paul Wilson**.
- **By acclamation.**

Vice-President (One-Year Term)

- *Kim Courtney* was nominated by **Raymond Guenette** and seconded by **Larry Surch**.
- **By acclamation.**

Secretary (Two-Year Term)

- *Joseph De Konick* was nominated by **Odette Surch** seconded by **Irma Bigras**.
- **By acclamation.**

Lac Bataille Representatives (Three Positions)

- *Thérèse Lauzon* was nominated by **Odette Surch** and seconded by **Raymond Guenette** for a *two-year term*.
- *Mario Boucher* was nominated by **Raymond Carisse** and seconded by **Mark Mongeon** for a *two-year term*.
- *Normand Cadieux* was nominated by **Odette Surch** and seconded by **Paul Wilson** for a *one-year term*.

All Lac Bataille Representatives were elected by ACCLAMATION.

Lac Rhéaume Representatives (Four Positions)

- *Emile Zidichouski* was nominated by **Larry Surch** and seconded by **Jim Dale** for a *two-year term*.
- *Richard Murphy* was nominated by **Lynn Legault** and seconded by **Paul Wilson** for a *one-year term*.

- *Tony Bernard* was nominated by **Thérèse Murphy** and seconded by **Paul Wilson** for a *two-year term*.
- *Mark Mongeon* was nominated by **Raymond Guenette** and seconded by **Raymond Carisse** for a *one-year term*.
- *Laurent Roy* was nominated by **Odette Surch** and seconded by **France Joncas** for a *one-year term*. The nomination was *declined*.

All the remaining Lac Rhéaume Representatives were elected by ACCLAMATION.

Lac Barnes Representative (Two-Year Term)

- *Donald Stanley* was nominated by **Paul Strigner** and was seconded by **Donna Bond**.
- By acclamation.

Lac Épinette Representative (Two-Year Term)

- *Greg Hill* was nominated by **David Hodgkin** and seconded by **Lynn Legault**.
- By acclamation.

Lac Louise Representative (Two-Year Term)

- *Claire Trépanier* was nominated by **Raymond Guenette** and seconded by **Odette Surch**.
- By acclamation.

The following lakes remain without representation: Chevreuil, Corrigan and Maskinongé.

10.0 OTHER BUSINESS

There being no additional business, the Annual General Meeting was adjourned at 12:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

France Joncas
Acting Secretary

Raymond Guenette
President