



LLPOA-APLL

Lake Louisa Property Owners Association
Association des Propriétaires du Lac Louisa

Email: llpoa.apll@gmail.com Postal address: LLPOA, P.O. Box 2966, Brownsburg-Chatham, QC, Canada, J8G 1A0 www.lac-louisa.ca

2011 FALL/WINTER NEWSLETTER

“Working Together to Keep Lake Louisa Healthy”

President's message

by Debbie Anderson (Wight), President



My name is Debbie Anderson (Wight). My husband, George, and daughter, Michelle, are permanent residents at the lake. Michelle attends LRHS in Lachute and George works from home (when he isn't travelling for Xerox). Both sides of my family have been here for generations and Lake Louisa is the only place I have ever wanted to live. We were fortunate to move here year-round in 2001.

I am pleased to be the new President of the LLPOA. My goal is to involve the community in environmental issues that affect us all. This summer we involved the kids at the Club by providing them with trees to plant around the Club property. It was a fun project for Natalie and Jordan and the kids took interest in watching “their” trees grow all summer. Many grew over a foot!

I would like to extend the excellent Shoreline Planting program that has been going on for many years. If we can help homeowners control the appearance of their waterfront while dealing with the new government regulations restricting cutting along the waterfront, I believe we will be able to protect our lake while creating waterfronts that appeal to homeowners' ideas of how they would like their property to look.

I feel that we must work with the Municipality to take immediate action to protect OUR Lake from invasive species. This is of the utmost importance to ensure our children (George and I have five) and grandchildren (we already have three) can have this wonderful gift to pass on to their kids.

We have a very active, committed Board of Directors and I look forward to working with them.

If you would like to help with the LLPOA, please feel free to contact me or any of the other board members. We will welcome you with open arms!

*There are no passengers on Spaceship Earth.
We are all crew.
- Marshall McLuhan*

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Did you know?

- *There's an entertaining website offering interesting environmental activities for kids: www.ecokids.ca Check it out!*

President
Editor

Debbie Wight Anderson
Claire Ropeleski

Secretary
Treasurer

Elfriede Gebhard
Roland Richer

Past President
Website

Jane Nelson
Brian Turnbull

Directors: George Alguire, Susan Bomok, Jack Davis, Greg Kurlentz, Daniel Miron, Vanessa Nelson, Karl Wockner.

Affiliations

- LLPOA is a member of CRELA, ABRINORD, FOCA & NALMS* (Check their websites).
- Resources we consult: Wisconsin News, Nature Canada, & Lakeline.

Municipal News

MUNICIPALITY OF WENTWORTH



Wentworth Environment Day, July 23rd, 2011, by Jane Nelson

Entitled *The Invaders are Coming*, the conference offered many informative displays. Five presenters--two residents of infested lakes nearby and three biologists responsible for various lake programs-- shed light on the problem of invasive aquatic species and how to prevent them from taking root in our lakes.

We learned that

- Phosphorous is the controlling factor for the growth of all aquatic plants, including invasive species. The more phosphorous in the water, the greater the growth.
- Excessive growth of aquatic plants along the shoreline is the first sign of lake deterioration,

even before a measured increase in phosphorous.

- Once a foreign plant or animal enters a lake (from any boat or recreational equipment) it tends to spread rapidly, suppressing native plants. There are no natural predators to impede its growth.
- Eurasian Milfoil is a predominant invasive species in many Laurentian lakes.
- Since 1995, both Lac Carré and Lac Connelly have been grappling with the problem of Eurasian Milfoil. Over a five year period it spread rapidly throughout the lake shallows, making swimming and boating impossible along the shore. Uprooting the plants and oxygenation of the lake depths had little effect. Shoreline replanting and erosion control seem to have had some benefits. In 2011 Eurasian Milfoil has not disappeared, but its growth has been slowed.
- There is no rapid fix for the problem of Eurasian Milfoil. Preventing the introduction of the plant is the only cure. **Inspection of all the equipment which has come into contact with the water, removal and cleaning of the debris before leaving a body of water are necessary. This includes boats and any kind of water craft, including kayaks and canoes, trailers, ropes and any containers.**

What you're up to

YOUR PURCHASING POWER by Claire Ropeleski

How Do We Know Which Products Are Truly "Green"?

(As presented at the LLPOA AGM, July 2011)

As I was researching this topic, I happened to catch a segment of CBC's Marketplace Consumer Watchdog program on the news. After having tested various so-called "GREEN" household cleaning products, they found that most of them did not live up to their claims about being environmentally safe. This common practice is called 'greenwashing'. We see all sorts of 'green' logos on products such as leaves, trees, flowers, birds, bees, sunshine and such. These are all house brand logos that can mean anything.

So how do we know what we can trust without doing countless hours of research?

Marketplace's recommendation – and ours – is that we should look for the Ecologo icon on products we purchase.

Ecologo:



OR



Why?

These logos assure us that the product's claims have been verified by an independent, credible, third party according to the International Standards Organization (ISO)* which has specific criteria for each category of product.

***ISO's aim:** to assist us consumers to contribute to environmental sustainability through our purchasing power.

ISO's criteria for detergent cleaners is as follows: biodegradable, safe for aquatic life, phosphate-free, containing only ecological surfactants, only natural essential oils, non-carcinogenic, containing only food-grade dyes.

We can now find many Ecologo-certified products in most large chain grocery stores, larger pharmacies, hardware stores such as Canadian Tire, Walmart, and Costco.

Environmental Notepad

JACK'S FACTS by Jack Davis — Periphyton Monitoring Comes to Lake Louisa – the Call Is Out for Slime Detectives!



That gooey slimy brown stuff on the rocks at your shore could hold some answers for us. Some scientists think that it might be able to predict the health of our lake in the future.

They want us to gather information about the slime and send it in to them so that they can analyze it. Like the water testing that we do, they will give us feedback about how our lake is doing.

You are invited to take part in measuring the slime because it will need to be done at several locations around the lake.

If you know now that you want to participate or you want further details about the protocol, please contact Jack Davis at jackdavis1812@gmail.com. See you at the AGM next July!

For a more detailed version of this article, please consult our website at www.lac-louisa.ca.

Did you know?

- Since the early 2000's the "Emerald ash borer" and the "Asian long-horned beetle" have threatened the ashes and maples of our Canadian forest.

Transport of infested firewood is the leading cause of their spread.

Buy local firewood.

Learn more at www.lac-louisa.ca



To Dam or not to Dam....but first, a Brief History of the Lake Louisa Outlet ("The Dam")

By Karl Wockner

The exit for Lake Louisa's outflow water is located at the south-east of our lake (at the bridge on Lake Louisa South Road).

Did you know?

- Around 1912-1915 a family named Newton built a water-powered saw-mill (close to where the road is presently located)? In the springtime they used the higher waters of the lake's spring-melt to power the saw. All the saw chips flowed into Mud Lake.
- By the early 1920's the Newtons had built a small wooden dam to help raise the lake's level to increase the power and service of the saw. It is speculated that not more than 6 to 8" of additional height was created.
- This wooden dam remained in place through the 1940's. By the late 1940's it had begun to rot. Mischievous lake residents often 'adjusted' the dam by adding or removing boards (to suit their personal liking for their particular shoreline...)
- In 1956-57 a loose gravel dam was built over the original wooden dam's location (concurrent to the construction of Lake Louisa South Road.)

- This dam was mostly washed away by the forces of nature by the early to mid-1960's.

- It is important to know that for over the past 45 years, the average water level of Lake Louisa has remained unaltered by human intervention.

YOU ASKED.....

"Could it be environmentally beneficial for the lake shallows if the lake level were raised by damming?"

I put your question to the **ministère du développement durable, de l'environnement et des parcs, direction régionale de l'analyse et de l'expertise de Montréal, Laval, Lanaudière et Laurentides.**

In short, the answer is that the continued health of Lake Louisa's water, shoreline and aquatic stocks depend on the maintenance of the same range of high and low water levels as has been established 'by nature' for over the past 45 years!

What's Up?



Au revoir to Guy Deneault

After 12 years of invaluable commitment to the LLPOA, Guy is retiring as a director. He has served in many ways; as VP, as president for two years and as past president. As president, it was important for Guy to encourage the participation of all directors and to hold meetings where all ideas were

welcomed. He represented the interests of Black Bay residents while actively promoting LLPOA activities among all residents - in particular, the shoreline planting program

in which he participated every year. Notably, Guy also acted as LLPOA's voice at Wentworth-North council.

Over the 68 years as a resident of the lake, he has witnessed many changes, not only in a significant population growth, but in lifestyle choices of the residents. The determination to preserve the lake for future generations has been –and still is - his mantra.

CALENDAR of Upcoming Events

Look for our Calendar of Upcoming Events in the Spring Newsletter.

We're working on it!

On-Going Activities

LLPOA'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Many gathered on July 16th to attend LLPOA's AGM at the LLSC club. An interesting discussion followed presentations on lake testing, environmentally friendly shopping, lake water-level control and Junior Club tree planting. Many thanks to Tommy Seale for the Tim Horton's donuts and coffee! To read the full report, visit our website at www.lac-louisa.ca.

ALGAE WATCH TEAM

Much to everyone's relief, there were no reports of blue-green algae this summer. Anecdotally, many commented on the apparent clarity of the lake this year. However, transparency results did not indicate a significant change. Thanks to our committed crew for their faithful monitoring.

HOOKED ON FISHING!

The Alguires organized a repeat performance of the popular Lake Louisa Annual Fishing Derby this past June 11th. Randy Williams hauled in this year's winning catch. The money raised at this event is used for fish stocking and the word is that they're hoping to stock bigger fish next year!



SHORELINE PLANTING – HELPING TO PRESERVE OUR LAKE.

The LLPOA's Annual Shoreline Planting Rite got underway on August 25th when a number of energetic volunteers assembled on Wesley Seale's field. (Thanks once again, Wesley! 😊) This rugged bunch planted 18 properties with a total of approximately 120 **native** shrubs and trees. "Why **native** shrubs 'n trees?" Glad you asked. Well, like all trees, they prevent shoreline erosion and stall phosphorus release into the lake. The bonus is that they require no fertilizers, therefore less work for you and no added nutrients seep into the lake.

Take note that several saplings from the annual **government free tree program** were planted. Plan on taking advantage of this **free tree program** next spring!

Many thanks go to our volunteer planters and to those who provided the delectable lunch.

WE'D LIKE TO MEET YOU!

You may have missed us during last season, however most LLPOA directors have been getting around and making personal contact with lake residents so that we can listen to your concerns and answer some questions you may have. If we haven't met you yet, see you next spring or summer!

