



# The Newsletter of Lac Sir John

## Spring 2011

### From the Editor

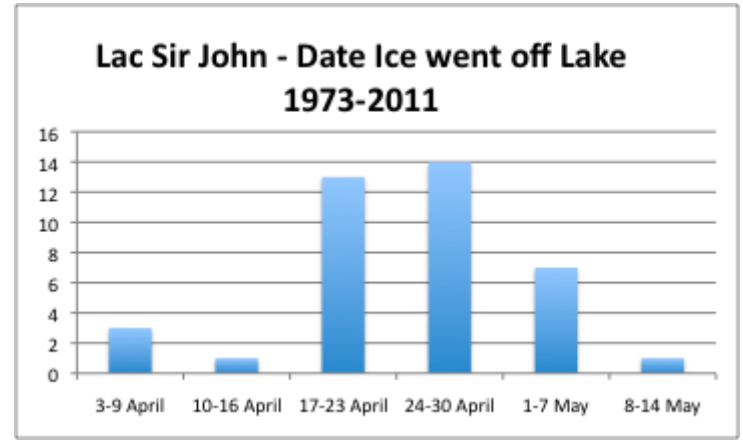
The ice is off the lake and we look forward to a spring and summer of gardening, swimming, sailing, and many other enjoyable activities. This histogram appears courtesy of Ross Preville who each year since 1973 has recorded the day the ice finally left Lake Sir John. Although the ice departed early last year on April 9, this year with the ice sinking on April 28 we returned to the norm of the last two weeks in April. The earliest the ice has ever left the lake since 1973 is April 7 in 1987, and the latest is May 9 in 1978.

Ken Barlow passed away on Wednesday May 18. A memorial service will be held at a later date. And to Ken, we will miss your quiet manner and your wily jokes, your expertise – woodwork, metalwork, stonework, your gardening skills. We think of your vegetable garden and the raspberry patch, the alpine garden you and Gill so lovingly created, the orchids, the borders and the pathways through your woods, the stream. We remember your cocktail cruises, the gardening trips for peonies and hemerocallis, the barbecues, the teas, the golf and other games played on the front lawn, the very special dinners and your hosting. Our love and support to your family.

We have received a number of contributions from people around the lake. Please keep them coming! If you would like to submit a column or announcement for publication, please provide it by the first of the month (August, November, May), preferably in MS word via email to [janetgaildonald@gmail.com](mailto:janetgaildonald@gmail.com) in order to be formatted, translated [Thanks again Michel!] and emailed by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month.

We would still like to send out as many newsletters as possible via email. **Please provide your email address to Gill Barlow: [gilbar61@gmail.com](mailto:gilbar61@gmail.com). Your email address will be kept confidential.** If you do not have an email address please advise Gill of your preferred address to receive the Newsletter.

**Janet Donald**



### **President's message**

You may have heard that there have been changes in the directorship of our corporation. Life goes on and the dedication of the current directors remains very strong. We are looking forward to taking care of business in a professional way that will render our community a pleasant and safe place to live. I have undertaken along with the board of directors to prioritize the issues that need to be taken care of based on necessity and then a wish list of what we would like to have done.

### **Roads**

Our main mandate is to maintain the services that are required to keep our roads in proper order both winter and summer. This winter our roads were well maintained, however, the spring thaw played havoc resulting in an above normal amount of potholes and washouts. As soon as conditions permitted the roads were taken care of and we will be doing as much as our budget will allow to improve them this summer.

### **Causeway**

The causeway improvement is the next priority. Unfortunately after further investigation with the City of Lachute, the \$50,000 funds that were allegedly put aside to assist in the repair or replacement of the causeway are not there. So we are on our own to make any needed repairs.

You may have noticed that there are red caution ribbons on the causeway (thanks to Gaetan Lebel) where the accident occurred a couple of years ago that left this area in an unsafe condition. I have proposed to widen this part of the road on the south side to improve this situation and it will be done this spring. Repairs to the railings will also be taken care of.

The issue of the causeway has been of great concern for many years and this summer we intend to get an independent professional engineer to investigate the safety conditions of the structure and propose solutions. This will be compared to the study that was done in the past to verify if the problem is as serious as some have suggested. Then the necessary steps recommended will be voted on and implemented.

### **Entrances**

The entrances and the signs to our community are in dismal shape; some signs are hanging off of trees. Although this may not be considered a necessity it is important for the reputation of our community so we have altered our budget to have all the signs replaced this year. Brush clearing to improve visibility will be done this year as well. We may not be able to replace the entrance retaining walls this year but we believe that they should be done in next year's mandate.

### **Sijolm Inc.**

There is a common misconception that Lac Sir John has an Association. Officially we do not have an association however we have been operating as if we do. In the last newsletter there was a column on questions and answers about the functions of directors and trustees of the corporation of **Sijolm Inc** of which many residents are shareholders. However, there are also many residents who are not.

This has also been an issue that a few people in the past have worked on with the attempt to remedy this situation so that we can operate in a legal and more representative fashion. These attempts were abandoned on a number of occasions due to it being a very cumbersome and time consuming exercise.

I have been gathering all the information available from the last 25 years and I am currently preparing a study along with a few volunteer legal professionals to offer proposals to solve the predicament that the corporation is in. This must

be done and cannot wait any longer. We are under a legal obligation to resolve this. I propose to have a special meeting with everyone with a presentation outlining the current situation and proposed solutions. The meeting will be held as soon as preparatory work is done. This topic is too important and extensive to be added to the agenda of an Annual General Meeting.

### **Dues**

Last year the past administration saw the need to have a special assessment to resolve some of our issues and to meet our budgetary obligations to cover the maintenance of our common properties this year. We are going to strive to find ways to reduce the annual dues.

Some people have argued that we should insist that the City of Lachute give us a greater increase in the tax rebate from them. Please understand that the City of Lachute is under no obligation to give us a tax rebate and we are very fortunate that Mayor Daniel Mayer is as generous as he is with the amount that is given to us. No other city in the MRC does this and he has been criticized by many other mayors and fellow councillors because of it. I have had discussions with officials of Lachute and with Mayor Scott Pierce of the Township of Gore who has been apologetic that Gore is not financially able to do the same. However, he is very willing to offer any other services that we may require that he is able to provide. I may be in a position to discuss other ways of funding our requirements that we are considering during the meeting that we will be discussing about the affairs of Sijolm Inc.

### **Special Thanks**

I would like to thank Robert Lamoureux for his overwhelming support and assistance during the last couple of months in providing the continuity of relationships made and past or ongoing projects. Robert has also volunteered to offer his services to the current administration wherever needed.

### **Volunteers**

I wish to thank the residents who have volunteered to offer a hand and we will be contacting you when the need arises. We are considering a number of projects for which we may need some physical labor so if you are in a position to help please get in touch with one of the directors.

## Contact Me

Please contact me at any time if you wish to discuss any topic or have any suggestions regarding the affairs of the community or Sijolm Inc. I look forward to hearing from you.

**Merv Trineer 562-9606**

## Changes to the Lake Sir John Board of Directors and to the Board of Trustees

On 27 February 2011 a majority of the Trustees of Sijolm Inc. accepted the resignation of Andre Leprohon from the Board of Directors of Sijolm Inc.

The Board of Directors for the remainder of 2011 is

<b>Merv Trineer</b>	<b>President</b>
<b>Gillian Barlow</b>	<b>Secretary</b>
<b>Monique Trineer</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>
<b>Henry Andres</b>	<b>Roads</b>
<b>Janet Donald</b>	<b>Newsletter Editor</b>
<b>Doug Dempster</b>	<b>Environment</b>

**Frank Hamelin resigned from the Board of Trustees. Michel Lupien has agreed to be an interim member of the Board of Trustees in his place.**

## From the Treasurer

I would like to thank all the residents who have paid their dues this year. This was greatly appreciated. For the few remaining residents who have not yet paid we would appreciate receiving your cheque ASAP. (Make it payable to **Sijolm Inc.**) If for any reason you find the total amount too difficult we can offer to make suitable arrangements.

Please keep in mind that we are all in this community because of our common interests and shared common responsibilities. The dues that you pay are essential to maintain the community and we would not have the same tranquil community that we enjoy without them.

Please feel free to contact me at 562-9606.

**Monique Trineer**



**Lake Sir John Luncheon, Montebello  
26 March 2011**

## Roads Report

Here are a few details of the road work done this past season. Early this spring we had to solve some serious drainage problems in front of the Chambers property due to a frozen culvert. The water washed across the road on to Mme Fillion's property and made a crevice through six inches of ice that had to be dealt with immediately. This was difficult to drive over and Mme Fillion did not want a flooded basement.

A number of drainage ditches along the road were cleared but there are more to be done. Although this task is not difficult it is essential and costly; the cost of the backhoe is \$100/hr. Many times the ditches are blocked with an accumulation of leaves, twigs and sand. It would be very helpful if our fellow residents would be so kind as to rake these out in the fall and spring in front of or across from their houses. This would reduce the amount of time we would need to use the contractor and hence reduce the overall cost. Please pitch in.

The washout on the road at Bunker's Hill was exceptional this year but has been repaired. There are a number of redundant culverts that have to be removed and/or repaired this year. There are also places along the road that have to be rebuilt because the road is almost down to bed rock.

On April 28 there was a very strong wind storm that had half the lake out of power for almost 30 hrs. One tree was on the power line on the road to Boat House Beach causing a fire and the Lachute Fire Department was called in to put it out at 11:00 pm. The repairs by Hydro Quebec were quite an undertaking and took more time than expected.

Merv and I cut down and removed another tree hanging on the Bell wires over the main road between Fraser's and Bunker's Hill. We have noticed that there are several other near rotten trees that are leaning dangerously toward the main road so they will be cut down as well.

We will continue to do what we can to improve the roads where we have funds to do so.

**Henry Andres**

### **The problems of going green – a note from Ken Barlow**

Here is something the green movement does not tell you. Our dishwasher drain blocked and I tried blowing the hose that connects to the sink drain with compressed air then putting liquid plumber in the dishwasher. Nothing worked so I called a repairman. He poked a snake down the corrugated tube and with much pushing and jiggling finally got the tube unblocked. It was full of a black gelatine-like gluey substance which was very hard to flush out. He explained that this was a bacterial growth caused because we were using no-phosphate dishwasher tabs. He said he was finding this quite often at lakeside houses where people like us had stopped using phosphates. Food particles catch in the corrugations and the bacteria feed on them and grow a colony of the black stuff that eventually clogs the drain hose. His solution was that for every box of no-phosphate tabs we do 3 or 4 washes with regular phosphate tabs. That would kill the bacteria and stop all growth. He also recommended rinsing dishes before loading the dishwasher. The salesman had told us that with this model of dishwasher we did not have to rinse the dishes. "Absolute lie" our repairman said. Also once a month use a product especially designed to clean dishwashers. **Going green has its problems!**

### ***High Speed Wireless Internet now available at Lac Sir John***

Ross Cole reports that after a few years of attempting to get high speed computer access at his home, he has finally been successful through Groupe Acces. This is an Internet company that, according to its website, provides "reliable, secure and result-oriented Internet solutions to small and medium-sized businesses." To see what they are all about, open [www.acces.com](http://www.acces.com).

The contact for those interested is Pat Noonan at 450 533 5819, his email address is

[patnoonan@acces.com](mailto:patnoonan@acces.com). Say Ross sent you.

**To contact Ross, email [ross.cole@yahoo.com](mailto:ross.cole@yahoo.com).**

### **LAKE SYMPOSIA**

Susan Anastasopoulos has offered to organize lake symposia to keep our minds engaged this season. A symposium is defined as a meeting to discuss a particular subject, a philosophical or friendly discussion. The ancient Greeks held symposia after banquets hence wine could be involved.

Susan has offered to host the initial group in June and would like to know how many would be interested in participating.

**If you think you might like to participate in these discussion sessions, please email Susan at [sanastass@gmail.com](mailto:sanastass@gmail.com) by 5 June 2011.**

Whenever possible a common reading should be chosen to provide focus for the discussion.

Common readings could be found, for example, in special issues of National Geographic, special reports in [The Economist](#), and other easily available, high quality journals, also best sellers (non-fiction), and some internet sources.

Some possibilities might be a book such as Stephen Hawkins & Leonard Mlovinov, *The Grand Design*, [Three thousand years of Christianity](#), Jeff Rubin, *Why your World is about to Get a Lot Smaller*, Niall Fergusson, *The Ascent of Money: a Financial History of the World*, Joseph Stiglitz, *Free Fall: America, Free Markets and the Sinking of the World Economy*.

Discussions could rotate from house to house. Sessions would last approximately 1 1/2 hours, once a month or every two months.

Participation would be open to members of the Lac Sir John community and perhaps environs (e. g. Lake Kenny).