



The Newsletter of Lac Sir John

Summer 2011



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.** If you do not have an email address please advise Gill of your preferred address to receive the Newsletter.

Janet Donald

From the Editor

This is the time of year when we realize how precious our lake is – when we can wander to the shore, drop into the water, and return refreshed to our homes and gardens. And the gardens are blooming!

Our summer newsletter includes pictures from the past, courtesy of Marge Burrows, historical notes from Helene Beauchamp, reports on the first two lake symposia and updates on lake activities.

We say good-bye to Michel and Angele who departed to the Gatineau August 10. Michel has agreed to continue to offer his pristine translation capabilities. Merci encore une fois. We wish you many years of happiness in your new home.

Congratulations and best wishes to Dominique Tardiff and Christopher Sweeney who celebrated their nuptials on July 30th.

If you would like to submit a column or announcement for publication, please provide it by the first of the month (November, May, August), preferably in MS word via email to janetgaildonald@gmail.com in order to be formatted, translated and emailed by the 10th of the month.



President's message

Replacement of Entrance Signs

We found a way to get them done in an economical collaborative way. Chris Sweeney coordinated the art work on the panels with the sign maker and donated the signs. Thank you Chris! I took a week of my vacation to design and make the frames. Volunteers who helped with staining and installation include JC Powers, Henry Andres, Marc Blouin, Wayne Chambers and Michael Fraser. Thanks to everyone.

Entrance View

Clearing the brush and over growth at the entrances has led to a significant improvement in the line of sight, particularly at Entrée 3. More will be done soon to improve visibility of the new signs.

Causeway

We have made some improvements to the causeway by widening two of the cement culverts by five feet where the accident occurred a few years ago. We also installed an economical but efficient security barrier of boulders and cedar trees in the same location.

We have had discussions with civil and mechanical engineers regarding the condition of the galvanized culverts and there are several possible remedies under consideration. Meanwhile we are happy to report that the causeway is not dangerous.

Brush Clearing

Thanks to Bruce Adams for cutting the brush along the main road during one of the hottest summers on record.

Brush removal

Henry Andres organized a volunteer group to remove the bush clippings. Thanks to Marc Blouin and JC Powers.

Poison Ivy

This is poison ivy season and we ask everyone to be on the alert for signs of it. Susan Anastas and John Bishop have reported its presence along the roadside in their area. If you see any suspicious plants, please report it to the board ASAP so that it can be dealt with immediately. This is what these plants that cause contact dermatitis look like.



Poison Ivy flourishing on the ground

Entrance Gardens

Thanks to the volunteers who clear the entrance gardens and plant flowers each spring and tend the gardens in the summer. Special thanks to the DeGroots, Gill Barlow and Sylvie Dandurand and Gaétan Lebel who spearhead this activity at their respective entrances. We are working on how to replace the entrance retaining walls but this may take some time.

Water level

We are fortunate that the level of water in our lake has been controlled to within a foot. The hot temperatures and low precipitation this summer have led to an abnormally low level of water with low drinking water reserves in some neighboring communities.

Merv Trineer



ADAM.

The Board of Directors

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Historical notes on Sir John Johnson Seignior of Argenteuil

Sir John Johnson was born in 1741, the son of William Johnson, Baronet, an eminent fur trader and official Agent for the Indian Department. He spent his childhood in the Mohawk valley of New York and studied at the Philadelphia Academy from 1757 to 1760. From 1765 to 1768 he visited the British Isles, where he was introduced to King George III and was knighted by him in 1765.

After his father's death in 1774, John Johnson inherited the title of Baronet and settled as a gentleman in the Mohawk Valley. This idyllic way of life ended with the American Revolution when he found refuge in the province of Québec.

He recruited the King's Royal Regiment of New York that, with the Butler's Rangers, became the main British force on the North front of the war. In 1782, Sir John Johnson was elected Brigadier General and Superintendant General of the Six Nations Indians. He strongly supported the Indians and the Loyalists' rights and interests until the end of his life. The creation of Upper Canada (Ontario to be) was mainly due to his influence.

In 1796 he returned to Montreal where he became head of the Indian Department. His main goal was to protect the interests of the First Nations. He bought the Argenteuil Seigniory in 1808. Sir John Johnson died in 1830 in Montreal. His burial was witnessed by more than 300 Mohawks.

Note by Alain Chebroux, based on text by Hereward, additions from Earle Thomas.



Cranes at the Gerbes d'Angelica, Mirabel on a visit of the Lachute and Wentworth Garden Clubs July 8

LAKE SYMPOSIA

The first Lake symposium was held at Susan and Tasos Anastas' home on June 17. A lively conversation about Epiphanies and what they mean to us was assisted by Sangria and Ouzo. Enthusiastic thanks to Susan and Tasos.

Here is the beginning of Taso's exploration of Epiphanies. If you would like the entire text, please email Tasos at anast3925@yahoo.com.

Epiphanies

(Some speculative opinions by T. Anastas.)

In our everyday life we face many uncertainties and we deal with many questions in our personal relationships, our cultural affiliations or our intellectual pursuits. These concerns stress our existence. On the other hand these concerns are the basis of our creativity, and giving solutions to some important problems is a source of great pleasure and dynamism.

To deal with such concerns, we use our personal experiences and we seek the opinions of others. Most of the myths, the gossip, and the fairy tales of more primitive societies were inputs to what friends, or what societies, thought about such problems. In more technologically advanced societies these methods have been replaced by education, the opinion of experts, self-help books,

novels, movies, etc. For example, from scary or sexy movies, we get the impression of what are the pleasures and the risks involved in particular situations without been directly involved in them.

Psychologists say that our personal experiences and the opinion of others build in our subconscious, so to speak, a “model of the world” that guides us in our everyday life. However, this model is neither perfect, nor permanent. Personal experiences are sometimes misinterpreted because of unfortunate events of the past, and the inputs from friends and the cultural environment are biased in directions that do not agree with our inner beliefs. We, consciously or unconsciously, realize that our “model” needs revision, and we further engage in activities like those that created the views we have at a point in time. Thus, our model evolves with time.

Sometimes the revision of our views is not as gradual as we would expect, but is caused by a burst in our way of thinking that destroys a part of our “model”. These events are what we call “epiphanies”. Epiphanies are precipitated by some rare experiences or events. For example, we meet a person, are exposed to a situation, read, or hear an idea so profound that disturbs us and causes us to radically revise our opinions and concerns. It is thought that such events are fortuitous and cannot be induced or avoided. In any case, it would be ideal if it were possible to take advantage of such events and create a better personal model of our world.

Photos from the past – Can you identify these people and activities?



Population 7 Billion

The second symposium on world population was Held August 19 at Janet and Chris’ s place, followed by a beef curry. The reading, Population 7 Billion can be obtained at ngm.nationalgeographic.com/7-billion <<http://geographic.com/7-billion>>. Here are brief snippets from the reading.

In 18th-century Europe or early 20th-century Asia, when the average woman had six children, she was doing what it took to replace herself and her mate, because most of those children never reached adulthood. Today in developed countries, an average of 2.1 births per woman would maintain a steady population; in the developing world, “replacement fertility” is somewhat higher. All countries go through a demographic transition in their own time. Since 1970, the population growth rate has fallen by more than 40 percent. In the late 1990s in Europe it fell to 1.4. Though its population continues to grow, China, home to a fifth of the world’s people, is already below replacement. The bad news is that 2030 is two decades away and the largest generation of adolescents in history will then be entering their childbearing years. Is a train wreck in the offing, or will people then be able to live humanely and in a way that doesn’t destroy their environment?

The third symposium will be held in the last week of September at Gill Barlow’s. The topic is **Power and corruption**. New participants are welcome – please call or email Gill.