

The Lac Sir John Community Newsletter

From the Editor:

The Lac-Sir-John Community Newsletter is a voluntary publication with the sole purpose of informing residents at the lake of local social events, activities and general on goings, both upcoming and those which occurred within the past year.

All of you are invited and encouraged to get involved and contribute to any and all lake community activities. Anyone wishing to contribute news of lake activities, an article, a historical tidbit or pass on any information whatsoever to the 2019 edition please send an email by June 30, 2019 to me at oksannap@hotmail.com.

After three years as editor of this community newsletter, Susan Anastasopoulos has stepped down. On behalf of the Lake-Sir-John community, I would like to express our gratitude for your hard work and dedication and for keeping a half century tradition alive.

Oksanna Pohlod (editor)

Hélène Beauchamp, Louise Johnston and Caroline LaPierre/Vincent Gruber and Livio Merlo(Translators)

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- ❖ The annual AGM of the SIJOLM corporation will take place on October 20, 2018 from 10:00-12:00 AM at the Gore Community Center, 9 Chemin Cambria, Gore, QC J0V 1K0.
- ❖ A report from the president of SIJOLM, Merv Trineer, regarding the SIJOLM Corporation will be sent to you separately.

▪ OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

❖ Thomas More Institute

The Thomas More Institute is again offering, at Gore, a "Lifetime Learning" course as part of its Seniors Outreach program.

Title: **"The evolution of detective fiction"**

This course will track the figure of the sleuth from the earliest development through to present day psychological thrillers.

- Fridays 1:30-3:30 9 weeks beginning Oct. 12, 2018
Trinity Community Center, 2 Cambria Rd, just off route 329
Course fee: \$15.00
For more information or to pre-register, contact Claudette Hay, claudedette@hayfamily.net or Jennifer MacGregor, jmacgregor@thomasmore.qc.ca



❖ Compassionate Cat Adoption Urgently Needed!

One of our long-time lake residents, who lived alone, unfortunately passed away this spring. Since then, her three cats have no longer had a warm, loving home. Instead, they have been living outdoors and alone. Thankfully a kind lake resident has been feeding them. However, this make-shift situation cannot continue indefinitely. With colder weather approaching, these cats desperately need a home.

Please, if you can adopt one or more of these cats, or if you know someone who can, contact Vanessa Anastasopoulos at 514-244-3710 or at vanastas@gmail.com.

These cats are neutered, indoor-outdoor cats who were loved and well cared for. One is orange, one is black and white, and one is striped with white patches. They are affections, though some are shy with people they do not know, and they all need to be safe in homes that care for them.

❖ **Be Vigilant!**

There is evidence that someone has been looking through our recycling and/or trash bins and a resident's wallet was found at the entrance to the path to the lookout (possibly burglarized). Please be careful as to what personal information you put in the recycle and or garbage bins.

❖ **From The Gore Express:** New Requirement - For those residing on the Gore section of the lake, beginning immediately, residents wishing to do backfilling and excavation work on their property must apply for a permit with the municipal inspector.

❖ **Lake Protection:** Due to the danger of spreading invasive species, residents and their guests are required to wash all boats that are brought from another location before putting them into Lac Sir John . Gore has a boat washing facility that is available to Lac Sir John residents at no cost where they provide a dated certificate of proof that it was done. 450 562-2025

SIJOLM UPDATE SUMMER 2018

On behalf of your Sijolm president Merv Trineer, here is a brief update concerning major issues that are being worked on your behalf by the Sijolm executive committee.

Access by non-residents to our roads and lake is a common concern. This summer has seen increases in unauthorized visitors. A project to provide suitable privacy signage at entrances and beaches is underway, with Merv working with the local municipalities. Initial "Defense de Passer" and "Stationnement Interdit" signs are in place on the causeway at entrance 1, with thanks to Wayne Chambers. Please continue to challenge people whom you do not know.

Our submission through Lachute to the province for street names allowing precise response by emergency services now requires additional information about intersections. This is being generated by Merv and will be provided to Lachute and then the province.

You will have noted that lake levels are high. To allow better flow without emptying little Lake Sir John on the South side of the causeway, we need to lower two of the concrete culverts by about 15 inches. Christopher Sweeney has taken the lead on this project, and the survey has been conducted by Madore. Permits are then needed from both Lachute and MRC Argenteuil. Competitive tenders are being sought. If feasible the work will be completed in September/October when the water is lower.

Winter roads for this coming year will be paid for and contracted by the city of Lachute, with appropriate contribution from Gore for a small segment. This will replace the contribution agreement formerly provided by Lachute.

The form of our for-profit corporation is making it difficult to receive grants from either of our two municipalities. Merv has attended meetings of the Gore lake associations in June. Of the 26 lakes in the area, we are one of only two that is structured as a for-profit

corporation. All the rest are organized as lake associations or non-profit corporations. This corporate structure issue is not new for the lake and was discussed at the last Annual General Meeting. Doug Dempster will explore the issue and define both the problem and opportunity in time for the fall AGM.

Many of you are aware that our longest-serving trustee, Brian Bouskill, has passed away. Our thoughts go out to his family, and we remember his enormous contribution over many decades.

Our roads member, Henry Andres, will be departing the lake this fall having sold his house. Henry has been at the lake for four decades and has made enormous contributions in many ways, but particularly in maintaining our roads and beaches. Thank you, Henry.

We would like to fill the roads and corporate secretary positions this fall. We are also looking for engagement on the corporate structure way ahead. If you would like to take on any part of this, or contribute in some way, please let Merv Trineer, myself or one of the trustees know. Your trustees are Peter Nicholson, Christopher Sweeney, Ken Bunker and Bruce Adams.

Continue to enjoy and protect our lake.

Doug Dempster, Executive Committee Member

RECENT SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

CORN BOIL

The Corn Boil is a longstanding tradition here at Lac-Sir-John. Its date of origin is not exactly clear and tracking down when the first one was held has proven to be more difficult than expected since it seems that the event has been ongoing for over 60 years.

As far as I can determine, the corn boil began sometime in the late 1950's or possibly a few years before that. Unlike the corn boil today, it was not held as an event by itself but was part of a regatta party that was held at the end of season for the Lac Sir John camp for kids. For many years, it was organized by the Sweeny family. Sometime in the early 1970's the Barlow family took on the responsibility. Here is a summary of their involvement in the corn boil.

When our family, the Barlows, arrived at the lake in 1972, there was a very active social club. We all did fun activities together. My parents, Ken and Gill, were very involved helping to plan and execute activities and my dad's favourite was the corn boil.

The corn season arrives as the summer is winding down so most of the summer lake population would join in, bring food to share and raffle gifts to win, and have a wonderful party.

After 40 or so years of organizing the corn boil we are passing the torch to our wonderful neighbours Terry and Marta Brew, who have taken it on with the enthusiasm it deserves, carrying on this fun summer tradition. Thank you, and we are always around to help.

Debbie Barlow

This year, the August Corn Boil took place on August 11th at 4:00 PM at the Boathouse Beach and was very well attended.

Terry and Martha Brew had again volunteered to organize the Corn Boil. Many thanks go to Merv and Monique Trineer, Jill and Debbie Barlow, Chris and Emma Robitaille, Chris Vroom, Henry Andres, Doug Demester, Derrick Nickolson, Bruce Adams, David Bouskill, Mariam Bowen and Oksanna Pohlod for their time and effort in making it a success.



Anyone wishing to help with the corn boil for next year please contact Terry Brew at 518-260-1395.

LAC SIR JOHN SAILING CLUB 2018

The renaissance of your sailing club continues, this year under Commodore Terry Brew and Vice-Commodore Livio Merlo. Winds in 2018 have been superb, shifting as always, and we often have six or seven boats in our Sunday afternoon races. Indeed on August

4th we had an unprecedented ten boats as Jonathan, Olivier, Mike and Christophe joined us. Of special note, John Bishop, now aged 94, raced again this year with his daughter Susan. Sen Chai, an accomplished woman sailor, raced with us this year for the first time. There two main parts to this renaissance- more boats and sail training.

Started by Chris Vroom some years ago, we are increasing the number of boats available so that sailors without boats or guests can participate. Ron Cole and his son Doug each have brought a boat to the lake and race often. Livio Merlo has completed refurbishment of his yellow-decked boat. Diane Robichaud will lend her boat to Chris Vroom or myself so that we in turn can lend our boats to others. Terry Brew has acquired the former Cayford/Nicholson boat and completed its restoration. He has started restoring the Bouskill boat. If you would like to use one of these boats and try out sailing, contact a club member.

Our second part is sail training. We conducted two sailing clinics in June, in both official languages, and provided in-boat coaching to several people, many of whom were women. There are more people who have expressed interest, and we will repeat next year. If you wish some in-boat coaching, contact Doug Dempster or Chris Vroom.

We remind our residents that boats that are new to the lake can carry invasive species and cyanobacteria that cause blue-green algae blooms. This is a problem in the Laurentians that we at Lake Sir John have so far avoided. We ask that any boat or boat trailer coming from outside the lake be first washed thoroughly with a solution of bleach and water to prevent outbreaks.



For your calendar, our annual sailing party is open to the community. It will occur at Terry Brew's house off Entrance 2 on Sunday 2 September about 4 PM. Please join us.

Doug Dempster

LAKE SYMPOSIA

This discussion group meets during the summer months at various participants' houses. Symposia themes cover a wide range of topics. A few readings and discussion focus questions may be sent in advance. Discussion commences at Happy Hour, accompanied by wine, cocktails and appetizers. Traditionally, a potluck dinner follows. So far, this summer's first two topics were "Truth" and "Protectionism".

The next Symposium will be held Saturday, September 15th and the topic will be "**Our relationship to Nature, our interactions with Nature: Nature's impact upon us and/or our impact upon Nature**"

All are welcome! If you would like to participate contact Susan Anastasopoulos at sanastass@gmail.com.

ENTRANCE GARDENING

Thank you Helene Parenteau and Joanne Michel for the garden maintenance at Entrance One ; Terry and Mart Brew and Gill Barlow at Entrance Two; Kathy Cole, Miep De Groot and Oksanna Pohlod at Entrance Three.

UPCOMING SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

DINNER CLUB

Lac Sir John Dinner Club: The dinner club is inviting new members to try out this activity. The dinner club is open to all and a great opportunity to get to know more of your neighbours, as well as dine fantastically. It meets on the last Saturday night of the month (September, October, November, January, March and May). Diners are assigned at random to various houses and a different theme of international cuisine is chosen for each dinner. The host house prepares the main course and coffee. Others bring hors d'oeuvres, salad or dessert, as well as their bottle of wine.

If you would like to try out the dinner club, please contact Oksanna Pohlod oksannap@hotmail.com by the third week of-September.

RESTAURANT OUTINGS

The Dinner Club organizers will attempt to organize several restaurant dinners open to all members of the Lake Sir John community: a December Christmas Dinner, and another outing in late April. We need volunteers to take responsibility for each of these restaurant outings including choosing the restaurant, making the necessary

arrangements, writing the announcement for lake residents, and receiving their reservation requests by email.

This year our spring outing took place at Eatalya on Bethany in Lachute and the Christmas outing was at Le Boullion. All had a wonderful time.

Please contact Oksanna Pohlod if you would be willing to help arrange for one of the restaurant dinners.

CHRISTMAS DINNER

Everyone in the lake community is invited to join together in our winter celebration - our annual Christmas dinner party to be held in December. Family members and guests are welcome. Watch for the announcement of the place and time, which have not yet been determined.



NEWS ABOUT RESIDENTS

NEW FACES

We wish to welcome our new neighbours and hope they will soon be joining a number of the lake community activities.

Jonathan (Jon) Grover and Heather George have recently bought Henry Andre's house.

Christine Corbeit and Patrice Mazure recently purchased a property near the Gate 1 entrance.

IN MEMORIAM

Our deepest sympathies go to the families and friends of those residents of the lake who have recently passed away.

- Leonardus (Leo) De Groot - May 23, 2018
- Madeleine Poupart - April 25, 2018
- Rose Hamelin - September 27, 2017
- John George - July 16, 2018
- Ross Preville - October 29, 2017
- Don Bunker January 25, 2018
- Brian Bouskill - August 18, 2018

If I have accidentally omitted anyone, please let me know so I can mention them in the next newsletter.

FLORA, FAUNA AND THE ENVIRONMENT

ENVIRONMENT PERSPECTIVE SUMMER 2018

We waited anxiously for the arrival of new leaves in May and the continuing outbreak of forest tent caterpillars. We were all deeply relieved when their presence was greatly reduced over last year. While the cause for this deliverance is unclear, it could well be due to unseasonably low temperatures in April and May that delayed the leaves by ten days. Let us hope the trend continues next year!

June proved to be hot and dry, reducing the population of black flies and mosquitos. Bigger house and deer flies on the other hand were more prevalent.

The summer has been hot, a huge improvement over last year. We will be testing water quality as usual and will report once we have the results. With warmer water temperatures it is even more important to control effluent from septic tanks, and prevent it reaching the lake.

One of the indicators of water quality is wildlife. Once again, we have the sounds and sightings of a loon on the lake. Two great blue herons have been seen flying low and standing motionless on our shoreline. There have been two rafts of Merganser ducks, one of six older ducklings and the other of ten younger ones. A large variety of songbirds is also present this year.



The North end of the lake has been visited by deer, often in pairs, that treat hostas as their buffet. The hostas that line Merv Trineer's driveway are all neatly chewed off, and Oksanna Pohlod has them visit her garden routinely.





In September 2016, during a summer as hot as this one, we observed two instances of a brownish organic scum floating next to the shore. It was lumpy, contained bubbles and could be dispersed into the water by stirring with a stick. Our assessment was that it was an organic protozoan scum made up of single-celled organisms that feed on bacteria in the water, which is a good thing. It presented no health hazard but coated boats and legs. A good reference is at www.townofchapelhill.org Field Guide to Algae and other "Scums". Brain Scully of Vanier College is interested in testing a sample should it appear again. He can be reached at 450 562 5631 or at bscully@vaniercollege.qc.ca.

Most of our residents are keeping their shorelines in original condition, providing wildlife habitat and controlling rainwater run-off. Quebec environmental laws require us to retain all trees over two inches (5 cm) in diameter) within ten metres of the water. We can have a small beach or access point up to 5 metres wide along the shore. We are not allowed to import sand and place it in the lake to make a beach, so many of our residents have built docks to access the lake, socialize and catch the sun. Our Lac Sir John lakeshore is generally in good shape- well done to our owners.

Doug Dempster, Sijolm Environmental Member

Many residents are reporting of complete defoliation of their hostas as well as other garden plants. Keeping deer away will most likely require several strategies.. The best strategy is a high fence but if that is not possible you can try one of the following:

- Sprinkling a little bit of blood near on the leaves around the areas where the deer enter your property. Blood meal is a nitrogen fertilizer made from cows blood and its smell is not appealing to deer.
- Milorganite is another organic nitrogen fertilizer. Its odor is effective at keeping deer away from your gardens.
- Other scents that help deter the deer are:
 - Moth Balls
 - Human Hair
 - Strong Smelling Soap like Irish Spring
 - Urine of Predators (Human, Dog, Coyote, Wolf).
- Another effective way to deter the deer is by putting harsh tastes on the leaves of the plants you want to protect.
 - Deer Repellants: There are commercial Deer Repellent products available that are foul smelling and tasting. Follow the directions for proper application
 - Cayenne Pepper: Many customers make their own deterrent by mixing cayenne pepper with water and dish detergent. The mixture can be applied to the leaves and anything that takes a bite will not want another bite.

Most of these deterrents have a limited life span and will need to be reapplied. Switching these around will stop the deer from getting comfortable with any of them.

CLASSIFIED ADS

- Bruce Adams has a Tempo type garage, size 10x20. He used it one winter only. If anyone out there wants it, they can have it for \$100.00...just come and take it away. Phone # 450-562-8727
- Henry Andres is selling many household items. He welcomes visitors to see them. Call him at 450-280-0417
- Wanted by a lake resident: a small, light rowboat or dingy with a drain hole, in good condition. Call 514-482-8608