

# ***The Lac Sir John Newsletter***

## ***Autumn 2014***

### **From the Editor:**

After a wonderful summer spend watching the great horned owl survey my beach, watching at twilight to see if the beaver would swim by, listening to the goldfinch chatter and sing; after lazy days filled with swimming, boating, gardening, etc., it is time once again to enjoy our autumn colors and catch up on the lake community's news.

This newsletter is intended to keep you informed about social activities and general information of interest to Lac Sir John residents. Messages from the president of SIJOLM, Merv Trineer, related to the SIJOLM corporation, will be sent to you separately.

If you have news related to lake social activities and general information, or something historical to share about the lake community, please send it by the first of the month (April, September,) (in either French or English) preferably in MS Word via email to the editor, [sanastass@gmail.com](mailto:sanastass@gmail.com)

Susan Anastasopoulos (editor and English version)

Louise Chambers (translator: French version)

Mariam Bowen (mailings for the newsletter)

### **Recent Social Activities at the Lake**

The **annual Spring Dinner/Brunch** of the Lac Sir John residents was held last April at La Grange in Morin Heights. It was a great evening and we were well pleased by this new restaurant.

The **August Corn Boil** at Boathouse Beach was a great success with many residents with their family and guests in attendance. If you missed it, be sure to plan to join with us next August for this wonderful chance to meet and mingle with our neighbours. Thanks to the many lake neighbours involved in organizing this event including Laura Cass who organized the food table, Gillian and Dominic Barlow who brought the corn, Gillian for conducting the raffle, Chris Robitaille who arranged the electrical installations and presented the fireworks show, Derek Nicholson who provided the electrical cable, Henry Andres who prepared the grounds and Merv Trineer who provided the financial support from Sijolm.

The **Sailing Club** finished the year with the annual Labour Day sailing party. About 30 people, including sailors, former sailors and numerous other lake residents (some of whom have never sailed) attended this annual Lac Sir John party hosted by Doug Dempster.

This year's Lac Sir John sailing trophy was won by Chris Vroom. The Champaign race was won by Doug Dempster. Next summer, the commodore will be Christopher Sweeney.

Of course, the sailing club (like all other Lake Sir John social activities) is open to all lake residents. (No experience necessary.) Even if you don't have a boat, several sailors would welcome a new crew member - any resident or indeed one of their visitors- who would like to join one or more of our Sunday races in 2015. Contact Doug Dempster [Douglas.dempster@hotmail.ca](mailto:Douglas.dempster@hotmail.ca) to make arrangements. The club would be pleased to provide coaching in sailing if so wished.

The **Lac Sir John Dinner Club** is also 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 (October-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 either hors d'oeuvres or the salad or the dessert, as well as a bottle of wine.

If you would like to try out the dinner club, please contact Ross Cole by mid-October. [ross.cole@yahoo.com](mailto:ross.cole@yahoo.com).

The **Lac Sir John Symposia**. This discussion group meets during the summer months at various members' houses. Our symposia themes cover a wide range of interesting topics. A few readings and discussion focus questions are sent in advance. Then the discussion commences at Happy Hour, accompanied by wine, sangria, ouzo, etc. and nibbles. Traditionally, it has been followed by a pot luck dinner where the main theme plus other topics are discussed. Symposia topics this last summer included "FOOD" and "MEDITATION". All are welcome! If you would like to participate in 2014, please contact Susan Anastasopoulos at [sanastass@gmail.com](mailto:sanastass@gmail.com).

The **Entrances' Gardening Group**. Many thanks to Helene Parenteau and Joanne Michel who have volunteered to maintain the beauty of Entrance One when the landscaping work on the entrances is completed. We welcome other volunteers to participate in a gardening group that will attempt to maintain the beauty of the other entrances to Lac Sir John. If you would be

willing to volunteer, please contact Susan Anastasopoulos at [sanastass@gmail.com](mailto:sanastass@gmail.com). She will then put you in contact with each other.

### **Christmas Lake Sir John Dinner**

Everyone in the lake community is invited to join together in our winter celebration – a Christmas dinner party to be held in December. Watch for the announcement of the place and time, which have not yet been determined.

### **Past Memorabilia: Photos ,Stories and Miscellaneous Documents from Our Lake Community**

As a new addition to the newsletter, residents are invited to share memorabilia from our lake community's history. If you have an interesting old document, photo, etc. please send it to the editor by email ([sanastass@gmail.com](mailto:sanastass@gmail.com)) to be included as an attachment to the next newsletter. Or perhaps you would like to send a very short story account of a lake memory (in French or English).

### **News about residents**

Congratulations to Merv and Monique Trineer who celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary here at the lake this August.

Our warm wishes for a rapid recovery, go out to our long time lake resident and nonagenarian, Sean Grennan, who suffered a serious fall in last month and is convalescing at Sacred Coeur in Montreal.

A beautiful Indian wedding ceremony took place at the lake last August – the wedding of Maxime Larose (son of Chantal Nantel and stepson of her husband, Gerry Roy) and Swathi Vasu. Many LSJ residents came by to witness the gorgeous saris, etc. Congratulations to the newly weds.

Several of our long time residents are now living in Lachute's seniors residence, Le Medallion Dor, but still spend time at their Lac Sir John houses: Ross and Lorraine Preville and Shirley Dempster, Crystal Corbeil has sold her lake home.

Congratulations to Louise and Wayne Chambers for the marriage of their son, Oliver chambers and their new daughter-in –law, Ashley Whiteside last May 31 and their eldest son, James-

Alexander Chambers who will marry Oct. 12 in St. Eustache. Congratulations also to the newly weds.

Our warm wishes to Patti and Michael Fraser who are presently staying in convalescence facilities. Michael and Patti are in La Residence of Lachute.

### **New Faces at the Lake**

We wish to welcome our new neighbors, Livio Merlo and Oksanna Pohlod, of Ottawa, who have purchased Crystal's former house at 1782 Ch. du lac Sir John.

Also we belatedly welcome the family of Stephane Landry, from Gatineau, who now own Frank Hamelin's former house, 1134 from entrance #1

We hope that our recently new residents will soon be joining into a number of the lake community activities.

We may have missed mentioning some recently new residents. If you are new at the lake in the last two or three years, please send us a brief note about yourselves for the next newsletter.

If you would like to participate in a small informal welcoming committee for new residents, please contact [sanastass@gmail.com](mailto:sanastass@gmail.com)

### **Miscellaneous notices and announcements**

[1] One of our residents recently sent information from the October 2014 edition of *The Gore Express* that on both Lake Barron and on Lakes Solar, Caroling and Evans residents' associations have recently been formed and both of these associations have established websites. You can check *The Gore Express* for more information.

[2] The fire preventionist for the city of Lachute, Alain Mallette reminds us that, in accordance with the city bylaw, any outdoor fire, other than a very small one contained in a fire hearth, requires a permit. One can burn only untreated wood, not other materials. If you would like to obtain a permit, call Alain Mallette at the city number (450-562-3781) about a week in advance. He will visit your property and determine whether the proposed fire meets all the bylaw requirements. If it does, he may issue a permit. He says the municipal dump has a shredder which you can use to dispose of wood, also.

[3] Some question has arisen concerning access to and use of our 5 community beaches. We are very fortunate to have these beaches and should perhaps thank the foresight of the original founders of SIJOLM who set aside these 5 properties for the future access and enjoyment of all dues-paying property owners of Lake Sir John. Over the years, their many uses have benefitted so many community members.

All 5 beaches may be used by any property owner for such diverse purposes as walking, swimming, launching a boat, beaching a boat, installing a raft, accessing the delivery of large or heavy items which can only reach one's property by water (by raft or boat), picnicking or holding a beach party, etc.

It should go without saying that if a property owner uses a community beach for any purpose, he/she must be committed to keeping his use brief, to creating no damage and to immediately picking up and leaving nothing behind, and to not interfering with the right of others to also use the beach. For an unusual use, please check in advance with the president of SIJOLM.

There have been occasional incidents of outsiders, unaccompanied by a dues-paying property owner, using our beaches and leaving debris. Please report any such incidents to the president of SIJOLM.

Let's be grateful for our communal beaches and keep them beautiful and accessible.

**Fall gardening tips** (A new feature column by two of our gardening enthusiasts Janet Donald and Gillian Barlow)

The following tips, selected from the periodical *Canadian Gardening*, are appropriate for our lake environment:

- 1. Spread small leaves of trees, such as honeylocust, birch, beech, ginkgo and silver maple (or shredded large Norway maple leaves), under shrubs and over all exposed soil. They will degrade into mineral nutrients; worms will turn them into fertilizer.**
- 2. Wait until the soil has frozen before mulching. After freeze-up, a thick mulch of leaves and evergreen cuttings will keep their root balls safe from the heaving action of frost.**
- 3. Plant garlic in October, in a sunny spot with lots of manure dug in. Set individual cloves eight centimeters deep and 15 centimeters apart, and mulch with five to eight centimeters of leaves. Hard-neck Rocamboles such as 'Music' are the hardiest**

strains, and, when planted in October, can be harvested in July, just as the first cherry tomatoes turn red.

4. Tender hybrid teas, floribunda and grandiflora roses need hilling up about 25 centimeters above their crowns with fresh soil or triple mix.

5. Rake diseased leaves from under roses (blackspot) and crabapples (scab) and dispose of them in the garbage, not the compost. Left on the soil all winter, they will reinoculate the plants with disease spores the following spring.

6. Squirrels 'read' the disturbed soil and marks you leave when planting their favorite tulips and crocuses. Outwit them by concentrating spring **bulb plantings in large groups** and disguising your marks by flooding the soil surface with water. Then cover them with five centimeters of leaves topped with some shrubby branches.

7. Remove the debris of summer annuals, then clean up as much as possible of the perennials, leaving strategic clumps for attractive winter display and food for birds. Sedums, hostas, astilbes and ornamental grasses are beautiful in snow.

8. To protect plants from wind or cold, set up stake-and-burlap barriers, fastened with diaper pins, to break air currents.