

Here is a brief summary of our 2024 ALSJ Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 20 October 2024.

Overview. There was a positive reaction to our accomplishments in our first year of operation, especially with additional mid-year challenges of the SUMMIT conservation in Gore and Lachute's snow removal issue. Our social activities were well-attended and our first fundraising efforts have gone well.

Plans. The Roads Development Master Plan was accepted for implementation over ten years and the community Emergency Plan was approved.

SUMMIT. With a few remaining donors to come, the SUMMIT campaign has gone over the top of our \$75,000 target due to the energy of our campaign chair Susan Bishop and the generosity of our lake community.

Roads. Wayne Chambers has ensured that our road ditches have been cleared and deepened, and the road surface dragged smooth ready for the winter. Three work parties have removed roadside brush and threatening trees on 1.7 kilometers of our roads, improving road safety, dryness and fire resistance. We have also cleared brush north of Entrance 3 to improve safety when entering onto the highway. The contractor Charex was again awarded the three-year Lachute snow removal contract and should not have a learning curve.

Environment. We face increased environmental challenges with an expanding Canada Goose summer resident population and the discovery of Chinese Mystery Snails in Lac Barron upstream of us. Our environmental officer Mariam Bowen and biologist Mathieu Madison measured our lake oxygen levels, an important measure of lake health, down to the depths and found them to be good. As the environment portfolio has become too big, we are dividing it into land and water components.

Lake water level stability. Lachute's management of lake water level stability remains unsatisfactory. As our lake dam unfortunately stayed closed, our lake level rose 31 inches in two days after the tail of a hurricane in July delivered 6 inches of rain.

Municipalities. Our relations with both municipalities are becoming more complex with Lachute seeking to charge us for snow removal after next year and Gore seeking to expand Beattie Park on our side of the Marchand dam. We are covering our "Private" signs this winter at Lachute's request due to their interpretation of Quebec law that allows municipalities to maintain private roads accessible "par tolerance".

Corporate. We have improved our ALSJ website alsj.ca, codified our records policies and filled the welcoming officer position. Our co-treasurer Jane Preville has prepared our financial statements at no cost, saving us expenses. Noting that non-profit

organizations do not pay corporate taxes, we still need an external accountant to submit a corporate tax return.

Priorities. Our priorities for next year are to:

- maintain the snow removal arrangement with Lachute,
- complete conservation of the SUMMIT,
- prevent and suppress invasive animal and plant species,
- stabilize lake water level,
- implement the roads master plan,
- complete the emergency plan, and
- reduce highway 329 danger and noise.

Officers. Our vice-president is now Mariam Bowen. New officer appointments are Chris Romer as Social Coordinator, Jen Lankshear in Records, Louise Chambers in Welcoming and Robert Woodrough in External Relations. We are seeking volunteers for our unfilled and double-hatted positions. Please consider volunteering your time and energy.

Dues. Our community dues for 2024-25 will be \$639 for homes on our roads, \$288 for homes on highway 329 and \$160 for voluntary vacant lot owners.

Membership. For the few property owners who are not yet ALSJ members, please join. We are a stronger community when all together.

Doug Dempster

President ALSJ