

Hello to all Lac Sir-John residents,

May I share with you the progress of our Lake Sir John campaign to protect the 48-acre/19-hectare SUMMIT property just north of Lake Sir John, plus some further exciting news at the end of this note.

With the vigorous leadership of Susan Bishop, we have had wonderful participation from our lake community. The lake community has sent a clear message that they do not want the development of this hill to proceed and that they want to protect our Lake Sir John nature and water.

Sixty-five people /families have donated at <https://www.alsj.ca/campaign-to-protect-the-summit/>. Together we have raised an astonishing \$120,000. There are also people who have made pledges for 2025 that have not been included in these numbers.

A huge thank you to every donor, as every donation makes a difference! Many members of our lake community have been honored and remembered as part of our campaign.

The level of participation and the amount we have raised puts us in a strong position for government grants which are critical to our success. Conservation Lakefield applied for the Quebec grants on Jan 15, 2025. They will be applying for the Federal grants in April.

Anyone who donated should have received their Conservation Lakefield tax slip in January. If you did not receive your tax slip, please contact Susan at susanbishop@sympatico.ca

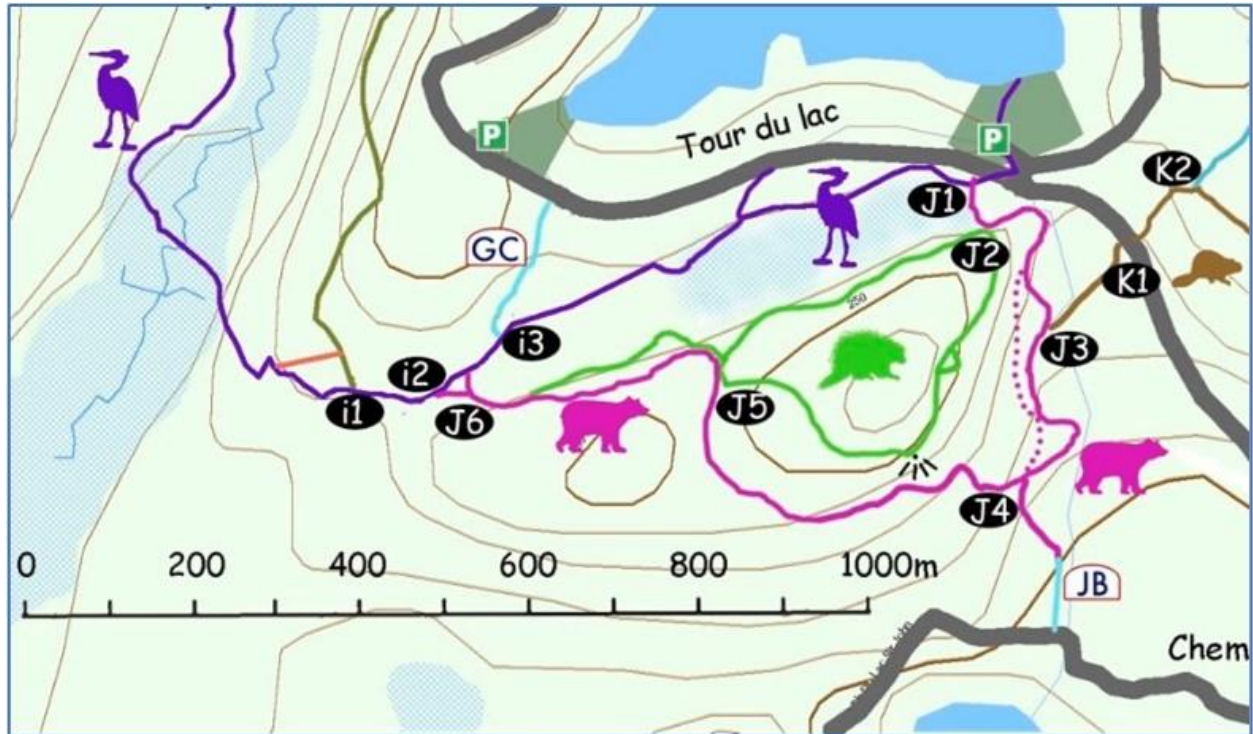
Two new trails north of Lake Sir John have been created in the SUMMIT property, the Bear and the Porcupine. Several Lake Sir John residents helped with the creation of these trails, with many trying them out. The edge of Lake Sir John can be seen in the bottom right of the map below.

ALSJ is planning to have a snowshoe trail walk through the new SUMMIT trails on Saturday Feb 15th. Susan Bishop will be leading on cross-country skis. Please mark your calendar. Note also a snowshoe trail walk on Saturday Feb 8th near Entrance 1. Details have been shared separately.

There is an access trail at the base of the hill below 1736 Chemin du Lac Sir John (just north of North Beach). Conservation Lakefield has labelled this access trail the John Bishop Way. A photo of the sign is attached to this note.

Conservation Lakefield shared the following with the Lakefield Estate community:

“John Bishop (1924-2022) developed the Lakefield Estate’s first ski trail in the 1960s, well before the Lakefield Estates even existed. His trail included today’s Grand Héron, with his original bridge straddling the Rivière de l’Est, and looped back across both Lac Écho and Lac Kenny. Setting out from his family’s cottage on Lac Sir-John, near the new pathway bearing his name, he continued skiing our trails and enthusiastically helping to maintain them well into his senior years. John was 96 years old the last time he skied. Above all, he was a committed environmentalist and community activist, promoting green spaces and sustainability in every milieu.”



Success of Conservation Lakefield's current fund-raising campaign to "Protect the SUMMIT" will assure the continued existence of the two new trails which are available to all Lake Sir John and Lakefield Estate Residents. Conservation Lakefield expects to acquire the area by the end of 2025, preventing any further real estate development.

Paul Baillargeon from Lake Sir John has joined the Conservation Lakefield Board as one of the five directors. He is doing an excellent job of keeping our community connected with Conservation Lakefield. Many Lake Sir John residents are now Lifetime Members of Conservation Lakefield having donated \$2000 or more in one year.

In an exciting and complementary project, Conservation Lakefield is also in the process of preserving a large 198-acre/ 80-hectare area of wetland 500 metres southwest of the SUMMIT, 600 metres west of Lake Sir John and just north of Undermount Farm. The Naamani property lies on the Lachute side of the Gore- Lachute boundary and reaches all the way to the Dunany Road (Highway 327). Ducks Unlimited Canada is funding this land acquisition. This project should close in March 2025.

Many thanks for your participation and generosity. Thanks to Susan Bishop and Paul Baillargeon for their commitment and dedication.

Doug Dempster
President Lac Sir-John Community