



## President's Update February 2025

Hello to all our residents,

Winter is upon us, and many are enjoying activities on our frozen lake, roads and snowshoe trails. The attached photo is of David Nicholson, visiting from Australia with his family, on a lake skating rink along with Max Laflamme, Kayla Eisenstat and their bulldog.

Our winter activities are now programmed, with further details in posters provided separately by Chris Romer. These are wonderful opportunities to meet neighbours and build our community:

- South end snowshoe walk starting at 13:00 on Saturday 8 February from 1143/1138 Hebert/Minkoff (Entrance 1), with light refreshments afterwards at 1150 Dempster,
- North end snowshoe trail walk at 13:00 on Saturday 15 February from 1744 Poulin/North Beach (Entrance 3), with reception afterwards at 1774 De Groot, and
- Undermount Farm Sugar Bush Saturday 29 March, with alternate weather date Sunday 30 March.

Our winter road service by Charex is working well, with the roads thankfully well frozen before ploughing began. Wayne Chambers and I are watching for periodic thaws and the spring melt. We are monitoring developments on possible financial changes to Lachute's completely subsidized winter road snow clearance.

We have established a task force led by Terry Brew to address the potential threat of invasive Chinese Mystery Snails (CMS). CMS have been found at a Dunany Lake and at Lake Barron, six lakes above Lac Sir John in the Williams Creek watershed. CMS can breed quickly with live young, pollute the water and hurt feet if one steps on them. Lake Brennan in the Laurentians has experienced a nightmare of CMS proliferation. To be clear, no CMS have been detected in our lake or other lakes above us. We are planning a surveillance period in June before aquatic plants grow, using divers, with a focus on the area between the Marchand dam and the highway 329 bridge. We are planning an engagement with the Alliance of Gore Lake Associations and with the two municipalities. We will seek municipal grants for environmental surveillance and permits for harvesting if necessary. CMS prefer shallow water, so we are seeking to avoid water spilling over the top of the Marchand dam in the summer season, as the spillway can potentially carry infant snails over the top.

I have shared a separate note on the SUMMIT campaign. Our community has really stepped up to the plate on this challenge, and we have built good relations with Jean-Martin and Louise Laberge of Domaine Lakefield. Thanks to Susan Bishop for her dedication and energy.

The Major of Gore, Scott Pearce, has announced on Facebook that he is resigning his post. We understand that the deputy mayor Alain Giroux will take over until an election in October. We are not yet sure of the implications.

While most of our residents have paid their dues, there are still a few dues outstanding. Your timely payment is appreciated, as we have necessary expenses to pay.

With best wishes to you and your family,

Doug Dempster  
President  
Association Lac Sir-John