



Gauvreau Lake News - June 2009

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Lac Gauvreau Still At Risk!

The appearance of an algal bloom (cyanobacteria or blue-green algae) early last November confirms that our lake remains vulnerable to this kind of pollution.

Cyanobacteria is naturally occurring, but its growth is encouraged by the presence of nutrients such as phosphorous and nitrogen, and under the right conditions can produce algal blooms that have the potential to be toxic. Tests show that the phosphate level in our lake is still above that recognized as 'eutrophic', a condition that accelerates the aging or dying of the lake.

Where do the nutrients come from?

Surface water runoff into the lake carries phosphates and nitrates from farm fields and around our cottages and houses. Cleaning products, fertilizers and animal and human waste all contain these chemicals: even properly functioning septic systems, which effectively dissipate most bacteria, do not deal with the nutrients. These by-products saturate the ground, and eventually are carried in the lake via streams or runoff.

What can we do about it?

Only phosphate-free household cleaning products are to be used. They are readily available at all local stores.

Don't use fertilizers for your grass or plants. Nature takes care of things just fine.

And be sure to plant lots of trees, grasses and other nutrient-hungry plants along your shoreline, and especially between your septic field and the lake. The Regional Municipality has recently drafted a by-law designed to prevent grass and tree cutting along watercourses, including appropriate sanctions against offenders. We can get a head-start on the up-coming legislation by starting immediately to leave a five-metre wide strip untouched along our lakeshore. Contact your Association rep to learn about assistance in shoreline restoration.

Some Good News!

Tests for fecal coliform in Lac Gauvreau continue to show improvement. With the exception of the area immediately at the mouth of our creek inlets, spot tests show that the water meets the provincial standards for swimming. Indeed, the figures show an improvement over the past few years, apparently keeping pace with the septic systems testing and restoration program conducted by the Municipality. Continued vigilance in this regard will ensure that this progress is maintained.

Parent Creek Renewal

As confirmed by the major study conducted in the Fall of 2007, Parent Creek remains a main source of pollution into Lac Gauvreau. While accomplishment of all the corrective measures

suggested would take some time and the collaboration of many parties, the Association has decided to move more quickly with remedies that will bear fruit sooner.

Supported by the Municipality, we proposed the establishment of a filtering marsh near the mouth of the creek which would capture sediment coming from upstream. This is not supported by the provincial authorities (MDDEP), so we have argued for more achievable results, concentrating on the worst stretches of the creek within a few kilometres of the lake. The latest info in this project will be featured at our Annual General Meeting on 27 Jun 2009.

Annual General Meeting

On June 27th at the recreation Centre in Masham, we will hold our 2009 Annual General Meeting and Information Day. The agenda will include the most recent information on new by-laws, and lake water testing as well as a description of the Parent Creek project. The Municipal authorities are expected to be present to bring us up to date.

Your attendance is your opportunity to address any concerns you may have and to signal your support for the environment of our lake. The modest

membership fee of \$5, ensures that your Association continues in its efforts with the

Municipality and other agencies to improve the water quality.

See you there!

The Lake Association Directors

Co-presidents:

John Leech, Bertrand Haubert

Secretary:

Yves Roy

Treasurer & sector rep NW shore:

John Shaughnessy

Sector reps:

Marvin Sobb, Bertrand Rd.

Patrick Reid, South Shore

Anne Leech, Robertson Rd.

Catherine Barrette, Murray Rd.

Blair Kingsbury, Whippoorwill Campsite.

Directors at large:

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