



Gauvreau Lake News - August 2010

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Shoreline Restoration: Priority for All

For some years now, your Association has been advocating the restoral of the Gauvreau Lake shoreline to its natural state. After all, natural vegetation on the border of a body of water acts as a natural filter: it intercepts the runoff coming over your property, thereby reducing the possibility of contamination (phosphates, nitrates, coliforms and others). Through the ability of the trees roots to retain soil, the vegetation also stabilizes the shoreline, reducing erosion. Mother Nature in action!!

And Now It's the Law!

The MRC des Collines de l'Outaouais has passed an interim regulation (137-09) covering all properties that border any body of water. (See the link on our Association web-site.) Essentially it prohibits any control of vegetation, including lawn and grass mowing, tree cutting and bush clearing within a distance of 5 metres (16.5 feet) of the shore. You are, however, permitted to clear immediately around existing buildings and separate provision is made for a path from the building to the shoreline.

In addition, if the vegetation within the shoreline strip is not in its natural state, you must take action to restore the vegetation before **March 19th 2011**. An Annex to the regulation lists suitable plants and bushes to do this. Contact

your Association to participate in our shoreline restoration project.

Who Is Responsible to Enforce This Regulation?

The Municipality of La Pêche has this responsibility as far as Gauvreau Lake is concerned. The regulation specifies that the official designated by the Municipality can undertake legal proceedings against any violator. For the first offence, the fine varies from \$300-\$2000; repeat offenders can be fined from \$500-\$4000.

Take Action Now

No need to wait till the last moment. Restoring your shoreline is a win-win proposition: nature's filter helps preserve our Lake and your pocketbook!

Successful Annual Meeting

Thanks to all residents who made our Annual General Meeting (AGM) a success. Mayor Bussière and Marcel Marchildon from the Municipality reported on ongoing Municipal initiatives and were able to hear our goals and concerns firsthand. Other highlights included:

- Faecal coliform tests continue to demonstrate that the Lake is safe for swimming, except at the mouth of Parent Creek. Anomalies will be pursued with the Municipality;

- Phosphate levels in the Lake remain elevated, a state which continues to foster the possibility of the appearance of algae;
- It was reported that the Parent Creek banks appear to be improving. Further testing is required to confirm whether this will have the desired effect;
- New volunteers to serve on the Board of Directors (BOD) for the Association came forward: see the list of the BOD members below.

New Membership Fee for 2011

At the July AGM the members called on the Board of Directors to consider raising the fees for 2011. Taking into account the increase in rental for the meeting hall, the rising costs of water testing and production of educational material, the Board of Directors decided to set the annual membership fee for 2011 at \$20 per household. This will allow us to continue valuable services, as well as provide a small reserve for contingency and opportunity projects.

Phosphate-Free Household Products

Using phosphate-free products for washing and cleaning will help to reduce the level of nutrients in our lake. Our septic systems are made to disperse bacteria and they do a good job when functioning properly; but phosphates pass right through, saturating the ground around the tile beds, eventually to be swept into the lake by runoff water.

So: use phosphate-free products: fewer phosphates in mean fewer out.

The remaining phosphates from human waste will be absorbed by the vegetation between the septic system and the shore.

Slowly but surely the lake water will improve, reducing the threat of algal blooms.

The Lake Association Directors

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John Leech

Secretary:

Yves Roy

Acting Treasurer

Brian Reagan

Sector reps:

Marvin Sobb, Bertrand Rd.

Patrick Reid, South Shore

Anne Leech, Robertson Rd.

Catherine Barrette, Murray Rd.

Directors at large:

Ian Arnold

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Dan Dorion

Norm Dorion

Jeremy Foss

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For Info on These or Other Topics Visit Our Web-Site at

<http://enviro.gauvreau.googlepages.com/>

