

Association pour la protection des lacs Ludger et Cardin Inc.
C.P. 146, Lantier, QC, J0T 1V0

ECHOES FROM THE LAKES - SPRING 2004

AGENDA

- June 27th **Well water testing** - Town Hall - **from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 noon.**
Pick up your sterile bottle early and return with your sample before noon. For more details see below.
- July 4th **Annual meeting** - promptly at **10:00 A.M.** (note time). On the agenda :
finances, files in progress, question and answer period, etc., and water tests results afterwards.

WATER TESTS

We suggest you verify the quality of your drinking water at least once a year. To make it easier for you, an agreement has been made with Bio Services in Ste. Agathe. In each case membership is required and there is a \$10 saving.

Well water tests

- **Test for total coliform - standard test** **FREE FOR MEMBERS**
Results will be rated "test satisfactory" or "test unsatisfactory" and this indicates whether contamination has taken place
- **Tests (2) for total and fecal coliform (E-Coli)** **10,00\$**
Results will be rated "water potable" or "water not potable"
- **Tests (4) for complete bacterial analysis (E-Coli)** **30,00\$**
Results will be rated "water potable" or "water not potable"

Lake water testing

This year we are having a complete study done of the water quality and overall condition of our lakes - however bacteriological testing is not being done. Therefore, in order to get a complete picture of the lakes, we plan to do our regular testing on a Monday or Tuesday about the 3rd or 4th week of July, when the water is the warmest. If anyone is concerned about any area in the lakes or streams where they would like to see testing, please ask Jack Watson (☎ 514.457.6422).

LET US PROTECT OUR LAKES

Strong of the knowledge that our lakes are fragile and growing old, the APLC executive has sought out a partnership with the municipality of Lantier in getting another project: "The inclusion of lakes Ludger and Cardin in a study concerning Laurentian Lakes which is headed by Mr. R. Carignan of the University of Montreal. This extensive research has already begun in March 2004 and will go on for one (1) year. We have negotiated an arrangement by which the APLC contribution of \$3,465.00 will be paid over a period of three (3) years.

Here are our principal aims of this study:

- ✧ Establish the present state and levels of phosphorous and nitrogen of our lakes
- ✧ Identify the principal causes, natural or human, for these levels
- ✧ Inform the municipality and the APLC of the recommendations for action on the basis of their research to prolong the life of our lakes.

The work

- ✧ Three (3) testing stations have been planned: one in lake Cardin and two in lake Ludger (shallowest and deepest areas)
- ✧ The quality of the incoming water will be followed in the 5 principal streams. There will be 25 tests taken during the course of the year and a comparison established between the results of the stream tests and their *Bassins versants*.
- ✧ There will be seven (7) visits (March, May, June, July, September, October, November 2004)
- ✧ Time frame, one (1) year

At the end of the year's research, reports will be sent to the Ministry of Environment of Quebec, the Municipality and the APLC. The results will be interpreted by the lead of the research, Mr. Carignan, during two (2) general public meetings, one in August 2004 and the other at the end of the project.

The executive of the APLC is very happy to be part of this project. At last, we will have a basis of measurements on the state of our lakes and better be able to follow the evolution of the aging, suggest ways to retard it. This action on our part is preventative and is in accord with our RAISON D'ÊTRE. We wish to thank the Municipality who has supported our project both ideologically and financially. The complete description of the proposal, tests, finances, etc., will be available on June 27th and July 4th.

ECOLOGY

The recycling bins situated in different areas are really there to be used for recycling only. They are not garbage bins. If you have any questions or hesitations, please consult the pamphlet published by the Municipality, it is usually attached to your annual taxes. In two (2) years, each home will need to use individual recycling bins, it might be a good idea to start now and get used to it.

REGENERATION




In August 2003, one of our members, Simon Allaire-Vigeant, participated in a day of learning on the subject of the "naturalisation of our lakeshores" which was sponsored by CRELA. Simon has been interested in the environment for a few years now, he is very knowledgeable and wishes to offer his services to the members of the APLC.

Should you have any questions or perhaps you might like an evaluation of the erosion of your own lakeshore, or help with the plans to regenerate your shorefront, Simon is willing to communicate with you by E-Mail at allvigs@colvir.net

Following his attendance at the above, the APLC executive asked Simon to write a short article on the subject that we could add to the pages of our ECHO. This article is now ready but too long unfortunately for the ECHO. Copies will be available for those interested on June 27th and July 4th.

WATCH OUT FOR PHOSPHATES

The same can be said about phosphates as can be said about a host of other things: when they are present in excessive amounts, they create major problems. Phosphates become destructive when present in overly large quantities because they over fertilize the surrounding bodies of water. They are also the only fertilizers that we can efficiently control and consequently, a lot of attention is focused on them. Over fertilization is primarily a "disease specific to lakes" and it must be dealt with the utmost urgency. Our day-to-day activities artificially increase the amount of phosphates entering the lake and contribute to its degradation. It is like overweight!

-  First symptom: The aquatic plants proliferate
-  Second symptom: Algae growth (troubled water looking like a real green pea soup, sickening odours)
-  Other symptoms: An increase in the rate of silting up

The causes of over fertilization are relatively easy to identify. They are almost exclusively due to human activity. Waste water is top on the list, the second villain on the list is erosion. Cottagers must realize that, as individuals, they can help to protect their lake. First and foremost, you must ensure that your septic systems are installed according to the norms and you must also prevent the degradation of the shoreline by abiding to the recommended guidelines. Protection must take place at two levels: the untouched natural environment must be safely guarded and the damaged sectors of the environment must be regenerated and erosion must be put in check. Use of detergents phosphate-free is also recommended. Phosphates free cleansers information and where to find them will be available at our meetings. Should you have any questions on the above, please contact Delores Watson, our "specialist" (☎ 514.4577.6422)

(From a FAPEL publication)

NEWS

↳ **Watch out for speeding!** Speed limits have been reduced to 50 KM in the heart of the village of Lantier and to 70 KM on the approaches. The Municipality is now considering the speed limits to impose on side roads.

↳ **Budget 2004** The Municipality has put aside funds for the construction of a fire hall and plans to repair Beauchamp Bridge on Chemin du lac Ludger.

↳ **A fresh air committee** has been created, consisting of six (6) people interested in making cross country skiing and bicycle paths.

↳ **By-law 76-2003.** Dogs in Lantier need to be licensed. 2004 tags can be purchased at the Municipality office, ☎ 326-2674.

PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

Regulation of speed on waterways

It was stated in our fall newsletter of 2003 that the municipality of Lantier had adopted a rule to regulate the speed of motor boats and other powered water vehicles to 10kms/hour in a band of 50 meters all around lakes Ludger and Cardin. It is a matter of security for those who practice swimming, canoeing, etc. and it is also a matter of protecting our shoreline from degradation due to powerful waves. All residents and visitors may consult this new regulation which appears on several posters in different areas of our municipality.

Your APLC became a partner with the municipality 50-50 for the purchase of 11 buoys. These buoys will be installed on strategic areas on both lakes in time for summer. We invite you to pay attention to these, and to respect the speed limits indicated. The municipality has asked the Sûreté du Québec to monitor our lakes for any infraction to the regulations.

Meeting with other associations from Lantier: Association de la Montagne Noire et Association du Lac Dufresne)

Saturday, November 8th 2003, the members of your executive organised a meeting with the above associations in order to find out if we could pool our knowledge and resources in the best interests of all. Each one gave a brief summary of their raison-d'être and objectives as well as their accomplishments so far. A consensus was reached that all wanted to cooperate on common concerns. A first step was to involve the 3 in the purchase of trees and shrubs in the spring of 2004. We may have better prices, and better service we hope, simply because of the increased numbers of plants ordered.

MEMORIES

I was only 8 or 9 when I spent my first summer in Lantier. I lived in a white boarding house that belonged to Guy Lanthier's parents. I was situated next to Donat Desroches'house, and there were numerous children living there. We had a great time!

We spent most of the summer in the water or in rowboats (no life savers) and I can't believe to this day that I joined the others in filling the boats with garter snakes from time to time. Also, at times, early in the morning, we would walk down to the stream at the corner of Route 329 and Chemin de la Source; we would tie small hooks on strings and fish for trout.

We would then proudly bring our catch to the cook of the boarding house so that she could fry them for breakfast. Oh! Sweet memories . . . trout in Lake Ludger and garter snakes galore, a boarding house . . . Are there still some left???

Delores Watson

DID YOU KNOW THAT... ?

One Quebecer on three gets its water from a residential artesian well . . . and the quality of the underground waters gets deteriorated as fast as pollution increase.

WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT ☺

On the first page of the Journal "Forum" published by the University of Montreal dated March 8th 2004, one can read the following: "Lac Saint-Pierre is dying". There are photos to illustrate the title. According to Richard Carignan, PhD, professor in the department of Biological Sciences, in 100 years, Lac Saint-Pierre will be a huge swamp and marshland.

According to this article, 15 years ago researchers were of the opinion that there was no active sedimentation going on because the bottom of the lake was sand like and for sedimentation to occur finer particles are necessary. Mr. Carignan admits they were wrong because in the summer of 2003 they began a research on Lac Saint-Pierre that took into account the quality of the water, the speed of flow and its depth. They found that in 15 years, the sedimentation had increased by 140 cms. They say that this is due in a substantial way to the erosion caused by the high waves produced by boats who literally take away 3 million tons of sand from the banks of the lake. Lac Saint-Pierre has entered a vicious circle - nutrients, diminution of its depth due to increased sedimentation. The lake is dying!

The A.P.L.C. wants to avoid this from happening to lakes Ludger and Cardin. And that is why we have joined the "Study of the capacity of support of Laurentian lakes" in partnership with the Municipality of Lantier and to which we are contributing financially. Research work has already begun on our lakes in March 2004.

We are conscious of the fact that the past executives of the A.P.L.C. played a determining role in securing our present nautical rules of which the 10 Km/hr on a band of 50 meters around our lakes will help to diminish the erosion caused by the strength of the waves of high powered motorboats and seadoos. That is a first step.

The second step would be to stop using pesticides, fertilizers or other detergent products with phosphates in our houses and on our grounds. Will we be able to do this? Voluntarily? Do we love our lakes sufficiently to do so?

Have a great summer in our lovely area of the Laurentians.

HAVE A SAFE, ENJOYABLE SUMMER!