

**Draft Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**  
**26 September 2020**  
**Lac Gauvreau Environmental Protection Association**  
***l'Association pour la protection de l'environnement du Lac Gauvreau.***

**Introduction:**

Caitlin (CM) explained how the meeting would run and provided technical details of the Zoom technology.

The co-chair, John Leech (JL), welcomed participants at 10:00 and noted that BoD members were in attendance. JL remarked on Yves Roy's contributions on the GLEA and on the Lake. Yves has sold his cottage and left the lake, -Here is what JL had to say:

“Your presence as a founding member of our association and assiduous work on our behalf has been extraordinary. Without your understanding of the ways of the Provincial and the Municipal governments I can safely say that we would not have achieved the progress accomplished in the past 20 years. Your eloquent letters have solved many difficult problems and your frank participation in our deliberations have been most valuable to me and all the members of our group. I have enjoyed working with you immensely.”

**1. La parole à nos invités / Remarks From Our Guests:**

JL welcomed Mayor Lamoureux. The mayor congratulated the organization for working with ABV des 7 and for hosting a webinar on how to deal with Milfoil. For Lapeche, ABV des 7 is the designated agency for dealing with the LaPeche watershed as per Quebec government requirements. ABV des 7 has numerous relevant specialists as part of their organization. He noted that the municipality has put in place a Green Fund for specific projects. GLEA has benefited from the fund. A second wave of funding is coming this fall – likely in October. The Mayor offered to answer questions:

**Tom Booth:**

- a) “Has the mayor appointed Lac Gauvreau Secours to represent him or the municipality in an attempt to ban motor boats and will he ensure they are following procedures outlined by the Federal Ministry? They appear to be acting secretively and not following the legislated procedures which require public consultation by the municipality at the beginning and also require alternate solutions be tried. It

appears LGS is trying to bypass legal requirements and is being funded in part by the mayors green fund”.

- b) “Who or what is Lac Gauvreau Secours? They appear to be an anti-motor boat group with 5 principals trying to ban boats on our lake without the consensus, consultation with property owners affected.”

The mayor noted that there are some lakes in LaPeche with regulations with respect to boats. LGS is researching whether there is a link between Milfoil and motorboats. LGS has asked the municipality to move forward with a case study to be used as the basis of discussions with Transport Canada. Results for Lac Gauvreau may be applied for other lakes. Once we see how the process goes at Lac Gauvreau, we will see if it can be applied elsewhere. TC approach is consultative and science based. The mayor states he does not have a mandate to ban motorboats

**Other questions posed – some to be answered at a later date due to time restrictions:**

**Geoff and Claire:**

Is the plan to spread burlap tarps over the milfoil weedbeds still proceeding? What are the costs and timelines?

**Chantal Perron:** How many Property Owners on Lac Gauvreau have you contacted and received support prior to submitting your 215-signature petition to ban motorboats and subsequent grant application?

What was Lac Gauvreau Secours the grant application for, and where there and Grant approval conditions?

What was Lac Gauvreau Secours grant application for, and what were the and Grant approval conditions?

What is the conclusion of the Report?

Why is Lac Gauvreau Secours co-hosting our Association's meeting?

Yes, what was ABVdes7 conclusion?

Can we vote by phone or email to make sure that both property owners are heard?

Too bad I can't post pictures of many Canoes, Kayaks, Pedal boats all going and fishing in the Milfoil,

Surely that has nothing to do motorboats....

**Tom Booth:** Will the mayor support all groups that wish to ban motor boats on all the lakes in the municipality or only the Lac Gauvreau Secours which has been funded by the green fund?

So all lakes in the municipality with milfoil are at risk of motor boat banning supported by the mayor?  
ABV de 7 promotes burlap tarps but we seem to be going toward boat banning instead and it's very much dividing our lake

M. Mayor do you feel you have a mandate from your electorate to ban motor boats?

Did the mayor not state that he appointed ABV de 7 to represent him in effort to apply to ministry for motor boat ban?

**John Shaughnessy:** Has Transport Canada approved any motor boat free lakes in the past ten years in Quebec or elsewhere? I believe waterways are their responsibility.

**Kelly Smith:** Can we ask the mayor to ensure the results of this consultation be posted and made public via the municipal website? Please also post the exact name of the organization hired by Lac Gauvreau Secours to complete this study.

I propose the vote/ poll be accepted after the meeting for a longer period of time as nobody was notified that they would need to log into multiple devices in order to place multiple votes. We can't possibly be logged into 4 devices to vote on our behalf and the proxy votes we have been authorized to vote for. Please confirm you will work with members in order to ensure their voice will be counted.

**Marc:** instead of concentrating on the topic of getting rid of the motor boats, why cant we concentrate on finding a solution to get rid of the millfoil? How many of us are online?

**Phil Allen, ReBecca Richardson:** As Marc said earlier - " Instead of concentrating on the topic of getting rid of the motor boats, why cant we concentrate on finding a solution to get rid of the millfoil?" Which may or may not include actions on all watercraft, including those without motors.

**Johanne, Rick:** I do not see the polling station on my screen. Can 2 votes be recorded from the same computer in the same household?

2. **Compte rendu de l'Assemblée générale du 6 juillet 2019 / Record of the General Meeting held 6 July 2019:**

Approval moved by Caitlin moved; Seconded by Phil Allen; Approved



Final Minutes AGM  
2019.docx

3. **Rapport annuel / Annual Report:** See attached Report from John Leech:



AGM 2020 A.pdf

**Motion:** It is moved by IA and seconded by JS that :Lake residents be encouraged to treat milfoil in front of their properties, using approved methods, and accept the responsibility of being responsible boaters through endorsement of the attached measures suggested by the concerned group of boaters.

**Discussion:**

**Kelly** noted that she supports the motion and noted that higher speeds are needed to get boats on plane which will decrease wake size. She noted that big boats going slowly, untrimmed, can cause huge wakes. JL agreed

**Jill Dickson & David Giannandrea** Can you please clarify what are the "approved methods"?

**John Leech:** We have heard that we can restore areas for swimming and boating and on our property using machinery of low impact – All devices although burlap is still under discussion. The GLEA will make up a user guide and send out over the winter

**Kristen Walsh and Bob Walsh** Is the purpose of this motion to protect boating or to protect the health of the lake? And can this be proposed on a permanent basis?

**John Leech:** Letter suggested a trial basis. GLEA is endorsing the letter. In the future, the GLEA may make

further suggestions re: permanence.

**Barb Booth:** I think the letter specified "voluntary" measures I think it needs to be clear that those who signed the letter did so under the agreement that this be a VOLUNTARY effort by everyone. Not a regulation, not enforcement

**Alice Bowler:** re. boater's list. Are these "suggested" behavioural changes? How would these be enforced?

**John Leech:** The GLEA can't enforce it – hopefully education will help.

**Unknown Questioner:** Will someone please address the fact that – unlike canoes/kayaks – watercraft with propellers can divide a single length of milfoil, which floats beyond the buoys, into huge numbers of viable pieces thereby propagating the weed exponentially?

**Leanne Olson:** Good question - who will monitor these "responsible" behaviours? There are no specifics noted about these responsibilities - speed, engine size, etc.

**Jackie Turpin:** I am very concerned that Self Regulating any and all water activities will create more division and animosity in our community.

**Claire/Jeffrey:** the natural biology of eurasian milfoil contributes to its propagation. It is established that milfoil's preferred means of propagation is not through its seeds or root system, but by fractioning of its upper ramifications. Moreover, plants begin to die after 3 to 5 years. They rot at the base, collect in large swaths of floating islands, and are carried downwind or by currents to other shores. The heads of the plant begin to sprout roots as they travel, using the rotted parts of the plant as its own fertilizer. By the time they hit a new shore, even rocky ones, they are ready to colonize the area and spread quickly. It really is a zombie plant. We have been witnessing this phenomenon all summer long. A number of studies have shown that boat wakes significantly contribute to the abatement of weed bed, the destruction of natural habitat and the erosion of shorelines. These studies seem to be enough for the Québec Ministry of the Environment to suggest there is a link. (See : <http://www.environnement.gouv.qc.ca/biodiversite/especes-exotiques-envahissantes/myriophylle-epi/index.htm#repro-propag> ).

**Michel Laurin:** I notice this year that they are NOT shooting oxygen in the water in that north west bay of the lake ....why is that?

**Kelly Smith:** We agree. We need the focus to be on controlling the milfoil. I am concerned that any initiative to restrict boat activity on this lake will significantly lower the value of our properties. My understanding is that property values are significantly lower on properties located on motor free lakes such a Bell Lake. They are also much smaller lakes.

**Emmanuelle:** Difficult to deal with the whole island.

**Thomas Wolstenholme:** Everything boating breaks up the Milfoil. There are some folks that don't seem to get it. Boats run at half speeds generate massive wakes. Boats that tow tubes for two hours at a time lead to massive wave generation. Without enforcement, nothing will work. We are years away from having abatement through burlap and other means.

**John Leech:** We are not in the enforcement business. Ministry of transport may impose further restrictions that may lead to further enforcement.

**Leanne Olson:** According to an American study, property values fell once a lake was so damaged by milfoil that it became more of a swamp and fishing, swimming, etc. was no longer feasible on that lake.

**Justin Nicholson:** I know this has been discussed already, and will likely come up again.. Hoping to get further clarification re: removing it (Milfoil) ourselves; after this meeting can I start removing the milfoil in front of my property by hand or with a rake? Are we thinking it is better to wait until the spring?

**Jackie Turpin:** What is your definition of a large boat? This lake is too small for large, wake boats.

**Kristin and Bob Walsh:** Agree with the comment about property values significantly decreasing with the poor lake health/an lake where swimming is an issue. Without a clear long term plan we are losing our capacity to respond with the urgency required when tackling invasive species. It's only a matter of time before other invasive species are introduced to the lake.

**Claire and Geoff:** I'm concerned by the suggestion that raking, cutting or pulling milfoil out is being encouraged. This has been shown to be the worst possible way to control the plant, that it only contributes

to its propagation and re-invigorates it, especially if the clean-up picking-up loose strands is neglected. Is the Association really considering promoting this method?

**Chantale Perron:** Is Lac Gauvreau Secours really up to find a solution to Milfiol, or get rid of boats? Why is Lac Gauvreau Secours promoting their website in this meeting?

**Kelly Smith:** I would like clarification regarding the 200 signatures obtained by Gauvreau Secours to ban motorboats and also gain the support of the municipality to fund the consultation. The forms were left in public spaces for anyone to sign. Should you not have to be an actual property owner or lake resident to sign a petition to ban motorboats on a lake?

**Brian Sutherland:** Hand-pulling milfoil (including the roots) has proven an effective method of milfoil plant mass removal in numerous North American jurisdictions, over many years. After the initial large removal effort, yearly control of milfoil becomes relatively low effort (e.g. <10% of initial removal hours). Consequential benefits include improved lake ecology and water quality, normal watercraft usage, improved swimming, and more.

**Rejean:** Request for amendment on original motion below:

ORIGINAL MOTION: It is moved by IA and seconded by JS that :Lake residents be encouraged to treat milfoil in front of their properties, using approved methods, and accept the responsibility of being responsible boaters through endorsement of the attached measures suggested by the concerned group of boaters.

**Proposed amendment by Rejean:**

AMENDED MOTION: It is moved by IA and seconded by JS that: "Lake residents be encouraged to treat milfoil in front of their properties, using approved methods, and the lake association supports and encourages responsible and safe boating Boaters are encouraged to follow all recommendations in the letter."

**Vote on Amendment:**

Kristin and Bob Walsh seconded amendment, Amendment approved.

**Ongoing Discussion on the motion:**

**Jackie Turpin:** Sorry, safe boating makes sense, but can we get a clearer definition of what you consider “responsible boating”?

**John Leech:** Please see letter from boaters.

**Jackie Turpin:** This is too vague (kind of political)

**Alice Bowler:** I’m sorry Matt, you’ve indicated above that my question was answered “live”, but I didn’t hear it. Can you please post the answer here? Thanks (re. Will someone please address the fact that – unlike canoes/kayaks – watercraft with propellers can divide a single length of milfoil, which floats beyond the buoys, into huge numbers of viable pieces thereby propagating the weed exponentially?)

**Barb Booth:** Don't want to interrupt John, but at some point can you ask how many people could not vote? and/or make sure everyone has the email which you just displayed, thx Laura!

**Leanne Olson:** Do you know if anything was done by the authorities when it was noted that people were actually dumping sand and gravel and building a unlawful beach on the lake?

**Vote on Motion:**

MOTION: It is moved by IA and seconded by JS that :Lake residents be encouraged to treat milfoil in front of their properties, using approved methods, and the lake association supports and encourages responsible and safe boating Boaters are encouraged to follow all recommendations in the letter.

**Motion passed as amended.**

JL discussed two further matters – Blue Green Algae and Shoreline restoration – see attached. He stressed that no toxic events have been seen with blue-green algae – current issues can include skin rashes. Ten residents have taken advantage of the shoreline restoration grants.

**4. Administration de L'Association / Association Administration;**

Finances: John Shaughnessy thanked members for their support of the buoy campaign and memberships. He noted that there have been certain costs this year. Income is from membership fees and grants and donations. Costs next year include



administration costs, milfoil work, and shoreline restoration. Motion to accept to financial statement and approve budget JS:  
Seconded by Phil Allen: Approved.

**Chantale Perron:** what is the \$5,000 allocation re Myriofile for?

**John Leech:** In case we need to make a down payment for milfoil treatment.

**Chantale Perron:** Thank you. Will any of those funds be put towards restricting or banning motorboats?

#### **Board of Directors for 2020/2021**

A. MOTION: JL moved and CM seconded that the current slate of members carry on until the next AGM (2021) and that the vacancies that exist be filled by appointment until the next election.

**Jackie Perron:** if the by-laws state an election should be done every two years, then why is it fair to simply go against the by-laws because “too much is going on”?

**Claire:** Why has my opinion been dismissed by the host. This is anti-democratic too!

**Doug Robbie:** I did not vote because I was waiting for clarification on John's point about further nominees and splitting of the motion

**Chantale and Michel Perron:** I'm having similar issues and many questions NOT answered, this is better done in person next year

**Rick Caouette:** I agree John L. I think we need to have varying viewpoints around the board table...

**Michel Perron:** Is Caitlin a property Owner?

**JL and CM:** Caitlin meets the criteria for being a Board member as a renter.

**Jackie Turpin:** Who gets to make appointments –

**JL - BOD**

Amendment proposed by Caitlin McLaughlin, seconded by Tom Booth: - divide the resolution into two parts: Part 1 – The current slate of board members carry on until next AGM in 2021. Part 2 That the vacancies that exist be filled by appointment until the next AGM.

**CM:** Poll not allowed by Zoom, will accept e mail vote, will vote by Yes or No

**Results:** Part 1 Approved; Part 2 Approved by > 2/3 majority

**Further Discussion/Questions:**

**Jackie Turpin;** With these two votes, how many are voting? do you have a majority and or proxies from ALL the members?

Matt Belanger would like to answer this question live.

**Marc:** need clarification: in reply to Catlin's last answer: since you are renting and a board member, does this mean that any non-resident can be members and allowed for voting?

**Caitlin;** Rentersbut permanent resident, by laws allow for renters to be members.

**Michel Perron:** What is the rush for appointing folks now?

**John Leech:** We have a lot of work to do and need the manpower.

**Phil:** No timeline discussed in motion.

**TW** - To be clear, while I absolutely hate this sort of Zoom meeting, I would like to thank everyone who was managing the Zoom call, Chat Room and Q&A and taking the time and making the effort to setup this meeting. You've done a great job with a difficult task and a somewhat unruly lot, (me included).

**Jackie T:** How can you ask people that are not on this lake to vote on the issue, when it does not affect them? the petition was in the general store! The petition should be signed buy those that are directly affected!

**Phil Allen:** I disagree wholeheartedly with some comments. As defined by the constitution any homeowner or resident renter is allowed to be an association member, and thus a Board member. I appeal to everyone to understand that this is about milfoil, and should not be about personal differences or differences of opinion

**Kelly Smith:** Thanks you for the explanation. Can you confirm officially if the mandate of Lac Gauvreau Secours is to render lac Gauvreau a motor-less lake? I appreciate your time and consideration in helping our lake but the official position of :ac Gauvreau Secours needs to be made public.

**Rick Caouette:** We see paddlers occasionally within the buoys. We also believe that paddles are a form of weed agitation. How is going paddle-only going to help control our problem with Milfoil?

**5. Divers / Other Business;**

**Webmaster:**

JL stated his thanks to our Webmaster Andrew Kerr.

**Information on Lac Gauvreau Secours:**

Caitlin McLaughlin spoke to the activities of Lac Gauvreau Secours. She noted that she was previously involved in the restoration of Hamilton harbour. LGS suggested “paddle only” as a temporary measure while carrying out other methods of remediation. Survey sent out to local residents and opportunities to sign petition provided in various locations. 215 signatures of residents that supported a paddle only lake and/or other motorboat restrictions. After discussion with municipality, LGS decided to follow the science. LGS has engaged ABV des 7 to look at the health of the lake and get their recommendations on how to improve the health of the lake. Recommendations will be made to municipality and all GLEA members. Municipality will arrange for public consultation. LGS recommends that all members review the ABV des 7 presentation on Milfoil. LGS is not a charitable organization nor even a formal association – just an interested group of people interested in improving the lake environment.

**Claire and Geoff:** Would Lac Gauvreau Secours agree to channel its activities through the Association?

**6. Levée de l'Assemblée / Adjournment. Moved by Laura Wesley**