



## **AGM reports (2019-2020)**

*Please note these files can be found in the "Members Only" section of the website, which requires login. In January 2020 and more recently, Membership Committee Chair Steve Kulba emailed login information to all members. Please check your emails for reference.*

### **Reference documents**

[2019 financial report of Melissa, interim treasurer](#)

[May 2019 AGM Minutes](#)

[Fall Meeting Minutes - November 2019](#) (Unusually, the French text precedes the English text in this document)

### **Security Report (Rick Soderstrom)**

Covid-19 and the Quebec government's restrictions on access to our Lake Bernard Property have occupied a great deal of work over the last few months.

John Timmins organized a group of those fortunate enough to live at the lake to visit every property at the lake, checking for weather damage or break-ins over the winter, and report back to those barred from their property. Visits continue. One break-in was reported -- the first in three years; but we are fortunate since most properties have been unoccupied for a long period of time. Weather damage was also slight with only two properties needing repairs from wind and tree falls.

Our thanks to the "At Lake" team including Alain Marcil, André & Connie Roy, Brenda Chambers, Pam Hempel, Dunk Walker, Claude Bertrand, Jacqui Fitzpatrick, Joe Beaudry, Kent & Sarah Humphrey, Lori Bilecki, Raymond Kotchorek, Mary Coll-Back, Sarah Coll-Black, Paul Rodier, Freddi Rodier, Steve Chapman, Terry & Marilyn Evans and Will Lockhart as well as five additional team members who choose to remain anonymous.

An Ad Hoc Committee including John Timmins, Francine Filion, Devon Purcell, Chris Ault and me mounted a campaign to put pressure on elected officials at municipal, regional and provincial levels of

the Quebec government. The objective was to grant us access to our property while we follow social distancing to avoid any potential and perceived harm to the local populations. These efforts included:

- A letter from our President Gaye Moffett to these elected officials;
- The online petition organized by Chris Ault has been successful beyond all expectation, drawing more than 7,800 signatures at time of this writing. The petition led to Chris being interviewed by CBC Ottawa, The Globe and Mail and Cottage Life;
- A call to our membership to sign the petition and to write letters to elected officials. We are thankful that many members acted positively, and
- Letters were sent to 15 other lake associations in West Quebec to join us with the petition and letter writing campaign.
- After it was announced that the travel ban would be lifted as of May 18, we sought out confirmation with the local police authorities regarding our access to our property on Lac Bernard;
- Information to association members provided via listserv.

In all, the campaign was effective and I believe it had some influence on the eventual decision to open the border on May 18.

### **Environment Report (Jean-Charles Hudon):**

Nothing new to report on installation of burlap on Eurasian milfoil. This year, we were planning a widespread installation of yellow buoys on the lake for the first week of June. A group of cottagers had volunteered to install the buoys. The plan was to distribute and install the buoys during the first week of June. This might not materialize because of the COVID-19.

We did receive the buoys and the rope but we need to order the small cement blocks which would be delivered once the travel restrictions are lifted. A meeting with volunteers will be required because most volunteers never performed the task of installing buoys.

We plan to distribute a package for each cottage with the help of road captains. The package includes an infographic on the Eurasian milfoil and a magnetic clip to hold it on your fridge. An initial distribution was done to cottagers who attended the last general meeting last November 2019.

Last January, we applied for grant money to the municipality to complete water sampling this summer. Hopefully our request will be accepted.

We must also complete an application form for the municipality's Green Fund which must be submitted by September 1<sup>st</sup>. This grant money will help to pay for a new survey of our lake for Eurasian milfoil beds by ABVdes7. At the general meeting of our lake association last November 2019, members voted in favour of spending a maximum of \$5,000 but the total estimated cost is \$9,384.26. Hopefully, the Green Fund will provide the difference.

### **Clubhouse Activities (Gaye Moffett):**

We had an exciting year in 2019 at the Clubhouse. Our average attendance was up from previous years to 30 children and adults every event. There were nine Bingo nights all on a Saturday throughout the summer except for the one which was held Friday night to accommodate the Art Show. Our Family Games Night was held on the Sunday evening of the August long weekend. This night has become our

“sweet spot” for the best evening to net the most attendance at Games Night. Many many thanks to all the volunteer family hosts who agree and step up year after year to carry out their Bingo Clubhouse duties.

### **Lac Bern’Art Show at the Clubhouse (Francine Filion)**

The first annual “Exposition du Lac Bern’Art Show” was held Aug. 25, 2019 and was a success thanks to volunteers Laura and Russ Sawchuk and Paul Gilbert. The event raised around \$165 dollars in donations thanks to the over 150 people who joined us throughout the day. The Clubhouse was transformed for the day by the works of art of local member artists at the Lake:

- Sharon Ogilvie (jewellery and greeting cards)
- Mary McEwen Crook (paintings)
- John McDonald (photography)
- Laura Sawchuk (paintings)
- Russ Sawchuk (woodworking and pastels)
- Paul Gilbert (photography)
- Will Gilbert (paintings)
- Alex Francis (Lake Bernard 2020 photography calendar)
- Roslyn Butler (paintings)
- Melissa Hays (paintings)

**Note: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it is very doubtful we will be able to hold the art show this summer.**

### **Paint Day at the Clubhouse (Melissa Saunders)**

This past summer I was happy to host a DIY sign painting event with kits provided by Painted Farmhouse Workshops (<https://www.paintedfarmhouseworkshop.com/>). It was great to meet some of our fellow cottagers and make some creative signs. Thanks to everyone who joined us.

### **Update on Right of Way issue (Gaye Moffett)**

The Association and the defendant have moved into the full legal realm. Our court case will be heard in December 2020.

### **History Committee (Gaye Moffett & Francine Filion)**

An article on the Mitchell family’s history on Lac Bernard appeared in the [2019 Fall-Winter issue of the newsletter. \(page 5\)](#). We are still welcoming history submissions to add to our web site by Cottage or Homeowners-- please contact Gaye at: [president@lacbernard.ca](mailto:president@lacbernard.ca) or [history@lacbernard.ca](mailto:history@lacbernard.ca) or Francine Filion at [communications@lacbernard.ca](mailto:communications@lacbernard.ca) .

### **Regatta (Carrie and Chris Ault)**

There was a stellar turnout despite the rainy weather and cooler temperatures that day. We completely sold out at the BBQ again this year, and Fatima and Mary once again ROCKED the Raffle. The total profit for the 2019 Regatta of \$2,476.11 was used to purchase a used sound system (Kijiji) for \$300 that will be stored at the Clubhouse, and hopefully used for other events beyond the Regatta. The sound system for the Regatta has always been a challenge these past few years, and purchasing a used one will save us from rental fees moving forward. The remaining funds are being held for the "Raft Project" which was

approved at the meeting in the Fall of 2018, in anticipation of building it this past spring. The estimated price for the raft remains at \$3,000 - \$4,000. I am hoping we can build it for less and will send out word in the spring looking for supplies and volunteers with assembly.

**Due to the current covid-19 isolation practices, we will likely cancel Regatta 2020. Looking forward to 2021.**

### **Family Field Day (Melissa Saunders)**

This past summer, we enjoyed a fun morning for Family Field day at the Regatta site. The kids enjoyed competing in the water gun games, relay and potato sack races. The morning was filled with laughter and fun. Field Day is a great event that allows our young cottages to get to know each other and we are looking forward to hosting another event when we are allowed to all come together.

### **Membership (Steve Kulba)**

Membership started the year on a positive note with 95 members paid up as of January 1<sup>st</sup>. Since then we have added 15 renewals and expect activity to really pick up in the next 4-6 weeks which is our most active period.

More and more, the shift is to Interac as the core payment option, though we still have good usage of those who remit via PayPal as well as Cash/Cheque. In fact, it is quite balanced at this time, though Interac growth is the greatest, especially now that we have Auto-Deposit set up for that method.

As with the past few years, our target is 260 members, though we can certainly achieve levels in the range of 270 to 280.

Important to note that all groups have done an excellent job in managing costs while continuing to provide all services that our community asks of us. A simple summary, your \$50 membership fee covers both core operations (\$20) as well as non-operational and capital outlays/reserves (\$30) mainly the environmental initiatives. Each year we are able to bank more funds in preparation for future activities such as the milfoil control/eradication.

I encourage all to consider renewing for multiple years as it does aid in managing the membership file. In addition, we always welcome additional support for the Clubhouse, Environment and Security funds that we have established.

### **Communications (Francine Filion)**

Communications support was provided this spring to the Ad Hoc Committee to regain access to our property as highlighted in Rick Soderstrom's Security Report.

Check out the association's presence on Instagram (@lac\_bernard\_\_quebec) and thanks to member Claude Bertrand, on Facebook ([Association Lac / Lake Bernard](#)).

Issues of the newsletter are posted on the website:

[2019 Fall-Winter issue of the newsletter](#)

[2019 Summer issue](#)

A [video compilation of photos](#) taken during the summer of 2019 is also posted on the website - thank you to all the wonderful photographers who shared their photos.

If you have ideas for the newsletter or you would like to submit an article, please send an email to [communications@lacbernard.ca](mailto:communications@lacbernard.ca)

**A big shout out and thank you to Bruno Lobrichon for all his translation work!**

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