



President's message

Well, what an AGM on May 12!, *amiright?! We had stellar attendance, and lots to talk about.*

I'd like to think that the high turnout was due to the addition of virtual attendance. We may continue that approach in addition to physical in the future. We'll look into those logistics.

We have received more plentiful and relevant feedback from the membership than I, personally, ever recall in the past. Clearly, the opinions of the membership need to drive the actions of the lake association executive. We are volunteers, yup, but our efforts need to be aligned with the opinions and goals of the members. This point is in clear agreement among the lake association executive.

Speaking of the executive, we have several new faces on the board. For the first time, during my involvement, we have all 14 positions filled! As I transition into my new role as President of the Lake Association Executive, a strong **Thank You** to Gaye Moffet is definitely deserved. Gaye has held the President role since 2016 and has done an excellent job. We're all pleased that Gaye has chosen to remain on the board with focus on the Clubhouse and social activities. As Quebec moves through its phases of eased Covid restrictions, we're hopeful that there may be some in person Bingo Nights at the clubhouse. Stay tuned for updates on this.

Getting back to the 14 of us on the board ---- Sandra Floyd is our new Treasurer. She gets to lean on Devon Purcell and Don McLean for help. A sincere **Thank You** to Melissa Saunders for holding that role over the past several years - also no small feat. I am also grateful to Melissa for running the virtual AGM and processing the polling. She did an amazing job using tools that were unfamiliar to her. It ran very well.

The executive has organized itself into two core focus areas of equal importance: Lake Health and Clubhouse Viability. The former should be clear - we need to reduce the spread of milfoil and protect the health of our lake and the value of our real estate assets. We have an Environment Committee led by Paul Saunders with help from Kevin Radford, Jeff Stubbins, Jane Barton, and Blair P. to measure the current state, and to identify financial options mated with mitigation options to effectively and economically reduce the rate of growth in measurable and meaningful ways.

By Clubhouse Viability, our focus will be to assess and communicate the current state of the Lake Association assets. We have two properties which are both under-utilized and incurring annual expenses. The task will be to explore *and communicate* options for increasing the utilization of these assets. Part of this involves the creation of a new Social Committee with the simple mandate of ideation around new activities that can increase the use of our assets. This was suggested by postings in the listserv, and many people have many ideas on other uses for our assets. This committee has formed simply to gather all ideas, exploring each further to increase engagement and the sense of 'community'. I'm very excited about some of the ideas that are already being mentioned by this group.

Aside from new activities which may emerge from the social committee, this summer is not unlike the others, with Bingos at the Clubhouse, a Waterski Training Day in August (confirmation TBA), and even potentially, maybe, perhaps, a Regatta this year - again, as covid restrictions continue to ease. Stay tuned for confirmation on this.

Please pay attention to the listserv and our association's Facebook group for announcements. Have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Chris Ault
President

2021-2022 Board of Directors

Executive: [Chris Ault, President](#); [Rick Soderstrom, 1st Vice-President](#); [Steve Kulba, 2nd Vice-President](#); [Sandra Floyd, Treasurer](#); Stephen Hoogenraad, Secretary.

Board members: Claude Bertrand, Sue Timmins, Gaye Moffett, Paul Saunders, Don McLean, Kevin Radford, Devon Purcell, Jeff Stubbins and Francine Filion.

Membership renewals and financial donations: interac@lacbernard.ca

The yellow buoys of summer

By Paul Saunders

As many of you are aware our milfoil problem is still very real and we are already starting to see milfoil clippings floating around the lake. The Association is working hard to try to reduce the spread of milfoil in our beautiful lake and we are taking steps.

We are now working with different levels of government on a more permanent solution, and we will be doing milfoil research in July to support our strategy to reduce milfoil throughout the lake. Consistent with last year, the



Association is setting up yellow buoys again this year in order to get boaters to avoid areas of the lake that have high levels of this invasive weed in an effort to reduce the spread. Last year, we did make progress as most cottagers respected the buoys and we were able to reduce the amount of milfoil cuttings in the lake. Thank you for your help. You are making a difference.

We received feedback that the buoys were hard to see at night. It was great feedback and we will be putting more reflective tape on the buoys this year. We will also be moving some buoys from areas that are marginally affected to more densely populated areas.

Finally, remember the fact that milfoil is an invasive species choking parts of our lake and here's what you can do to reduce the spread:

1. Respect the buoys.
2. If you see milfoil fragments floating around your property, try to pick them out of the water. If not, they will eventually sink and take root.
3. If you visit other lakes or rivers, please clean your boat and motor and empty your hold before launching it back into the lake.

Thanking everyone for your help in this fight!



**Register before June 27 and
receive a large Canadian flag (one per boat)**



Canada Day Boat Parade

An hour before dusk on July 1
Let's celebrate together at Lac Bernard



Here's how!

- Register at no cost in the event Boat "Parade/de bateau" via the Facebook page "Gens du Lac/Lake Bernard" or send an email to claudeRbertrand@yahoo.ca
- Every boat registered before **June 27** will receive a large Canadian flag (limit of one per boat) at no cost.
- Decorate and set-up festive lights on your boat/pontoon to be ready for July 1st.
- Rendez-vous time and location (where on the lake) will be communicated soon.
- The one-hour parade will start one hour before sunset.
- Pontoons and boats will follow a pre-determined path on the lake.
- Prize for best decorated boat or pontoon!

Join the fun!

Making A Difference

Article and photo by Jeff Stubbins

About 450 cottages and residences. That's an educated guess about how many dwellings grace the shore of our beautiful Lac Bernard. How many owners of those properties want a healthy lake? I'm going to make another guess - 100%

I have been very fortunate to cottage on Lac Bernard for decades and I have witnessed gradual change. The introduction of rapidly-spreading Milfoil and ever-pooping big honkers, Canada Geese, are two of them. There are also more kayaks, stand-up paddle boards, and much bigger boats.

However, our shoreline has pretty much remained the same. A lot has stayed fairly natural and that is a really good thing. Riparian rhapsody so to speak.

Glenn Garnett posted some simple steps towards shoreline harmony on the cottagelink.com website. I believe that they are worth a look.

- Keep your lot well-treed - never clearcut. Trees and shrubs absorb pollutants.
- Protect shoreline vegetation - replant areas lacking shrubs and trees with natural species



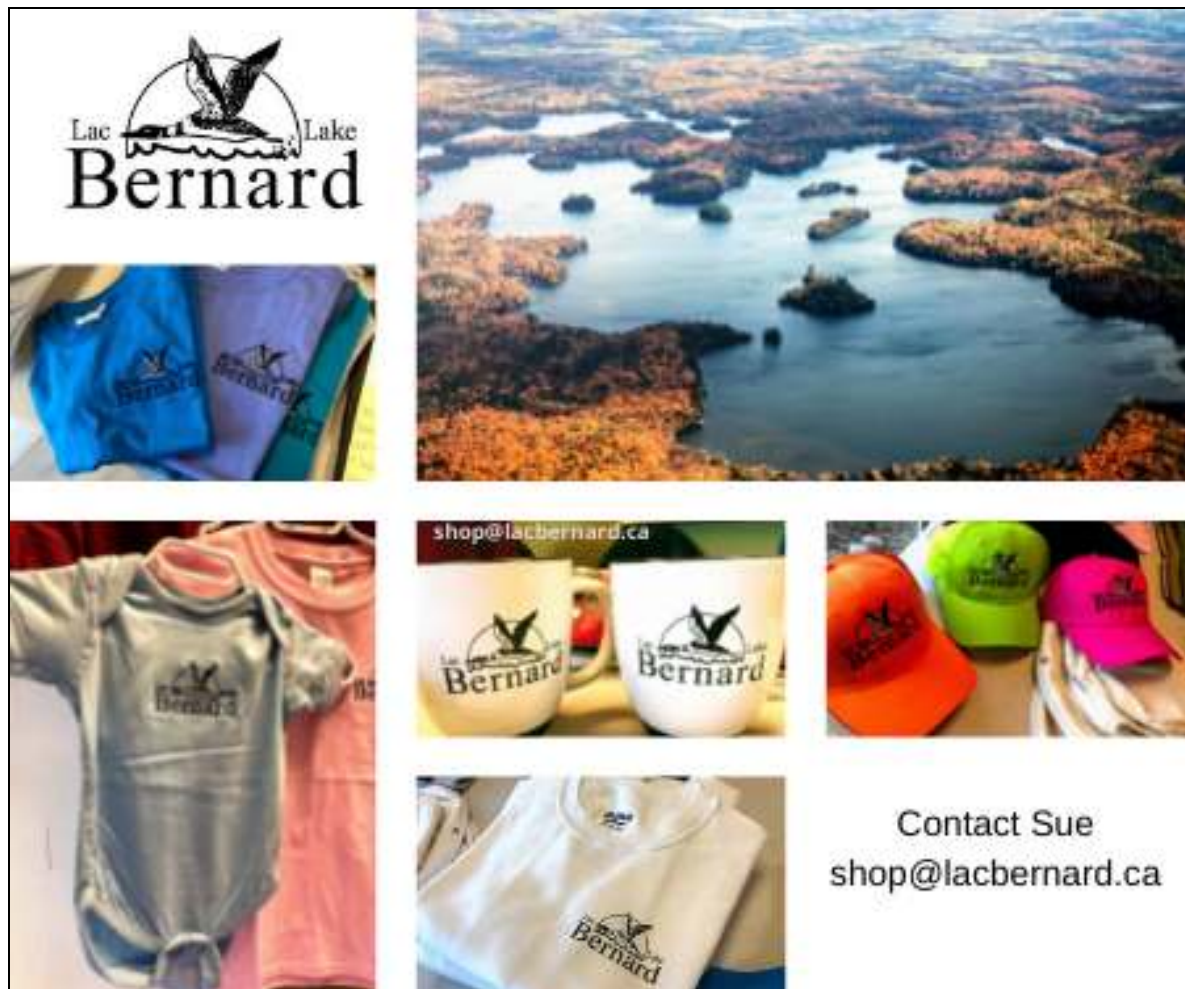
- Start a buffer strip by leaving some grass uncut near the water

- Avoid spilling fuels, antifreeze, paint thinner or other chemicals on land or water - clean up fast!
- Don't use fertilizers, pesticides or herbicides on your grass
- Use only phosphate-free soaps, detergents and cleaners at your cottage
- Pump out your septic tank regularly
- Extend the life of your septic systems by avoiding tank additives and minimizing water consumption
- Refuel your boat with care - don't spill a drop
- Watch your boat's wake - it causes erosion

To add weight to Mr. Garnett's points, Cottage Life magazine published an article by Catherine Collins in August 2018 in which she states that "up to 90% of all lake and river life is born, raised and fed within the shallows and first 10 - 15 metres from shore."

I think that it is in every Lac Bernard lover's interest to follow this great advice. No need to book an appointment or roll up your sleeve to do so. Let's keep our lake as healthy as possible for now; forever.

Jeff Stubbins arrived at Lac Bernard in 1959. He is looking forward to his 62nd summer here.





Meet Chris Ault, new Association President *(A.K.A. Lake Chair)*

Congratulations to Chris Ault who was elected President by the Board of Directors on May 25. Chris has served on the Association's Board for a number of years. During this time he supported his wife Carrie in organizing the annual Regatta with great success.

The 57-year-old Ottawa native attended Nepean and Woodroffe high schools and studied Computer Science and Economics at Carleton University. Married for 26 years, Chris and Carrie have two kids, Laura and Isaac. His favorite sports and pastimes are water skiing, playing guitar in a bar band and building things.

If his name rings a bell, perhaps it's because, last year, Chris organized the tremendously successful online petition to reopen the border between Ottawa and Gatineau. The petition gathered over 8,600 signatures and Chris was interviewed numerous times on radio and on television.

Here's a short Q & A with Chris:

Q: What's your history at Lac Bernard?

CA: "In the summer of 2000, close friends of ours invited us to their cottage on Lac Bernard for the August long weekend. "We can go water skiing - AND there's a Regatta!", they said. We

returned for New Year's Eve that year and continued our visits, and began being included by our newly extended friends on the lake.

"In 2010, after having spent a few years debating whether to buy a cottage, buy a lot and build a cottage, or simply buy a waterfront home, something magical happened: my mother and her partner bought a cottage on Lac Bernard - AND a building lot came up for sale. BAM!

"It took less than a minute to make our decision: at that time we had many friends on the lake, and now family! Done. Next step: design, plan, then build the structure. Excavation began in June 2011."

Q: What is your most memorable moment at Lac Bernard?

CA: Sitting in a lawn chair, bolted to a sheet of plywood, being pulled behind our boat, with my kids hanging on for dear life. Grinning infectiously." (see photo at beginning of article)

Q: Tell us about your work and how you got there.

CA: "I like building things. I build sheds, built a lot of our cottage, built several decks -- Build build build. And fix things. Fix fix fix.

"It was my drive to build and create that led me into technology - to build features and products for the Telecom and IT markets. Over time, as I was exposed more to customers and market forces, I shifted from being the builder to being the planner of the things that should be built. Equally fascinating and rewarding, but involves more travel to customers. Oh well. The current 'work-from-the-cottage' life is easy to get used to. I currently work as Vice President of the Signal Processing Business Unit at Ross Video."

Q: What vision do you have for the association?

CA: "More focus applied to two separate core issues: lake health: slowing the growth of milfoil, and increased utilization and viability of our assets: the Regatta site and the clubhouse. And by approaching both of these situations in parallel rather than in exclusion of the other."

Q: How would you like to attain that vision?

CA: "Through transparent collaboration and ideation among the entire executive and as many members that offer assistance and feedback, amassing, hopefully, a large set of opportunities for increased use of the clubhouse and increased government funding for milfoil control."

In closing, Chris shares his enthusiasm about the importance of "Just Living The Life! Wife... kids... job... house... mortgage. Every day is better than the next. Lac Bernard is an amazing lake, location, and lifestyle. This needs to be protected, proactively."

We all wish you and the board the best over the coming year!

Calendar of activities this summer

Note: Activities will follow health and safety protocols as per provincial COVID guidelines

- Canada Day Boat Parade around the lake - July 1 (Rain Date: July 2 or later)
- Boat Bingo - Regatta Bay - July 24 (Rain Date: Aug. 14)
- Two half-days of Camp at the Clubhouse (Dates to be confirmed. Cost will be \$30 per child per afternoon with a maximum of 10 children aged 5 to 10)
- Annual Regatta on the Regatta site (To be Confirmed)
- GAMES night at The Clubhouse on Sunday August 1st (Entry Fee)
- BINGO night at The Clubhouse on Saturday August 14th (Entry Fee)
- Silent auction fundraiser for Clubhouse (Aug. 9-20)
- Live Band performance "Top Shelf Band: <http://www.topshelfband.ca/>" featuring our very own Association President Chris Ault, at the Clubhouse (Aug. 21) (Entry Fee)
- Lac Bern'Art Show at the Clubhouse - Aug. 28
- Labour Day Dock Garage Sale - Sept. 4

Other activities may be added such as:

- age-appropriate movie nights at the Clubhouse during the week for children of various ages.
- Chaperoned teenagers' dance at the Clubhouse
- Paint workshops during the week
- Environmental talks
- Scavenger hunt on the lake
- Family Activities Day

Please reach out to us should you wish to take part in any of these activities or if you have a brilliant idea for an event that you wish to organize! **Updates and new activities will be shared via the listserv and on the Facebook page.**

In Praise of Messiness

Original article by Paul Hetzler (edited by Jeff Stubbins)



Claims that cleanliness is next to godliness have yet to be proven by science, but research does indicate that neat, well-coiffed landscapes are terrible for pollinators, aquatic life, and nearly everything else that lives.

As landscapes become neater and less diverse, wild bees can't get enough natural foods to keep them in the neighbourhood for the few weeks of the year that we'd like

them to wallow around in our apple or cucumber flowers.

With all due respect to honeybees, they're seldom required to produce fruits and vegetables. The fact is that wild bees, along with other insects and the odd vertebrate here and there, do a bang-up job pollinating our crops, provided there are enough types of wild plants (i.e., messiness) around to keep them happy for the rest of the season.

If we learn to live with a bit more "messiness," we'll improve the health of wild bees, wildflowers, food crops, and ourselves in the process.



Pollinators need plants which bloom at many different times, grow at various heights, and have a multitude of flower shapes, colours, and structures. For greater abundance and diversity of wild flowering plants, all we need to do is stop, which is my favourite activity. In this situation, we must stop mowing everything. We can mow some places once a year in late fall, and mow others every second or third year. We can stop using nerve toxins, aka grub control, and herbicides.

Before we know it, elderberries and raspberries will spring up. Woody plants like dogwoods and viburnums will appear. Coltsfoot and dandelions, essential early-season flowers, will come back. Asters and goldenrod, highly important late-season sources of nectar and pollen, will likewise return. Milkweed will begin to flourish, attracting monarch butterflies.

However, you may choose to help this process by sowing perennial or self-seeding wildflowers like purple coneflower, foxglove, bee balm, mint, or lupine. Even dandelions are worth planting. You'll not only get more wild pollinators, you'll see more birds. Redstarts, tanagers, orioles, hummingbirds, waxwings and more will be attracted to such glorious neglect. No feeders required.

Paul Hetzler is an ISA-Certified Arborist, and a member of the Canadian Institute of Forestry and the Society of American Foresters. Before moving to Canada in September 2019 he was the Natural Resources Educator for Cornell Cooperative Extension of St. Lawrence County. His book "Shady Characters: Plant Vampires, Caterpillar Soup, Leprechaun Trees and Other Hilarities of the Natural World," is available on [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).



The Municipality of La Pêche has created a platform to provide online services for residents. Signing up for the Voilà! Portal gives you access to your personal file. Enter your preferences in your account to receive notifications for waste collection timetables, news, or events. You can also use the Voilà! Portal to:

- access your tax account online and to get information on your property
- request information, submit an application, or file a complaint. You will be able to track the status of your request directly on the portal!
- Apply for backyard burning and fireworks permits. More permits will be added soon!

It's secure and easy to use and is available as a mobile application or on your computer.

User guides and videos are available at www.villelapeche.qc.ca, under the "Citizen Portal" tab.

Registration: <https://lapeche.appvoila.com/en/>

Download the app:

- ✓ Google Play: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.pgsolutions.smartcity>
- ✓ Appstore: <https://apps.apple.com/ca/app/voila/id1110108718?l=en>



On July 1st, Canada Day, and throughout the lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer, please be mindful of your neighbours and especially their pets. Loud noises startle them and they may run away and hide for days in the forest upon hearing fireworks.

Have a safe and wonderful summer.

Refresher Course on the Lac Bernard listserv

lacbernard-listserv@groups.io

This is a private group for owners and residents of Lac Bernard, Quebec. Here's how it works. Once you're a subscriber, you email messages to lacbernard-listserv@groups.io

If you have an invitation, just follow the easy instructions. Otherwise, use your own email account to send an empty email to lacbernard-listserv+subscribe@groups.io. You may receive a request for your full name and cottage address at Lac Bernard, which will be used to confirm your subscription.

You can use this service to let everyone know you're looking for a boat, or you're giving away left-over dock nails, or that you have a concern about an environmental issue. It's yours for any civilized message you'd like to post.

Please remember that messages posted here should be of general interest to your fellow cottagers. If the word "you" appears in the message, for example, post it directly to the intended person, *not* to the list. (A letter to publicly thank the volunteers would be an exception, of course!)

Heartfelt thanks to Paul Hays who volunteers his time to manage the listserv and the lake association's website.

Editor: Francine Filion (communications@lacbernard.ca) with the kind help of Jeff Stubbins.