



June 2009

A message from the president

FROM “BLUE” TO “GREEN”

Because the lakes in our region were becoming the colour of blue algae, the municipalities of Notre-Dame-de-la-Merci and Saint-Donat have decided to go “green”.

This reaction led not only to the action plan proposed by Saint-Donat’s Consultation Committee on the Environment (CCE), but to new regulations relative to septic installations, the strengthening of the regulations to protect the shoreline, the control of watercraft and access to the lake and the implementation of a forestry consulting committee.

This “green” objective of our municipalities will not be sufficient if we do not participate in going in the same direction. ARLO supports the work done by Saint-Donat’s CCE and its action plan and also applauds NDDLm’s initiatives.

ARLO collaborates closely with both municipalities, first of all in the development of the CCE’s action plan (Éric Favreau, Vice-President) and its further activities such as the restoration of the shoreline, information campaigns relative to the quality of the water and the detergents and fertilizers to proscribe, etc.

A sensible gesture towards your own “green” objective would be to support your lake association, to become a member and above all participate in its annual meeting, which will be held on Sunday, July 5, from 8:30 to noon, at the Salle Jules-St-Georges behind Saint-Donat’s City Hall (ample parking).

Come and hear what we do for you and your lake; we are also there to receive your suggestions and comments.

Jean-Marie Chauret, President.

ARLO

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Salle Jules St-Georges, behind Saint-Donat’s City Hall

Sunday, July 5, 2009 – 8:30

Invited guests: Mr. Pierre Dupuis, Environment - Saint-Donat
Mr. Paul Laurent, President Inter-Association
Mr. François Rioux, Forest and Wildlife Manager

By-law to Protect Lakes and Rivers

By-law to protect lakes and rivers against invasive exotic species and review of a federal law on navigation on Lake Blanc, the Blanche river and Lake Ouareau

A by-law to protect our lakes against the infiltration of invading species was adopted by the Municipality of Saint-Donat on April 27, 2009. Notre-Dame-de-la-Merci most likely will do the same.

Scientific studies have proven these last few years that zebra mussels, water milfoil, cercaria and other exotic invading species can cause considerable damage to the flora, the fauna, the shoreline, the quality of the water and public health. They have also shown that these undesirable species can propagate from one body of water to another by a boat's hull and motor, a trailer or live bait used in sport fishing.

To have access to the municipality's lakes, this by-law stipulates that all watercraft will have to be registered by the Municipality of Saint-Donat and the municipality will supply stickers, which will have to be affixed to said watercraft. To obtain this sticker a boat owner will have to present a user certificate or a certificate proving that the boat has been washed.

The washing certificate issued or renewed confirms that the watercraft has been washed before being launched in the water. This washing has to be done at a washing station whose location will be determined by Saint-Donat's municipal council. The user certificate is solely for watercraft belonging to taxpaying users whose boats are stored on the municipality's territory during the whole year.

The by-law provides for two categories of users: the taxpaying users (the owner or renter of a building situated on the territory of the Municipality of Saint-Donat) and non-taxpayers (including clients of campgrounds, cottages, inns, hotels and motels).

Therefore, residents who own one or more boats will have to register them at the municipality and they should do so as quickly as possible.

For further information, please refer to: www.Saint-Donat.com or 819-424-2383, extension 235

Rate Policy

Type of watercraft	Cost
• Non-motorized boat	n/a
• Motorized boat (25 hp or less) (resident)	\$10
• Motorized boat (more than 25 hp) (resident)	\$25
• Motorized boat (25 hp or less) (non resident)	\$10 / maximum \$150 per day
• Motorized boat (more than 25 hp) (non resident) / 2-night stay or more	\$150 / season

The fees collected for these permits will be directly invested in the water safety patrol, which should be present more often on our lake, as well as be used to monitor access to the lake.

Revision of Federal Laws

Consultations will also be held on the revision of federal laws applicable to our bodies of water. The population will be consulted on the following questions:

- Reduce the maximum speed to 10 km/h on Lake Blanc, the Blanche river, in Bay LeGuerrier and Bay of the Dam.

André Guertin and Éric Favreau

The restoration of the shoreline

In 2007, in the Municipality of Saint-Donat, 450 permits were issued and, in 2008, another 200 were requested. Since 2009 marks the last year for lakeshore residents to abide by the by-law, there will be an increased presence of municipal inspectors, particularly in the more sensitive areas of the lakes, and noncompliant residents will be notified. Any complaint or denunciation regarding noncompliance will be prioritized by Mr. Pierre Dupuis.



In fact, there is still a lot of shoreline landscaping that needs to be completed and corrected. According to By-law 177, lakeshore residents have until December 31, 2010 to restore their shoreline in accordance with the Province of Quebec's Policy to protect the shores, the shoreline and the flood plains. Property owners have already been advised of landscaping requirements and must obtain a permit from the municipality to restore their shoreline.

For Lake Ouareau in the Municipality of NDDL, the firm HBA Inc. was hired and visited 158 lakeshore properties and established that 57 of these (36%) do not have enough trees and 28 of them have a few shrubs and herbaceous plants and 4 properties have their shoreline covered by a lawn. Also, 45 of these 57 properties have an access to the lake that is in a straight line and covered by a lawn.

By-law for the restoration of the shoreline

The summer of 2007 was the first summer during which By-law 07-745 on the Restoration of the shoreline (the "By-law") came into force. You will recall that this by-law is a way of fighting against blue algae. Lake Ouareau did see a resurgence of blue algae for a short time in August 2008. This is the last year for Lake Ouareau residents to obtain a FREE permit from the Municipality of Saint-Donat relative to the restoration of their shoreline. Here is a brief summary of the by-law:

- " 1. On the shores of a property, a 5-meter wide access to the lake is allowed, depending on the degree of the land's gradient.
2. When the shore in its natural state is free from vegetation, measures must be taken. Since the beginning of 2007, cutting the grass, clearing or cutting down trees is prohibited on the shore, except in the access area that may be kept cleared. If an existing building encroaches on the shore, the grass can be cut along a one-meter strip adjacent to the building.
3. Owners whose shore in its natural state has no vegetation must do some planting. There is a guide on the restoration of the shore that is available at the Municipality of Saint-Donat, which explains how to proceed. The maximum delay to carry out this restoration of the shore is June 2010. "¹

As at May 2009, approximately 200 property owners, from Lake Blanc to Lake Ouareau, and following the Blanche River, have requested a permit to restore their shoreline. This is commendable, except that our lake includes more than 1000 waterfront residences so we can certainly do much better. Do not hesitate and take immediate action.

Last summer, Saint-Donat's municipal inspectors gave warnings to those who did not conform to the by-law, notably regarding cutting the grass along the shore. This summer the municipality will be handing out fines: these fines are \$300 for each infraction...

Jean-Marie Chaurat and Éric Favreau

¹ Source: Municipality of Saint-Donat

Resurgence Tests for Septic Installations

Municipality of Saint-Donat

The Municipality of Saint-Donat identified 345 septic installations that had not been previously recorded. Of the 245 where resurgence tests were done, only 5 indicated some resurgence, 4 of which stemmed from plumbing problems and one from direct overflow; in these 5 cases, the problem came from a sink and not an overflow from the septic installation. As for the 100 other installations, work has still not been done; 12 houses are to be demolished, 85 have not had the test done yet but 40 of these have made an appointment for this spring. There are therefore 40 septic installations that have still not had the resurgence test done.

Resurgence tests cost between \$225 and \$250. In September 2008, letters were sent to property owners whose septic installation dated back 20 years or more and these owners have until October 2009 to have the resurgence test done.

Municipality of Notre-Dame-de-la-Merci

The Municipality of NDDL M hired the firm HBA Inc. with the mandate to do resurgence tests of all lakeshore residences on the lake. No infiltration was detected. As for the emptying of septic installations, the municipal council has allowed a last delay to May 18, 2009 for owners to have their installation emptied.

Lake Ouareau

At Lake Ouareau, the municipality identified 21 delinquent properties, 9 of which are lakefront properties and 12 are situated on second or third lots from the lake along Chemin Saint-Guillaume and route 125. In accordance with provincial by-laws, permanent residents must have their septic installations emptied every two years and seasonal residents every four years.

Jean-Marie Chauret

Are you moving or have you sold your property?

Reminder to members

ARLO would appreciate it if you would inform us of any change in your permanent address or if you have a new email address.

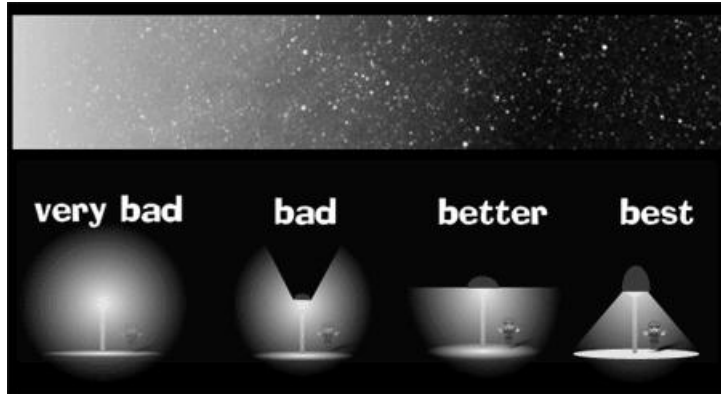
Also, if you sell your property in Saint-Donat or in Notre-Dame-de-la-Merci, would you please inform us of the new owner's name and permanent address? This is the only way for us to insure that we keep in contact with our members and update our permanent list.

Simply send me an email at francinebrault@sympatico.ca or a note by mail at

P.O. Box 1022, Saint-Donat (Québec) J0T 2C0.

Thank you, Francine Brault, Secretary, ARLO.

Pollution through Excessive Lighting around Lake Ouareau



An example of good practice for exterior lighting².

For the past few years, development around the lake as well as the villages of Saint-Donat and Notre-Dame-de-la-Merci has given rise to a new phenomenon, pollution through excessive lighting.

This pollution can be defined as being “any modification to the natural state of the nocturnal environment and any nuisance caused by the inadequate and abusive use of artificial lighting.”

In practical terms this means that many lakeshore owners and those living in the village as well as both municipalities themselves use their lighting systems abusively and inefficiently. Lighting is directed towards the sky or wrongly directed towards neighbours. Some seem to want to create another day during the night. Consequently, we can no longer see the stars in some areas of Lake Ouareau.

This behaviour comes from the fact that some people are afraid of the dark, or believe that this prevents robbers from approaching. Of course, costs for electricity are still reasonable in Quebec and this bad habit is ingrained in our behaviour. Pollution through excessive lighting occurs mostly around large cities situated in the south of the province. According to satellite pictures, Quebec City (300,000 inhabitants) generates as much lighting pollution as the City of Boston (with 5 million inhabitants); Montreal (almost 2 million inhabitants) has as much lighting as the City of New York (with almost 20 million inhabitants).³ Therefore, with a more efficient management of our exterior lighting, we could reduce this phenomenon as well as reduce our electricity costs. Some people even say that they do not need any exterior lighting because their neighbours have enough lights for both of them.

So, think of your neighbours when your exterior lights come on and redirect them, if required.

It must be remembered that lighting pollution also modifies nocturnal bird and insect behaviour. We are barely beginning to measure the harmful effects on the environment. If you are still not convinced, you should realize that exterior lighting is a perfect way to entice mosquitoes to come to your home. Fortunately, there are simple solutions that are not costly and that allow you to solve these problems: control the lighting using lampshades and, at the same time, this will prevent you from lighting your neighbour's yard.

Use monitoring controls, timers, dimmers and automatic trip units that will light an area only on demand. It is not necessary to leave all the lights on when a commerce or business is closed. The second half of the night can be darker than the first without compromising your quality of life.

Using LED lighting that comes only in one colour can greatly reduce the adverse effect of lighting pollution and this type is not only cheaper to use but will allow you to look up and admire the stars.

Éric Favreau

² Source : site of Canadian Space Agency

³ Source : site of MDDEPQ



Forestry

Last year, a consulting committee comprised of the public, the private sector and lake associations was created; ARLO participated in some of the meetings of this forestry consulting committee, which led to an agreement with Riopel on the type of logging that was to be done in the Mont D'Or sector, on the protection of the environment, on its visual impact, on the transportation of logs and the hours of operation, etc.

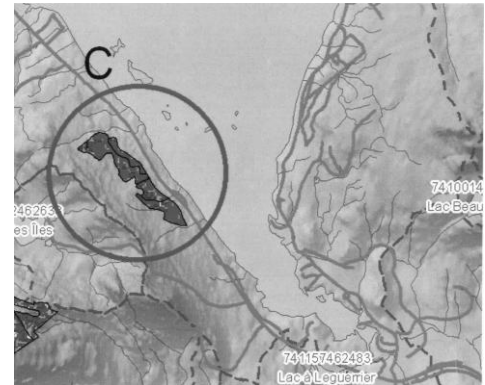
The environment follow-up was not part of this agreement but Riopel was in the process of its certification so that it had to worry about the environmental repercussions of this logging operation. Visits at the Mont d'Or logging site with representatives from lake associations of both lakes (Baribeau and Ouareau) were held before the logging began and a visit of the site was also held once the work was finished. ARLO was satisfied

with the work done and there is no visual impact as a result of the cutting of trees. The Inter-Association representative in this file was Stéphane Derome who did excellent work.

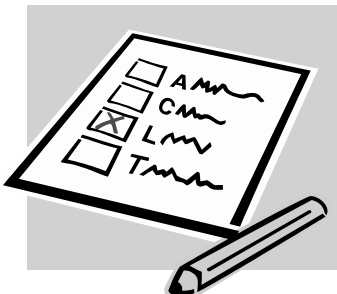
The Mayor of NDDLML participated in various meetings so that he may be aware of this logging operation because the next ones are scheduled to be on NDDLML territory on route 125. A similar agreement involving ARLO must be signed for this new operation and studies will be held before, during and after logging is done, to learn of the impact of this type of logging on the environment.

The Municipality of Saint-Donat received an amount of \$200,000 relative to Scientific Phase I for the monitoring of logging operations before, during and after the work has been completed.

L'École des techniques supérieures de l'Université du Québec will participate in studies on site and two students will be hired under the supervision of a municipal employee and of Mr. André Plamondon, a leading figure in this domain. This study will not be done for Mont d'Or because there are no references before logging began; however, monitoring will be done during the next two to three years on the impact of logging operations including those planned for the winter of 2009 on route 125 in the area of Lake Ouareau situated in the Municipality of Notre-Dame-de-la-Merci.



Jean-Marie Charet



Voting by Mail

Mr. Paul Laurent, the new Inter-Association President, has made this one of his main concerns. Following several meetings, the Municipality of Saint-Donat filed a resolution to this effect; the Public Affairs Ministry will issue directions in order to promote voting by mail for non-permanent residents.

A resolution requesting the vote by mail for non-permanent residents was also sent by ARLO to the Municipality of Notre-Dame-de-la-Merci.

This fall, ARLO will inform its members on the procedures to be followed to vote by mail and will publish a special bulletin relative to the electoral campaign in both municipalities.

Jean-Marie Charet

The crime rate in Saint-Donat remains high despite a number of arrests and police involvement

Despite police involvement on numerous occasions, the crime rate in the Municipality of Saint-Donat has only slightly decreased although it lessened considerably in most of the MRC Matawinie.

MRC de Matawinie

	2006	2007	2008	Decrease	Variation %
Cottages	422	386	312	-74	-19%
Residences	373	351	259	-92	-26%
Total	795	737	571	-166	-23%

Municipality of Saint-Donat

	2006	2007	2008	Decrease	Variation %
Cottages	37	74	68	-6	-8%
Residences	15	26	25	-1	-4%
Total	52	100	93	-7	-7%

According to Sûreté du Québec statistics, breaking and entering crimes in most of the MRC Matawinie have decreased by 23% in 2008 after a decline of 7% in 2007. This is encouraging but the Municipality of Saint-Donat remains an attraction pole for criminals and represents more than 16% of this type of crime in all of the MRC Matawinie and, of course, cottages are a favourite target.

Despite preventive patrols, multiple road blocks, implementation of the Œil de Lynx program in the high-risk zones, numerous arrests, it would seem that Saint-Donat remains a very attractive area for robbers. A major element seems to stand out and resulted in a number of arrests: the vigilance of citizens. According to Lieutenant Jean Bouchard of the Sûreté du Québec, people are getting more and more involved. They no longer hesitate to report suspicious behaviour, which led to many arrests.

The programs Bon Voisin-Bon Œil (Good Neighbour – Good Eye) and Œil de Lynx rest on the following fact: the vigilance of every citizen is the best prevention. The Sûreté du Québec as well as the municipalities of Saint-Donat and Notre-Dame-de-La-Merci support and encourage this movement of self-monitoring which has led to many arrests in 2008.

If you see something or someone that seems suspicious do not hesitate to advise the Sûreté du Québec immediately. Most of the time this information is valuable and can lead to arrests. They will never admonish you for calling them for no reason, you do not disturb them, instead you help them!

ARLO for its part will transmit any urgent message from the Sûreté du Québec to all its members through its email address network. As a matter of fact, last year we were able to inform members that a wave of robberies was occurring on land adjoining Lake Ouareau and give them a description of the suspect vehicle. The criminals were apprehended. ARLO will repeat this procedure whenever required.

Extended Vocation of the Sûreté du Québec in Saint-Donat

The police station in Saint-Donat will have a multidisciplinary vocation and 12 police officers will be assigned. To their regular responsibilities will be added the water safety patrol, the snowmobile patrol, the all terrain vehicles patrol as well as road safety. This modification will increase the surveillance and visibility of the Sûreté du Québec in the region and will be a deterring factor for robbers.

Have a wonderful summer and let's remain vigilant!

Marc Melanson

Waterskiing, Wakeboards and Other Towing Activities



Last year we published a *Code of Ethics* on this subject to reduce the public nuisances associated with these activities. Many ARLO members complained to the municipality of situations dealing with water safety, nuisances (audio systems on wake boats) and excessive erosion of the shoreline (wake and waves created by wake boats). Because of this, ARLO would like to once more publish some of the main policies of this *Code of Ethics* for users of our lake:

Hours for towing activities

Towing activities should not begin before 8:30 and should end at the latest 30 minutes after sundown, but never later than 21:00.

Traffic on the river, the Bay LeGuerrier and the Bay of the Dam

When travelling at low speed on the river and in both bays, no matter what type of motorized pleasure craft, it is always preferable to travel counter-clockwise (embankment on the right or on the right side of the river's channel) so that faster boats may pass on the left of those going more slowly without having to come near the shore. This can prevent a number of awkward situations.

Moreover, some wake boats fill their tanks on the river, in the Bay LeGuerrier and the Bay of the Dam while moving towards the main lake. This situation creates excessive waves and stirs up the bottom of the river and the bays and increases the erosion of the embankment. The municipality received a great number of complaints about this practice. Consequently and because of their small size the Bay LeGuerrier and the Bay of the Dam should not be used to fill the wake boat tanks. **On the river, any towing activity has been prohibited for a number of years.** Noise of any kind should be reduced to a minimum.

Noise levels in the morning and in the evening

Everyone on a boat in the morning and in the evening must refrain from shouting or speaking loudly as this may annoy lakefront residents.

Audio systems in boats

As sound travels exceedingly far on bodies of water and this has a negative impact on lakefront residents, any craft must abstain from playing loud music or a radio on the boat, especially near the shore. Using speakers on top of wakeboat towers is ill-advised as these allow the sound to travel even further.

Polluting products

Liquid soaps used as a lubricant for ski and wake board fasteners or to clean any surface and which eventually gets into the water must be strictly biodegradable and without phosphates. Spillage of gasoline must be banned at all cost; everyone must calculate the amount of gasoline required so that there will not be any overflow. Filling up to the brim is not a wise technique. A device that prevents overflows should always be used.

Careful with cellular phones!

One should never talk on a cellular phone when operating a motorized craft no matter the cruising speed and especially when towing a skier or water boarder. Let someone else answer the phone or talk on the phone, otherwise stop in an area that is safe. Believe me, I have seen this!

Éric Favreau

This newsletter is published by
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