



June 2008

A message from the president

The existence of an association dedicated to the protection of our lake and its environment is even more justified and necessary in order to:

- Counter and fight against the invasion of cyanobacteria (blue algae).
- Oppose any project of clear cutting near the lake.
- Cooperate with the municipalities involved in taking samples and following-up relative to the quality of the water of our lake.
- See that municipal by-laws are improved and maintained concerning the protection of the shores of the lake and the quality of the private sewage systems.
- Control accesses to the lake and control all watercraft to ensure your safety.

In short, ARLO cannot continue its work without your support and that is why you receive in the mail our bulletin that summarizes our activities as well as another copy of the bulletin on your dock. Do not hesitate to fill in the membership form and send us your membership dues by mail or simply come and meet us on July 6th at Saint-Donat's Maison de la Culture at 8:30.

I look forward to meeting you,

Jean-Marie Chauret, President

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**on Sunday, July 6, 2008 at 8:30
at the Maison de la Culture in Saint-Donat**

Among the subjects included on the agenda:

- **Municipal assessment and property taxes**
- **Forestry and the five-year cutting program**
- **Action plan of the Consultation Committee on the Environment (CCE)**
 - **Sewage treatment ponds and baie Charette**
 - **Water safety and access to the lake**

**Invited guests: Pierre Dupuis, Municipality of Saint-Donat
Representatives from Foresterie St-Donat
Captain Cayer from the Sûreté du Québec
Representative from the Le Hameau project – La Réserve**



An increase in crime in Saint-Donat; actions are being organized

While there is a general decrease in crime in the whole of the MRC de Matawinie, there is an important increase in Saint-Donat.

MRC de Matawinie:

	2006	2007	Decrease	Variation %
Cottages	422	386	-36	-9%
Residences	373	351	-22	-6%
Total	795	737	-58	-7%

Municipality of Saint-Donat:

	2006	2007	Increase	Variation %
Cottages	37	74	37	100%
Residences	15	26	11	73%
Total	52	100	48	92%

According to information received from the Sûreté du Québec, breaking and entering crimes have decreased slightly (7%) in the MRC de Matawinie. As for breaking and entering in cottages, there was a 9% decrease.

However, the report for the municipality of Saint-Donat is in the opposite direction and this situation is quite worrisome. Breaking and entering in cottages doubled (+100%) compared to 2006 and there was a 73% increase for residences. Cottages are the most affected by this problem and they represent 74% of all breaking and entering infractions in the municipality.

The remoteness of the area, the isolation and occasional occupation render these homes an easy prey for criminals. Obviously these robberies are done mostly in between seasons such as in the months of October, November, December and April, May and June. The sectors that are the most affected are chemin St-Guillaume, chemin Ouareau Nord and chemin Régimbald on Lake Archambault.

This important increase in criminality during the past few years has led police and political authorities to initiate various actions to stop these criminals and to discourage this type of crime. Thus, the Sûreté du Québec made more than 59 road blocks where officers checked vehicles on various roads within the municipality. Also, they made 40 preventive patrols in the region in addition to their regular patrols.

The Sûreté du Québec did make some arrests this autumn and winter. It is worth mentioning that a number of these arrests were the result of citizens cooperating with the authorities. There is no doubt that it is extremely difficult for police officers to be present everywhere in this vast territory. The vigilance and cooperation of citizens who warned of irregular or abnormal situations have helped the authorities act efficiently. Persons from the region as well as from outside the territory such as Terrebonne have been arrested. These arrests indicate that these break-ins are not a local phenomenon in Saint-Donat but rather that the municipality is an attraction pole for wrongdoers.

An increase in manpower and surveillance through different strategies are greatly needed. On the other hand, the cooperation of each and every one of us can also contribute significantly to this cause,

(continued on page 6)

New rules governing the regeneration of the shores and operating a pleasure craft



Regeneration of the shores

The summer of 2007 was the first summer during which by-law 07-745 on the Regeneration of the shores (the ``by-law``) came into force in Saint-Donat. This was one of the means used to fight against the appearance of blue algae. These are the rules:

- " 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. "

In 2007, about 80 property owners, from lake Blanc to lake Ouareau, including those on the river, applied for a regeneration permit for their shore. This represents a minority since there are more than 1000 waterfront residences in that area. Please take action.

Last summer, municipal inspectors gave warnings to those who did not abide by this by-law especially cutting the grass on the shore. It is expected that this summer the municipality will be handing out fines - and these fines are \$300 for each violation.... Finally the municipality of Notre-Dame-de-la-Merci adopted By-law 177, which includes by and large the same requirements.

Control of pleasure craft

For the past few years there has been a marked increase in the number of motorized pleasure craft on our lakes and rivers. The river that connects Lake Blanc to Lake Ouareau is so laden with boats on weekends that traffic becomes perilous. In fact, many members of ARLO filed complaints with the municipality concerning situations involving water safety such as public nuisances (audio systems on wake boats) and excessive erosion of the shoreline (wake and waves created by wake boats). For this reason, ARLO would like to propose in this bulletin an *ethical code for all users of our lakes and rivers*:



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

(continued on page 4)

¹ Source: Municipality of St-Donat

New rules governing the regeneration of the shores *(continued from page 3)*

the river's channel) so that faster boats may pass on the left 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 the smallness of 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 now.

Noise of any kind should be reduced to a minimum.

A number of boats towing someone on water-skis or a water board

When one or more people on water-skis or on a water board are getting ready to start at the end of the one of bays' (such as in Bay LeGuerrier, Bay of the Dam or on Lake Blanc) they should start one at a time depending on their speed on the skis or board with the fastest leaving first to prevent them from passing each other

The various boats should leave at intervals of about six ski turns, one behind the other, to ensure the safety of everyone. Should the skier or boarder fall, if the skier gives the ``okay`` signal, i.e. both hands over the head, the driver of the boat should keep its trajectory in a straight line and gauge his boat. Once done, the driver makes a 180-degree turn at starting speed and comes back toward the skier always at starting speed. He then returns to his starting position without impeding the other users and leaves.

If the skier does not give the okay sign, the driver of the boat should get back to the skier as quickly as possible to come to his aid and he should adapt his driving accordingly.

If a skier or someone on water-skis or a water board falls in front of you

You must go around the skier in the water by the right to ensure that there is enough space for boats coming in the other direction to go left (left of the skier in the water).

When two boats meet going in opposite directions

When meeting another boat coming in the opposite direction you must keep to the right of the other craft.

Priority

All the priority rules stipulated in Boating Regulations must be respected at all times, particularly the priority of non-motorized craft such as rowboats, sailboats, sailboards, etc.

The priority between two boats in the process of towing someone is always given to the one that is already moving on the water, i.e. if you are just leaving and another boat towing a skier comes within your axis, you must let that boat pass and leave afterwards while not hindering the other users of the lake.

Birds and animals on the surface of the water

It is strictly prohibited to deliberately rush at birds or any other animals that are on the surface of the water or to force them to move or to change direction. They have absolute priority at all times. If their presence prevents you from passing or if they are coming towards your boat, you must stop and wait until they are a good distance away before going forward.

Use of docks or rafts belonging to a third party

It is imperative for you to ask the owner if you can use their dock or raft.

Ski towing rope

You must always bring the rope back into the boat when there are no skiers in the water or if other boats are coming near. It is prohibited to proceed with a rope hanging behind the boat when there is no skier in the water.

(continued on page 5)



This summer, two sailboat races on Lake Ouareau

Following the success of the 2007 Regatta (despite there being very little wind) and by popular request there will be two sailboat races held this summer, both of them on a Sunday, the first on July 13th and the second on August 10th. Again this year the regatta will be held at the municipal beach situated at the end of chemin Lizotte, which is just off chemin Ouareau Nord, less than one kilometer south of the boat launching ramp. A picnic is planned between 12:30 and 13:30 before the pre-race meeting and the race itself will be held at 14:00. The regatta usually lasts two hours.

This is an ideal venue for novices who would like to try participating in a regatta, cottage owners who would like to sell or purchase a sailboat (used Lasers and Invitations are rare and very much in demand) or even amateurs who have no sailboat but would like to join one of the crews. Volunteers in motorized crafts to offer help and insure safety are required and would be greatly appreciated.

Let's hope for wind and sun on race day and a large number of you on both July 13th and August 10th.

Luc McKay lucmckay@bellnet.ca

New rules governing the regeneration of the shores *(continued from page 4)*

Monopolising a sector

No one has the right to ask another person who is following the regulations in force to leave in order to monopolise part of the lake and prevent others from using that sector, unless the municipality has given a special permission for a precise reason and has advised the population in advance. For example, the users of a water-ski layout may not prevent other boats from circulating in the same sector of the lake.

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 wake board 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; anyone 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.

Young skier and water board beginners

When boating, please avoid going near or making waves when there are young skiers or water boarders who are obviously beginners in the sport.

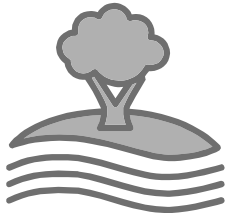
Careful with cellular phones!

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.

End of towing

When you are through your towing activities it is strongly suggested that you return to the dock at a slow speed to maintain the lake in the best possible condition for yourself and others.

Éric Favreau



PLANTS FOR THE REVEGETATION OF THE SHORELINE

The *Fédération interdisciplinaire de l'horticulture ornementale du Québec* (FIHOQ) will shortly publish a list of plants recommended for the revegetation of the shoreline. This list was put together as a source of information for lakeshore residents, producers, forest managers and garden centres.

The Government of Québec's sustainable development ministry, *Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs* (MDDEP), participated in the committee to develop this list that included a dozen members including owners of nurseries offering indigenous plants and other representatives of the industry. The MDDEP made sure that no invading or harmful plant (term used by Environment Canada) be listed as well as some other plants that are not recommended such as the hybrid poplar. The MDDEP proposes a series of indigenous woody plants and recommends that indigenous plants be chosen when selecting the species. These species will be listed in the category of trees and shrubs.

The committee proposed a certain number of cultivars that are more resistant to diseases and insects as well as woody and perennial plants. To these plants are associated a dozen criteria such as hardiness, their placement in the slope, the type of soil, sunlight, a wildlife preference.

This complete list will be published this spring in the form of a catalogue and available on the FIHOQ's website at www.fihog.qc.ca/html/recherche.php and will include a search engine to classify and choose the recommended plants according to the criteria already chosen.

Also, the FIHOQ and the MDDEP are actually preparing a pamphlet explaining facts regarding the shoreline that will include pertinent information concerning the revegetation of the shoreline and this pamphlet will be distributed in large numbers in the spring of 2008.

André Guertin

An increase in crime in Saint-Donat *(continued from page 2)*

beginning by declaring to the authorities any and all break-ins. This information is essential to improve and request action and the necessary manpower. Also, everyone's vigilance relative to any suspicious situation in their immediate surroundings or elsewhere within the municipality will help police arrest the robbers. Finally, setting up preventive programs can deter criminals from targeting our region.

For this reason, the Sûreté du Québec wants to put in place the program entitled ``Œil de Lynx`` (Eye of the Lynx). The concept is to identify with appropriate stickers all vehicles owned by residents of the municipality. During patrols, police officers can check whether the vehicles parked in people's entranceways are identified vehicles. If there are no stickers they can then investigate further. Also, if citizens participate by identifying abnormal situations, that could also contribute to preventing crimes.

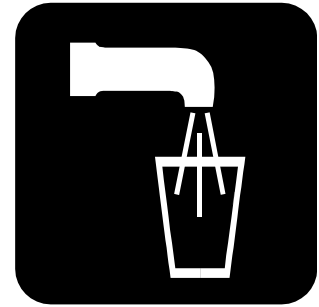
Call and email lists could also be put in place as these communication tools would be an effective way to quickly inform citizens of abnormal situations, of the need for increased surveillance, or of our plea for help in special situations.

Finally, we can only remind you of the essential measures that must be taken to ensure your security: do not leave any valuables on your lawns or balcony, have a working and monitoring alarm system even if you are away for a short time and during the day, inform police officers of any break-in even if it is minor. Be vigilant and keep your eyes open for your neighbours because they could have their eyes open for you too.

Have a wonderful summer without any nasty surprises!

Marc Melanson

Rebates Offered on Drinking Water Analysis



For the second year in a row, Bio-Services laboratories in Sainte-Agathe, have accepted to renew their agreement with Inter-Association to offer rebates or special prices to members of associations for the analysis of their drinking water.

The Centre de Pompes de Saint-Donat H2O Technologie (720, rue Principale) also renewed their cooperation with Bio-Services laboratories. Therefore, association members can pick up their water sampling bottles either at Centre de Pompes Saint-Donat H2O (also opened on Saturdays) or directly from Bio-Services laboratories in Sainte-Agathe. These bottles once filled can be dropped off at either location.

To take advantage of this agreement, members must present their membership card and these will be available at ARLO's Annual General Meeting being held next July 6th.

Members who have already paid their 2008 membership and would like to have their drinking water analyzed before July 6th may obtain their ARLO membership card at the residence of Francine Brault, 197 chemin de l'Aéroport. It is suggested that they phone 819-424-4699 before showing up.



Important increase in property values around Lake Ouareau

Following the triennial review of property values of residences in the MRC Matawinie, a large majority of lakeshore residents saw the value of their property increase drastically and, at the same time, their property taxes.

As a result of the scope of the increase in property values and their impact of property taxes that were already significant, many lakeshore residents informed us of their dismay. For some of these residents whose cottage has been passed on from generation to generation these increases are the equivalent of a veiled expropriation.

To facilitate the complaint process, some ARLO members are getting together to share the cost of an expert appraiser. If you would like to join them, please get in touch with

David Rosenzweig at (davidrosenzweig.law@bellnet.ca)

or

Marc Melanson at (marc.melanson55@sympatico.ca).

Finally, at ARLO's Annual Meeting, you will be able to sign a petition that will be sent to the Minister of Municipal Affaires.



FORESTRY

As a result of public consultations held by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Fauna (M.R.N.F.) relative to the five-year (2008-2013) plan, ARLO, following meetings held in Notre-Dame-de-la-Merci (NDDLDM) and in Saint-Donat, filed a brief demanding a moratorium on clear cutting in the catch basin of Lake Ouareau. There is clear cutting planned near Route 125 in NDDLDM and in the Mont d'Or sector (northwest of the Bay of the Dam).

On July 20th, 2007, the associations, the municipality of Saint-Donat, and representatives of the M.R.N.F. as well as foresters participated in an extraordinary meeting to allow all interested parties to express their concerns and to formulate their demands for modifications to promote the protection of the environment and satisfy the requirements of the local economy that is centered on cottage owners and recreo-tourism.

Following this meeting, the municipality of Saint-Donat tabled a resolution at the end of the month of July asking the M.R.N.F. to impose a two-year moratorium on timber cutting in the NDDLDM and Saint-Donat territories.

In March 2008, the Inter-Associations and the municipalities of Saint-Donat and NDDLDM came to an agreement regarding the five-year forest management plan (2008-2013) relative to the forest territory under CAAF (Forest certification criteria and indicators ... forest management and supply - *Certification forestière Critères et indicateurs ... Aménagement et d' Approvisionnement Forestiers*). This agreement includes the concept of the impact on the environment and this analysis must be done before cutting begins; as well samples of the rivers and streams must be taken before and after the operation. Moreover, the forestry policy-makers will have the obligation to come to an agreement with the municipalities and the interested associations before proceeding with said timber cutting. Mr. Pierre Dupuis has been mandated by the municipality of Saint-Donat to coordinate these activities and ensure that the recommendations contained in this agreement are implemented.

On September 21, ARLO's Executive Committee met with representatives from Foresterie St-Donat to hear a presentation on upcoming selective cutting activities scheduled for the winter of 2008 in the sector of the Bay of the Dam. This non-profit organization's mission is to preserve, manage and ensure the sustainable development of the forest in the greater Lanaudière region. Its activities are in the public as well as the private forest. It proposes selection cutting in the sugar maple-poplar forest bordering the northwest corner of the Bay of the Dam.

Foresterie St-Donat proposes various measures to reduce damage to the forest including a visual analysis, the revegetation of the areas and ditches that are encroached upon to stabilize the ground, a 20-metre protective strip of land bordering the rivers and streams and approved trails, water samples taken and analyzed relative to traces of phosphorus before and after the cutting as well as experimenting with sphagnum filters to catch phosphorus-bearing sediments going to the rivers and streams.

An environmental follow-up will be given to ARLO and a visit with our representatives of the area where the work is done is scheduled for the month of June. ARLO hopes that a similar approach will be taken by the foresters who will be timber cutting in the catch basin of the lake on public lands.

Jean-Marie Chauret

This newsletter is published by
The Lake Ouareau Residents Association (ARLO)
P. O. Box 1022
Saint-Donat (Québec) JOT 2CO

Layout and translation: Francine Brault
Contributions: Jean-Marie Chauret, Éric
Favreau, André Guertin, Luc McKay and Marc
Melanson Website: www.arlo.ca