

Association pour l'amélioration du Lac Manitou et de ses environs (AALM)  
Annual General Meeting

Saturday, December 5, 2020

16:00-18:00

Via Zoom

Board Members in Attendance:

Joyce Arsenault

Kyle Bebb

Elliot Berzan

Peter Cohen

Tim Dorey

Boyd Fuller

Tassie Fyon

Jerry Golick

Geoffrey Harling

Lyn Lalonde Lazure

Harold Lehrer

John Patton

Michael Prupas

Rick Rubin

Michael Vineberg

Board Members Absent:

George Barker

Members and non-member participation:

Approximately 45 households

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Meeting Minutes

The agenda and the 2019 Annual General Meeting (AGM) minutes were circulated to all members.

1. President's Welcome

Michael Prupas, AALM President, opened the AGM at 16:03 and welcomed all participants.

Michael announced that since the 2019 AGM changes were made in the composition of the executive board members. Geoffrey Harling resigned as President this summer and a new board was appointed. Michael thanked Geoffrey for his enormous contribution and commitment to the AALM as President.

The new 2020-2022 AALM executive committee slate was proposed by Rick Rubin, seconded by John Patton, and passed unanimously.

President: Michael Prupas

Vice-President: Boyd Fuller

Treasurer: Michael Vineberg

Secretary: Elliot Berzan

Recording Secretary: Lyn Lalonde Lazure

Past President: Geoffrey Harling

Michael added that he stepped down as Chair of the Trails Committee and Joyce Arsenault accepted to take on the role of Chair working closely with Alice Lehrer, Vice Chair.

2. Business arising from the previous minutes

There was no new business arising from the 2019 AGM minutes.

3. Approval of bylaw amendments

No bylaw amendments have been proposed.

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4. Financial Report

Michael Vineberg, Treasurer, provided the AALM financial report sharing the key financial metrics and membership up-date highlighting:

- current membership is 244 members (households) of which 67% (163) have paid their dues
- 23 members are new to the AALM
- 69 members whose dues are unpaid have been sent an email with the invoice encouraging payment, with the goal to have all dues paid by the end of the calendar year
- our cash balance as of December 2, 2020 is \$24,374.00
- we are moving from a manual to an automated accounting system and are in the process of implementing QuickBooks, from which invoices will be automatically generated April 1<sup>st</sup>, the beginning of our fiscal year
- those members who prefer to send their dues by mail were advised to use a new address:  
555 Ch. Du Lac-De-La-Grise, Ivry sur le lac, QC J7C 2Z8

Michael encouraged all members who have not yet paid their annual membership to do so using the link that was included in the email circulated, or by e-transfer to [info@aalm.ca](mailto:info@aalm.ca) using the password *Manitou*. Michael thanked all the members whose dues are current and thanked those who responded quickly to the email sent.

Michael confirmed that the AALM is required to file tax returns, which were not done in the past. Michael recognised and thanked Dennis Waite, a member of the Manitou community, for assisting us in the preparation and filing of our tax returns in compliance with tax regulations.

Michael shared the Income Statement and Balance Sheet, reviewed the numbers and concluded that our financial situation is strong.

<u>Income Statement</u>			<u>Explanation of variances</u>
	<u>(03/31/20)</u>	<u>03/31/19</u>	
Revenue	\$11,145	\$10,206	• Increased revenue from dues • Stable revenue from donations
Expenses	<u>\$ 5,076</u>	<u>\$ 6,473</u>	• Lower maintenance expenses
Net Income	\$ 6,069	\$ 3,733	
 <u>Balance Sheet</u>			
Assets	\$18,557	\$12,611	• Increase in cash
Liabilities	<u>\$ 101</u>	<u>\$ 224</u>	
Equity	\$18,456	\$12,387	

Michael Prupas noted the degree of support from the community and thanked all the members for their continuous support for the AALM. Michael also thanked Michael Vineberg for his review and revision of our accounting processes and taking on the position as treasurer.

5. President's Report

Michael acknowledged that 2020 has been a challenging year with the COVID-19 pandemic. Residents were encouraged to minimizing their shopping in Ste. Agathe and to practise social distancing.

Michael affirmed that the primary focus of the association is the preservation and protection of the environment and community around the lake.

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Over the past year several issues have been at the forefront of the AALM:

6.1 We were informed that Venture Vanadium, a public company based in the US, have acquired the mining rights to the inactive open pit mine on the northeast side of the lake, informally known as the old Titanium mine, as well as rights to mine an extended area bordering on Highway 117. We were advised that they did some preliminary exploration in 2019.

The AALM views this as a risk to the lake and community and have been actively monitoring the situation. A letter was submitted to the municipality asking for the municipality's support to adopt a schéma d'aménagement through the MRC des Laurentides, that would prohibit mining in the municipality of Ivry-sur-le-Lac. The plan would need to be approved by the MRC des Laurentides and the Quebec Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources. The Mayor has confirmed the support of the municipality and assured the AALM that they are actively moving forward to secure the schéma d'aménagement with the MRC. The AALM will continue to monitor this.

6.2 The municipality was faced with a lawsuit initiated by the APSQ, l'Association des Pêcheurs Sportifs du Québec, to change the restrictions to access the lake. The municipality responded by changing the daily permit from \$500.00 to \$250.00 a day. The city filed a legal defense but has not pursued this further as the other party has not moved the case forward. To date the municipality has not moved to withdraw or revoke the lawsuit. George Pollack from Davies Ward Philips & Vineberg is representing the city. Various discussions ensued suggesting options we could take should the lawsuit resurface.

6.3 The APSQ lawsuit added to the urgency of proactively finding solutions to mitigate the risk of Eurasian milfoil, including the prevention of any contamination by boats and other watercraft accessing the lake, particularly those coming from other lakes. With the support of the AALM, the municipality established a boat washing station this summer at the municipal garage. As many as 250 boats used the service.

6.4 Discussion of the use of ballasted boats, the impact of waves generated by ballast and boating safety will be deferred to Boyd Fuller as part of the Committee reports.

6.5 Airplane landings on the lake have become more frequent and concerns have been raised by community members. It is believed that a pilot training school has been using the lake repeatedly over the summer for landing and takeoffs. The AALM has been in contact with our member of parliament who has given us some guidance in how to get in touch with Transport Canada. No discussion has yet taken place. The AALM is hoping to pursue this more over the winter months. It was confirmed that some of the plane registration numbers have been photographed and information provided to the municipality.

6.6 The issue of hunting was recently brought to the attention of the AALM, as hunting activity has been noted around the lake by AALM members while on some of the trails. No conclusion was reached in terms of action except to review the concerns at a future board meeting.

6.7 The municipality is producing a new lake map to be circulated to residents outlining recommended and prohibited zones for various boating activities. The AALM has been asked by the municipality to provide feedback. The AALM has approached a few residents and board members to review the map and respond to the municipality with feedback.

6.8 In response to the many and repeated complaints received from residents, the municipality initiated a nautical patrol this summer, with positive response from most residents.

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6. Committee Reports

Trail Committee Report

The trail committee includes the following AALM members: Joyce Arsenault, Chair, Alice Lehrer, Vice-Chair, Michael Prupas, Mauricio Idarraga, Dan Knafo, Matt Stotland, Stephen Takacsy, and Cameron Hogg-Tisshaw.

Joyce reported that we have approximately 100 members in the trail club registered to use the trails.

Two hikes took place, one in July and one in September, respecting COVID protocols. Masks were worn and participants were reminded to practise physical distancing norms.

The July hike brought the group up to the titanium mine and returning via Mount Fyon.

In September, the first around-the-lake hike was conceived and organized by Mauricio Idarraga and Jessica Rubin representing a 30-kilometer hike. Joyce thanked Jessica and Mauricio for their initiative and organizing this great event. It is hoped that this will become an annual event in the calendar.

Trail clearing took place this year on Oct. 24, 2020, with 65 people participating in clearing sections of trails. This was followed by a Zoom meeting with many of the participants. Joyce thanked all the members who participated in the trail clearing day and also recognized the contribution of many members who maintain the trails continuously throughout the year.

It was decided to suspend all AALM hikes for the remainder of the year 2020 due the health restrictions and public health safety. Joyce encouraged members to enjoy and use the trails respecting COVID protocols and public health measures.

Joyce advised members they required to sign a release to use the trails and have access to the map. Interested members are instructed to contact Alice Lehrer.

Water Quality Testing

John Patton reported the water testing results were similar to previous years, with areas of the lake closest to swamps and wetlands generating the highest fecal coliform readings.

The results showed that the stream that runs from Lac Fer à Cheval / Horseshoe Lake and diverges through the Holden property registered a fecal coliform count, however, John reported that the levels are not problematic. The stream that runs from Lac du Cheval / Horseshoe Lake to the community center also registered a fecal coliform count, John reported the levels exceeded acceptable standards.

At the municipal beach by the townhall, test results continue to show a high coliform count. This is localized and reoccurring but does not affect the result of the lake. The source of the contamination has yet to be identified.

John reported that other than these two testing spots the lake water fecal coliform results are excellent. John reported that on-going testing will occur annually with testing planned at points corresponding to new construction on the lake.

Lac de la Grise was also tested for coliform levels and John reported the findings were satisfactory.

Michael thanked John for his continuous work in testing and Kyle Bebb who has also been instrumental in water testing.

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Manitou Arts and Culture Committee Report

Michael congratulated Jerry Golick for his initiative and leadership in forming the Manitou Arts and Culture Committee this fall. Jerry was inspired by the success of events organized by residents in this unique summer of COVID; dock side concerts and Arts À La Plage. Jerry saw this as an opportunity to connect residents, benefit from the many talents of residents and to organize events benefitting the whole lake community. Committee members include Howard Stotland, Alan Coopersmith, Gaby Opas and Veronica Baruffati.

Jerry reported that first event, a book review given by the author Anne Lambert, was held by Zoom. Several Zoom events are in the process of being planned. These event 'mixers' will be communicated to the lake community through Facebook, Parlons Ivry, our newly created Facebook page, the LMCC and via email to members.

Jerry encouraged members and residents around the lake to connect with him to recommend any topics or events.

20-30 Committee Report

The importance of having the younger lake generation take an active role in the AALM was acknowledged by Michael Prupas. This generation is the future of the lake and will in due time become the stewards of the lake. Michael Vineberg accepted to head up this committee.

Michael reported that this committee is in the early stages of development. The objective is to engage with younger residents (owners and household members) and encourage them to get involved in AALM activities, to solicit their input, volunteer and to create opportunities to get to know one another.

Julia Takacsy and Jessica Rubin among others have stepped up to play an active role in this committee. Michael asked meeting participants to encourage members of their households to get involved and to spread the word. This committee will be reaching out to potential members.

Website and Social Media Report

A social media presence is an important tool to disseminate information and develop awareness of the AALM. Tamara Steinberg and Gaby Opus have taken the lead on this initiative. Gaby confirmed that she and Tamara have made design changes to the website, have updated the content, improved usability and were involved in the design of the Newsletter. Michael Prupas thanked Gaby and Tamara for leading this initiative and for the great improvements made.

Buoys Committee Report

The buoy committee reported that all the buoys and channel markers had been installed prior to boating season with the addition of buoys marking hazards that had not previously been identified.

Newsletter Committee Report

Michael thanked Betty Palik and Peter Cohen for initiating and producing our inaugural AALM Newsletter.

Betty Palik reported that they are hoping to produce the newsletter twice a year. The content of the newsletter will include events, historical information, lake news and current topics of interest to the lake community. Meeting participants were encouraged to suggest subject matter ideas and to contribute material through Betty or Peter.

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Boating Activity Report

This summer proved to be a challenging one in terms of what seemed to be an increase in volume of all boating activity in general and of wake surfing more specifically. Concerns raised by residents included an increase in activities being conducted outside the Federally sanctioned hours (10:00-12:00 and 16:00-19:00) and the impact of waves and wake generated by ballast on the safety of other watercraft (motorized and non-motorized), damage to property and the shoreline, and potential risk to wildlife.

The municipality secured a Federal government subsidy to promote boater safety, including the design of a new lake map, new signage enforcing speed limit zones, recommended no wake zones, hazards, Federal towing hours, the launch of a nautical patrol and the purchase of a municipal boat. Most residents were supportive of the municipality's initiative to hire a nautical patrol though some residents were not in favor of this initiative.

To address issues raised, Boyd Fuller will lead efforts to produce a Lake Charter with a diverse committee representing residents from different locations on the lake and who participate in motorized and non motorized lake activities. Boyd provided a presentation of the issues, the AALM's response to date, uncertainties and possible actions including a study to determine the impact of waves and wakes generated by ballast.

A discussion ensued with many different opinions, concerns and experiences being expressed as well as support and opposition for a study, and support and opposition for the nautical patrol. The key points highlighted included:

- all residents have right to enjoy boating activities, motorized and non-motorized safely
- all residents have an obligation to comply with Federal laws
- all residents have a responsibility to ensure their activities do not infringe on other residents or the environment; volume of music, impact of waves and wakes on other watercraft, on property and the shoreline, respecting distances from the shorelines, adhering to the Canadian safe boating laws and regulations
- all residents have a responsibility to safely practise non-motorized activities during towing hours: avoid swimming and limit non-motorized activities (to the extent possible) where towing is occurring

Boyd will work over the course of the winter with the committee to develop a Lake Charter defining boating best practices.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 18:12