

**AALM COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER Vol 6
WINTER 2023**

THE AALM

AALM was founded in 1909 as the Lake Manitou Improvement Company and changed its name to *L'Association pour l'amélioration de lac Manitou et de ses environs (AALM)* in 1978. At 114 years old, it is the oldest lake-owners association in the Laurentians. Many AALM families go back more than three generations.

The annual membership fee of \$75 goes toward covering the expenses of AALM's various committees as well as to support Conservation Manitou and the Ste Agathe Hospital Foundation. If you haven't already paid your annual dues, please do so now. <https://www.aalm.ca/pay-your-dues>

The Board of Directors were elected at AALM's Annual General Meeting on July 12, 2022, for a two-year term. They are:

President: Michael Prupas; VP: Boyd Fuller; Past President: Geoff Harling; Treasurer: Michael Vineberg; Secretary: Alice Lehrer; Member at large: Elliot Berzan. Other Board members: Kyle Bebb, Jerry Golick, John Patton, Jessica Rubin, Louis- Philippe Dorion, Michel Lamothe, Marc Yedid, Kathy Elder, Joyce Arseneault, Kathie Swim, and Tim Dorey.

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Dear AALM members,

2023 has been a very active year for the AALM, as you will learn from the reports in this newsletter. More than 200 families have joined the AALM this year, which is half of all the households in Ivry. AALM conducted a survey of members this year (the Seefeld Study) which gave the association a greater insight into the values that motivate our members' commitment to the community.

I want to heartily thank all the Chairs of our committees for their hard work organizing the many events and activities that made 2023 so successful.

Happy Holidays to all of you, and I look forward to another great year for our community in 2024.

Michael Prupas, President

LAC MANITOU HISTORY

MANITOU LODGE

For about a century, people have enjoyed Ivry's summer splendors with an early morning walk along Chemin Lacasse. A hundred years ago it was a dirt road and it probably still was dirt in the 1940s when Anna Berzan walked it from her brother's place at the base of Baie Lacasse where she was spending the summer.

Anna was born in Latvia in 1886. Being a very social woman, she struck up a friendship with Mme Fleury, the owner of Villa Fleury, which sat on a magnificent piece of land where the bay narrowed. Mme Fleury, like Anna, was of a certain age. She was tired of running the business.

Villa Fleury had been operated by the Fleury family at least since 1925 when a classified ad in LaPresse read "LAC MANITOU:, Villa Fleury, Ivry, Que, endroit ideal pour vacances. Eau courante, électricité, tennis, danse, etc. Prix modéré."



La Villa Fleury, ver 1925 carte postale par Ludger Charpentier, no 16 (Patrimoine-Laurentide)

By the 1940s, there were at least 20 rooms along with cottages to rent. Anna empathized with Madame Fleury and offered a solution. Before the summer was over, Anna's sons, David and Raymond, became the proud owners of the property which they renamed Manitou Lodge.

It was the beginning of a very special chapter of Ivry History. Beautiful Manitou Lodge became one of the premium Catskills style hotels in the Laurentians. (There were six to

eight others in the Ste. Agathe vicinity from 1935-1965.) **Elliot Berzan**, who himself has been in Ivry with his wife Gail for 45 years now, is the nephew of Raymond and David.

The Quebec Gazetteer shows that Manitou Lodge Inc. letters of patent were dated November 9, 1944. Within a few years, David and Raymond had built the beautiful summer only, Manitou Lodge with 25-30 rooms and added about 12 small cabins and the Cedar Lodge for additional families.

Raymond and David wanted to offer a full summer experience to their guests and created a large waterfront with rowboats and even a 25-horsepower motorboat for those that wanted to try the new sport of waterskiing. They also built a softball field which was used for games against teams from other hotels in the area.

They also built basketball, tennis, and volleyball courts, as well as a horseshoe pit.

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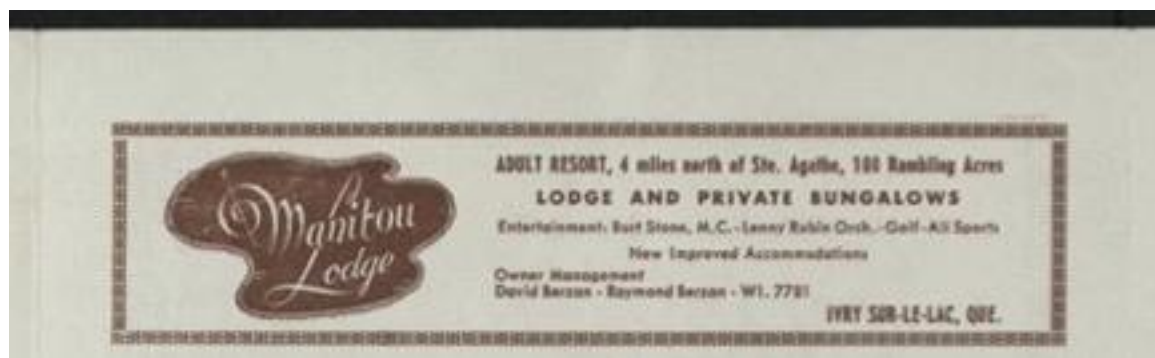


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Manitou Lodge source: Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network

“American Plan,” meaning that everyone ate their meals in the Lodge’s dining room. There were no kitchen facilities in the rooms or in the cabins, but a small tuck shop provided snacks and sundries. **Pat (Miller) Rubin**, who has spent all her summers at her family home on Los Meras Lane (at the end of Chemin Lacasse) since 1943, remembers buying candy bars there when she was a little girl.

Entertainment for the guests was a major attraction at the Lodge. There was a separate building called the Habitant Lodge that was erected with a stage and a bar that could accommodate between 100 and 150 people. Entertainers and comedians from Montreal, New York and the Catskills came regularly for Saturday night variety performances including small bands and singers. The comedian Jerry Leiter was a regular performer for several years. Even dance lessons were given by Paul Drake and Mel Holmes. There were movie nights at the Habitant lodge as well as rainy day indoor card games and dice games involving wooden horses.



Ad for Manitou Lodge from the Mountain Playhouse Summer 1954 program source: Bibliotheque et Archives nationales du Quebec

In the 1950's there was no synagogue in Ste. Agathe and so the lodge arranged for a Rabbi and a Cantor to come up to conduct Jewish High Holiday services when the Holidays fell in early September.

One interesting story that Elliot remembers was that there was a blind lawyer by the name of George Cohen who learnt to waterski at Manitou Lodge and may have been the first blind water-skier in Canada.

Manitou Lodge was sold in the mid-1960's to Peter Hoffman, who redeveloped it into a successful sleepaway camp for children. In the early 1980's the camp was torn down except for the Hoffman House and the rest of the land sold in parcels to private buyers.

AALM Events

Many exciting AALM activities and events took place this past spring and summer and more are being planned for 2024.

ARTS AND CULTURE

Established in 2020, the **Arts and Cultures Committee** (MACC) helps promote Lac Manitou's diversity of cultures and helps build a stronger community.

"Summer 2023 was filled with **Music. Music. Music**. Three dockside music concerts on the lake and one on land were held for all to enjoy," says MACC Chair **Kathie Swim**.

On the **Prupas-Palik** field, on July 15th, Manitou Musicians **J.C. Beliveau, Jody Golick, Mike Dawson, Andrew Cowan, and Andrew Dawson** entertained music lovers with Rock & Roll, Folk, Jazz and Broadway tunes. The sweets table was loaded up with treats from around the lake (funds benefitted the Ste-Agathe Hospital) and was managed by **Shona Pearson and Brooke Waite**.



J.C. Beliveau, Jody Golick

On **Howard and Viviane Stotland's** dock in Baie Perrault (Baie du Rocher) on July 22nd, Broadway tunes rang out in support of the Segal Centre performed by Tess Benger, the Toronto-based musical theatre star, and Nick Burgess, pianist and arranger of over 75 theatrical productions.

On **Fred and Marlene Cantor's** dock, in the main bay, on July 30th, Warren 'Slim' Williams, a renowned keyboardist, vocalist, and a pillar of the Montreal Soul Scene, and dance pop recording artist, Meredith Marshall, treated Lac Manitousers to powerful, emotional soul. Outstanding guest musicians also made special appearances.



Warren 'Slim' Williams and Meredith Marshall

On **Diana Henry and Manny Borad's** dock in Ivry Bay on August 5th, Amos Joannides entertained with an acoustic folk boat concert to thrilled music lovers in boats, kayaks and canoes.

The Arts and Cultures Committee also offered **Art. Art. Art.**

“Vernissage au Garage,” Lac Manitou’s Art Fair, was hosted by **Allan and Nathalie Coopersmith** on July 29th, on Chemin Lacasse. More than 100 art lovers came by boat, car and on foot to admire, and buy, stunning artworks by fourteen painters, sculptors, and photographers from Ivry and Lac Manitou.

A standing ovation to all the hosts and volunteers to help bring joy to everyone around the lake.

MACC welcomes suggestions for events and volunteers.
Please contact MACC Chair **Kathie Swim** : kswim@rogers.com or 613.883.0803

TRAILS CLUB

Hikers enjoyed an organized trail hike this summer, organized by **AALM's Trails Club**, which celebrated its 11th anniversary this year.

"On August 6, more than 40 "Manitouers" hiked the Nantel Trail south from the Ivry Town Hall to St Agathe," says **Joyce Arseneault**, Chair, AALM Trails Club .

The Club also held an extremely successful **Trail Clearing Day** on Oct 28, 2022. Eight teams, comprised of more than 85 Lac Manitou volunteers, worked on various trails that day, while other teams cleared trails on many autumn weekends before.



The day was capped by an exciting and delicious potluck dinner hosted by **Betty Palik and Michael Prupas**. More than 60 people attended and cheered as each trail-clearing team reported its accomplishments.

Winter hikes for snowshoers and cross-country skiers are being organized. Details of the events will be on the AALM website, <https://www.aalm.ca/en/events>, and on Facebook Lac Manitou AALM.

Please note that only AALM members can gain access to a password-protected internet site where they can download the **AALM Trails Club Map** with detailed descriptions of more than 25 popular trails. To become a member of the Trails Club, complete the form here: [Trails Club Signup](#)

WATER SAFETY AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE

At the September 4, 2022 AALM Board meeting, a new Water Safety and Education Committee was formed. Chaired by AALM Vice President and Board member, **Boyd Fuller**, it is made up of representatives of all boating activities that take place on the lake including, waterskiing, canoeing, kayaking, sailing, wake boarding and wake surfing.

Water safety, respect among neighbours, lake enjoyment, and shoreline preservation are ongoing issues and causes of concern to Lac Manitou residents. In response, the Water Safety and Education Committee has developed an education program of good boating practice to help us all share and enjoy our beautiful lake. The Educational videos are available on the AALM Website.

[Launching at Lac Manitou](#)

[Nautical Code at Lac Manitou](#)

The AALM is also taking steps, in cooperation with the Municipality, to ensure that existing boating laws are respected and enforced, which has been a concern of many AALM members in recent years.

The City of Ivry-sur-le-Lac hired a Nautical Patrol for the Summer of 2023, to ensure that regulations were being followed by boaters and that water safety was practiced by everyone on the lake. In addition, the provincial Surete du Quebec appeared on the lake to check boaters' licenses and safety equipment.

**THE FORMER AALM ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE IS NOW TWO COMMITTEES:
AALM INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE and the WATER AND HABITAT HEALTH
COMMITTEE.**

The AALM has a long tradition of keeping watch on the health of the lakes, their shores and their surrounding forests and wetlands. Chaired by **Kathy Elder** and assisted by **Monica Heller**, Vice Chair, the committee contributes to these efforts in a number of ways.

Teams of volunteers have been testing the waters of Lake Manitou, Lac Fer-à-Cheval and Lac de la Grise for fecal coliform for over 50 years. The committee organizes these teams and submits the results to the AALM. This year the results have almost all been in the “excellent” range, with a few spots rated “good”. Let’s keep it that way! Thanks to **John Walls, Sylvie Trottier, Monica Heller and Scott Brown** for carrying out the sampling. This year, these results have been folded into a new database that will allow for long-term comparison of results. To make this easier in the future, in the coming year the committee will standardize sampling sites and identify them by geographic coordinates.

For the last ten or so years AALM has worked with the Réseau de surveillance volontaire des lacs (RSVL) of the Québec environment ministry to test for water turbulence and transparency in Lake Manitou which are both indicators of lake health. This year, 2023, the committee added Fer-à-Cheval and de la Grise to the effort. We are awaiting analysis results, but things look stable. Thanks to **John Walls, Sylvie Trottier and Kyle Bebb**. The RSVL provides the long-term database for this set of measures.

In the past year, committee volunteers have also closely followed the activities of regional environmental groups, notably the Conseil régional de l’environnement – Laurentides and Eco-corridors laurentiens, attending their conferences and workshops, as well as establishing contacts with other lake associations in the area.

“We have also renewed our attention to two high priority issues: shoreline erosion and invasive species, both aquatic and on land,” says **Monica Heller**. “We aim to build on the work of the 2019 CRE Laurentides stagiaire to establish a baseline shoreline map.

We are recruiting volunteers for mapping this coming summer, 2024. We also need volunteers for doing an aquatic invasive species watch (with an emphasis on the greatest danger, **Eurasian milfoil**), and a mapping of **buckthorn** on shorelines and **Japanese knotweed** on land. (see photos below).

Let us know if you are interested in volunteering, or if you have any questions!

Kathy Elder <kelder175@gmail.com>
Monica Heller (monica.heller@utoronto.ca)



Eurasian Milfoil



Invasive Buckthorn



Japanese Knotweed

CONSERVATION MANITOU

AALM provides continued support to **Conservation Manitou**, a local success story. Conservation Manitou is financially supported by approximately 200 people, mostly Ivry residents. Since its foundation in 2013, it has acquired 24 properties representing roughly 1,738 acres of eco-sensitive land within and around the Lac Manitou watershed, protecting these areas in perpetuity from development.

Stephen Takacsy, Chair of Conservation Manitou, says that the charitable organization continues to be among the most active land conservancies in the Laurentians.



During 2023, Conservation Manitou acquired 110 acres of forested land around Lac Brazeau, just west of Lake Manitou. from the **Fred Barker** Family. The land was gifted by **Aileen Frances Cagney**, who passed away shortly afterwards and weeks before her 101st birthday. Aileen was the widow of Fred Barker who acquired the property in the 1960's from Telesphore Brazeau. The property contains a wide variety of topography from wetlands and numerous streams to hilltops and mountain ridges. Several scenic trails cross the property, including the historic **Laurentian Cross-Country Ski Trail**, still indicated by the occasional old rusty metal marker.

Stephen adds; "Residents who have not yet donated are strongly encouraged to do so since we continue to have a very active acquisition pipeline and aim to keeping growing our Stewardship Fund to cover the costs of our expanding portfolio of conservation lands. Our preservation efforts benefit the entire community, and we continue to aim for a 100% participation rate among residents of Ivry."

Ivry Bingo

Introducing a new seasonal game for Manitou residents: Ivry Bingo! Win prizes! It's easy to play! Enjoy the wonders all around us and snap a few photos along the way. Match five in a row with the themes on the board to make a Bingo.

Everyone who submits an entry wins a prize! A grand prize for the best bingo board will be awarded in March. More information on prizes coming soon.

Post your photos on Facebook or Instagram. Be sure to list the completed squares in the captions, tag us, and add the hashtag #ivrybingo! We'll repost all submissions on our social channels and on the AALM website at aalm.ca/bingo.

Check out (and follow!) our Instagram at @AALM_manitou or Facebook at Lac Manitou AALM for the board and sample submissions! You can also find more info and the Bingo board on our website, www.aalm.ca or via email at info@aalm.ca.



That's all folks!

**Wishing you all a safe and glorious
winter.**