



MCGREGOR LAKE ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, June 7, 2025 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

On a motion made by Bob Lafleur, seconded by Elizabeth Gray-Smith, and carried unanimously, the agenda was adopted as presented.

2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

In Natalie Lavigne's absence who is in Europe, Bob Kerr welcomed members, the Mayor Jules Dagenais and Councillor Jacques Lemay. Quorum is achieved.

3. APPROVAL OF 2024 AGM RECORD OF DECISION

Proposed by Ravi Mehta and seconded by Bob Lafleur, the 2024 AGM minutes are approved as presented.

4. REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT AND BUSINESS ARISING FROM 2024 AGM

STATISTICS:

- 10 adult loons identified through the loon monitoring program led by volunteer Hania Grabowski.
- 41: the number of Eurasian Milfoil beds up from 35 in 2019. That's almost 2% of McGregor Lake that is now infested.
- 3 boat washing stations that will be available in the region this summer including the one at the fire station at the intersection of 307 and 366 as well as the one at the new fire station on Chemin St-Joseph in the village of Perkins.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Report on Eurasian Milfoil:** Last summer, the Association asked the ABV7 to update the mapping of native aquatic vegetation as well as Eurasian watermilfoil, a particularly invasive exotic species. The executive summary was sent out to members and is on the website. Thank you to Bob Kerr, Peter Barton and H el ene Valin for their help with this file.

- **Lake Association Network:** The first ever meeting of lake associations was a great opportunity to meet many of our peers; and Samantha Rhains presented interesting information on the municipality's action plan for bodies of water.
- **Relations with the Municipality** Meeting in February to discuss boat launch and issues about boat washing enforcement. The Municipality requested our collaboration in the training of attendants at the boat ramp and agreed to improve communications as well as the signage to the boat washing stations. Also, we attended both public consultation on the revision of its Urban Plan and bylaws.
- **Variance request:** Attendance at the May 6 municipal council meeting to raise concerns about a variance to build an oversized dock on a private property. The request was unanimously rejected.
- **Minimum shoreline buffer:** In March, we submitted a letter of opposition to the municipal council following its request to the MRC des Collines to allow a reduction in the minimum shoreline buffer—from 15 meters to 10 meters—in certain cases. As the voice of the lake, the Association stands firmly against any bylaw that would weaken its environmental protection.
- **Mining claims:** In the fall of 2024, a meeting with the Municipality and the MRC des collines determined that our entire region is incompatible with mining development.
- **Private Property:** Following a number of unfortunate incidents on Black Island (the lake's biggest island), the Association convinced the municipality to add and modify signage at the public boat launch to remind everyone that there is no public land on the lake. The Association also collaborated with the island's residents to add some more visible signage on the island. Thank you to Bob K. and Mary C. for your leadership on this.
- **Fireworks:** Following an incident with fireworks last year where a dock caught on fire, the Association did some research and prepared a fact sheet with details on the environmental impact of fireworks and what we can do to reduce that impact.
- **Lake map:** The new version of the lake map - the first update in 60 years! - was unveiled at the Games and Picnic in July. The map is 22 x28 and costs \$30. Deborah Morrison was thanked for her tireless work on this project!
- **Yearbook:** This project is on hold to allocate more time to communications.

- **Appreciation for Mary Carman and H  l  ne Valin:** MLA would like to formally acknowledge and express our sincere gratitude for the years of leadership and dedicated service that Mary and H  l  ne brought to the board. Our appreciation goes to Mary for her responsibilities in managing membership and communications; making this association as relevant and efficient as possible for our members and ultimately, for our lake, is certainly incalculable. H  l  ne deserves our recognition for her countless hours devoted to fulfilling her role as secretary, translator and web manager. The association has benefitted from her reporting and updates.
- **Board members:** As well, thanks to Peter Barton, Bob Lafleur, Deborah Morrison, Annie Perreault, and Bob Kerr for the amazing work and contribution they bring to the Association.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

Deborah Morrison presented the financial statements for the year ending December 31, 2024. She pointed out that revenues were slightly higher due in particular to sales of the maps and merchandise whereas expenses increased as a result of the cost of the milfoil study and maps/t-shirts.

Also mentioned was the \$5000 transfer to an investment fund that will be reserved for big issues such as milfoil and other environmental issues. There will be no increase in membership fees for next year.

Proposed by Mary Carman and seconded by Elizabeth Gray-Smith, the financial report was unanimously accepted.

6. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE CHAIRS

❖ Water Quality

Mary Carman presented the report on behalf of Peter Barton, water quality coordinator

1. E Coli sampling of the lake was not conducted in 2024, primarily due to inclement weather surface (water should not be sampled for E Coli within 4 days of a steady rain as runoff from land sources may skew the results). However, and only if required, areas of specific concern could be highlighted after heavy rains.

For 2025 the E Coli testing program will resume and volunteers will be required for up to 3 sampling dates over the summer.

2. In cooperation with VDM and the organization Water Rangers, the MLA is again sampling the lake over three weekends for a number of additional water quality markers. The analysis of these samples will include; phosphorus, dissolved organic carbon and chlorophyll A, as well as water transparency, pH, hardness, alkalinity, conductivity and temperature. This survey constitutes a very comprehensive analysis of the water quality of McGregor Lake.

❖ Eurasian Milfoil 2024 Report

Milfoil on McGregor Lake is becoming more acute with each passing year with the infestation of the lake becoming more apparent. The Association has continued to mark the historically prolific areas on the lake with yellow round buoys and information signs to warn boaters to stay away. In addition, the MLA commissioned a new study by the consulting firm ABV7 to survey McGregor Lake and categorize those areas with Eurasian Milfoil that should be marked and monitored. The most concerning areas will be marked with yellow buoys for the summer 2025.

Thanks to Norm Smith and Liz Gray-Smith, and Jack Moore for their help with the Milfoil Buoys as well as all of the other water sampling volunteers who make this work happen. A note that the association is always looking for volunteers for water sampling and for the installation and removal of milfoil buoys.

❖ Membership

Annie Perreault presented an update and mentioned that there are 130 memberships to date and that the 2025 objective is 200 memberships. A special recognition to the association volunteers who have and will continue to deliver dock stickers throughout the summer months.

❖ Communications

Elizabeth Gray-Smith talked about efforts to increase communication by revisiting communications goals, who we are reaching, and how we are reaching them. Communications efforts will extend beyond members, to everyone who uses, enjoys, and cares about the lake. Consistent and direct messaging is key to effective communications. Success continues with communicating through the current website, Facebook, newsletters and emails. The Association will launch - in summer of 2025 - an Instagram account used as a means to extend our messaging to new audiences. Thanks to Ravi Mehta who is instrumental in supporting the Facebook account. The Yearbook project has been rescheduled for now.

❖ Events/Games and Picnic

Elizabeth Gray-Smith reminded everyone about the Games and Picnic that will be on July 19 this year and indicated that we would like to see more people attending and participating - families welcome. It is an event to meet current and future neighbours on the lake, talk about membership and volunteer roles, purchase merch. Attendees can expect the classic games and the candy contests. The donation jar, membership renewals and sales of merchandise provide a welcome source of revenue.

Consideration is being given to provide increased visibility such as a poster, and megaphone reminders around the lake on the morning of the event.

7. NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Bob Kerr noted that H el ene was remaining as an active Board member but wished to step down from the role of Secretary and web manager to focus on other projects. He also thanked David Caulfeild and Marc Violette who stepped down during the year for their support and contribution to the mining claims and boat safety issues.

He added that current board members willing to stand in nomination this year included: Natalie Lavigne as President; Bob Kerr as Past-President; Peter Barton, Mary Carman; Bob Lafleur; Deborah Morrison, H el ene Valin, Annie Perreault and Elizabeth Gray-Smith. Two members indicated their interest in joining the Board: Marina Johnston and Russ Williams.

Motion was presented by Norm Smith and seconded by Hania Grabowski and was unanimously approved.

2025 Board Members

Natalie Lavigne (*President, Communications*)

Bob Kerr (*Past-President*)

Deborah Morrison (*Treasurer*)

Elizabeth Gray-Smith (*Picnic & Games, Communications*)

Annie Perreault (*Membership*)

Peter Barton (*Water Quality Testing Coordinator*)

Robert Lafleur

Mary Carman

H el ene Valin

Marina Johnston

Russ Williams

Proposed by Norm Smith; and seconded by Hania Grabowski; adopted unanimously.

8. WORD FROM THE VDM MAYOR

The mayor thanked the Association for the invitation and congratulated the volunteers for their hard work. He stated that the Association is well perceived by other associations who consider it a model. He further raised the following points.

- The Urban Plan was approved in May following public consultations and comments provided by the Association were reviewed and taken into account. Regulations were also updated and changes made as a result of MLA recommendations received.
- He then spoke about the recent minor variance application (dérogation mineure) and the mandatory consultation that precede its formal submission to Council for a vote. He concluded by noting that the Council had rejected the request. As a result, the Urban planning office is reviewing options with the applicant to find an acceptable solution.
- The mayor then spoke about a motion which was adopted at the MRC level to decrease from 15 to 10 meters the shoreline buffer zone in exceptional cases, which is in Pontiac's "Schéma d'aménagement". A motion was passed at Council. Although the Association wrote a letter that disagreed with the Council decision, there will further be an opportunity to review this in the next 2027-2028 Schéma d'aménagement review.
- The mayor reminded everyone that there was a display in the park where young entrepreneurs had set up stands to sell their creations and invited members to stop by on their way home.
- A final note on the progress and recent funding received from the province and MRC for the restoration of the church and the transformation into a cultural centre which will be under the responsibility of a Not-for-Profit Organization.

Several questions were raised, as follows.

- **What are the current standard dimensions for docks?** The VDM website states that docks cannot exceed 20 square meters.
- **Concern expressed:** It was raised that businesses can establish on any vacant lot and that the municipal Council needs to differentiate between docks for family and for business use.
- **Comments on the Association's position:** Several comments were shared concerning the impact of the Association's position to disagree with the reduced shoreline buffer raising many environmental impacts then required to demolish /rebuild old structures, such as cutting down mature trees and blasting in the rock. The MLA incorrectly claimed to have surveyed its members before sharing its

opposition to the municipality. However, among the comments sent by our members following this decision, the vast majority were supportive. The Association acknowledges that it would be appropriate to survey members on these types of issues before taking a formal position. It was felt that a note should be included to reflect the variance in viewpoints.

- **In light of the discussions surrounding environmental issues:** A member volunteered his expertise and knowledge to help review, assess and recommend options to obtain funds for environmental protection.
- **Questions were raised about the various uses for the buoys in the lake:** It was explained that some are Transport Canada (TC) buoys authority (placed by the Municipality) to indicate speed limits and prohibit large gatherings on the lake. Yellow buoys are to indicate milfoil limits. Plus, some owners place red and white buoys to indicate swimming limits and a member asked how far out can those buoys be from the shore. Follow-up is required with VDM to request maintenance of the TC-mandated buoys installed in the lake (sinking, positions migrated).
 - Of note, however that the speed buoys are TC compliant and mandated and managed by VDM, whereas shoal buoys are TC compliant and managed by volunteers for the association
- **Suggestion:** to include lights on buoys for increased visibility at night.
- **With regards to waves:** A member suggested not to indicate in our publications that boaters should slow down which in fact created larger waves, but to highlight driving boats in a plane position. It is suggested that this be raised as part of a 'Ride Flat' campaign to be proposed to the Board to be implemented in part this summer. VDM to be asked to share information developed by the Association.

9. NEW BUSINESS

Hania Grabowski invited members who wish to build a loon nest to contact Deborah Doherty at debdoherly@gmail.com

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was terminated at 11:40 AM. Proposed by Mary Carman and seconded by Bob Lafleur.