



MCGREGOR LAKE ASSOCIATION 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Presented on June 6, 2026

Welcome Message

The McGregor Lake Association (MLA) is a hands-on organization powered by its members.

We are fortunate to count on the dedication of some 50 volunteers who give their time and energy to help keep McGregor Lake the exceptional place and close-knit community it has long been. Whether serving on the Board, testing water quality, installing buoys, monitoring loon families, or helping at community events, these volunteers bring the Association to life.

The MLA is pleased to present this annual report, which covers financial activities from January 1 to December 31, 2025, as well as Association activities between the June 7, 2025 and June 6, 2026 Annual General Meetings.

Despite an unusually dry summer and historically low water levels, the year under review offered another memorable season on the lake—from the June 2025 AGM and summer activities, including the Picnic and Games, to the Christmas Bird Count and the return of migratory birds in the spring of 2026. McGregor Lake is truly a place to enjoy in every season.

In 2026, the Association will celebrate its 80th anniversary.

For eight decades, the Association has worked to protect the health of the lake and watershed, promote stewardship of its natural environment, and foster a strong sense of community among residents and property owners.

To mark this milestone, the Association and the 80th Anniversary Committee are planning a number of special activities throughout the year. We hope you will join us in celebrating this remarkable community. Renewing your membership—and, if you are able, volunteering some of your time—is among the best ways to support the Association and help ensure that McGregor Lake continues to thrive for generations to come.

President's Report

The board can count on 11 directors to coordinate projects and activities in line with the Association's mission to protect McGregor Lake and its watershed, work collaboratively with governments and partner organizations, and foster a strong sense of community among residents and property owners for the benefit of all.

We are hoping to fill the 12th vacancy in 2026.

New Appointments and Responsibilities:

- **Treasurer:** Bob Kerr (board member since 1990)
- **Secretary:** Stephanie Monteith (board member since 2025)
- **Membership:** Mary Carman (board member since early 80s)
- **Swag & Merch (Promotional Items):** Marina Johnston (board member since 2024)
- **Picnic & Games:** Elizabeth Gray-Smith (board member since 2023)
- **Website:** Natalie Lavigne (board member since 2021)
- **Safe Boating & Lake Harmony:** vacant
- **80th Anniversary:** Marina Johnston

Continuing Directors

- **President:** Natalie Lavigne
- **Water Testing Coordinator:** Peter Barton (board member since 1990)
- **Communications:** Natalie Lavigne
- Bob Lafleur (board member since 1976)
- Russell Williams (board member since 2025)
- H  l  ne Vallin (**past secretary** and board member since 2013)
- Deborah Morrison (**past treasurer** and board member since 2014)

Key news, projects and achievements:

- The board appointed Stephanie Monteith as the board's 12th director early in the new year. In accordance with the corporation's by-laws amended in 2024, that director must then be elected at the next AGM to continue serving.
- In May 2026, Annie Perreault resigned as Membership Secretary and Board Member.
- Environment consultant at the Municipality, Samantha Rhains, left early this spring. We are waiting for her position to be filled to resume our ongoing collaboration with the Municipality of VDM.

- The Post office in Perkins closed in October and clients were advised that those services were relocated to Buckingham. That location is inconvenient and as such we are renting a new PO Box in Gatineau (P.O. Box 82022, Greber RPO, Gatineau (QC) J8T 8B6)
- In August 2025, we conducted a bilingual, 26-question member survey that gathered the opinions of 61% of respondents. Some interesting data collected included:
 - **Linguistic duality** remains a defining feature of the community (55% of respondents have English as their mother tongue; 38% have French).
 - **Long-standing membership:** 60% have been members for more than 10 years, reflecting a strong sense of continuity and attachment.
 - **Year-round residency** is rising (nearly 6 out of 10 members).
 - **71% rate MLA's work as excellent;** 26% as satisfactory.
- MLA completed a university-led survey (Polytechnic Montreal) on lake health and invasive species in Quebec. (Thank you Bob K.)
- Four (4) new signs were installed on Black Island as reminders to respect private property (a joint project with the owners).

Thank you to all members for supporting our work; and to the 50+ volunteers who help make it happen.

80th Anniversary

The Association has created an ad hoc committee to coordinate the activities to celebrate this 2026 milestone. Thank you to my committee colleagues Janice Friis, Caroline Honsberger, Liz Gray-Smith, Deborah Morrison, Janet Deisley and Marina Johnston (committee chair). Together, with several other volunteers, we are organizing these activities:

- **AGM Reception** (Saturday, June 6th; 10 a.m. to noon, J.A. Perkins Community Centre, 17, ch. du Manoir)
- **Bioblitz:** a 3-day inventory (Aug 1, 2 and 3) of the fauna and flora on the lake (using the application iNaturalist). Participants will focus on their own property, giving us a great snapshot for the future.
- **Annual Picnic & Games:** our flagship event with new activities and surprises this year. From 11:00 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday July 25th at Camping McGregor.
- **McGregor Lake Treasure Hunt:** Sunday, August 16th in the morning.
- **Guided Pontoon Boat Tours:** Educational, bilingual boat tours on Fridays in July and Aug. Dates tbd.

- **Legacy Project:** This year a team of volunteers will be collecting stories and photos to celebrate life on the lake over the decades and determining which formats to present them in for 2027

More information will be provided at the AGM and throughout the summer

Finally, after several rewarding years as President, I have decided not to seek another term in this role. I am pleased to continue serving on the Board as Communications & Website Lead and as Past President on the Executive Committee. This transition will allow for new leadership while ensuring continuity in our ongoing work.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Association remains in a strong financial position, managing its operating expenses against annual revenues.

Items of note for 2025:

- We purchased new merchandise inventory, and both expenses and offsetting revenues were higher.
- We completed the updated study of milfoil beds in the lake (ABV des 7).
- Resumed our regular water testing schedule, and cost-shared in the creation and installation of new "No Trespassing" signs on key trouble spots for day visitors around the lake.
- We also reinvested some of our surpluses into GICs. The association had two years without significant activity during COVID, which accounts for most of the total reserve funds. The board's intention is to continue holding and growing these funds incrementally for major investments in environmental protection for the lake, as may become necessary. For example, milfoil and other invasive species mitigation.

Water Testing

E-coli

The Water Quality Committee continues to monitor E. coli levels at specific locations on McGregor Lake. In summer 2025, volunteers collected two rounds of 60 samples, along with a

third spot-check round of 5 samples. Results are presented on a lake map with an accompanying report available on the Association's website. <https://lacmcgregorlake.ca/water-quality/>

A sincere thank you to all volunteers whose enthusiasm makes this initiative possible each year:

Norm Smith and Liz Gray-Smith

Amy Lawe

Philippa McDonald

Rina Fougère (map)

Ravi Mehta and France Lacroix

Russell Williams

François Beaulieu

Peter Barton and Lisa Barton

Invasive Species: Eurasian Milfoil

Eurasian Milfoil is an invasive species that has no natural enemies that consume it, and unchecked, it will multiply and in some cases completely outcompete native plants and form a blanket of weeds at the surface of the water. Its spread is accelerated when fragments are broken off by propellers or paddles and carried to new areas where they can re-root.

Several areas of McGregor Lake are affected. The Association has installed yellow buoys and informational signage to alert boaters and help prevent further spread. Mapping work carried out with ABV7 (<https://abv7.org/>) in 2024–2025 provides a clearer picture of infestation levels and helps guide management efforts. While control options exist, they are often costly, labour-intensive, and of limited long-term effectiveness. The MLA continues to research potential solutions.

The committee would like to recognize and thank Norm Smith and Liz Gray-Smith for their yeoman efforts in support of the installation and removal of the information signs and buoys for the past several years.

The full ABV-7 report which was completed in 2025 in French; a summary in English can be found at: <https://lacmcgregorlake.ca/eurasian-watermilfoil/>

Water Rangers

Since 2021, in collaboration with the Municipality of Val-des-Monts, MLA volunteers have been collecting and uploading water quality data to the Water Rangers platform.

<https://waterrangers.com/>

Monitoring includes key indicators such as:

- Phosphorus (nutrient levels)
- Chlorophyll A (algae concentration)
- Dissolved organic carbon (organic matter decomposition)
- Water clarity (Secchi depth)
- Water and air temperature
- Water depth

A huge thank you goes out to our volunteers who carried out sampling and/or Secchi readings on 11 occasions:

Marianne O’Byrne
Dominique Laflamme & Martin Poitras
Natalie Lavigne & Edouard Biot
Samuel Prud’homme

Overall Condition

McGregor Lake remains in very good health. Data continue to classify the lake as oligotrophic, meaning it has clear water, low nutrient and organic matter levels, and low biological productivity.

While eutrophication is a natural aging process for lakes, current observations indicate that this process remains slow and well controlled—an encouraging sign for the lake’s long-term ecological health.

In short, McGregor Lake is generally in very good health.

There are two ways to access the data taken from five various areas of the lake. This link is for general results: <https://data.waterrangers.com/datasets/lac-mcgregor>. This link allows you to zoom in on McGregor Lake and each individual spots: <https://data.waterrangers.com/maps>

Membership Report

The McGregor Lake Association had 170 members in 2025, which is 6 fewer than our record year of 2023. The distribution of decals and dock plaques is carried out by volunteers, and we are grateful for their help: Mary Carman, Hélène Vallin, Bob Kerr, Deborah Morrison, Ravi Mehta, Jennifer Garland, and Liz Gray-Smith.

As of mid-May 2026, the Association had 80 returning or new members. This year's decal will carry a nostalgic touch, featuring the number 80 to mark the 80th anniversary of the McGregor Lake Association.

Report from the Communications Committee

According to the results of the 2025 member survey:

- **The newsletter remains the central communication channel**, widely valued for its reliability, accessibility, and content - 90% of members report reading it consistently.
 - Since the 2025 AGM, the Association has published **five newsletters**, including a special edition on lake water quality and wildlife.
- **The Association's Facebook page is a strong secondary channel**: about 6 out of 10 respondents (58%) follow it.
 - Our thanks go to Ravi Mehta for supporting the Communications Committee in monitoring the Facebook page.
- **The website remains useful but underutilized**: 43% report visiting it only occasionally, and 22% have never visited it.
 - A **basic website update is planned for fall 2026**.

Annual Picnic and Games

The 2025 Picnic and Games on McGregor Lake was a success under sunny skies and 20+ degrees. With 110 people attending, only a few hot dogs remained on the grill at the end of the day. We invested in a few items to improve the games, and added extra contests.

Merch was sold and connections were made. It was a seamless transition to the new organizers, the Smiths, who mobilized many of their Davis/Coupland Island neighbours to volunteer. The Picnic and Games benefited from additional marketing, and as a result welcomed new attendees. Getting the word out to new families on the lake has been key.

We are forever grateful to Camping Lac McGregor for allowing us to use the grounds. The Picnic and Games will be amplified even more this year with the 80th anniversary of the Lake Association. An increase in budget boosts just about everything we all love about the annual event.