



AMIS du LAC  
FRIENDS of the LAKE

## Spring 2015 Newsletter

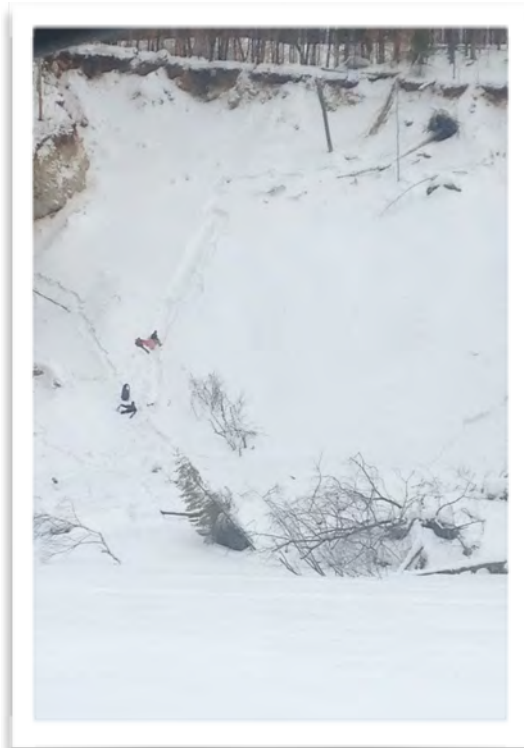
### **A year without a major issue:**

In 2013 Friends/Amis worked hard to help elect a municipal council that would be more sensitive to the aims and objectives of our association and its members. Three now former members of our board were elected and with the high turnout from the lake sectors the municipal council is now more in step with our association's issues.

On April 15, 2014 the landslide changed the face of the lake. This event affected everyone in the municipality, particularly those who had extensive damage done to their properties. The community response to this event was the silver lining. Hundreds of volunteers from the community – and from outside the community – participated in the clean up over three weekends and throughout the summer and fall.

This event also necessarily directed the attention of our council and municipal staff away from their regular business and towards the clean up effort. The cost to our municipality of the clean up was covered by grants and subsidies. Our only tax paid expenses were for staff time diverted to landslide issues.

As the landslide area can still be unstable our municipality asks that residents refrain from trespassing on the site – unlike those in the photo below caught on the March school break.



In excess of \$15,000 was donated to clean up of the landslide mostly by residents who could not participate in the clean up. These monies will be earmarked for landslide related expenses – water testing, contribution to a student salary for environmental issues arising from the landslide, etc.

Below is a link to an article in Le Journal des Pays-d'en-Haut. On pages 6 and 7 you'll find several articles on the landslide a year later – in French only

[http://www.myvirtualpaper.com/doc/hebdo\\_le-journal-des-pays-den-haut-lavallee/jv\\_150415/2015041301/?referrer=http%3A//www.lejournaldespaysdenhautlavallee.ca/edition-e#0](http://www.myvirtualpaper.com/doc/hebdo_le-journal-des-pays-den-haut-lavallee/jv_150415/2015041301/?referrer=http%3A//www.lejournaldespaysdenhautlavallee.ca/edition-e#0)

Knocking on wood, 2015 looks to be a less distracting year and one in which your association will hopefully focus more on longer term issues than on responding to immediate issues and crises.

## **Municipal Affairs:**

A few highlights from the past year:

- The municipality ended the year with a \$180,000 surplus.
- The municipality is attempting to have the Province take possession of the dam at the south end. Should they be unsuccessful they plan to take possession themselves and move forward on assessing, costing and replacing/repairing the dam.
- The rubble (mostly tree parts) has been removed from the water in front of the slide site to the depth of one meter.
- The renovation of the municipal hall is nearing completion. This reno – mostly covered by grants/subsidies – includes access to new public washrooms among other improvements.

## **A New Environmental Committee:**

Many of you will know that the Municipality has for many years used a volunteer committee called the CCU to meet, discuss and recommend to Council on issues of variances on building permits, rezoning and other municipal issues.

This year the Council has formed a volunteer environmental consultative committee (CCE) to recommend to the Council on environmental issues. The committee includes Corina Lupu: councillor responsible for environment, Lucie Robillard Barbeau: councillor responsible for environment, Andre-Philippe Hebert: president of Lac Laurel Association, Denis Charlebois: former councillor responsible for environment and myself: president of Friends/Amis du Lac.

Some of the issues that the CCE is working on are:

- Boat ramps and the issues surrounding them – cost of entry, control of ramps (municipal and otherwise), washing of boat hulls, etc.
- Management of the milfoil aquatic weed – taking inventories and control of the weed and other non-native invasive species.
- Development of a municipal environmental policy – a first for our municipality.
- Development of a municipal lake code of ethics.

- Development of signage at the municipal dock (map, speed and sensitive zones, code of ethics, etc.).

The municipality is looking for a 6 week /35 hour per week employee to work in the environmental area. The job description and offer is a separate attachment below.

### **Environmental - Batteries in the Lake – Shocking!!:**

Some of you will remember a scuba dive boat on our lake last season. Jean-Louis Courteau has been diving and exploring our lake for the last several years – he will be at the Municipal Arts and Culture weekend again this year exhibiting our lake’s treasures and discussing his explorations.

Jean-Louis tells us that there are “thousands” of batteries lying on the lake bottom off of almost every dock that was in existence 50 plus years ago. It appears our predecessors didn’t have our sensibilities! Most of these batteries are the older “disposable” types used prior to the 60’s – somewhat like today’s flashlight batteries, we believe. There are, however, some more modern and more toxic batteries, i.e. lead acid types. Below is a photo of a bucket of batteries taken from in front of one dock – there were two more bucket loads at the same dock – an indication of the quantity of these batteries.



These batteries and the potential effects of the landslide led our association to take a number of water samples last summer.

The testing in the sediment around the batteries indicated a slightly elevated level of lead. The undisturbed water inches from these batteries also showed slightly elevated levels. However, when the batteries were disturbed, the water close by showed significant lead levels. Some experts in this field tell us that it is best to leave these batteries in place - our water sampling tends to confirm this. We are still investigating.

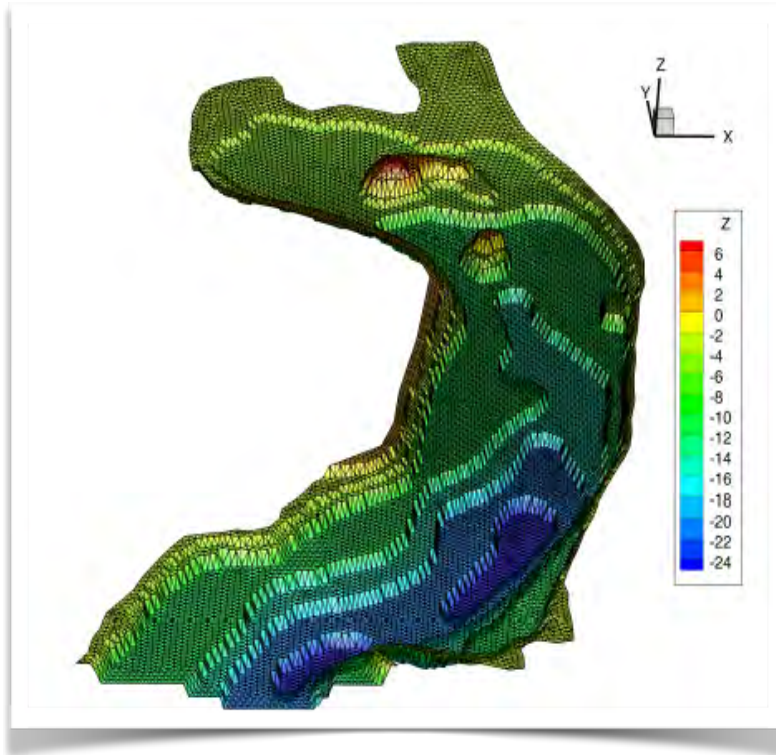
Cathy Mavriplis is looking into a model to estimate the diffusion effect of the toxic materials seeping from the old batteries that were found off our docks.

The e. coli levels taken at the landslide (where a septic tank is buried) and on down the lake at several locations indicated levels consistent with previous years' levels – an indication that the landslide had little effect on the bacterial levels in lake water – good news for our lake water quality.

### **Environmental - Landslide Model:**

Cathy Mavriplis (VP Environment Friends/Amis) is attempting to produce a model of our landslide at University of Ottawa in collaboration with her colleague and his graduate student. Below is the portion of the lake being simulated, and the description of the depth and island and shore topographies before the slide.

The mapping done by Jamie Bourne years ago and descriptions supplied by Jean-Louis Courteau were of great help to the U. of O. team. The landslide hasn't been simulated yet but it will supply some interesting results.



### **Membership:**

Our membership rose from our 2013 level – in 2014 we are now at 102 members with 5 new first time members. We have sent out reminders to our three-year membership renewals. Our membership has been very supportive and we very much appreciate your participation. We are a much better community with you.

### **Lake Phone Directory:**

The phone directory has been updated over the last year thanks to help from Peter Kuzik and Doug Love. It will be distributed in the late June Club drop off.

## **Calendars:**

As usual, Tim Boswell provided our association with another wonderful calendar for 2015 – they have become collectors' items on the lake. Tim is again on the job this spring on the 2016 edition. We are aiming to have them available at our AGM on July 10<sup>th</sup>.

Where will we find new and interesting photos? From our residents as usual! Thanks to those that have contributed in the past – you've contributed to a wonderful tradition. Please help us again by sending your cottage, lake, flora and fauna photos to: [tboswell@cdmworldagency.com](mailto:tboswell@cdmworldagency.com)

## **Annual General Meeting:**

Our AGM will be held at the Municipal Hall on Friday July 10<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. This year we are inviting the Municipal Council to attend the meeting. Corina Lupu will make a presentation on municipal affairs over the last year. Afterwards there will be a Q and A period. We look forward to seeing you there.

Respectfully

Bill Clelland

[www.amisdulacdes16isles.org](http://www.amisdulacdes16isles.org)

[amis16island@yahoo.com](mailto:amis16island@yahoo.com)

