



Happy Spring everyone! We're looking forward to an excellent fall season – okay, maybe we'll get a summer as well. Today on June 4 the water temperature is 50 degrees and the bugs aren't too bad - the silver lining.

Friends of the Lake had a busy summer last year – below is a summary of our main activities in 2018 and our plans for 2019.

Jean-Louis Courteau and CIEL

We provided a grant of \$5,000 to Jean-Louis Courteau and CIEL (Centre d'Interprétation des Eaux Laurentiennes) in 2018 for several projects.

CIEL website: <https://artseizeiles.com/le-ciel/>

Jean-Louis' report on last year's activities and this year's plans:

<http://www.amisdulacdes16iles.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/CIEL-Report-and-Project-Outline-2018-2019.pdf>

- Jean-Louis and his fellow scuba divers removed the mat of milfoil from the shoal in Big Bay. This shoal is the primary lake trout spawning ground on the lake. The presence of milfoil dramatically reduces the viability of the shoal as a trout spawning ground. This operation took over 150 hours of diving by 4 divers. The results were dramatic. In the fall of 2017 before the milfoil removal the trout egg count was 4-7 eggs/sq. metre on the shoal. After the milfoil removal in the fall of 2018 the count was 35 eggs /sq. metre. A healthy count is 30-50 eggs/sq. metre – a resounding success.
- The presence of milfoil has an unintended benefit for fish and fishermen – it attracts bass – see below.



Here is a photo of a bass and a bouquet of roses by J-L Courteau at Big Bay shoal while removing milfoil. Plastic roses found on the bottom of the lake at the shoal by J-L – perhaps a long ago celebration of life. The bass objects to the removal of his weeds!



One day's milfoil haul at Big Bay shoal.

- Jean-Louis and his colleagues ran a workshop on milfoil management at the Club on Motorless Day. The AV presentation was followed by a hands-on demonstration adjacent to the Club docks of correct removal from the lake bottom. The young teens in particular loved the hands-on demo.
- Later in the summer on a weekend another demonstration of milfoil removal was conducted for adults at the Big Bay shoal. Approximately 15 people brought dive masks and fins and learned proper removal techniques.
- Raymond's Bay has developed a substantial milfoil crop. Jean-Louis along with Max and Alison Gilday performed an experiment on this dense crop last year – to learn the details see Jean-Louis' report (page 3) on our website: <http://www.amisdulacdes16iles.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/CIEL-Report-and-Project-Outline-2018-2019.pdf>
- We are very fortunate to have an individual like Jean-Louis and his brainchild CIEL in our community. He and his colleagues bring a high level of commitment and enthusiasm to their work. They also attract funding from multiple levels of government and leading scientists to our community to conduct studies and experiments. To learn more about these activities again follow this link to Jean-Louis' report: <http://www.amisdulacdes16iles.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/CIEL-Report-and-Project-Outline-2018-2019.pdf>
- In 2019 we will again provide a grant of \$5,000 to Jean-Louis and CIEL primarily for milfoil removal between Myers' Island and Latour's as well as in the area surrounding Prentice's Island. Both of these areas are high traffic areas where milfoil grows so removal is important. Jean-Louis will need volunteers to protect him and his colleagues while they work underwater. If you would like to help please contact Jean-Louis at centreleciel@gmail.com

- The Big Bay shoal will need to be revisited in 2019 to remove any residual milfoil growth.
- Jean-Louis also plans removal of a motor and gas tank still buried in the landslide as well as a number of lead acid batteries that he has located over the years at the bottom of the lake.
- Over the past several years Jean-Louis has removed milfoil in front of docks for individuals on an ad hoc basis. This year he will offer the service to individuals at \$60/hour with a minimum one hour (\$60) charge. (This is 30% of what a commercial diver would charge). He will do any underwater work (inspecting, adjusting submersible water pumps, searching for and retrieving items dropped in the lake, etc). Contact Jean-Louis at 450-226-3601 or by email at jeanlouiscourteau@gmail.com

Loon Survey

Friends of the Lake have been participating in the Canadian Loon Survey <https://www.birdscanada.org/volunteer/clls/> since 2016. Charlotte Stretton managed and surveyed the loon population until last summer. She has a full-time summer job off the lake this year and will still participate but is unable to manage the program. Thanks a ton Charlotte for your input and commitment over three years. Cathy Wensley is managing the loon survey this year so if you have anything interesting to report (i.e., new loon chicks, loons in trouble, etc.) please contact her at catherine.wensley@yahoo.com or 450-226-6327

Last year the chick hatch was late. The first nesting produced no young – we think high water at a critical time destroyed the first eggs. Later in the summer five pairs produced four young and although they did not appear until late July, the experts tell us they had a very good chance of surviving. By mid-October we ceased surveying – the loons stay here much longer into the fall.

For the loon survey results from our first three years [follow this link](#) (in English only).

Loon Nesting Platform

We installed a loon nesting platform in early May near a location that had a loon nest in previous years. We aren't revealing its location as the more people approach it the less likely loons are to nest there. If you have discovered it please respect the loons' privacy and keep well away.

As of June 7 there are no loons in residence and we may not be successful this year. This is not unusual, experts say it often takes several years to establish successful nesting. If there is no action by July 1, we'll have to wait until next year when we'll make it more attractive as a nest.



Loon nesting platform, shown with optional large-screen TV and popcorn machine (could be deployed as an incentive to encourage loons to nest on it)

Environment

Water Quality

Water quality was very good last year. The clarity (transparency) was excellent, especially in the fall.

The Quebec provincial government pays for and administers water quality tests for lakes in the province. They do this only for a 3-4 year period and if the situation is stable they stop funding.

In 2018 the province ceased funding our program and unfortunately testing was not done. Friends of the Lake plan to fund water testing going forward beginning in 2019. Lucie Robillard (Barbeau) did the sampling for many years up to 2016 when Jean-Louis took over in 2017.

To view the test results for past years [follow this link](#) (data in French only).

Septic Systems

As of 2018 our municipality finally began monitoring septic systems and pumping. You may have received a request to provide proof of pumping or a notification to have your septic pumped.

The municipality is considering contracting the pumping of septic systems for all properties without roads. This will not only make it easier to monitor but will have systems pumped on time. We understand the cost will not exceed the current contractor rate.

The CCE (Comité consultatif en l'environnement)

This committee reports to the municipal council on matters of the environment. Friends board member Louise Pharand (Lorange) and lake resident Jane Magee sit on the committee.

Last year the committee was occupied primarily with the milfoil issue in Lac Laurel and our lake. The provincial government recognizes milfoil as a threat to our lakes. The municipality is funding CIEL for milfoil management and removal.

This year the focus is again on milfoil. The municipality plans to fund removal in the marina area and in Hammond's Bay (primarily with manual removal – Jean-Louis et al). The burlap project that has been planned for years appears to be cancelled for a variety of reasons.

Boat washing will be more vigorously enforced this year. Permanent signage will highlight the regulation and direct boaters to the washing station at the back of the parking area. This regulation includes kayaks and canoes.

More stringent regulations for contractors around barge safety and liability and construction waste removal are being recommended. Permits for larger construction projects will need to include waste removal.

Club Activities

2018

As mentioned above Friends funded a workshop on milfoil and provided a barbeque lunch to all participants on "Motorless Day" at the Club.

The Stretton/Warner family ran a Craft Night at the Club where all the children did silk scarf painting for this past Mother's Day (lucky moms). Also Charlotte Stretton gave an AV presentation on water and the lake. About 30 kids attended and it was a big hit.

2019

Friends of the Lake will again provide a barbeque lunch on "Motorless Day" at the Club on **July 3rd** at noon. This year Martin Picard of [Argenteuil ornithological Development](#) (DOA) will give a talk on the principal bird species in the Lac-des-Seize-Iles area. His presentation will include bird songs, video clips and photos of local bird life, plus information on favourable habitat, nesting, feeding and migration of our native birds. Some emphasis will be placed on loons and the recently installed platform. This presentation will be interesting to all ages with lots of interesting information. There will be a "bird game" for children 8 and under and a quiz based on the presentation for the 8 and older group, with prizes for the best scores. Martin has been a teacher and has experience communicating with kids.

Martin has studied birds since he was 8 years old. He has a MSc from UQAM in wildlife biology and is the founder and the current general manager of DOA. Its mission is to develop and encourage bird life and to protect bird habitat in the Argenteuil MRC and surrounding Laurentian area through direct action and field activities, education and awareness of bird life and issues. The DOA works with local, regional and provincial organizations both in the public and private sectors.

The presentation will be in English. There will be a similar presentation in French during the municipality's "Art and Culture" weekend, oriented towards how to plan and attract wild birds to your backyard.

Annie Barbeau will be hosting Craft Night funded by Friends of the Lake on July 22. The topic is frogs – don't miss it.

Municipal Affairs

Municipal Assessments

This past winter the new assessments came into effect. For many of us the resulting tax increases were slightly higher or lower. However, some residents received a substantially higher tax bill. If you wish to contest your tax bill, which was based on the assessed value of your property, contact Robert McCann (robert.mccann@evimbec.ca 450-229-6637 ext 116). The municipality had no input into the assessment.

Docks

Up to 8 new docks were approved in the budget to replace older unstable docks. Priority will be given to those renting with mobility issues.

The rink

In the winter of 2018 the municipality conducted a survey on the usability of the rink structure in the space in front of the municipal building. The survey was sent to permanent residents only – not to seasonal residents. The result was in favour of dismantling and selling the rink structure. The Friends board objected to seasonal residents exclusion for democratic reasons. The rink was officially on the Club calendar as a village activity, i.e., an all season facility used by seasonal tax paying residents. We did an online survey of lake residents and the result supported keeping the rink. If both surveys were merged the result supported keeping the rink.

In the fall we presented a written case to the municipality for retaining the rink. We received a reply mid-winter that the permanent resident survey stood. The structure was dismantled and sold. Seasonal taxpayers wishes were not considered.

The Urban Plan

The plan that Councilor Corina Lupu developed in the previous administration has finally been accepted and is within a month of being fully approved and implemented. Thank you Corina for your commitment and hundreds of hours of work finalizing this plan. The Minister of Municipal Affairs mandates a new plan every 10 years. This is the first new plan since 2001.

Boathouses

It turns out that boathouses as we know them have been prohibited in our MRC for many years. We have been building illegally but can keep ones already built. This regulation may be appropriate for lakes with roads around them; however, our municipality is unique in our MRC with regards to boat only access. Everyone in our community recognizes this including the entire municipal council. They are actively working with the MRC to obtain an exemption for our municipality. There is precedent for this kind of exemption - the municipality of Barkmere in the MRC north of us has one. Much like our lake many homes there are boat access only.

The Church

The municipality is in the process of purchasing the Catholic Church adjacent to the municipal hall for \$1 from the diocese. This purchase is being completed over the objections of the David Estall and Corina Lupu – the two councilors who represent most of the seasonal lake community. Their objections were based on their belief that the inspection of the building was inadequate and that future repairs may not be affordable by our tax base. Time will tell!

Membership

Our membership finished last year at 114 members – exactly the same as 2017. Both years were all time highs but it's always good to grow. To that end we now accept e-transfers for membership fees to amisdulacdes16iles@gmail.com. Our membership fees, unchanged in 10 years, are \$90 for 3 years or \$30 for 1 year.

We have also updated our website to more accurately reflect our activities and plans: <http://www.amisdulacdes16iles.org/?lang=en>

If you are reading this and are not a member we hope you'll consider joining. [Here is our membership form.](#)

Calendars

As usual our calendars were a big hit especially with the back cover featuring Donald Smithers, "The Ice Man". It was the first calendar to feature a person in more than a decade of producing them. We sold out in mid October. The calendars are our only fundraiser and along with membership fees make up all of our revenue.

Our 2020 calendars will be available sometime in July , hopefully at our AGM on Friday July 19. They will be on sale at major Club events and at the municipal Arts & Culture weekend. You can also pick them up from Elise Latour or Mary Campbell.

Lake Louisa

This past winter Lake Louisa was confronted with the specter of a \$2 billion development plan over 20 years in their community. Here's a link to Lake Louisa Property Owners Association with plenty of information on the project and their plans of resistance <http://lac-louisa.ca/en/witri-opposition/>. If this project goes through it will change their community forever. What if this happened to our community? We need to watch this situation closely as it develops.

AGM

Our AGM will be held at the **Municipal Hall** on **Friday July 19 at 7:30 PM**. We hope to see you there.

Have a wonderful summer