

# BLUE SEA LAKE WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

*Mission: To preserve and protect Blue Sea Lake and Blue Sea Stream*

The following is a summary of the proceedings of the first annual general meeting (AGM) of the Association which took place on 12 July 2009 at 0930 hours in the Rejean-Lafreniere Hall at 70 Rue Principale, Messines, QC.

Attendees: The AGM was attended by a large group of interested citizens from the municipalities of Blue Sea and Messines as well as by the founders and interim administrators of the Association (ie, Antoine Gregoire, Marc Gregoire, Suzanne Barrette, Elizabeth Britt, Denis M Cote, Donald Karn, Louisette Verrault, Eric Desrosiers, and Nathalie Boileau). A list of attendees is detailed in Annex A of the French version of this document.

Welcoming Remarks: Antoine Gregoire welcomed the attendees by giving a brief history of the evolution of the organization, starting with the appearance of blue-green algae in the late nineties and culminating with the issuance of the Association's charter by the Quebec Government on 26 May 2009. He concluded his presentation by nominating Denis M Cote as Chairman of the meeting. Antoine's presentation was translated into English by Georges Ranger.

Official Opening - 1030 hours - The AGM was officially opened by Denis M Cote who then quickly reviewed the agenda.

Report of the Interim Committee - Louisette Verreault and Marc Gregoire outlined the action taken by the Interim Committee leading up to the formal establishment of the Association. This included meeting with the Federation of the Gatineau Valley Lake and River Associations; obtaining start-up funding of \$1,500 from both the Blue Sea and Messines municipalities; establishing a network of voluntary surveillance; drafting the mission and objectives of the Association; and obtaining its charter on 26 May 2009.

RSV-Lac Program - Marlene Thonnard and Dick Ryan briefly described the Ministry of Sustainable Development's RSV-Lac program. They explained that, under the program, they took transparency readings every two weeks from June to October using a Secchi dish as well as water samples once every four or five years to check for phosphates, chlorophyll, and sediment in the water.

Keynote Presentation by Henri Fournier - Biologist at the Ministry of Wildlife and Natural Resources - In his presentation entitled "The Blue Sea Lake Watershed - It is Time to Act", Mr Fournier outlined the threats facing the watershed, emphasizing that residents must do all they can to reduce/negate the inflow of phosphates, nitrates, etc into the watershed if they were to prevent the premature death of the lake. The Chairman thanked Mr Fournier for his excellent presentation.

Election of the Administrative Council - Michele Houde and Nathalie Boileau were selected as president and secretary respectively of the the election process. Eleven people were nominated to fill the nine positions on the Administrative Council, namely: Marlene Thonnard, Eric Desrosiers, Louise Verreault, Marc Gregoire, Denis M Cote, Richard Mayer, Jamie Quatham, Josee Parsons, Gilles Galipeau, Dick Ryan, and Raymond Brunet. Following the nominations, Josee Parsons and Raymond Brunet withdrew their names, leaving the remainder to be elected by acclamation.

Intermission - Following the election, there was a coffee break during which Annie Parent gave an informal briefing/demonstration of the types of flora that should be planted along the shoreline to prevent erosion and retard the inflow of phosphates, etc...

Election of Officers - During the intermission, the newly elected Administrative Council met in a separate room to choose the Association's officers; specifically, President - Marc Gregoire, Vice President - Louise Verreault; Treasurer - Marlene Thonnard; and Secretary - Richard Mayer.

President's Address - After the intermission, the newly elected President addressed the AGM. In his remarks, he emphasized the importance of effective communication in educating the area's residents re the ecological challenges we face and in motivating them to become active participants in meeting these challenges. He then asked the attendees for their questions or concerns. A lively exchange ensued in which a wide range of issues were covered, including the provision of a barge to empty the septic tanks on the islands, the need to thoroughly clean boats before they enter the lake, and the development of new regulations regarding the protection of shorelines.

Shoreline Revegetation - Marc Gregoire indicated that two sessions led by Annie Parent on Shoreline Revegetation would be given on 22 and 23 August 2009.

Date of Next AGM - The President tentatively scheduled the next AGM for 11 July 2010.

Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 1215 hours.