

# The Sandbar

Lac Patterson's newsletter

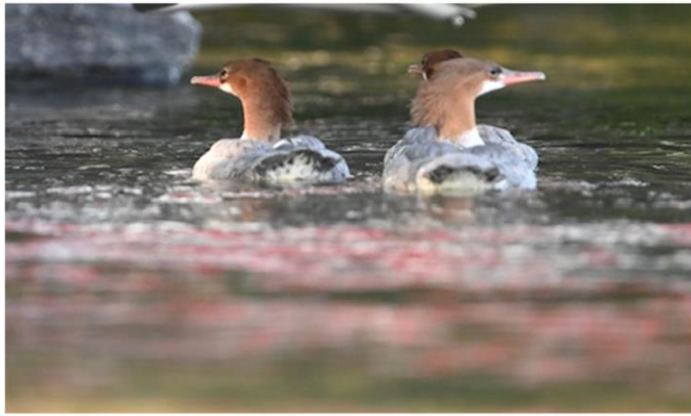


Photo credit: Danielle Morrison – Lac Patterson

## Welcome to another cottage season!

### It's time to open up again!

This year Mother Nature took her time with spring to arrive! Late season snow, unseasonably cold days and the lake didn't fully thaw until April 22-23 but the loons have already made their return! Thankfully, the water level isn't as high as last year where we had the beaver dam issue. The lake trout season opened on April 25<sup>th</sup> but unfortunately, fishermen were already on the ice beforehand trying their luck. As there is NO winter fishing permitted on the lake, you can protect our lake from poaching and make an anonymous tip either by phone at SOS Braconnage 1-800-463-2191 or online at: [Formulaire de signalement - Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs](#).

Finally, cottage taxes went up because of the triennial property evaluations by the MRC Vallée de la Gatineau.

Do you want to receive the newsletter through email and not miss it in your endless Facebook notifications? Please follow the steps below.

1

#### EMAIL

Send your email address  
to: [admin@lac-patterson-lake.ca](mailto:admin@lac-patterson-lake.ca)

2

#### ADDRESS

Please add your cottage address in the email and language preference

3

#### FEEDBACK

Your feedback is always welcome through email or Facebook!

#### Municipal elections & taxes

See page 2

#### Water testing results

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#### Dark skies

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## Municipal elections & taxes

### Get ready to vote!

The municipal elections will take place on Sunday November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025 at the Cayamant municipal office.

### **"Your vote is important!"**

In the next few months, the candidates wishing to represent as councillors and mayor will be making themselves known between September 19<sup>th</sup> and October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025. You must be a resident of the municipality for the last 6 months to put your name on the ballot.

There are six positions as concillors to be filled as well as the mayor. Since the municipality is under 5,000 residents, councillors are not assigned to any specific area.

There are many issues that affect us directly such as road maintenance, zoning, garbage and recycling, taxes and how our tax dollars are spent by the municipality.

Along with our tax bill, this past March, we all received extra paperwork regarding adding our names to the municipal electoral list. Only one owner can be designated to vote.

As posted on Facebook earlier, a translated step-by-step was provided to our anglophone community.



Your completed form can be emailed to:  
DG@cayamant.ca

### My property evaluation went way up!

All of our cottages value went up because of the MRC's 2025-2027 triennial property evaluation.

Fortunately, the municipality lowered it's mil rate per \$100 from \$1.175 to \$0.82, lessening the impact.

However, overall the tax revenue from 2024 to 2025 is budgeted to be an increase of \$277,975.

You can get the budgetary breakdown for 2025 at:  
[20241219132111-budget-2025.pdf](#)

Under it's plan, the municipality has budgeted \$15,000 each year until 2027 for the maintenance of Mont-Cayamant.

And finally, the government of Québec has given the municipality an investment of \$3 million dollars for the repair of Chemin Lac-à-Larche.

## YOUR VOTE DOES MATTER!

Make sure to mark Sunday November 2<sup>nd</sup> on your calendar.



## Water testing update

We plan to continue doing the E.Coli testing during the summer. Again, we will try to take a sample after a sunny and dry stretch of days as well as two days when we have received a significant amount of rainfall.

Last year, we had a few areas where the E.Coli count was very high after a rainfall.

### *“Why are we getting high counts?”*

E.Coli can enter a lake through fecal contamination from humans, birds and animals. Ditches between properties or shorelines that have little vegetation will allow stormwater runoff directly into the lake. If a septic system is old and failing, the untreated wastewater is carried to the lake by the stormwater. A shoreline or property that has more vegetation can act as a source (i.e. lungs) to filter the bacteria.

Don't let your pets poop near the shoreline! Pick it up and dispose of it safely. If you have geese hanging around your grassy shoreline, you can put up some protective fencing so that they cannot lay on your land.

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## RSVL

This year begins a four year pause for testing for Total Phosphorus (TP), Dissolved Organic Carbon (DOC), Chlorophyll a, as per RSVL protocols.



Photo credit: Christine Ouellet – Lac Heney

However, the bi-weekly transparency tests will continue to be performed. You can view the 2024 results at this link below.

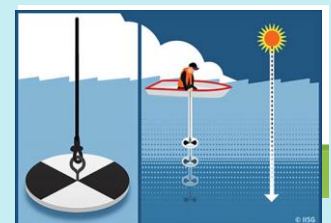
### Le Réseau de surveillance volontaire des lacs de villégiature

RSVL has noted that this is a lake that needs to be protected! It also recommends that a full evaluation be done to take into account the aquatic plants, periphyton and sedimentation which would provide a clearer picture.

See page 8 for more information.

## TRANSPARENCY TESTS

Tests are done bi-weekly from June-October at the deepest part of the lake between 10am and 3pm on a sunny day with calm water (no wind) with your back to the sun and without wearing sunglasses. That's quite a protocol!



## Dark skies

### Have you heard of dark skies?

It's where the night skies are relatively free of light pollution allowing for the clear visibility of stars, planets and the Milky Way.

One of the joys of being at the cottage is the thrill of seeing the magnificent night sky that we can't see at home. Last year's northern lights were amazing! But outdoor lighting at our cottages create light pollution obscuring the view of the stars and puts a damper when viewing the northern lights.

It's something you may not be aware of when you leave your lights on at night, when you are away or light up your path near the shoreline. It also affects many plants, animals and insects by disrupting their nocturnal behaviours.

Some lake associations, national and provincial parks have specified days during the summer where they hold a "Dark Skies" night where everyone turns off their lights to enjoy the celestial view.

So how do we balance our needs for security lighting and for us to see at night so we don't stumble in the dark and at the same time avoid the harmful effect on wildlife and protect our night sky?



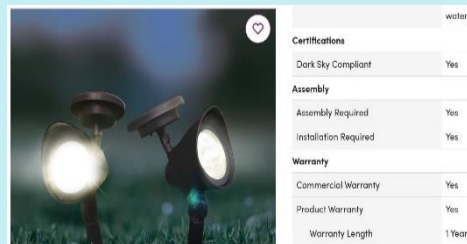
Photo credit: Danielle Morrison -Milky Way at Lac Patterson

### Here are a few recommendations:

- 1- Use outdoor lights only when needed and when you are at the cottage. Turn them off when you are away
- 2- Use outdoor lights that have shielding and can carefully target the direction of the light beam so that it points downwards and not across the lake or at your next door neighbour
- 3- Use the lowest light level of lighting (i.e. low lumens)
- 4- Use timers or motion-detection lighting
- 5- Use warmer coloured lights (not bright whites)
- 6- Look for a dark sky certification/compliance when purchasing landscape lighting

## DARK SKY CERTIFICATION

Many outdoor lighting manufacturers now specify whether the light is dark sky compliant. Those lights typically have a top shield that prevents light from shooting up or are flexible so that you can direct the beam down.



## RPEVG

### Regroupement pour la protection de l'eau de la Vallée de la Gatineau

Since August 2023, I was voted into RPEVG as a director committee member. The mission of RPEVG is to promote the importance of the quality of the water for our lakes and rivers by educating the community on the importance of boat washing to avoid the spread of aquatic invasive species from lake to lake and preserving our shorelines.

### “What work do you actually do?”

Since 2013, RPEVG has some financial support from the MRC Vallée de la Gatineau (MRCVG), the 17 municipalities within it and various lake associations within the MRC.

With this funding, myself and the other seven volunteer members meet with member lake associations, the MRC, put out newsletters through email, post on social media (Facebook and YouTube), host a booth at boat shows (Ottawa and Maniwaki), and host an AGA every August or September. At our AGA, we invite lake associations, municipalities and anyone else to participate to hear about our work and join in



presentations or demonstrations by biologists, experts in invasive species, companies like Fyto, Ozéro that can work with lake associations.

RPEVG also provides mobile boat washing systems for areas that do not have any.

Watch our boat washing video (with English captions at:

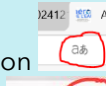
<https://youtu.be/jCk7kjqXivY?si=zLdnGlDa4cOO b9c3>


You can save the date for this year's AGA in Messines on August 23<sup>rd</sup> or also click here to follow us on Facebook for announcements.

## RPEVG WEBSITE IS STILL GROWING!

Our website is: [www.rpevg.ca](http://www.rpevg.ca). It's planned to be completed by the end of May 2025 but it still contains a lot of information for you to look at.

Though it is all in French, here's how to use your browser to translate:

**Windows' Edge:** click on  symbol at top right in the address bar and click on Translate

**iPhone Safari:** click on  symbol in the bottom left (**top left for iPad**) address bar and select Translate to English

**Google Chrome:** click on the 3 dots to the right of address bar and then scroll down to Translate option

## Signage

Last summer, the issue of boat speeding in the channel was raised and maybe it was time that we should get some speed limit signage, especially since we have so many visitor boats who don't seem to adhere to a 10km limit when near the shoreline, specifically in the channel.

I asked if anyone could volunteer and see if they could find one or two and cost it out but I haven't heard from anyone.

## "Is there a volunteer?"

As well, the boat signage at the boat launch by the bridge is pretty pitiful.

I am working with RPEVG to see if we can get better signage like to the ones shown on the right which we can hang right at the boat launch.



## SIGNAGE DOES HELP!

Signage can significantly impact behaviours by alerting boaters of the risks when they don't obey boat washing or speed limit signs. It will help promote safe practices and limit accidents—either environmental or with humans.

It's all about promoting environmentally friendly behaviour and education about keeping our lakes healthy.



## Ecological evaluation of the lake

### What the heck is that?!

In last fall's edition, I wrote about how lakes in our area were getting water management plan and inventory of aquatic plants, periphyton etc...

This type of report can help us understand all of the environmental pressures/issues at play and provide us with strategies for the future and inform the municipality of the protection the lake requires. The report can also support obtaining grants.

As you read on page 3, RSVL has recommended that only a full analysis of aquatic plants, periphyton and sedimentation can provide a holistic picture of the health or stresses on a lake.

Water analysis is just step 1 in the process.

### "How do we go about doing this?"

I reached out to **Fyto**, the company that has done such work at Lac des Cèdres and had good discussions with Vincent Gagné, the head of the company. I explained about how our lake is split



into two very different types: eutrophic (Little Patterson) and oligotrophic (Big Patterson)

Fyto can do the following for both parts of the lake:

- 1- Shoreline evaluation
- 2- Aquatic plant inventory
- 3- Detection of invasive aquatic plant species
- 4- Periphyton measurement
- 5- Analysis of Total PH, COD and conductivity

The work could take place over 3-4 days near the end of the summer and they would prepare a final report for us in early winter. The report would include status of the health of the lake, a map and description of all aquatic plants and recommended solutions.

Final cost is \$9,612.00 including tax. This cost can be reduced by \$1,410 by eliminating the analysis of water (data already available in RSVL) and also hosting the Fyto employees in our cottages.

The payable invoice is also split into two portions; one after the onsite work is done and the other for the final report when ready in early winter.

## YOUR OPINION MATTERS!

Options a & b are based on 56 cottages that contributed last year and using \$1,420 from this year's remaining funds after E.Coli costs. The more that contribute, the less we each have to pay!

### Options:

- a) We split the costs (\$62.5 and \$62.5) over two years and have the evaluation done next year
- b) We pay the whole \$125 and get it done this year
- c) We continue as is but create a lake association to help with getting funding grants (2-3 years estimate)

**PLEASE ANSWER THE FACEBOOK POLL IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS**



## Escape of the wild boars!

### Say what?

Last year, several wild boars were seen running around Chemin du Lac Cayamant beside Lac Fairburn.

A shock to the driver who photographed them and put them on the Cayamant Facebook group!

Wild boars are NOT native to this area and are considered an invasive species. The government of Quebec has been monitoring and managing wild boars including searching for and capturing escaped animals.

They are a real threat to agriculture and ecosystems, can harm native wildlife and can spread diseases and parasites.

### “But where did they come from?”

There is a hunting farm called Hunter Game on the land right off Chemin du Lac Cayamant across from Lac Fairburn. On this farm, you can pay to hunt elk, wild boar, pheasants, wild turkeys and bison.

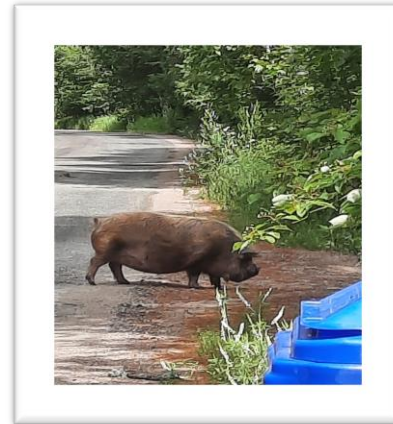


Photo credit: Marie-Josée Périard – Lac Fairburn

Unfortunately, some of the wild boars escaped and wandered around Fairburn.

This was a very serious issue. If you should see any wild boars (I’m thinking Chemin Lafond cottagers!), it’s important that you “Squeal on the Pigs” and immediately call the emergency number at 1 800-463-2191 or email at [centralesos@environnement.gouv.qc.ca](mailto:centralesos@environnement.gouv.qc.ca).

**DO NOT ATTEMPT TO SHOOT THEM!** They are very intelligent and if scared/disturbed they will become fearful and spread over a larger territory which will compromise the effectiveness of the ministry’s capture operations.

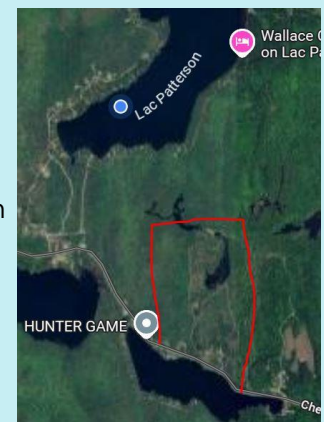
## QUEBEC REGULATIONS ON EXOTIC ANIMALS

While Ontario bans wild boar farms, Quebec and Saskatchewan still allow them.

Owners must register their farms and get a professional permit to keep animals on a hunting or breeding farm.

The wild boars must be kept behind a 1.8 metre fence with a metallic chain of a specific calibre and the bottom of the fence must be buried at a certain depth unless there is a secondary fence.

Elk are also an exotic species. Should you also come across them, they must also be reported to the hotline.



## 2024 Financial Summary

### How did we do?

Our bank account as of April 30, 2025 is \$2175.59. We had six more cottages contribute in 2024 than 2023, though we lost some of previous years for an overall 46.28% contribution.

### “Are we still going to raise funds this year?”

Yes, I will still ask for the usual \$20 per cottage.

As stated in this newsletter, we also need to decide how much more if we go ahead with the ecological evaluation?

I hope that you will all answer the Facebook poll when I post it shortly.

I'd like for you to think of it as a very small financial investment towards protecting your very valuable piece of heaven. Again, think of how much you spend at home every year for some basic landscaping items (i.e. fertilizer, flowers, bags of soil) and apply just a portion of this amount towards the lake.

Balance for 2025	
États financiers-2025- Financial Statement Apr	
Revenue - Revenus	
2024 contribution balance	\$2,168.98
2025 contributions	\$0.00
Intérêt/Interest	\$6.61
Merchandise campaign/Campagne de marchandise- June	
Merchandise campaign/Campagne de marchandise-July	\$0.00
Merchandise campaign/Campagne de marchandise-Sept	\$0.00
<b>Total revenue -Revenus totaux</b>	<b>\$2,175.59</b>
Dépenses/Expenses	
RSVL 2025 tests	
Canada Post shipping/expédition	\$ -
Caduceon	\$ -
Other/Autres	
<b>Dépenses totales -Total expenses</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Balance remaining / Solde restant</b>	<b>\$2,175.59</b>

Think of small Lac Metayer as you drive by it on Chemin du Lac Cayamant or Chemin de la Traverse Blue Sea going to Gracefield and think of how that new subdivision that popped up beside it will affect the pressure put on that lake from new development. An eco-assesment presented to council BEFORE the land was severed in multiple lots could have made a huge impact on the decision to move forward.

Also, we still have lots of neighbours that either are not aware of our fundraising efforts or forget to give. Please **help me** in asking your neighbours to the left and right of you if they know about our efforts and **spread the word** that their contribution matters and that it's a small investment for their property.

Finally, I wanted to give a big **THANK YOU** to those who, year after year, contribute to help fund those tests. You are Water Heros!

## \$20 CONTRIBUTION FOR 2025 WATER TESTING

The 2025 campaign has begun!

You can etransfer \$20 to: [admin@lac-patterson-lake.ca](mailto:admin@lac-patterson-lake.ca).  
**Please include your address** in the etransfer notes!

OR visit me at 191 chemin Bertrand to give cash if you prefer.

