

The Sandbar

Lac Patterson's newsletter



The cottage season summary

The fall season is well under way with snow already at the lake!

This year Mother Nature gave us a snowstorm in early November.

In early July, a rainstorm dumped many inches of rain on the lake, so much so that the level rose more than spring-level conditions and caused sediment runoff in many parts of the lake and even a small alluvial delta at the sandbar shoreline. And then, a drought for the rest of the summer which prompted fire bans and many forest fires around our area and even on the lake itself!

On November 02, a new mayor and new councilors were elected.

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

2

ADDRESS

Please add your cottage address in the email and language

3

FEEDBACK

Your feedback is always welcome through email or Facebook!

Bylaw – Pleasure craft washing in Cayamant
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Bylaw for pleasure craft washing in Cayamant

Draft proposal for new bylaw

In May, the council submitted a draft proposal for a new by-law 298-25 to make motorized and non-motorized water pleasure craft washing mandatory before entering any lakes in the municipality.

“What does it mean?”

The new regulation is only in draft mode and was not voted in effect before the elections. It will be up to the new council to review and vote on it.

The regulation (similar to other bylaws in our region) would require a person to wash their pleasure craft at the Cayamant wash station (or others in the municipality) and receive a wash certificate. This certificate will be free to Cayamant contributors provided they paid the one-time \$20 deposit for a magnetic card. Non-contributors will pay \$30 per motorized craft (free for non-motorized).

It would be **MANDATORY** to display the certificate when requested or subject to \$500 fine (\$1000 for 2nd offence).

“Will there be an exemption?”

Yes. For Cayamant contributors, if your pleasure craft is stored on the lake and used **ONLY** on your



lake and does not travel to other lakes, you would **NOT** be required to wash them.

Regardless if this new proposed bylaw comes into effect, it still means that you have a responsibility to demand that anyone else (friends, family, rental guests) that brings their water pleasure craft to our lake, to go to the Cayamant wash station and clean their pleasure craft **BEFORE** entering our lake.

This is the **only way** to stop aquatic invasive species from contaminating our lake and **YOUR** shoreline.

You can view a video here by RPEVG that shows the process at the Messines washing station.

https://youtu.be/jCk7kjqXivY?si=_Hqt3jT48L8q_ps5

Only **high-pressured HOT** water can be used to ensure that aquatic invasive species are dislodged from a pleasure craft.

Motorized crafts: boats, jet skis, pontoons

Non-Motorized crafts: canoes, paddleboards, kayaks, sailboats, windsurfers, pedal boats

NEW SIGNS AT BOTH BOAT LAUNCHES

New signs regarding pleasure craft washing, courtesy of RPEVG and Mike Proulx, were posted at the boat launches beside the bridge and near Ch. Gagnon.



Water testing results

E. Coli

An E.Coli test was done at the beginning of July after that monster rainfall the day before and another done near the end of July a few days after a moderate rainfall to see how the lake recovered.

Little Patterson was deemed “polluted” by the early July rain because of its high E. Coli count. Here are the Quebec government swimming standards with regards to E. Coli.

- 0-20: Excellent
- 21-100: Good
- 101-200: Passable
- 201 and above: Polluted

“The E. Coli count must be zero for drinking purposes.”

RSVL

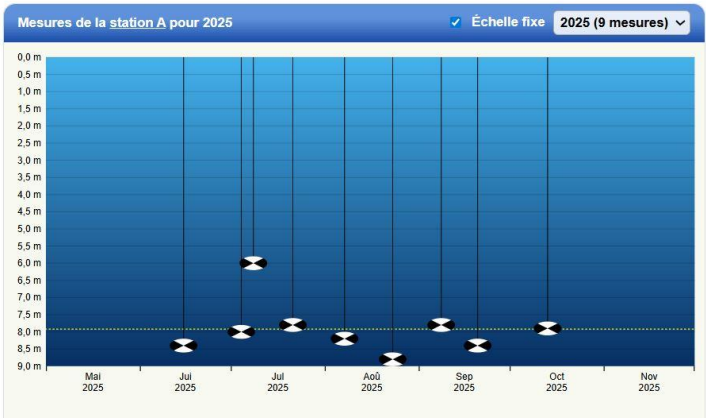
Only water transparency tests were done every two weeks as we are now in a four year pause to test Total Phosphorus, Chlorophyl a and dissolved organic carbon.

RIPARIAN ZONE

Shorelines (riparian zones) are often called the "ribbons of life." They provide critical habitat for fish, birds, and other wildlife. Protecting the natural state of the shoreline maintains the lake's biodiversity and the overall health of the watershed by also capturing runoff.

Year/Année	2025	
Date sample taken/Date de prélèvement de l'échantillon	7/29/2025	7/9/2025
	E.Coli cfu/100mL	E.Coli cfu/100mL
Conditions	After moderate rain/Après pluies modérées	After Heavy rains/Après Grosses pluies
Lake areas/Endroits sur le lac		
South Bay/Baie sud - Sweets	1	17
South Bay/Baie sud - McNulty	0	31
North East End/Fin nord est - Turner	2	21
Narrows/ Chenail	1	28
Bridge end/Fin pont (St-Jean's)	3	74
Bay/Baie- Youngs	2	29
North West side/Côté nord-ouest- Morrison	4	24
Little Patterson/Petit Patterson	14	224

Lac Patterson, N° RSVL 902



As you can see above, the transparency was greatly affected by the heavy rains in early July which introduced a large amount of sedimentation and particulates into the lake.

We can all help out by restoring/maintaining a natural vegetation at our shoreline (riparian buffer strip) which can help filter the runoff.



Election Results

MRC Warden

Mme Chantal Lamarche has been re-elected for her third mandate.

Tight mayoral race

On November 02, Mr. Robert Berniquez was elected as Cayamant's new mayor.

Only 23 votes separated between Mr. Berniquez and Mme Sylvie Fortin who was also strong candidate.

Four of the 6 councilors are new to council. Councilors are not assigned a specific region but rather serve on various committees.

"What was the turnout?"

Out of 1087 registered voters, 627 voted for a 57.77% participation rate.

New mayor's focus

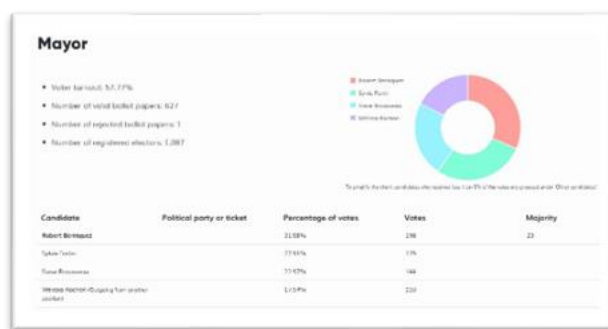
Mr. Berniquez brings many years of experience as a CPA and senior manager in various federal departments and agencies as well as a senior

financial and management consultant after he retired.

He maintains that he is for respect, honesty, transparency and integrity. His focus will be on municipal taxes, respecting and protecting the environment, prosperity for Cayamant, the local church and school and to listening to the constituents' concerns.

In my communication with Mr. Berniquez, he assured me that one of his priorities is also to update the Cayamant website more regularly and post the bylaws (currently most are missing), post Public Notices (only municipality that doesn't do it), and post the council meeting notes quicker.

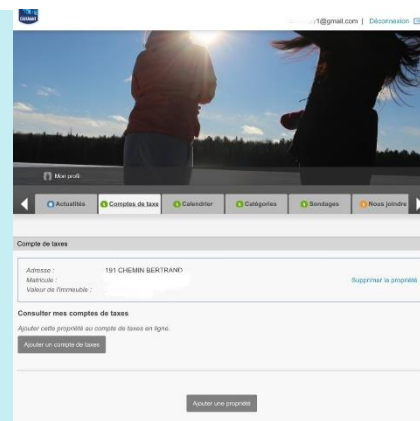
The next few months will be exciting and busy for this new council and let's hope to see the transparency happen and for some innovative thinking.



POSTAL FEES FOR YOUR TAX RECEIPTS!

Most of us now have six installments to pay our taxes. Have you noticed that each time that you pay, you are mailed back a paper receipt costing \$1.23 in postage? For just one household that represents \$7.38. Multiply this by 2021 census of 460 occupied dwellings (I don't believe seasonal properties (576) is included) and that is \$3394.80 in postage! More if seasonal are included! Do we need a receipt if we paid via online banking or even by cheque? The money spent on postage could be allocated somewhere else (i.e. water testing fees).

The Cayamant website has already a contributor portal which can have your email address to send a confirmation by email. This is something that could be leveraged with the option to opt in/out. Let your council know.



Monitoring the fire index

This year's drought caused many fire bans (one for the first time in October) but also fires in our area.

Across Québec, there were 527 fires and 456 of them were attributed to human activity. In the Outaouais, we experienced 85 fires (no data on specific cause) and one even on our lake where helicopters were required.

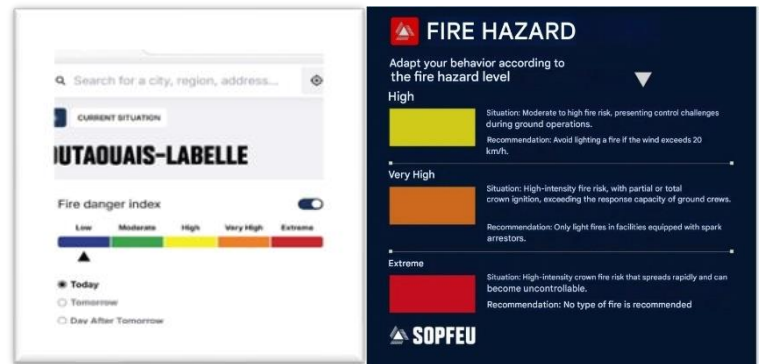
Out of the 456 fires caused by human activity, 333 were categorized into a definite cause, with campfires as the leading cause. Click on the link to view the 2025 causes.

<https://www.sopfeu.qc.ca/en/prevention/preventing-drilling-fires/>

“What does human activity mean?”

SOPFEU, which is the *Société de protection des forêts contre le feu*, defines it as burning of **refuse waste, campfires, thrown cigarettes, ATVs, hot ashes/cinders and fireworks**.

“Where do I check out if I can do a campfire?”



It is incumbent upon all of us to always check the SOPFEU website for our specific region of “Outaouais-Labelle”.

You can check the SOPFEU website here.

<https://www.sopfeu.qc.ca/en/map/zone-outaouais-labelle/>

Or you can also look on the home page of our lake's website. Just scroll down and the fire index will appear.

<https://lac-patterson-lake.ca/>

Anyone who rents their cottage need to ensure that the renters know to check the fire index before doing any open-air fires (includes fireworks).

SOPFEU - NOT PRIVATE OR GOVERNMENT

Did you know that SOPFEU is neither a private company nor a government entity but rather a non-profit organization created in 1994 through a partnership between the Gouvernement du Québec and the forest industry to serve as the government's operational arm in wildfire prevention, detection and suppression?

Before 2018, it was funded by both the Québec government and the forest industry. Afterwards, the government assumed all funding.



Bomber at Lac Patterson

Neighbouring lakes

Busy times at (Petit et Grand) lac des Cèdres?

The Association pour la protection des lacs des cèdres was really busy this year. Throughout the summer they continued their fight against Eurasian Milfoil on Petit Lac de Cèdres. In June and July, they hosted an open invitation to a two-part workshop on the identification of aquatic invasive species in Messines.

In August, they produced a YouTube video on “Discover the APLC”.

<https://youtu.be/CEo6uDM9SV4?si=5m9B5EdaLTwc31XA>

In October, they presented a proposal to protect a forested area at Grand lac des Cèdres as part of the Government of Québec’s initiative to preserve the biodiversity of 30% of the provincial territory.

Anything new on Blue Sea Lake?

The boat ramp on Blue Sea Lake in the Messines municipality had an electronic gate installed. This gate requires a pleasure craft wash certificate (QR code) that must be obtained at the Messines wash station on rue Principale.



Photo: Gate at Blue Sea lake

To see the video of the process, click on the link below.

<https://youtu.be/yfBPudfhczk?si=vYHB5eCf-HuZr9uG>

As well, the Blue Sea Lake Watershed Association presented its comprehensive Watershed Protection Plan prepared by RAPPEL at its AGM in August.

Blue-green algae on Fairburn?

This summer, cottagers noticed a green slick on the lake which caused concern for a possible blue-green algae bloom. After spending a lot of money to get the water tested, it thankfully turned out **not** to be blue-green algae.

RPEVG 2026 SUMMIT!

In 2026, RPEVG is planning to hold a summit for any to attend. The goal of this summit is to provide information for the protection of our waters with guest speakers and workshop type sessions. More information will be provided at a later date.

RPEVG will also be at the Ottawa Boat Show from February 19-22 at the EY Centre in Ottawa and also at the Salon sur la Chasse, Pêche, Plein Air in Maniwaki in April (dates are not available yet). Please drop by at either show to say hi and learn more about what we do. We depend on memberships and donations to exist. If you want to support us, you can scan the QR code on this page. Debit, credit, Apple Pay or Goole Pay is accepted.



2025 Financial Summary

How did we do?

Our bank account as of November 10, 2025 is \$3076.98. We had five more cottages contribute than last year, for an overall 48.76% contribution.

“So, what’s up for next year?”

We will continue performing the E.Coli tests to monitor the levels.

As well, since there was a discussion on mercury levels in Little Patterson on a Facebook post, a mercury test will be performed in early August once the plant life has grown. Though the government does not test our lake for mercury, you can find the fish consumption guide below (French only). Type in our lake in the search.

Guide de consommation du poisson de pêche sportive en eau douce

Since we’ve benefited with a free sign from RPEVG at the boat launch and continue to benefit from my volunteerism on their board, I propose that we pay the \$100 yearly membership fee in January as an informal lake association. Our website link as a contributor is included on their

Balance for 2025	
États financiers-2025- Financial Statement Apr	
Revenue - Revenus	
2024 contribution balance	\$2,168.98
2025 contributions	\$1,420.00
Intérêt/Interest	\$22.84
Merchandise campaign/Campagne de merchandise- June	
Merchandise campaign/Campagne de merchandise-July	\$0.00
Merchandise campaign/Campagne de merchandise-Sept	\$0.00
Total revenue -Revenus totaux	\$3,611.82
Dépenses/Expenses	
RSVL 2025 tests	
Canada Post shipping/expédition	\$ -
Caduceon	\$ 528.84
Other/Autres	\$ 6.00
Dépenses totales -Total expenses	\$ 534.84
Balance remaining / Solde restant	\$3,076.98

Street name/ Nom de rue	Cont. received/	#cottages/ chalets	% contributions	\$ contributions
Bertrand	30	48	62.50	\$790.00
des Cedres	7	10	70.00	\$160.00
Lafond	14	27	51.85	\$280.00
Beausoleil	3	9	33.33	\$90.00
des Pionniers	1	3	33.33	\$20.00
Gagnon	1	3	33.33	\$20.00
Patterson (from Little Patterson to end of municipal road where Bertrand starts)	1	5	20.00	\$20.00
Landers	2	16	12.5	\$40.00
Total	59	121	48.76	\$1,420.00

website. If you have an objection to this, please email me before December 31st.

Again, a big THANK YOU to everyone who has contributed and stopped by to chat about your concerns about the lake’s future. Your passion fuels mine.

See you next spring!

\$20 CONTRIBUTION FOR 2026 WATER TESTING

The 2026 campaign will begin again in April 2026. This will be to cover the cost of the E.Coli tests, mercury test and help fund a future lake assessment plan as discussed in the spring newsletter.

To increase more contribution, the lake merchandise will be available again to order and a beautiful maple epoxy charcuterie board with the lake will be raffled off later in the spring through the sale of tickets.

