

# The Sandbar



Lac Patterson's newsletter

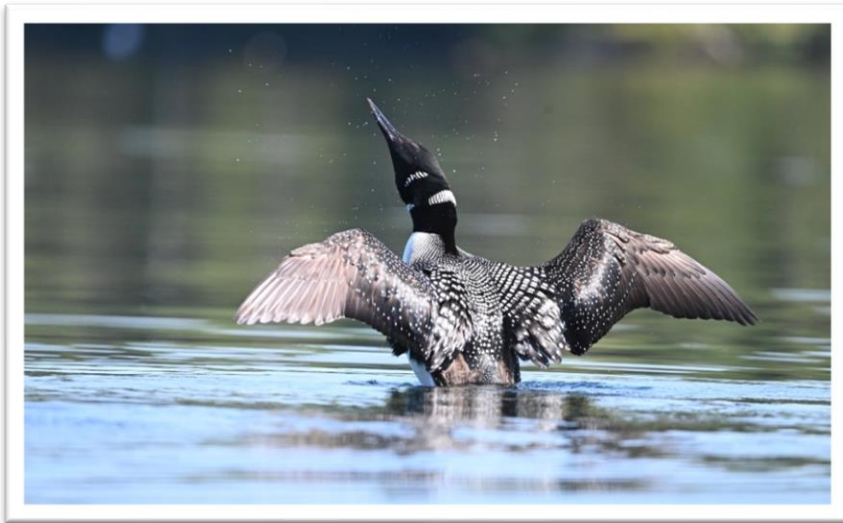


Photo credit: Danielle Morrison

## It's opening time!

### Mother nature wants winter to stick around!

Winter weather started in early November and never let up right up into April delaying some cottage openings. The ice went off the lake on April 25<sup>th</sup>.

With the ice thaw, our loon friends have already made their return so please read page 2 for how we can best help them expand their family this spring.

There is plenty of news from the MRC, Cayamant municipal council and other lakes which will be explained in this edition as well as a concerning invasive species.

And the 2026 financial contribution campaign is now open with a slight increase. Please consider supporting our lake!

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 & language preference

**3**  
FEEDBACK

Your feedback is always welcome through email or Facebook!

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# How to help our loons

## We can all help.

Common loons are iconic waterbirds with specific nesting needs and a declining chick population.

### “What are their breeding habits?”

Loons typically nest in **May or June**, though high water can push this into early July.

They build simple mud and vegetation nests on secluded shorelines or islands. Because their legs are set far back for swimming, they are clumsy on land and must stay very close to the water’s edge.

Both parents share the duty of sitting on their one or two eggs for about **26–30 days**, with chicks usually hatching by early July.

### “How can we help?”

Data from the **Canadian Lakes Loon Survey** shows a decline in loon productivity, making human cooperation vital for their survival.

You can help by giving loons a **wide berth** while boating. If a loon **flattens its body, vocalizes, or leaves its nest, you are too close** and should move away immediately.

**Keep** native vegetation and **"no-mow"** zones at the water's edge. This provides essential nesting cover for loons and maintains the habitat for the fish they eat.

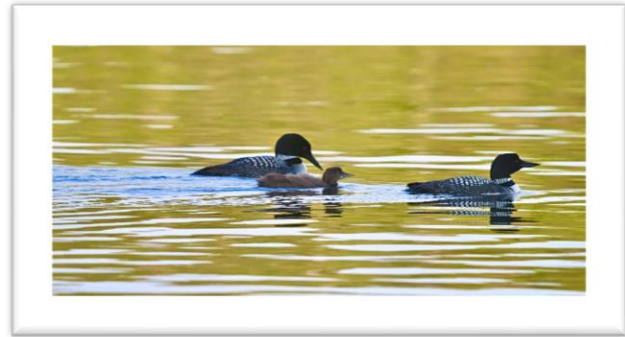


Photo credit: Danielle Morrison

Properly **dispose of fishing line, tackle, and plastics** to prevent entanglement. Secure food scraps to avoid attracting predators like raccoons or gulls that eat loon eggs and chicks.

### “Should we participate in the loon survey?”

Yes! This year we are registered to participate in the **Canadian Lakes Loon Survey**.

This means that in **June, July and August** of every year, we will **track** how many loon pairs, adults, chicks and their age. We can record as well other lake bird species (i.e. Canada geese, herons, ducks etc..). **Everyone can help** monitor by **posting** their observations in Facebook about the waterfowl on the lake or if you are not on Facebook, send us an email at: [admin@lac-patterson-lake.ca](mailto:admin@lac-patterson-lake.ca)

The data will be entered in the Loon Survey online portal.

## LOONS NEED YOUR HELP

Want a reminder on how you can help the loon? Or can download this handy poster at: <https://view.publitas.com/birds-canada-gyqxaz9yrrpp/loons-need-your-help-2024/page/1>

#### Loons Need Your Help

Loon chick production is declining. We need your help to identify what's causing declines in chick production and to find solutions. Here are some great ways you can get involved.

**GIVE YOUR SUPPORT!** Donate to organizations that monitor and support the health of our lakes. With Canada supports outdoor the team home. More volunteers are needed to monitor loon chicks! If you will spend at least one day a month on a lake in Canada this summer please participate in the Canadian Lakes Loon Survey. Visit [www.birdscanada.org/loons](http://www.birdscanada.org/loons) for more information, and to join today.

- Keep it Wild**  
Let native wetland plants grow along your shoreline, or replant if the shoreline is bare. Natural shorelines provide shelter and food for both fish and loons.
- Keep it Calm & Play Smart**  
Slow down near wetlands and shorelands and keep your walk to a minimum. Walks can wash out nests or separate young loons from their parents, which makes chicks easy pickings for predators. **Stare, play / wave loons only in water that is at least 8m (24ft) deep, which help prevent churning up bottom sedimentation, protect wildlife, and makes for a better walk.**
- Steer Clear**  
Slow down and steer clear of loons, waterbirds, and other wildlife. They may not be able to escape your path. If adults become separated from their young, they can't protect them.
- Dispose Responsibly**  
Take trash and fishing gear to shore for proper disposal. Garbage including plastics and tackle can injure birds and other wildlife. Keep food and scraps contained, as they may become predators around nests.
- Use lead-free tackle**  
Loons usually ingest lead fishing gear by eating a fish that has swallowed a jig or worm and loses the fish, or pulling or hooking or a fish being retrieved by an angler. Lead poisoning and death typically result. Request lead-free alternatives at your local tackle shop.
- Reduce Your Impact**  
Use less electricity and fossil fuels. Climate change causes lake temperatures, which causes more heavy metals to accumulate in wildlife tissues. Do not add pollutants, such as household hazardous wastes, to our rivers and lakes.
- Get Involved**  
Be an advocate for loons and lakes. Raise awareness of air pollution issues and join your lake association. Participate in loon or lake monitoring.

[www.birdscanada.org/loons](http://www.birdscanada.org/loons)

## Patterson Lake news

### Saying goodbye to a friend

In early February, we lost a longtime Patterson Lake cottager, John Berrigan who has joined his late wife Denise in everlasting peace. John was an avid fisherman and a respected leader in the AA community. John and Denise were some of the originals on the lake, building the cottage in the mid-60s. Their two children continue to carry on the family cottage tradition with their own families. He will be missed.

### Channel signs

The channel **10km/h** signs will be installed again before the long weekend in May to alert boaters of the need to **slow down** in that area.

### Incident of a fire

A **fire near the sandbar** in early October required a helicopter and fire trucks and was recorded on the SOPFEU site. 2025 was the first year a **fire ban** was in place for the fall season.

It's a reminder that we all need to **obey the SOPFEU** indicators whether **burning/ fireworks** are allowed and never leave a fire unattended.

### Cayamant News

The Cayamant website is now updated with the regulations, meeting minutes from previous council meetings. As well, the calendar which you can find

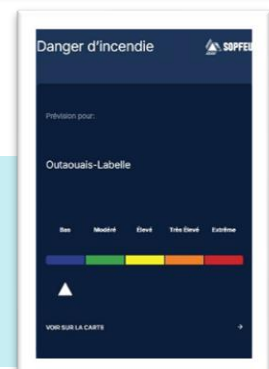


Photo credit: Danielle Morrison

at <https://www.cayamant.ca/fr/calendrier/> now reflects council meeting dates, events and garbage collection days. For our lake, we are in sector B.

On **Saturday June 27**, it's **Country Night** in Cayamant! You can buy your \$35 bracelet in person, from the town office or by calling the municipal office, paying by credit card, and then choose to have them sent by mail or pick them up on site. You can also buy the bracelets online, at <https://lepointdevente.com/billets/r2y260627001?lang=fr%20>. **Free for children 12 and under** (online note for children is incorrect).

There will also be an artisanal fair and a sale of local products.



## SOPFEU FIRE DANGER INDICATOR

Our website [www.lac-patterson-lake.ca](http://www.lac-patterson-lake.ca) contains the SOPFEU index for our area at the bottom of our website home page.

## MRC News

### Fishing

In February, 2026, the MRC made a formal request to MELCCFP to **allow winter fishing** on all lakes in the territory to promote family activities and tourism.

For the **2026-2027** winter season, winter fishing is still **NOT** allowed on lac Patterson for **any** fish, however, there is some winter fishing allowed for some species on lac Cayamant. Please look at the regulations for our lake by clicking on the link below (also available on our website under FAQ).

**\*\*Note:** the **new limit** for lake trout is **ONE** per permit in your possession. **\*\***

[Zone 10 | Sport fishing in Québec – fishing periods, limits and exceptions](#)

### Mining

Also in February, 2026, the MRC made a request to MRNF to **temporarily suspend** the granting of **mining titles for 6 months** to promote the process of delineating territories incompatible with mining activity. **Mining** in our area has become a great **concern** when **lakes** are nearby.



Photo crédit: Danielle Morrison and AI

### New tax for non-resident?

In September 2025, the MRC submitted a request to the Quebec government for the implementation of a pilot project for property assessment and municipal taxation aimed at allowing municipalities to establish a **specific tax** related to the **non-resident status** in Quebec of owners of real estate properties located in the municipalities within its territory.

This is something that could affect many out-of-province cottage owners. Stay tuned.

## SALTING THE WINTER ROADS

The MRC has discussed a **reduction** in the amount of **calcium chloride** that is put on the municipal winter roads to help **protect** the health of our **lakes and waterways**.

The recommendation is for each municipality to reduce the percentage of calcium added to the sand mix from 5% to **3%**.

This salt can make its way to our lakes, rivers and groundwater through the melting period and heavy rains. It **increases the density** of the water, **affects the PH** levels which has complications for its **oxygenation** and the aquatic flora and fauna of the lakes.



## RPEVG News

Last year and this year, the Regroupement pour la protection de l'eau de la Vallée-de-la-Gatineau (RPEVG) participated in the **Ottawa Boat Show and Maniwaki Hunting Fishing and Outdoor Show** to raise **awareness** about the importance of **decontaminating** (wash) your boats or other watercrafts before entering a lake. This is the most **important** way to **stop** the spread of **invasive aquatic species** (flora and fauna).

We met hundreds of people who came to talk to us and learn about the impact of invasive aquatic species on our lakes and waterways.

### “Where are the decontamination stations?”

Several free and paying stations are available throughout the MRC. Please review this list.

<https://rpevg.ca/depliant-et-videos/>

### Project submission to the MRC

In early April, RPEVG submitted a **funding proposal** to lead an MRC wide project to help



Photo credit: Danielle Morrison

**standardize** the regulations of boat and other watercrafts decontamination within the MRC.

### “Is there a disconnect?”

Yes. Presently, some municipalities **charge** for the washing and work on a mandatory display ticket method, while others are **free** and **not mandatory** at all and **no enforcement** is available. Not all municipalities have decontamination stations and if you wash your boat in one station while heading out to another municipality, your ticket is **not honoured** and you must decontaminate again.

If approved for funding, RPEVG will also look at the effectiveness of barrier systems at boat launches, signage and how a standardized approach can make it easier for anyone to wash their boat and watercrafts.

## FORUM 2026 ON THE LAKES AND WATERWAYS OF THE GATINEAU VALLEY

On Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, RPEVG will be hosting an **all-day** Forum (held in French) in Messines. The Forum will bring together key stakeholders in the region—scientists, municipalities, watershed organizations, public decision-makers, and lake associations—around a common goal: **to join forces to implement concerted, structured and sustainable action to protect our aquatic environments.**

**\*\*As a member association, we have two spots (excluding myself) available for anyone who wishes to attend. Please email me at [admin@lac-patterson-lake.ca](mailto:admin@lac-patterson-lake.ca) if you wish to attend. A light breakfast and lunch will be available.**



## Spiny (or Fishhook) water flea

### What are they?

The **spiny water flea** and **fishhook** water flea are small, invasive crustaceans belonging to the zooplankton group.

While they share similarities, such as having a single dark eye and four pairs of legs, they can be distinguished by their **unique tail structures**. Approximately, 1 to 1.5 cm, the spiny water flea has a slightly shorter tail than the fishhook which has a more pronounced barb on the tail.

Both are **devastating** to the fish population as they are aggressive predators that consume massive amounts of native zooplankton. This **reduces** food supplies for small native fish and the young sport fish such as **bass, walleye, and perch**.

Many native fish cannot eat them because their long, sharp, barbed spines make them difficult to swallow and is often **fatal** for the fish.

### Where are they?

Originally native to Eurasia, these **invasive aquatic species** have made their way through the Great Lakes, the Ottawa River and in September 2024, the Quebec government announced that it was found in the **Baskatong** reservoir which is 1.5



Photo crédit: Danielle Morrison and AI

hours from here and is a very popular area for fishing.

The water fleas frequently collect in gelatinous, cotton-like masses on **fishing lines, nets, and downrigger cables**, sometimes clogging **rod eyelets**.

### What can I do?

It is therefore even more important to be **vigilant** and **decontaminate** your boats and other watercrafts before you enter a lake and also any **fishing equipment** to **prevent** the spread of this invasive species.

## HABITAT AND SPREAD

They prefer deep, clear lakes like lac Patterson but can survive in various aquatic environments, including shallower waters and brackish areas.

They produce "**resting eggs**" that can **survive winter** on lake bottoms or stay viable in moist environments like **bait buckets and boat bilges**, allowing them to be easily transported to new lakes.



## The neighbourhood

### Petit and Grand lacs des Cèdres

The Association pour la protection des lacs des Cèdres **continues** its fight against **Eurasian water milfoil** by hiring the team at Fyto to install tarps in the water in the spring and the removal of the plants in late summer.

The Municipality of Messines invested **\$70,000** to **fix up the ramp** at Grand lac des Cèdres this summer while the ramp at Petit lac des Cèdres was done in the fall.

**Automated barriers** requiring proof of boat decontamination will also be installed at the ramps like the one on Blue Sea lake in the Messines municipality.

### Blue Sea lake

After five years, the project against Eurasian water milfoil with the installation of burlap tarps, has **officially ended**. The president of the association Marc Nadeau has indicated that the results have been **positive** allowing the indigenous plants to recover and killing of the milfoil at the designated areas.

### Highway 105

The Ministère des Transports et de la Mobilité durable has plans to continue **paving** south of



Photo credit: Association du bassin versant du lac Blue Sea

Gracefield starting at Chemin Laurier (a bit north of Chemin Marks) to the Binerie in 2026.

The Ministry announced an investment of **\$195 million** for transportation infrastructure in the Outaouais. In our MRC, the Ministry foresees the **repaving of the 105** in the municipalities of Kazabazua, Maniwaki, Bois-Franc and Low between **2026-2028**.

## MARCHÉ LES SAVEURS DE LA VALLÉE

The Saveurs de la Vallée Agricultural Market's mission is to promote the products and expertise of the producers of the Vallée-de-la-Gatineau while encouraging closer connections between producers, processors, and consumers in the region.

Starting **June 12 to September 4th every Friday from 11am to 4pm**, you can find delicious local products such as organic beef, elk, lamb, chicken, fruits and vegetables, maple syrup, fresh bread and desserts, flowers, cheese and soaps at the Information kiosk in Gracefield.

Make it a must stop this summer and support our local farmers, artisans and producers!



## 2026 Financial Update

### How are we doing financially?

Our bank account as of May 1, 2026 is \$2985.39.

### “So, what’s up for this year?”

We will continue performing the **E.Coli** tests to monitor the levels as well as the bi-weekly **transparency** tests from June to October.

We are still in a **pause** for the **RSVL** total phosphorus, chlorophyl a and dissolved organic carbon laboratory tests for another two years.

As mentioned in the fall newsletter, we will test for **mercury** levels in **Little Patterson** in August once the plant life has grown.

This year, I propose an **increase** of \$5 in the contribution levels to **\$25 per cottage**. This will help to further reach a goal to have a **lake assessment** be performed in the next few years.

Again, any additional contributions are always accepted. Let’s see if we can surpass last year’s contributions of 39 cottages! Please **check** with your **neighbour** if they know about our efforts as not all are on Facebook or email.

États financiers-2026- Financial Statement May	
<b>Revenu - Revenus</b>	
2025 contribution balance	\$3,078.39
2026 contributions	\$0.00
Intérest/Interest	\$7.00
<b>Total revenue -Revenus totaux</b>	<b>\$3,085.39</b>
<b>Dépenses/Expenses</b>	
RSVL 2026 tests	
Canada Post shipping/expédition	\$ -
Caduceon	\$ -
RPEVG membership	\$ 100.00
<b>Dépenses totales -Total expenses</b>	<b>\$ 100.00</b>
<b>Balance remaining / Solde restant</b>	<b>\$2,985.39</b>

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
<b>Total</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>48.76</b>	<b>\$1,420.00</b>

2025 Statistics by street

I look forward to anyone who wants to come over and chat or volunteer with me.

## \$25 CONTRIBUTION FOR 2026 WATER TESTING

The 2026 campaign is now **under way**. The **\$25** will be to cover the cost of the E.Coli tests, mercury test and help fund a future lake assessment plan as discussed in last year’s spring newsletter. **You can etransfer to: [admin@lac-patterson-lake.ca](mailto:admin@lac-patterson-lake.ca)** (don’t forget your address in your notes) or stop at: 191 chemin Bertrand

To increase more contribution, the lake merchandise will be available for purchase later this summer.

Also, a beautiful maple epoxy charcuterie board with the lake will be raffled off later in the season through the sale of tickets.

