ISSUE # 6 WWW.LAC-PATTERSON-LAKE.CA NOVEMBER 2026

The Sandbar

Lac Patterson – Québec

Lac Patterson's newsletter



The cottage season summary

Every year is different. Last year we had an early November snowfall, however this year we were rewarded with sunny skies and warm temperatures which made the fall colours even more spectacular.

Our friend Mr. Beaver has tried several times to take up residence under the bridge separating Little Patterson from Big Patterson blocking navigation between the two. The municipality sent crews twice to demolish the dam. Hopefully, he will have given up and found some marshes in the woods to try elsewhere.

The hot topic in the municipality was (and still is) the relocation of the baseball field. I will provide more information later on page 2.

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 preference

3
FEEDBACK
Your feedback is always welcome through email or Facebook!

Cayamant news
See page 2

Water testing Results
See page 3

2026 Loon Survey
See page 4

Lake demographics
See page 5

Neighbouring lakes
See page 6

Financial Summary
See page 7

Cayamant news

A word from our mayor

“Regarding the municipality, we should emphasize the importance of boat washing being carried out thoroughly during the next summer season. I have noticed that many people now take the time to wash their boats before putting them in the water.

This is crucial to prevent, as much as possible, the introduction of invasive species of all kinds. 'Better safe than sorry,' as they say.

It is also important to note that we are currently (End of October - December 2026) renovating the Mont-Cayamant facilities and that people should avoid the area during the work.

This message is especially addressed to hunters who frequent the area during hunting season.

In addition, we have acquired a new fire truck that we should receive in the coming weeks, as highlighted at the last council meeting, and over the next few weeks, the fire station will be expanded to accommodate the new truck.

It is important to note that our old truck dates back to the early 2000s and has reached its full lifespan!

You will also notice that speed limits in several areas of the municipality will be changed soon. The limit will go from 50 KMH to 40 KMH to ensure the safety of citizens and especially children.”

Robert Berniquez (Mayor)



Relocation of the baseball park

Over the summer, **four** council members **voted to abandon the proposed renovations** to the existing ball park on Chemin Patterson in order to start a **new project to build a new baseball field** on the municipal grounds.

A **petition** of **314 names** was presented to council at the **September 8th** council meeting **opposing the relocation** citing a substantive **cost** that could be a burden to the tax payers of the municipality **without any cost/benefit analysis done**.

At the subsequent council meeting on **October 13th**, the council **voted to abandon the $35,000 grant** from the MRC designated for the renovation of the existing ball park and take the necessary time to **prepare** for the **implementation of a project to build a new ball park** and address security and accessibility issues. Council plans to **request new subsidies funding** from various governmental agencies to meet this new objective. Stay tuned.

POST OFFICE

The **post office** attached to the municipal offices is now **closed**. New community mailboxes were installed in the municipal parking lot. You can still **purchase stamps and collect parcels and registered letters** from the **reception** counter inside the **municipal office**.

Water testing results

E. coli

An **E. coli** test was done in the middle of July after a period of sun and a bit of rain and another done in the middle of August after a rainfall the night before and morning to see how the lake recovered.

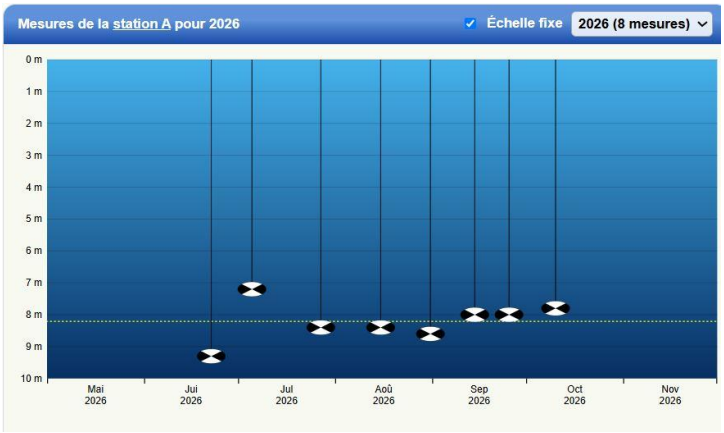
The results were very positive.

Again, 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."

	Date sample taken/Date de prélèvement de l'échantillon	8/19/2026	7/22/2026
		E.Coli cfu/100mL	E.Coli cfu/100mL
	Conditions		
	Lake areas/Endroits sur le lac		
1	South Bay/Baie sud - (Emond/Bertrand)	0	1
2	South Bay/Baie east - (Singh Sohi)	3	0
3	North East End/Fin nord est - (Wallace/Hawkins)	1	1
4	Narrows/ Chenail	0	0
5	Bridge end/Fin pont (Dorsey/Bergeron)	1	4
6	Bay/Baie- (Webber/Gogan)	1	1
7	North West side/Côté nord-ouest- (Kelly/Berrigan)	2	8
8	Little Patterson/Petit Patterson (Charbonneau)	2	5
	*first name is for August and second for July)		



Mercury testing

A test for mercury was performed in Little Patterson because of a concern that was raised the previous year. The result came back at **<0.0002** mg/L. According to Health Canada, the maximum acceptable concentration for mercury in drinking water is **.001 mg/L**, therefore we are well below it.

RSVL

In 2026, **eight (8) 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.



THERMAL LAYERING OF A LAKE

Did you know that in the fall, when the upper (epilimnion) and deeper (hypolimnion) layers of a lake reach a similar temperature and density, at around **4°C**, autumn winds can mix the entire water column? This phenomenon, known as **autumn turnover**, helps replenish dissolved oxygen in deeper waters.

Water reaches its maximum density at approximately **4°C**. Below this temperature, it becomes less dense and remains near the surface, where it can freeze. The ice then floats and forms an insulating layer, allowing aquatic life to survive beneath the surface throughout the winter.

Loon Survey

Birds Canada

This year marked the first time we participated in **Birds Canada's Loon Survey**. The survey started in May and ended in August. The goal is to look for chicks and as well document human and other avian activity around the lake.

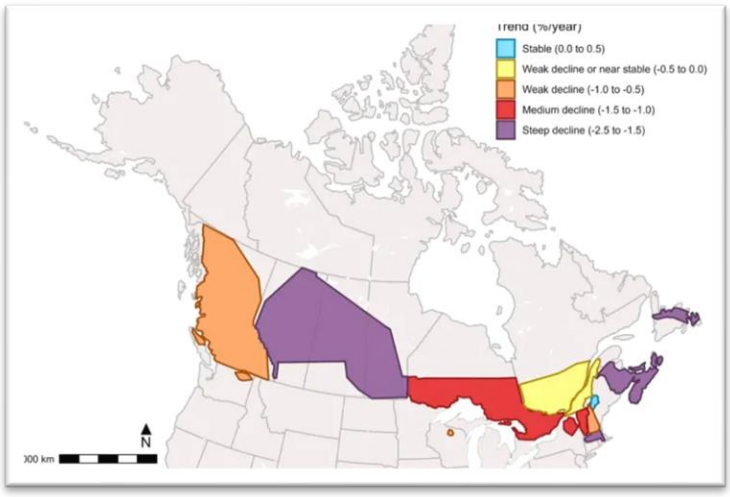
"Did we see any loon chicks?"

As most everyone knows, **no chicks were spotted this year.** The last year, the lake hosted chicks was **2024**.

It is, unfortunately, a concerning trend. A new, revealing study (click here) by **Birds Canada** and numerous collaborators shows that chick production of this beloved species is now declining across North America.

Why is this happening?

The prevailing hypothesis is that it is due to **decreasing water clarity**. The increased sedimentation and organic matters washing into the lakes make it difficult for diving loons to see their underwater prey. This can be due to **climate change** such as extreme weather (heavy rains) and also human activity like boat waves washing up on the shoreline causing erosion of the riparian border



which sends sedimentation into the lake clouding the clarity of the water

As well, if the shoreline is heavily developed, this limits areas where loons may nest undisturbed.

The survey also looked at other specific bird species found around the lake. Here is a list of what was observed:

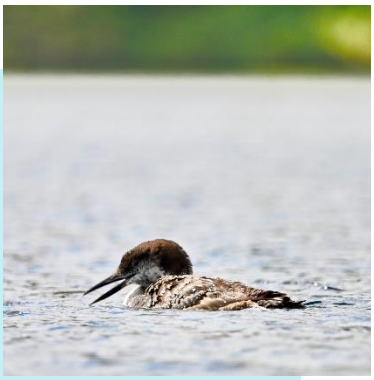
Canada Geese (12), Mallards (8), Hooded Merganser (8), Ring-gilled Gull, Great Blue Heron (2), Bald Eagle, Red Wing Blackbird, and Swallows.

Finally, in late September, **two more loons joined ours** for a few weeks before migrating. **Molting was observed on one of them.**

WHAT IS MOLTING?

Molting is when a bird sheds its old plumage. In loons, molting begins usually in mid to late September. Their plumage will transition from the traditional black and white to a **grey-brown winter plumage** and sometimes are mistaken for a juvenile.

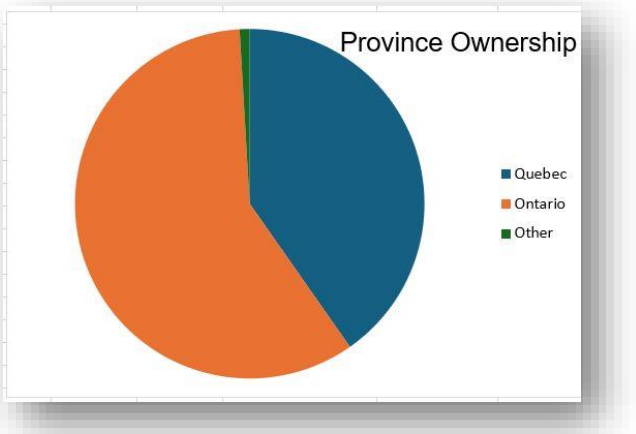
The molt is very important for the loon's adaptation to seasonal changes. Loons from Eastern Canada **migrate** all along the **Atlantic Coast** to the **shores of Florida or the Gulf of Mexico.**



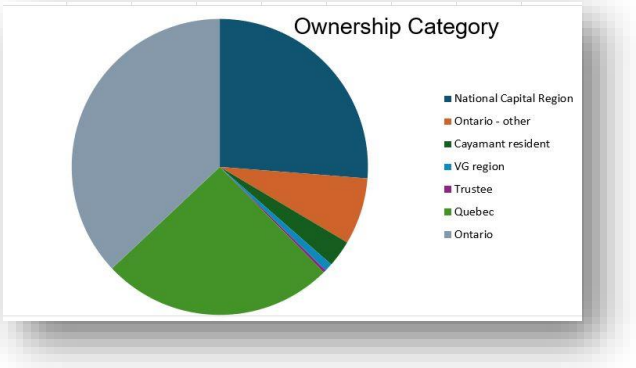
Lake demographic

Have you ever wondered about the demographics on our lake? Wonder no more!

Using the online tool **app.geocentriq**, data about property ownership in our MRC is available. In Québec (unlike Ontario), property ownership data is public.



"What does it look like?



Our lake has **141 lakefront properties** where **24 properties remain without a permanent structure on it.**

Those 141 properties belong to a total of **216 owners** (multiple owners listed for many properties).

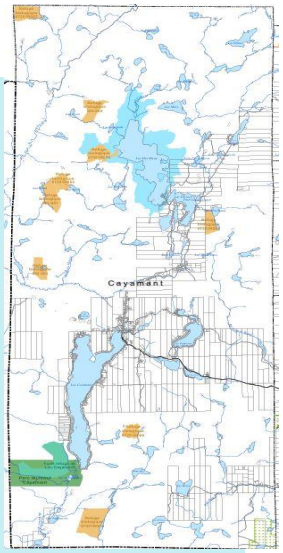
Here are some other data points:

- **Ten (10)** properties are occupied as a full-time residence.
- **Two (2)** properties are classified as hunting/fishing camps.
- **59%** of property owners are from **Ontario** whereas **40%** are from **Quebec** and the remaining 1% are either out of province or out of country.
- **63.8%** of owners are from the National Capital region (Ottawa-Gatineau)
- **6 properties** are **short-term rentals** (i.e. Airbnb etc…)

DID YOU KNOW?

You probably know that **cottaging**, meaning living permanently or temporarily by a lake or a river, is a very popular phenomenon in the Gatineau Valley. But did you know that the taxable value of buildings, including cottages and vacation homes, made up **more than 45% of the taxable value of all residential buildings in the MRC** in **2018**?

Did you also know that along with **Mont Cayamant**, which is a municipal park, that there are **eight (8) designated biological refuge** in the municipality?



Neighbouring lakes

Cayamant, Blue Sea and 31 Mile lakes

During the week of **September 28th**, the **MELCCFP** conducted a series of lake water sampling of the three lakes to see if the presence of the **spiny water flea** is detected. As reported in the last issue, this concerning invasive species is presently in the **Baskatong** reservoir, the **Gatineau** and **Ottawa** rivers. Though preliminary **results are positive, more testing remained** on the zooplankton to ensure that there are indeed none.

However, even if none are found, we must all remain vigilant and demand that any guests **wash** their watercrafts (motorized and non-motorized) AND **inspect** all fishing tackle **BEFORE** using them in our lake. It is important to use **hot water**! The new **decontamination station at the Cayamant** municipal office will open again in the spring and is currently **free** to use.

RPEVG news

On **November 11th, RPEVG** held its first **Lake Association Council** in Messines and was attended by **19 lake associations** who shared common issues such as **invasive species**, **navigating the multi-level governments** for help, and **mobilization** of their **memberships**.



Photo: Cayamant wash station

RPEVG presented a **2027** project (subject to obtaining a subsidy) that would provide a **blueprint** to **harmonize boat washing** and the various **municipal regulations** in the **MRC** to make it **easier** for **tourists**, **residents** and **cottagers** to **decontaminate** their watercrafts and **protect** our lakes and rivers **for all**.

Jellyfish in lac des Cèdres

Did you know **freshwater jellyfish** are present in **lac des Cèdres**? This invasive species can become more abundant in August when the water temperature can exceed **25C**. According to the **MELCCFP** biologist, their **impact** on the fish population is **low** as newborn fish typically are spawn in the spring where they will eat the zooplankton and **not compete** with the jellyfish who also consumes zooplankton. They are also **not dangerous** like their ocean brothers and sisters and do **not sting.**

2026 FORUM ON LAKES AND RIVERS



In **May 2026, RPEVG** held a **forum on lakes and rivers** in Messines. The event was attended by over **65 members from various lake associations and municipalities**. The guest speakers were from COBALI, CRE Laurentides, ABV des 7, Fyto, RAPPEL and AFC Baskatong. The subject matter presented and discussed was surrounding **invasive species**, and how **mobilization and proper management** of our lakes and waterways are important.

RPEVG is also planning to be **back at the Ottawa Boat Show** from **February 18-21, 2027 at the Cohere Centre** (previously 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 RPEVG does.

2026 Financial Summary

How did we do?

Our bank account as of **November 10, 2026** is **$3685.87**. Sadly, we had **15 less cottagers** contribute than last year, for an **overall 37.61% contribution.**

États financiers-2026- Financial Statement November	
Revenue - Revenus	
2025 contribution balance	$3,078.39
2026 contributions	$1,290.00
Intérest/Interest	$17.45
Total revenue -Revenus totaux	**$4,385.84**
Dépenses/Expenses	
RSVL 2026 tests	
Canada Post shipping/expédition	$ -
Caduceon	$ 599.97
RPEVG membership/cotisation	$ 100.00
Dépenses totales -Total expenses	**$ 699.97**
Balance remaining / Solde restant	**$3,685.87**

"So, what's up for next year?"

Again, we will continue performing the **E. Coli tests** to monitor the levels.

A few people volunteered to help form an **official association** so that we may benefit from having a more **formal voice at council** and also obtain **subsidies and grants**. These funds would help in paying for a **lake assessment master plan** that gives an overall picture of the lake, its health, problem areas, aquatic life, or any invasive species.

For a healthy association council, we would need the following roles:

- President
- Vice-President
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Communications

Street name/ Nom de rue	Cont. received/ reçu	#cottages/ chalets	% contributions	$ contributions
Ch. Bertrand	23	49	46.94	$600.00
Ch. des Cedres	5	8	62.50	$215.00
Ch. Lafond	10	24	41.67	$295.00
Ch. Beausoleil	3	9	33.33	$90.00
Ch. des Pionniers	1	4	25.00	$25.00
Ch. Gagnon	1	3	33.33	$40.00
Ch. Patterson (Little/Petit Patterson to/à Bertrand)	0	10	0.00	$0.00
Landers	1	10	10	$25.00
Total	**44**	**117**	**37.61**	**$1,290.00**

A **mix of French and English-speaking** folks and **one from each of the main roads** (Bertrand, Lafond, Beausoleil, des Cèdres, Pionniers/Gagnon, Patterson/Landers to represent their areas would be ideal.

I will reach out to those of you who volunteered already in the spring. **Please consider putting your name forward to help.**

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.

$25 CONTRIBUTION FOR 2027 WATER TESTING

The 2027 campaign will begin again in April 2027. This will be to cover the cost of the E. Coli tests and help fund a future lake assessment master plan.



The maple epoxy charcuterie board is ready for this spring's membership drive! Everyone who contributes to the lake fund an extra $5.00, will have their name put in a draw. Its design represents the **four seasons and our natural surroundings**: the **white epoxy** symbolizes winter ice; the **red maple leaf** represents **Canada** and the colours of **fall**; the **blue** represents our **lake** during the **summer** season; and the **fleur-de-lis** represents **Québec** and the flowers of **spring**.