

Taking care of the environment

Greetings dear members,

For several years now the Quebec population has become more and more aware of the importance of environmental quality. Quebec's lakes and forests the focus in this collective awakening. The instances of blue algae in different regions of Quebec was a turning point leading to the creation of environmental inspection positions at the municipal level and more particularly in Mont-Tremblant. As a first step a seasonal position was created in the summer of 2007; however, demand and needs proved stronger than expected, among other things due to the new regulation on the shoreline, which led to the creation of a permanent position at the beginning of the summer of 2009.

It's a big job. Besides the inspection role, that is checking whether the new regulation in effect is being respected, there is also the role of creating awareness and disseminating information to the citizens and following up on complaints, as well as supporting the various municipal services regarding their impact on the environment.

More specifically, the role requires visiting the shoreline properties in order to ensure that:

- Everyone knows the new rules and complies with them
- The properties are clean and healthy
- There are no polluting emissions in the environment
- The regulations on fertilizers and pesticides as well as on garbage collection are

also respected.

As well as ensuring that the regulations are respected the inspector must:

- Check that mitigating measures required during construction are in place
- Make people aware of environmental constraints, of living side by side with wild animals and of the importance of respecting the regulations.

The inspector's job allows him or her to inspect property as well as to ensure follow-up on infractions if this is the case.

The first aim of creating awareness is to develop greater respect towards the environment. It is obvious that a well-informed citizen acquires a desire to change things and becomes more aware of his or her actions. Let's remember that a single action may seem anodyne but the cumulative effect of these small gestures will help save the environment and allow us to benefit from them again and again over time.

To this end your association has set in motion a plan for re-foresting the banks with the collaboration of volunteer members and the support of *Agir pour le diable*. Several varieties of trees were made available for re-foresting in anticipation of the new municipal regulations. Since the new regulations have been in effect **Sandra Gagné**, (inspector in the Environment Service of Mont-Tremblant) has begun the task of inspecting and raising awareness of the shoreline property owners on Lac Duhamel.

During the month of August, 25 lakefront properties were visited, 15 of the owners were made aware of these visits and 32% of the properties visited (8) were sent letters in order to point out instances where the regulations were not being respected. In this transition period of the new regulations no fines were imposed on these 8 owners even though the municipality could have done so. Sandra Gagné will complete her inspections and awareness raising in the spring of 2010 in order to complete the inspection of the properties that have not yet been visited. Owners that have not complied with the new legislation will receive a letter indicating the deviation in question.

Once the awareness raising has been completed , the offenders will receive a fine in the range of \$400 for the first offence and up to \$1000 for subsequent offences. If you wish to know more about the new regulations please contact the following link: <http://villedemont-tremblant.qc.ca/servicesMunicipaux.php?section=245> and see Chapter 14 section 1 of the Regulation (2008) concerning ZONING: pages 547 to 560.

Thank you in the name of all lakeside property owners for doing your bit to make a difference.

Please note that a contract has been given to a trapper to relocate the beaver which is destroying the shoreline of Lac Duhamel.

In the name of your Association I would like to wish you happy holidays and a happy new year 2010.

The management team.