



Bulletin December 2010

Hello dear members,

The aim of this bulletin is to inform you of the impacts of the new *Policy for management of the use and public access to the water bodies in the territory of the city of Mont-Tremblant*.

But first, let me bring to your attention a small administrative matter. It is with regret that the executive committee has accepted the resignation of Marc-André Houde as Director. Since his time constraints no longer permit him to fulfill his responsibilities he prefers to allow another member to assume his role. In the name of the Association I would like to thank Marc-André for his contribution over the last few years as an active member of the executive committee. As well, Steve Laroche informs us that he also no longer has time to fulfill his obligations and asks the committee to find a replacement. Therefore today your executive committee is calling on its members to fill the following two positions:

\* Director 1:

- o Maintenance et publication of the WEB site;
- o Development of a permanent data base for the Association;
- \* Director 2:
  - o Dossier with the MTQ (salt and abrasives distribution and basin for retention and sedimentation);
  - o Follow-up and application of the code of ethics for motor boats;
  - o Management of physical aspects and access to the property of the Association;

If you are devoted to the health of your lake and wish to contribute to implementing its follow-up plan, please submit your candidacy to me at [jl@triocapital.ca](mailto:jl@triocapital.ca) or by telephone at (514) 992-3700. As well, if you think that one of your neighbours would be a good candidate, please let us know and we will contact that person. The amount of work represents from 15 to 20 hours of work a year at the most.

To return to the object of this communiqué – for the last few years the city has undertaken the implementation of the *Policy for management of the use and public access to the water bodies in the territory of the city of Mont-Tremblant* (our translation), based on its sustainable development plan. In order to have it drawn up, the city put in place a lakes committee with Mrs Thérèse Barrette, Mr Serge Léonard and consultants. This lakes committee consulted the lake associations on numerous occasions. As such, the Association executive shared its concerns and comments in 2008 and also shared our plan of intervention and our code of ethics then in place.

Where are we today? What is the reach of this policy? How does it affect us and what are the expectations of the city from our Association?

On November 5 of this year, the city invited the population of Mont-Tremblant to a public consultation meeting which took place on November 20, in order to present its Policy. The latter is available, along with the presentation by the consultant Michel Collins and the other information documents, on the Web site of the city, at [www.villedemont-tremblant.qc.ca/ville.php?section=303](http://www.villedemont-tremblant.qc.ca/ville.php?section=303). The city intends to make this Policy official by the end of the year.

Legally the city has very little power in the management of its lakes. The application of the navigation laws is exclusively a federal responsibility. Only Transport Canada can regulate motor boat traffic on the lakes, either speed or mooring. However, since 1988, the municipalities may undertake to develop regulations for the use of boats by respecting a specific procedure. The magnitude of the studies to be done and the consensus to be established make this power virtually theoretical.

Thus the Policy that the city wishes to put in place has basically two objectives: to ensure the long term health of the resources and to solve the conflicts between the different users.

The city recommends proposing to the associations that they adopt the 'environmental and nautical courtesy code' for a period of two years. If the code is not respected to the satisfaction of the residents, then procedures to adopt a regulation on restricting nautical activities could be undertaken. To ensure the respect of its Policy, the city hopes to put in place the following control measures:

- \* To confer on the Committee of the lakes the mandate to ensure the implementation of the Policy within the lake associations over the next two years and to make an annual follow-up report to the municipal council in order to make the necessary adjustments as needed;
- \* Put in place a requirement for having a sticker on motorboats put in the water on the lakes in city territory. The sticker will be granted upon proof that the boat has been washed and that the owner is a resident of the municipality. The details of the regulations concerning the sticker are subject to commentaries and will be communicated to you when finalised;
- \* Confer on the police service of the city the responsibility to ensure respect of the Policy, in particular as regards the aspects concerning the safety of the users. The summary of all the interventions possible will be communicated to you when known.
- \* The environmental and nautical courtesy code proposed for Lake Duhamel is essentially equivalent to our code of ethics for boat owners, with the exception of the following elements included in the city code:

- Existing motorboats retain acquired rights over a period of 5 years, after which only motorboats with electric motors will be allowed, for a maximum speed of 10Km/hour;
- As specified in the regulations on restrictions on boats of the Government of Canada jet skis will not be allowed;
- Noise management is subject to regulation ((2003) – 53);
- Boaters must navigate at more than 60 metres from the shore.

The Association is required to work with the city to clarify the final content of the environmental and nautical courtesy code, after which the executive of the Association will propose it at the annual general meeting, tentatively planned for the 18 of June, 2011.

This Policy basically highlights a group of measures that the Association has already put in place. At the special meeting on motorboats in June 2009, we discussed the process that would place one or more restrictions on the use of motorboats. The city considers the process costly and has little hope that a favourable resolution of these demands would be granted. The city mentioned that a demand made by Lake Mercier in 2003 is still frozen.

Transport Canada recommends that the parties find room for an agreement between motorboat users and other waterfront owners.

We are following the process proposed by the city which is similar to the recommendation that your executive made to you at the special meeting on motorboats in 2009, that is to try to get along, to see how the dossiers on restrictions presented to Transport Canada will evolve and to identify the responsibilities of the waterfront owners on Lac Duhamel in the context of an eventual filing of a demand to restrict the use of motorboats.

The executive committee will continue to follow the evolution of this dossier and will keep you informed.

In the name of the committee I want to wish you happy holidays and best wishes for 2011. Enjoy the wintry pleasures that the lake has to offer!

Regards,

Jacques Leduc

President