



Lake Echo/Fourteen Islands  
May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Hello and welcome to all the residents, organizations and friends of Lake Echo/Fourteen Islands,

As the president of the interim Administrative Board of ARLEQ (Association des résidents du Lac Echo/Quatorze Îles), I am especially pleased to write to you about all the possibilities before us not only with respect to keeping our lake healthy, but also with respect to removal of the sediment in our lake.

For my part, I am a third generation resident of the lake. Having passed my childhood at the lake, you will understand my profound interest in ensuring that our lake remains an ideal place for relaxation, for sporting activities, for reading and socializing.

Like the majority of residents, I have noticed, that in spite of the sustained and valuable efforts made by ARLEQ and the two municipalities, the level of phosphate has not improved. Fortunately, in spite of small isolated incidents of cyanobacteria, none of these blooms were found to be toxic.

We have to recognize, over the last twenty years, the gradual increase in sediment, which according to the limnologists contains this famous phosphate. On the other hand, I have noticed that there is a lot less boat traffic on the lake that during the '70's. I have also learned recently that a sawmill, which operated during the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, probably contributed greatly to the accumulation of sediment in the southern part of the lake.

Thanks to the initiative of the Municipality of Saint-Hippolyte, and in close collaboration with the Municipality of Prévost, a significant mobilization of residents of Lake Echo/Quatorze Îles occurred during the summer of 2019. I have been one of those citizens who have been deeply involved since that time.

Four committees representing the different perspectives were formed:

- 1) Navigation Committee
- 2) Committee for Removal of Sediment
- 3) Watershed Committee
- 4) Communication Committee

The highlights of the accomplishments of each of the committees, for the most part initiated before the rebirth of ARLEQ, can be found in the Appendix below.

To continue the work initiated by the 4 committees, and based on the success of the APLA (Association for the Protection of Lake Achigan), Mr Bruno Allard, Municipal Counselor, and Mme Geneviève Simard, Director Environmental Services in Saint-Hippolyte, suggested rejuvenating ARLEQ, a non-profit organization for the residents of Lake Echo/Quatorze Îles. During one of the meetings for the lake organized by Saint-Hippolyte, Mr Michel Lamontagne, the president and founder of ARLEQ, at his post for over 22 years, let it be known that he would like to yield his position as president of the association and he proposed re-establishing an Administrative Board which would represent the diverse interests of the residents and organizations linked to the lake. The internal regulations of ARLEQ allow a maximum of 14 members of the Administrative Board. More than 20 people indicated their interest. This is how, just before the period of isolation due to Covid-19, an interim Administrative Board of 14 members was formed and which will be ratified during the next meeting of members of ARLEQ which we hope will take place this summer. ARLEQ also plans to present an amendment to its regulations to include two additional members to the Administrative Board. I can assure you that up until now your current interim Administrative Board is composed of people who are dynamic, fired up and spend considerable time dedicated to the well-being of the lake, its residents, its organizations and friends of the lake.

Personally, I wish to include every person and organization who wants to contribute to the efforts being made to preserve the quality of lake and who wish to participate in the fun involved when working as a team and with mutual respect. After all, life is so short.

Do not hesitate to send me an email at [info@arleq.ca](mailto:info@arleq.ca) with any suggestions and if you would like to participate.

Also, I encourage you to stay in touch via our new website, [www.arleq.ca](http://www.arleq.ca), launched May 1<sup>st</sup> and managed by Kelly Hughes, Communication Committee.

There it is! That's all from me for now.

Don't forget to wash your boat and get your vignette if you have a motorized watercraft.

Happy beginning of the season! Happy eventual end to confinement and please, stay healthy!

Tom

Interim President, ARLEQ

PS: A big thank you is due to Michel Lamontagne for his past accomplishments through ARLEQ and for his continued dedication.

PPS: As a non-profit, ARLEQ operates on a small budget and will offer to its members the possibility of making a donation. We are looking at the possibility of being able to do so online in the days to come.

## APPENDIX

### Highlights of the accomplishments of each of the committees

#### 1) Navigation Committee

- a. New Saint-Hippolyte municipal rule 1195-20 adopted in April 2020
- b. New Prévost municipal rule anticipated adoption in June 2020
- c. New Code of Conduct
- d. New pamphlet including Code of Conduct
- e. Collaboration with almost all clubs and organizations surrounding Lake Echo/Quatorze Îles
- f. New navigation buoys (Saint-Hippolyte)
- g. New water patrols (Saint-Hippolyte)
- h. Signage (Saint-Hippolyte and Prévost)

## 2) Committee for Removal of Sediment

- a. Preliminary analyses of water quality performed during summer of 2019
- b. Information was gathered about techniques and solutions used with success for the removal of sediment and improvement of water quality in other lakes
- c. 4 potentially feasible solutions:
  - i. Physical removal (dredging)  
[https://dredging.org/media/ceda/org/documents/resources/ceda/arious/publications-dredging\\_the\\_facts.pdf](https://dredging.org/media/ceda/org/documents/resources/ceda/arious/publications-dredging_the_facts.pdf)
  - ii. ALUM: Supervised by the respected Limnologist, Dr John Holz, HAB Solutions has successfully restored more than 100 lakes in the North-Central United States: [habaquatics.com/](http://habaquatics.com/)
  - iii. Phoslock: A possible solution recently used successfully in Lake Bromont: [phoslock.com.au](http://phoslock.com.au). The technique Phoslock was used in approximately 250 lakes
  - iv. Enzymes: another method used for removal of sediment. More information to follow
- d. Further in-depth analysis and tests are planned for the summer of 2020
- e. Vigilance concerning the quality of water by lake residents

## 3) Watershed Committee

- a. Analysis of ditches and culverts performed by CARA (Saint-Hippolyte and Prévost)
  - i. Identification of 2 locations which require urgent repairs
- b. Analysis of water quality of all tributaries (streams, etc.) planned for summer 2020
- c. Analysis of the environmental impact from the beaver dams on Rat Lake
- d. Investigation of different methods available to improve the water quality in the watershed
- e. Beginning of environmental monitoring related to different projects approved by the municipalities

## 4) Communication Committee:

- a. Website launched: [www.arleq.ca](http://www.arleq.ca)
- b. Signage (in conjunction with the Navigation Committee and the municipalities)
- c. Pamphlet explaining Code of Conduct

