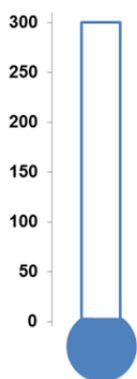


The Blue Sea Lake Watershed Association Bulletin Issue No. 6 – April 2013

Time to Renew Your Membership

With the return of spring, we would like to invite you to renew your membership in the Blue Sea Lake Watershed Association. We would also ask that you encourage your neighbours and friends to join the Association, if they have not already done so.



Renewing your membership costs only \$20 and is very easy to do. Simply complete and return the membership form that you will receive in the mail or go to our website -

www.associationbluesea.org - and follow the instructions provided at the "Registration" tab found on the left hand column of the home page.



Your membership is critical to the success of this organization. In addition to helping finance the various projects we undertake to safeguard our watershed, it also gives weight to our voice and adds to the credibility of our organization. When we engage local and regional officials on environmental issues, we do so on your behalf. When we speak, we speak for you.

To learn more about what we have planned for this year, please visit our website. There you will also find a wealth of information about our watershed as well as helpful hints on what you can do to help us protect our waterways. Through the website you can ask questions, make suggestions, and - hopefully - volunteer your services. The website is updated on a regular basis so we encourage you to visit it often.

Again, please renew your membership. We're counting on you.

Spring Tips

With the arrival of spring, many of us begin to get our cottages and residences ready for summer. As we do so, we should remember that spring cleaning in the country involves additional environmental challenges and concerns. From using green cleaning products for domestic chores to washing our boats and tuning up our outboard motors, there are many things we can do to help protect the environment and the watershed as we get ready for summer. For some general tips on how to "prep" your place in an environmentally friendly manner, please [click here](#)¹. For some earth-friendly house cleaning tips, please [click here](#)².



Association Outreach

In an effort to gain a greater appreciation of local environmental issues and initiatives and - at the same time - develop closer relations with like-minded organizations, Don Karn and Dick Ryan met with their counterparts from the Cedar Lake association³ on 14 January and, two weeks later, with their confreres from the 31 Mile Lake association⁴. Both meetings proved most

worthwhile as they gave all parties an opportunity to share their experiences and compare notes on such issues as invasive species, septic system management, and shoreline revegetation. Although it was acknowledged that each association has its own unique problems, all agreed that only through the coordinated collective action of our associations will we be able to surmount the many common challenges we face in our effort to protect and preserve our watersheds for future generations.

The Presence of Aquatic Plants in Blue Sea Lake

Last year, several residents of Blue Sea Lake asked us about the increasing number of aquatic plants appearing near the shoreline. After discussing this with several biologists, we have concluded that the plants in question are part of the pondweed family.

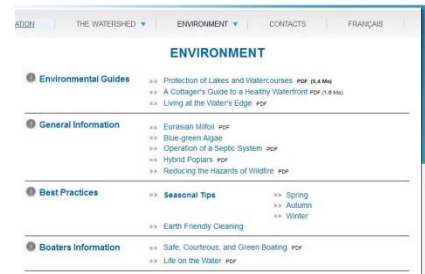
The pondweed is an indigenous plant that provides both food and shelter for marine fauna. It is found along shorelines out to a depth of 3 metres. Like Eurasian milfoil, pondweed reproduces in a variety of ways and, as a result, can spread very easily.



The most effective way to limit its growth is to reduce the amount of phosphorous entering the lake. However, reducing phosphorus input is much easier said than done, and remains one of the great challenges of our Association. Please [click here](#) for more information about pondweed and its proliferation.

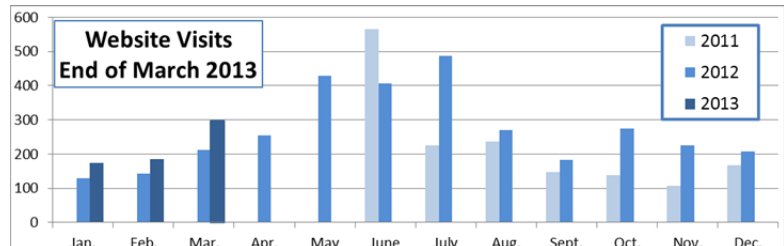
Website Update

The Association's website has been modified so that it is now accessible via touch screen apparatus such as smart phones, tablets, ipads, etc... Until now, it was very difficult, if not impossible, to use the drop down menus for the "Association", "Watershed" and "Environment" sections of the site with these devices. By creating separate pages that detail the content of these sections, we have been able to solve this problem. As a result, ours is now a multi-platform website. We encourage you to notify us at info@associationbleusea.org should you experience any problems accessing the site.



In addition to changing the drop down menus of the "Association" and the "Environment" sections, we have reorganized the content of these two sections to make it easier for you to find the information you need.

We hope that, as a result of these changes, you will visit our site more often and that we will continue to see a steady increase in its use.



Agenda

July 27th, 2013 : Annual General Meeting – details to come

- 1 www.associationbleusea.org/en/spring_tips
- 2 www.associationbleusea.org/en/earth_friendly_cleaning
- 3 Corporation du Petit et du Grand Lac des Cèdres
- 4 Association for the Protection of Thirty-One Miles Lake
- 5 www.associationbleusea.org/en/aquatic_plants

Shorelines is a production of the Blue Sea Lake Watershed Association.

Contributions: Dick Ryan, Francis LeBlanc, Paul Ouimet. Translation: Dick Ryan, Paul Ouimet. Production: Paul Ouimet.

To contact us: info@associationbleusea.org