

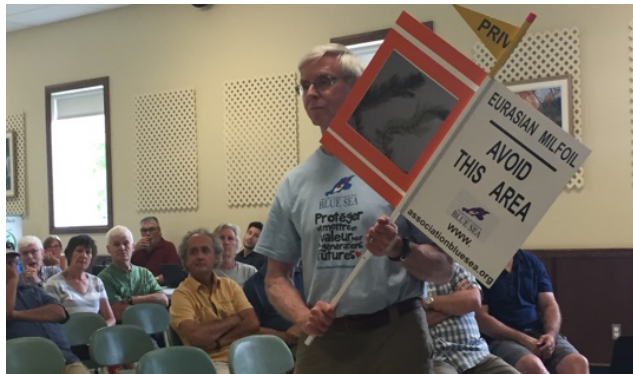


**The Blue Sea Lake Watershed Association Bulletin**  
**Issue No. 53 – December 2021**

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### **AGM is in Person this year!**

The Blue Sea Lake Watershed Association will hold its 2022 Annual General Meeting **IN PERSON** at the Messines Municipal Hall on Saturday, August 6<sup>th</sup> at 10am. Please save the date and plan to attend.



If you have not already done so, please join or renew your membership to the Association. Memberships must be paid-up to vote at the AGM.

The annual membership is \$20 per person and is tax deductible, as well as any donation you wish to make. You may renew online or by mail. To complete your membership registration, visit the Association website at: [www.associationbluesea.org/registration](http://www.associationbluesea.org/registration).

### **Information for renters**

Are you renting out your place at Blue Sea this year? Are you a renter yourself? If either of these situations applies to you, or if you know renters who are new to our region, please take note and share with your renter friends this smart and informative pamphlet with helpful information on how to the maintain the beauty of Blue Sea Lake and the other lakes in our watershed.

The brochure is available on our website at: [www.associationbluesea.org](http://www.associationbluesea.org) . You can also pick up copies at the Municipal Offices at Blue Sea and Messines or at local depanneurs.

## Pay attention to the Yellow Buoys!

As has been done for the past 10 years, volunteers from the Blue Sea Lake Watershed Association are currently installing yellow buoys and Milfoil buoy signs to identify many of Blue Sea Lake's Eurasian milfoil beds. Six teams will install a total of 280 yellow buoys and 19 Milfoil buoy signs.

The purpose of this program is to reduce the spread of milfoil. Because milfoil spreads by fragmentation, navigating through these beds contributes to the spread of this harmful plant by dragging bits of the milfoil to other areas where it can establish.



So please stay clear - at least 10 meters - of the areas marked by yellow buoys and encourage your fellow boaters to do likewise.

Here are other actions you can take to help reduce this problem on our lakes:

- Stay away from the lake and island shorelines, as there are many unmarked beds in those areas as well.
- Don't fish in or near the beds marked by yellow buoys. Simply casting a lure into the bed can cause the milfoil to fragment.
- Spread the word to other boaters and fishers to avoid these areas.
- Thoroughly wash your boat before launching and after removing it from the lake. (See next article).

The yellow buoys also give residents and cottagers a better idea of the extent of our milfoil problem; and helps the Association monitor the movement and proliferation of this invasive species. We are grateful to our teams of volunteers\* for the many hours they put in each year to carefully install, reposition and remove these protective markers on our watershed.



*Figure 1 Setting off to mark the milfoil beds with yellow buoys.*

\* Buoy Team Members: Eric Desrosiers and family; Jeff Quilty and Lisa Hebert; Judy McConnery (and family); Ben Edwards and Leslie Cameron (and family); Richard Guenette and family; George Haslam and family; Dave MacLaren and Dick Ryan (and family)

## Make Sure to Wash your Boat

Harmful invasive species are most often transported from one body of water to another by boat. Accordingly, since 2018, it has been mandatory for all boats entering any lakes in the Blue Sea watershed to be properly washed beforehand. This is thanks to programs in place by both the Municipality of Blue Sea and Messines with the strong support of this Association. It applies to all forms of motorized and non-motorized watercraft and to residents, cottagers, and visitors alike.

Residents and cottagers can have their watercraft properly washed free of charge at one of the local boat washing stations while visitors must pay a small fee. Everyone, however, must display the stickers and proof that their boat has been properly washed. Those failing to do so can face fines of \$300 and more for additional offences.

### Blue Sea:

Those who live in Blue Sea or use the Blue Sea Lake public boat ramp can have their boats washed at the automated wash station located behind the Municipal Office at 10, rue Principale, a short distance from the boat ramp. The wash station is open 24/7 during the summer season.

Residents and cottagers can obtain an electronic payment chip at the Blue Sea municipal office allowing them to wash their boats for free. Visitors pay \$25 for motorized boats and it's free for non-motorized watercraft under 5 metres.

A second watercraft washing station is being installed at 396, chemin du lac Long to serve this sector, a good distance from the village and where there are 8 very busy lakes.



### Messines

Everyone sailing on the various lakes of the Municipality must wash their boat. A boat washing station is available for this purpose at the Marché Messines, located at 73, rue Principale in Messines. The station is open seven days a week from 7am to 7pm. Boat washing is free for residents of Messines who have affixed their sticker on the boat. Residents can obtain their sticker via the municipality's [website](#) or at the municipal office. Visitors will have to pay \$25 for motorized watercraft and \$10 for non-motorized watercraft, with discounts for additional boats.



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

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