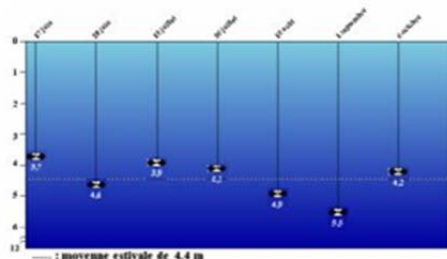


The Blue Sea Lake Watershed Association Bulletin Issue No. 7 – June 2013

Summertime Tips

For many of us, summer at the lake is a highlight of our year - a time when we can relax on the dock, take the boat out for a spin, have a BBQ with friends or simply lie in the hammock and listen to the birds. Although it's great to enjoy the many pleasures that living by the lake can bring, we must never forget that, as stewards of this magnificent watershed, it is up to us to help protect and preserve it. Please check out our [website](#) for a few tips on how to enjoy your summer in an environmentally responsible way.



2012 RSVL Transparency Monitoring/Water Quality Sampling Results

The province-wide results of the 2012 RSVL transparency monitoring and water quality sampling program are now available on line on [RSVL's website](#). The results for the lakes within our watershed that participate in this program (ie: Blue Sea, Edja, Grant, Laverdure, Profond, and Beaudry) can now be easily accessed via the improved "[Water Quality](#)" page of our website.

Assessing the Health of Blue Sea Lake

"Hey, how's the lake doing?" This is a question we on the Board of Directors often hear from our neighbours and friends. Our answer is always something like "It's OK, but...", an answer that many find less than satisfying or helpful. Given that we've been collecting lake data for almost a decade, people's disappointment in this wishy-washy answer is fully understandable. One would think that by now we should have a pretty good idea as to whether our lake is healthy or not.



Periphyton

Unfortunately, the complexity and dynamics of the lake's environment and ecosystem make such a determination very difficult. As you will see when you read the latest RSVL results, our transparency readings, phosphorus levels, etc... look pretty good. However (don't you just hate that word), other indicators such as the presence of periphyton on subsurface rocks and the proliferation of Eurasian milfoil and other aquatic plants tell a different story as they indicate a likely overabundance of nutrients (such as phosphorus) in our water. To learn more about the challenges involved in assessing the health of a lake and your Association's approach to this complex and very important matter, please [click here](#).



Eurasian Milfoil

The Beaver - Enemy or Ally?

For those of you who've had a favourite tree felled or your property flooded by the work of a beaver, it will likely come as a surprise that a growing number of scientists and environmentalists consider the beaver a valuable ally in the battle to improve our environment. A very interesting documentary that aired on the CBC's "The Nature of Things" clearly illustrates this point. We strongly recommend that you take a few minutes to view it. To do so, please [click here](#).



Coming Soon - Association Info Kiosks

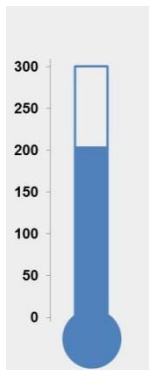
To help promote responsible boating behaviour and watershed stewardship, our Association has had two info kiosks constructed. These kiosks will be installed by the municipalities at each of the public boat ramps within the next few weeks. Locally designed and built by Kaza Cabana, the kiosks will feature a variety of seasonally appropriate posters, pamphlets, articles, etc. Be sure to drop by for a look and, while there, pick up some of our very informative brochures.



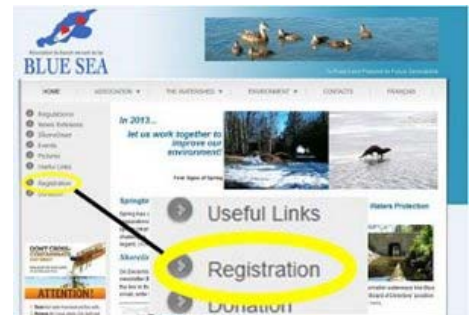
A New Administrator

Our newest Board member, Bernard Asselin, is originally from the Lanaudière region in Quebec. A retired Transport Canada employee, Bernard fell in love with Blue Sea Lake after sailing on it with a friend on numerous occasions. Over time, he nurtured a dream of designing and building his own home on the shores of this magnificent lake, a dream he realized in 2000. Bernard has since returned to his favorite sport, windsurfing and, in anticipation of his elder years, he has acquired a sailboat which he has named Evasion. When the weather is unpleasant, Bernard finds pleasure in creating sculptures from wood, stone, and concrete.

Membership Renewal Campaign



Association membership renewal is progressing well. As of June 4th, we already have 210 registrations, including 14 new members to whom we wish to extend our warmest welcome. Remember that the membership – registration or renewal – costs only \$20 and is very easy to do. Simply complete and return the membership form that you have received in the mail or go to our website - www.associationblueseas.org - and follow the instructions provided at the "Registration" tab found on the left hand column of the home page. Our sincere thanks to all of you who support the Association's efforts to protect and preserve our watershed.



Mark Your Calendar

Our Annual General Meeting will take place on Saturday, July 27th 2013 at the Municipal Office in Messines. Details to follow. Plan to attend!

- 1 www.associationblueseas.org
- 2 www.mddep.gouv.qc.ca/eau/rsvl/index.asp
- 3 www.associationblueseas.org/en/water_quality
- 4 www.associationblueseas.org/en/evaluation_health_lake
- 5 www.cbc.ca/natureofthings/beaverwhisperer/film.html

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@associationblueseas.org