

# APLC Annual General Meeting

Aug 18, 2024

## Minutes

1. The President of the APLC (Ricky Victor) welcomed the members and proceeded to thank the directors of the APLC and many others who have contributed their time to the health and safety of our lakes.
2. Ricky presented the agenda for approval; it was seconded by Barry Rishikof. None opposed.
3. The president submitted the following slate of directors for 2023-2024.

Ricky Victor (President)

Claire Kilgallen (Secretary Treasurer)

Jeremy Becker (Communication)

Jack Weinstein (membership)

Barry Rishikof (Code of conduct-patrols)

Gerry Phillips (Divers)

Sammi Fabian (director at large)

Jacques Ferragne (director at large)

Phyllis Leibov (Past President)

No other nominations were presented.

The president asked for approval and there were none opposed.

4. Claire Kilgallen (Secretary Treasurer) presented the financial statement as of December 31, 2023. The bank balance showed \$19,290.69. The major expenses related to the APLC boat (accompanies the divers), lake water testing and insurance. The fees will remain at \$30 per year for 2025.
5. Ricky reported that once again we set a record for APLC members at 181 paid members This represents a steady increase over the last few years. We have more than doubled our membership since 2016 when we had only 85 members.
6. Barry Rishikof reported that the new patrol team (Camping Ste Agathe) had done an excellent job in educating our boaters not only with respect to our code of conduct, but also pointing out the Canadian boating laws and regulations with respect to operating a pleasure craft. Most of their interventions have been positive. They continue to experience some more

difficult interventions with boaters that are reluctant to follow the code of conduct, but rather than accepting their position, the patrollers are committed to “keeping pressure on them” to try and force compliance. The goal is to make sure that every lake user understands that we are all part of one community.

We noticed some failures on the part of the patrollers in identifying some of the offenders and especially repeat offenders and we would like to see improvements for next year. The APLC will meet with the city and the patrollers at the end of the season and make sure that next year they do an even better job.

7. Gerry Phillips presented the results of the divers (Eurasian Milfoil) from June through to August 18. The divers have removed 153 plants to date. These results are amazing when compared to previous years when more than 2000 plants had been removed at a similar date. Thanks to vigilant kayakers and paddle boarders, new colonies have been discovered and dealt with before they have been able to spread and we have effectively contained the milfoil plants to one area (the original bay, next to the boat launch, currently roped off) that accounts for 85% of the plants that have been removed. We have already been in discussions with the city to make sure that despite our apparent success, we keep the diving budget in place and continue to be vigilant until every last plant has been removed.
8. Ricky reported that lake water testing is scheduled for end of August or early September.

Results from the samples taken (15 locations) last year (August 2023) showed low readings for fecal matter. Water quality was deemed to be very good to excellent in all locations. These results were similar to previous years.

9. Ricky reported that the boat launch issues regarding finding a solution to after hour openings during the week and weekend openings led to an unlocked and open gate until late June. Our displeasure was voiced at city hall and the city has committed to doing their best to return to the schedule from previous years (locking the gate as of end of May) and providing off hour solutions once the gate is locked.

The city is in the final verification stages for the purchase of a cement carpet to be installed at the boat launch. This installation (scheduled for Spring 2025) would allow for smooth terrain when launching or removing of boats.

10. Barry Rishikof presented the following report regarding wake-boats, wakeboarding and wakesurfing:

The APLC has been made aware through newspaper articles (Journal de Montreal, Info du nord) and television reports (CTV News) and from various communications with our members and other associations, that many lakes have or are currently pursuing strategies to ban wake boats or wake based activities (Wake Surf).

Any attempt to ban these boats must be pursued through the city of Lantier followed by a formal request to the federal government. The APLC has had discussions with the city to understand the process and the following was learned.

- The process is costly \$50-\$60K.
- The decision to petition the federal government is a city determination (and is not automatic even if there is a consensus by the lake users to request a ban on these boats)
- All citizens affected must be consulted. A firm would need to be hired to conduct this survey (and interviews)
- There must be irrefutable evidence that damage is being caused by these boats and only these boats, otherwise no banning of any boats or a risk of banning all motorized boats.
- Must prove that other measures to mitigate damages (e.g. wake in certain parts of lake) are not working.
- Process takes 3-6 years from request to a decision.
- City will only pursue changes to regulations where enforcement is possible and there is concern as to who/how the municipality would enforce banning.
- City is concerned that there will be lawsuits filed to seek damages by those who purchased boats that can no longer be used.

City without expressly stating it, does not appear to be in favor of pursuing banning of wake boats or activities.

The current directors of the APLC are also not in favor of banning.

We prefer to try and find common ground between the wake boaters and those that are opposed to these boats and activities. While we can speculate, we cannot prove that Wake Boats are actually causing environmental damage, however, we can say with certainty that wake boats do affect the ability of others to enjoy other lake activities (swimming, boarding, kayaking, sailing, etc.).

The APLC is advocating that a committee be struck that will include wakeboarders and those opposed (6-8 members) with a goal towards finding solutions. The committee will be chaired by Barry Rishikof, director in charge of safety and security on the lakes and the code of conduct.

This report was well received, and several members stepped forward to volunteer for the committee. Many suggestions were made as to topics for discussion for this committee including:

- Emptying of ballasts in no wake zones (e.g. rivers etc.
- Extending quiet time hours on the weekend or Saturdays only for wake related activities (e.g. 12-4,12-3,11-3, etc.)
- Producing video showing the effects of wake-boat waves on shorelines, docks, other watercraft, etc.
- Caution when picking up dropped wakeboarder or wake-surfer so as not to create wave on top of wave.
- More clearly marking the designated area for wake-boats making sure they are kept away from shorelines.

The committee will meet to discuss these issues and others and is tasked with proposing solutions that we all can accept. They will submit their proposals to the APLC directors. If all is agreed to, the proposals will be sent to all members for a vote to decide if the code of conduct should be amended with the proposed changes. If approved (by a majority of the members), the changes will be incorporated into the code of conduct and will be communicated to everyone in Spring 2025

11. During question period several issues were raised.

- A. We should celebrate our Eurasian Milfoil success, and have it posted on the Lantier monthly "infolettre" (President to speak with the city at the end of the season once the final numbers are in).
- B. We should advise swimmers that when they choose to swim in the middle of the lake (away from the safety of their dock) they should make themselves visible (e.g. swim buoy, noodle, etc.). We will make mention of this recommendation in our Spring 2025 memo.
- C. We should arrange for patrols on both weekend days throughout the summer. (We will address this request for additional days with the city when we next meet them at our summer recap meeting (Fall 2024))

- D. We should send a reminder about the need to clean boat and trailer before launching a boat in the lake even if you launch a boat from your own property. We will add this reminder in our Spring 2025 memo.
  - E. We should remind all boaters that non motorized boats (canoes, kayaks, sailboats, paddle boards, pedal boats, etc.) have the right of way over power driven boats. We will add this reminder in our Spring 2025 memo.
  - F. We should advise all members that in the event of unusually high water levels (flood conditions) all boaters should refrain from any wake creating activities until the water recedes. During these events of high water levels, when we send out memo advising advise our members about the danger of passing under the bridges, we should also indicate no wake anywhere in the lake until water levels recede. We will cover this point in our Spring 2025 memo.
  - G. Although not related to the APLC (and our mandate), it was suggested that our citizens be reminded that when walking on a country road (no sidewalks) one should always walk on the left side of the road so that they are facing traffic. We will mention this to the city at our Fall meeting.
12. Ricky proposed that the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Gerry Phillips.