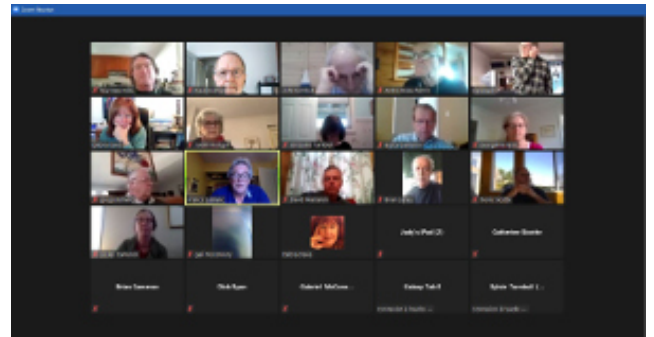


**The Blue Sea Lake Watershed Association Bulletin
 Issue No. 46 – December 2020**

The 2020 AGM Takes Place... Virtually

The Blue Sea Lake Watershed Association held its 12th Annual General Meeting on Saturday, October 17th. The coronavirus pandemic obliged the Association to conduct the AGM virtually, via Zoom. The Assembly was also limited to the 232 members who had paid their 2020 membership dues, as it was not possible, with Zoom, to register people at the meeting. Despite the occasional technical glitches, the meeting turned out to be quite successful. Our thanks to all who attended for their participation and their forbearance.



Virtual 2020 AGM via Zoom

Photo Paul R. Ouimet

The AGM was the occasion to review the activities of the Association. Despite the restrictions of the pandemic, 2020 has been a busy year. In addition to its regular program of water quality monitoring, the deployment of yellow demarcation buoys, and its other advocacy and education activities, the Association, with the help of volunteers and local support, carried out the installation of the biodegradable jute tarps in Blue Sea Lake and raised more than \$20,000 through the generous contribution of members to cover our share of the costs.

New Initiatives: Assembly heard the results of a survey of members on lakeside fireworks (see next article) and was advised of a new initiative to consolidate the laws, regulations, and best practices on boating and navigation into a comprehensive and usable set of navigation guidelines to ensure that users of the watershed abide by these rules.

Open Discussion: As always, members were given the opportunity to share their concerns and suggestions during the “open discussion” portion of the meeting. Questions were raised about whether more should be done to prevent phosphates and excessive nutrients from entering our lakes and waterways. The importance of the yellow buoy program was reaffirmed, as was the need to continue with the Association’s educational activities and outreach to new cottagers and residents, as well as those renting premises on lakes in the watershed. It was suggested as well that – 10 years later - it might be time for an update to the comprehensive baseline study on the environmental state of the watershed known as the Geiger Report that was produced by the Association in 2010.



Sail Boat at Rest

Photo Francis LeBlanc

These and other suggestions raised during the meeting will guide the Board of Directors in their priorities for 2021. If you have comments or suggestions for the Board to consider, please write to us at info@associationblueseas.org.

The Association Selects its Board of Directors for 2020-21

Elections were held for Directors and an Executive was chosen by the new Board immediately after the AGM. Two stalwarts on the Board, Don Karn and Paul Ouimet, chose not to reoffer. They will be greatly missed on the Board but have promised to remain active in the Association.

At the AGM, the Association welcomed a new member to its Board in the person of Gabriel McConnery. At its meeting on November 28th, the Board accepted a request by Nicholas McConnery, Gabriel's brother, to join the Board to fill one of the two remaining vacancies.

The Board of Directors for 2020-21 is thus composed as follows:

President: Francis LeBlanc
Vice-President: Dave Maclaren
Secretary: André Beauchemin
Treasurer: Ghislaine Turnbull
Directors: Guy Gauvreau
 Brian Lahey
 Gabriel McConnery
 Nicholas McConnery



Board of Directors in Virtual Meeting – From left to right, top row: Dave Maclaren (Vice-President), Francis LeBlanc (President), Nicholas McConnery. Center row: Gabriel McConnery, André Beauchemin (Secretary), Ghislaine Turnbull (treasurer). Bottom: Brian Lahey. Absent from picture: Guy Gauvreau. Photo Francis LeBlanc

Two New Administrators Join the Board



Gabriel is a recent graduate of the University of Ottawa where he obtained an Honours Bachelor of Commerce degree with a specialization in Management. He is currently working as a business consultant in the Strategy and Operations practice of BDO Canada.

Gabriel has deep family ties to Blue Sea. Although born and raised in Chelsea, Quebec, Gabriel has spent his summers at the family cottage at the northern end of Blue Sea Lake, and he and his family have been active volunteers with the Association's yellow buoy program. It is largely because of this that Gabriel has offered to serve on the board, as he says, "to help ensure that Blue Sea Lake remains a clear and healthy lake for future generations to enjoy."

Nick is currently in the third year of bachelor's degree in Mechanical engineering at Concordia and has already completed internships at Lockheed Martin, CES in Montreal, Seresco Technologies Inc and Davis Engineering in Ottawa, as well as a work term with Louisiana Pacific outside of Maniwaki. He is passionate about engineering, and in utilizing engineering to find innovative and renewable ways advance society while simultaneously preserving the environment.

Since 2018, Nicholas has participated as a volunteer in the efforts of the Blue Sea Lake Watershed Association's to control the spread of Eurasian Milfoil in Blue Sea Lake by helping to identify Milfoil concentrations, collecting GPS coordinates, creating maps, and implementing yellow buoys and signs. He is excited at the opportunity to contribute to the Association and to make a difference for the lake and people who reside there.

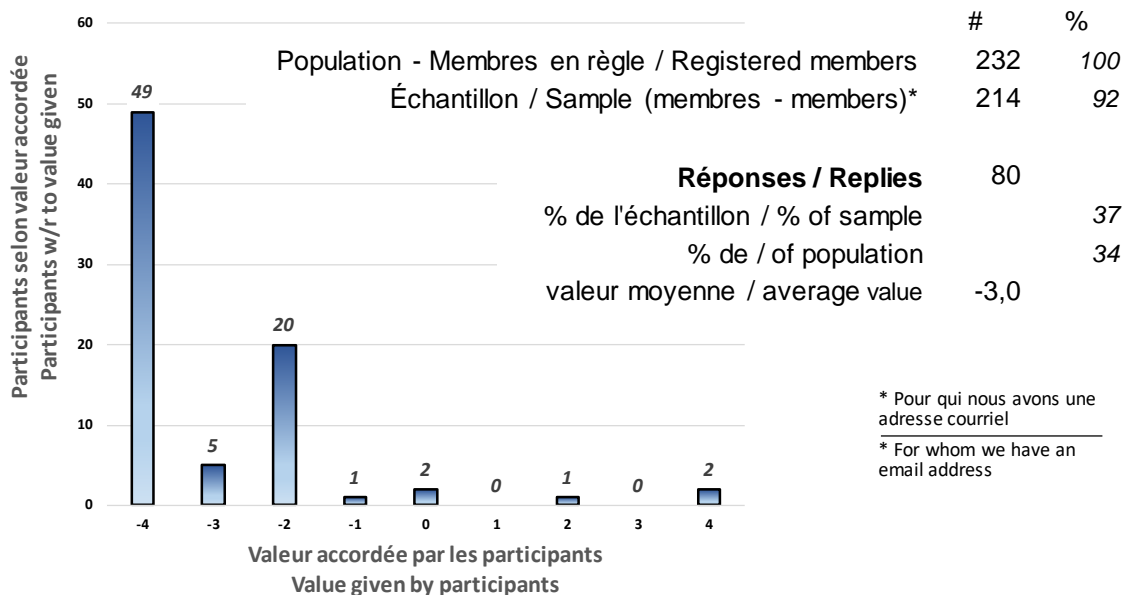
Both Gabriel and Nicholas are great additions to the Board. In addition to their professional skills, they each bring integrity, competence, and enthusiasm, are effective communicators, and fluently bilingual, both written and orally.



The Association Surveys its Members on Lakeside Fireworks

Launching fireworks near the lake leaves chemical debris in the lake, which is why the Association has been opposed to the practice. We would like to see them curbed or even stopped altogether. Yet, we acknowledge that, while some people may find them unpleasant, fireworks can be popular with others. So we decided to canvas our members on their views. An online survey was circulated to 232 registered members and the results reported at the AGM.

Fireworks Survey - Results



Of the 80 replies received, 77 respondents indicated they were opposed or strongly opposed, while 3 were in favour. We consider these results to be sufficiently clear to continue the discussion with our local municipal representatives regarding the possibility of adopting measures aimed at limiting the practice of launching fireworks near the lakes. We believe that limiting the fireworks to a few specific occasions during the summer (for example, long weekends) would be a reasonable option. If you agree, we encourage you to contact your local councillor at Blue Sea or Messines and make your views known.

An Update of the Association's Website is Considered

The Association has accepted an invitation by the students of the Cégep Outaouais Enterprise program to redesign our website as a school project. We are eager to see what they come up with. To help us guide the student team, we would be grateful for your input and suggestions about how the current website can be improved. Please email info@associationblueseas.org with your thoughts on the following questions:

1. How often do you visit the Association website? Frequently? Occasionally? Rarely? Never?
2. What do you consult the website for?
3. What do you like about the website?
4. What is missing that you'd like to see?

Also, if you are knowledgeable in website matters and would like to help us with our website and online communications, including social media, please get in touch with us.

Discovering the Birds of Blue Sea Lake

Christopher Nind, who is a member of our Association, has shared with us some wonderful photos of the birds of Blue Sea, taken by his son-in-law, Serdjo Lakish. If you like this one, [click here](#) to see more.

If you have photos of the watershed you'd like to share, please pass them along to us at: info@associationblueseas.org.



Photo Serdjo Lakish

The Importance of Being Well Prepared for Winter

Winter is just around the corner, As you prepare for the winter season, we encourage you to click on the [Seasonal Tips](#) section of our website to review our fall and winter environmental tips.

To all members of the Association and readers of this bulletin, please enjoy the season and stay safe.



Winter on Blue Sea Lake

Photo Marc Grégoire

Shorelines is a production of the Blue Sea Lake Watershed Association.
Contributions: Francis Leblanc, Marc Grégoire, Don Karn, Paul R. Ouimet
Website: www.associationblueseas.org To contact us: info@associationblueseas.org
