

The Blue Sea Lake Watershed Association Bulletin Issue No. 8 – July 2013

AGM: Come share your morning with us!

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Blue Sea Lake Watershed Association will take place at 10 AM on Saturday, July 27, at the Municipal Hall in Messines. Once a year, members of the Association, as well as those who would like to become members, become active, or wish to know more about the environmental health of our lakes in our region, are invited to gather to share their concerns, inform themselves, or to simply see friends and renew acquaintances. The AGM is an occasion to focus on a theme that unites us all: the protection of our magnificent Blue Sea Lake and other lakes and waterways that form part of its watershed.



So, the AGM provides the opportunity to review the state of health of the lakes in our watershed and to raise issues, large and small, that preoccupy residents and cottagers who live around these lakes, and should be given priority by the elected officials and volunteers of the Association in order to better ensure the quality of our watershed for future generations. The President will report on the activities



and accomplishments of the past year. The financial statements for the last year will also be presented and there will of course be elections for positions on the Board of Directors. Thus, members will have the chance, through their questions and interventions, to influence the direction of the Association for the next year.

And, we will try to make it pleasant. We welcome you at 9:30 with a coffee, providing the opportunity for those who have not yet renewed their membership to do so or for new members to register. And, we conclude, around noon, with a light lunch.

For the documentation prepared for the AGM or related subjects, we encourage you to visit our <u>website</u>¹ where links on the Home page will quide you to the desired information.

So, we hope to see you on Saturday, July 27, at the Messines Municipal Hall, at 70, rue Principale in Messines for our 5th AGM. Don't miss it!



Like to Become Active?

The Association is always looking for volunteers and the AGM is the perfect place to find out more about the kind of activities that might suit your interests, availability, and talents. Of course, there are openings for elected positions on our Board of Directors. But there are other jobs equally important. We can always use help with the various surveys we carry out throughout the year to monitor the health of our lakes. There are opportunities to serve as Watershed Delegates.





If you are skilled in writing, or in information technology, our webmaster could use help in keeping our website informative and current. And, as we try to operate as fully as possible in both French and English, we can always use the help of experienced translators. You can find out more about these volunteer opportunities by **clicking here**². Or, better still; come to the annual meeting on July 27th.

Purple Loosestrife

Purple Loosestrife (Lythrum salicaria) is an invasive exotic marsh and waterside plant which represents a threat to the biodiversity of our watershed. As a guest, it has the nasty habit of overextending its welcome, spreading as a monoculture and choking out many native species. There is no shortage of articles available on the internet addressing the negative impact and issues associated with loosestrife. Although recently some experts have begun to question the degree of the threat posed, (claiming exaggeration from some quarters), there seems nonetheless to be universal acceptance of the notion that loosestrife is an unwelcome European import.

Procedure for eradication is easy to find on the internet but it is complicated, difficult and labour intensive. On the other hand, with vigilance, arresting the propagation and the territorial expansion is relatively easy. Simply **ensure that**

the flowers of the plant are cut each year before going to seed at the end of July or early in August. This does nothing to prevent the plant from flowering again the following year but at the least, it will prevent the dispersal of tens of thousands of unwanted seeds.





The Beaver – Enemy or Ally - II

Based on the responses we received regarding the "beaver" article we ran in the last edition of *Shorelines*³, some members are experiencing problems with beavers' taking down lakeside trees. In such instances, you might consider taking preventative action by protecting the trunks of your favourite trees with galvanized mesh fencing. Such fencing should be wide enough to allow for tree trunk growth, be secured to the ground to prevent the beaver from pushing it out of the way, and

be high enough to deter the beaver from chewing above it (about a meter to prevent winter snacking). You might also try using abrasive tree paint for other than saplings (see below for recipe) or an aversive taste repellent (eg: vegetable or mineral oil infused with cayenne pepper). If such defensive measures aren't sufficient, check with the Municipal Inspector before considering any more aggressive action. Remember that beavers – as fur-bearing animals – are protected under federal and provincial law.

For more information regarding "beaver management", please refer to the best practices guide found on our website by **clicking here**⁴.

Recipe for Abrasive Tree Paint:

- Paint: exterior latex (choose a color to match the bark)
- Mason sand: 30 mil or 70 mil
- Formula: mix 5 oz of sand per quart of paint, or 20 oz of sand per gallon of paint, or 150 grams of sand per liter of paint

It is advisable to make only small batches of the paint at a time on the day you are going to apply it. Using too much sand will cause the mixture to roll off the tree. Apply paint to bottom three to four feet of tree trunk. For best results, do not paint every tree, leaving some for beaver food. This formula does not work for saplings, so protect them with wire fencing. To reduce the conspicuousness of the repellent, it is usually possible to get the paint tinted to match the colour of the tree if you bring a sample of the tree bark to your local hardware store.⁵

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

www.associationbluesea.org/en/home

www.associationbluesea.org/en/volunteers

We would like to thank Mr Blll Bondar for bringing this issue to our attention and Mr Doug Cameron for suggesting internet sources for remedial action.

www.associationbluesea.org/en/beaver

Source: The Cottager's Guide to Beavers, 15 April 2011 (http://thecottagersguidetobeavers.blogspot.ca/2011/04/how-to-deal-with-beavers-that-destroy.html)