



## **Annual Report of the President 2024**

This annual report covers the period from August 12, 2023, to December 31, 2024.

### **1. State of LOHA Membership: 2024 vs. 2023**

The lac de l'Original area includes 86 property owners, of which 75 are waterfront property owners, and 9 hold notarized access rights. The membership rate for the LOHA was 70% of property owners in 2023 and has increased slightly to 71% this year. Each property owner who paid the annual membership fee of \$25 received a complimentary lac de l'Original fridge magnet this year. Additionally, 17 property owners paid their membership dues via Interac transfer, an increase of 5 compared to last year. It's worth noting that we enabled the automatic deposit feature this year, ensuring funds are directly transferred to LOHA.

### **2. Board of Directors Activities**

The board met six times over the past year: in August and September 2023, as well as May, June, July, and August 2024. Considering each meeting typically lasts two hours, I would like to thank all board members for their twelve hours of volunteer time, which represents only the minimum of their contributions to representing your interests over the past year.

### **3. Survey 2024**

During the 2023 Annual General Meeting, we heard your concerns regarding the speed of certain watercraft on the lake and their impact on shoreline erosion. This is why we launched the 2024 LOHA survey last February. The goal of the survey was to gather property owners' opinions on two important issues for our lake: 1) Protecting the shorelines and regulating watercraft speed, and 2) Eurasian watermilfoil and controlling access to the lake for motorized watercraft.

The survey consisted of three questions:

#### First Question:

Do you authorize your Board of Directors to approach the Municipality of Val-des-Bois to establish a protected zone around the shorelines of our lake and to request that the federal government issue a decree on maximum speeds under Schedule 6 of the Vessel Operation Restriction Regulations?

Results:

Yes = 30 (81%)

No = 7 (19%)

Since we did not reach the minimum threshold of 43 votes in favor, your Board of Directors did not pursue this proposal. The Board of Directors is not a disciplinary committee and has no authority over excessive speeds or dangerous behavior by watercraft on the lake. If you witness

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dangerous behavior, we recommend recording the event on video and contacting the Sûreté du Québec immediately at 911 or \*4141 from your cellphone.

### Second Question:

Do you agree with the implementation of a laminated lac de l'Original resident card to facilitate identification at the Val-des-Bois Campground?

Results:

Yes = 36 (97%)

No = 1 (3%)

Based on these results, I proposed during the Annual General Meeting on August 3, 2024, the introduction of a laminated lac de l'Original property owner card to better control the watercraft using the launch at Val-des-Bois Campground. This proposal was unanimously adopted by a show of hands. The property owner card will be implemented in the spring of 2025.

### And the last question was:

Do you agree with the installation of a chain with a padlock to better control access to the boat ramp at 144/146 Chemin Gagnon?

Results:

Yes = 31 (84%)

No = 5 (13%)

Abstentions = 1 (3%)

Since only 5 out of 26 property owners on Chemin Gagnon (or 19%) participated, your Board of Directors will not pursue this proposal. Please note that boat washing is now mandatory throughout the Municipality of Val-des-Bois. Any violator is subject to a fine of \$750 to \$1,500.

## **4. Protecting the Lake and Water Quality**

As outlined in the Association's regulations, one of LOHA's objectives is to promote the protection of lac de l'Original environment and to work on maintaining the water quality of your lake and the value of your property. Here is an update on our efforts to maintain water quality over the past year:

### RSVL – Volunteer Lake Monitoring Network

As mentioned at last year's general meeting, we renewed our commitment with the RSVL during the summer of 2023. The Volunteer Lake Monitoring Network is a unit of Quebec's Ministry of the Environment, Climate Change, Wildlife, and Parks. RSVL's goal is to determine lac de l'Original trophic level and monitor its evolution over time.

In simpler terms, this means monitoring the natural aging process of our lake. Nearby neighbors, lac de l'Argile and lac Vert, are also members of RSVL. It is important to note that lac Vert and lac de l'Argile are dealing with invasive species, namely Eurasian watermilfoil.

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Our lac de l'Original is a rare gem in the region, healthy with excellent water quality year after year. Imagine the impact if a boat coming from lac de l'Argile entered lac de l'Original without first going through the mandatory cleaning station.

The cost of our participation in RSVL is \$135 per year. We receive three sampling kits, which include cooler-type containers with prepaid return shipping. Water sampling is conducted three times during the summer: in June, July, and August. The samples are analyzed in the Ministry's laboratories to determine levels of phosphorus, dissolved organic carbon, and chlorophyll-a in the lake.

It should be noted that Noël Cantin and I have taken on the responsibility of handling the samples and coordinating the submissions with RSVL. I would like to thank Denis Bénac, who has been in charge of this task in recent years.

RSVL Website: <https://www.environnement.gouv.qc.ca/Eau/rsvl/index.htm>

### Microbiological Water Testing for Swimming Areas



Our second initiative regarding water quality was conducting monthly tests on swimming water quality. The tests are performed by Micro-B Laboratories in Gatineau. The cost is \$175.00 for three tests, or \$58.33 per test.

The first sample was taken on June 18. The result indicated that the swimming water was good, with a B rating indicating a measurable trace of E. coli at 62 units per 100 ml. According

to the technician at the laboratory, this rating is justified by the heatwave and heavy rainfall we experienced in May and June. Following the concerning result from June, the Board of Directors decided to conduct two tests in July, which is the peak period of summer at the lake.

We took a second sample on July 14. The result indicated excellent swimming water, with an A rating and a measurable trace of E. coli at 3 units per 100 ml. A third sample was taken on July 29, and the result indicated excellent swimming water, with an A rating and a measurable trace of E. coli at 0 parts per 100 ml.

Finally, a fourth sample was taken on August 20. The result indicated excellent swimming water, with an A rating and a measurable trace of E. coli at 12 parts per 100 ml. Denis Bénac confirms that the June test was done at the center of the lake, the July test was on the north side of the lake, and the August test was on the south side of the lake. A big thank you to Denis Bénac for handling the samples and delivering them to the laboratory in Gatineau.

### Culvert on Route 309

We have a volunteer (Jean Bertrand) who regularly works diligently to ensure that the water in the lake flows freely through the various obstacles that lead the watercourse toward the Lièvre River. The first obstacle is the small culvert crossing the road leading to the campground, and the second obstacle is a larger culvert crossing Route 309 at the southern border of the Municipality of Val-des-Bois. On June 3, Jean Bertrand went to the culvert on Route 309, accompanied by Denis Bénac, the Vice President of LOHA, to clear natural debris (branches and grasses) accumulated by beavers in the culvert's mesh, which affected the free flow of the

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watercourse. On June 5, Jean Bertrand returned to the site. On July 17, Jean Bertrand, accompanied by Monique Laviolette, dismantled two beaver dams blocking the water flow near the creek by the Val-des-Bois Campground. The good news is that the Quebec Ministry of Transport has committed to checking annually for any accumulation and ensuring better water flow and passage through small obstacles. A big thank you again to Jean Bertrand, Monique Laviolette, and Denis Bénac for their dedication.

### Lake Level



During the AGM on August 3, 2024, Jean Bertrand gave a brief presentation on his observations regarding the lake level from April 2019 to July 2024. The level has risen by 15 inches, as shown in the photo on the left depicting the evolution of the level since 2019. He explained that the level is decreasing considering the low precipitation, except for the 128 mm received on June 23, and also considering the dismantling of the three beaver dams in the creek leading to the river, as well as in the culvert under Route 309. The flow of the lake is now maximized and occurs naturally. The installation of pipes by the ministry inside the culvert under Route 309 will also

promote water flow in the event that a new beaver dam is constructed.

### Code of Ethics for Nautical Activities on the Lake

At the AGM on August 3, 2024, the Board of Directors presented a code of ethics in a handy format, printed double-sided in both official languages. It is shorter than reading several pages, and we encourage you to read it carefully and share it with your children, as it concerns everyone. This tool was created by Lucie Smith, a project she dedicated time to this year. In cases of dangerous behavior or conduct, we suggest filming the incident and contacting the Sûreté du Québec, as indicated at the end of the code. For the well-being of all, we must respect this code, which is both educational and will help us keep our beautiful lake, a jewel of Val-des-Bois, healthy!

The Board members are not responsible for filing complaints with the Sûreté du Québec. This responsibility falls on each property owner. Therefore, let's prioritize respectful behavior between neighbors and maintain the water quality of the lake by avoiding dangerous conduct and wakes that contribute to wave damage to the shoreline. Like all of us, we want to preserve the value of our properties and prevent the introduction of Eurasian watermilfoil. The lake is for everyone!

### Personal Project for a Document and Table on Phosphate-Free Products

After the 2024 AGM, Lucie Smith presented some tips for selecting phosphate-free, biodegradable, and eco-friendly products, sharing her findings with supporting samples. This

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personal project, which includes product research information along with a table of available products, will be finalized and accessible in the spring of 2025.

### 5. Social Activities

#### Photo Contest – 2023 Edition

The second LOHA photo contest took place last fall, with the submission deadline being September 30, 2023. We received a total of 25 submissions.

All the images were anonymized and sent to the jury by email for a "blind" evaluation. Each photo was assessed for its technical value (composition, framing, exposure, focus) and artistic value. Congratulations to the winners:

- 1<sup>st</sup> place : Luc Guindon
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place : Kelly Blakeney
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place : Mark Blakeney

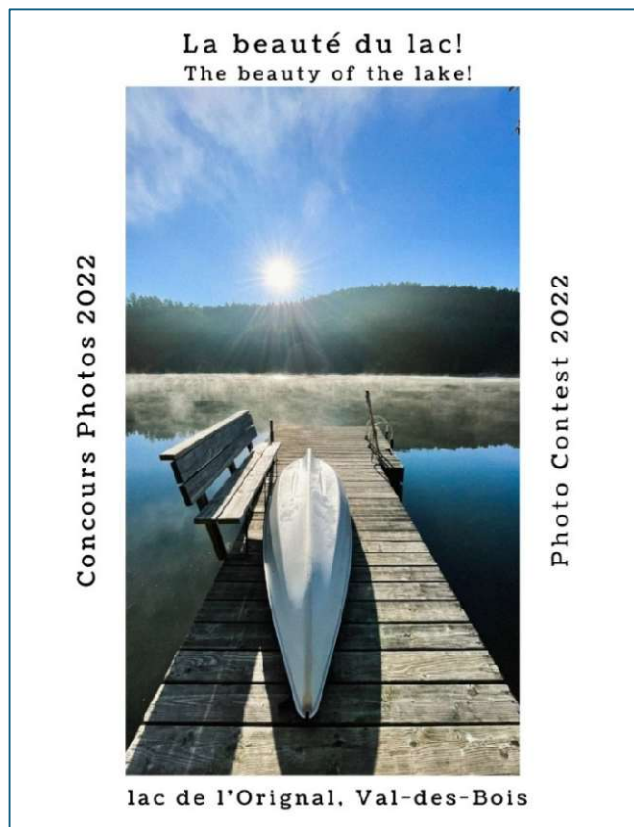


The winner, Luc Guindon, received a 16 x 20 enlargement of his photo on canvas.

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The big novelty this year is the promotion of the winning photo on a postcard from the association. This year, we produced 50 postcards featuring the winning photo by Martine Frenette from the 2022 contest and 50 postcards featuring the winning photo by Luc Guindon from the 2023 contest.



A big thank you to Lucie Smith and Denis Bénac for organizing the contest!

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### Season Opening BBQ

The 2024 season opening BBQ was held on Saturday, June 22, at Jean Côté and Bernard Bourdeau's place.

This event brought together 37 participants who enjoyed hamburgers, salads, and non-alcoholic beverages, generously provided by LOHA.

We took advantage of this event to showcase the association's new promotional products, such as a refrigerator magnet with the LOHA logo and a postcard of their choice, offered to each member when they purchased their membership card. The 100 postcards (7 x 5) were provided free of charge by Bureau en Gros in Gatineau.

Bernard Bourdeau and I would like to thank our wives for their invaluable help with this wonderful event.



*Bill Lowthian, Winner of the attendance prize.*



*Thanks to our cook, Jean Bertrand!*

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### Poker Run

The Poker Run took place on Saturday, July 6, 2024, around the lake in non-motorized boats. We had a total of 50 participants this year. The clouds eventually gave way to a sunny day. Good coordination and collaboration with the Camping owners, along with the contribution of volunteers from lac de l'Original and the camping, contributed to the success of the activity. A total of \$415.00 in prizes was shared by the top three places. This is the only activity that brings together property owners around the lake with residents of Camping Val-des-Bois on the beautiful lake we all share, helping to build connections among all lakeside residents. A big thank you and congratulations to Denis Bénac and his partner Lucie Smith, as well as to the entire team of volunteer stations and those taking photos.



Volunteer for the Poker Run: From Left to right: (1st Row): Denis Bénac, Lucie Smith, Monique Laviolette, Francine Hayes, Jean Bertrand, Lucie Lavictoire, Rémi Leroux, 2<sup>nd</sup> row: Daniel Larabie Not in the picture: Françoise and Jean-Luc Tremblay, Hélène Jacques, Marc Bertrand, Carole Mimeault, Robert Lamarche (Bob) and Dave Robillard



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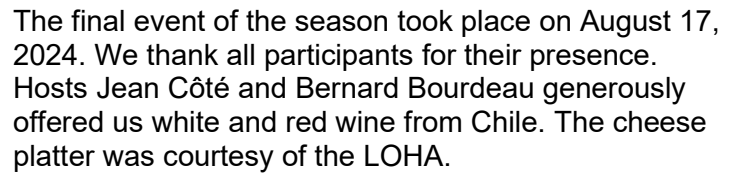
### Pontoon Parade

The second edition of the pontoon parade took place on Saturday, August 3, 2024. Despite the cloudy weather, we had 6 pontoons on the lake, with nearly 50 participants, who thoroughly enjoyed the activity.

It was a great opportunity to engage in wonderful conversations and share food and drinks among neighbors, families, and friends. Some took the opportunity to finish their beautiful ride with a swim or sing karaoke when the pontoons gathered in the middle of the lake. A big thank you to each of the captains for their dedication!



## Season Closing "Potluck" Cocktail



We had great conversations to get to know each other better and share wonderful moments.

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### 6. Association Website

Throughout the year, we published all documents, such as meeting minutes, on the association's website. This communication tool allows the LOHA to have an online presence and inform the community about our mission and priorities. We continue to prioritize our Facebook group as a communication tool with the Lac de l'Original community. Additionally, the association is now listed in the Valboisien's most recent edition as an active organization in Val-des-Bois.

Our members can easily contact us via the website or through our specific email addresses for the organization:

[president@lacdeloriginal.org](mailto:president@lacdeloriginal.org)  
[info@lacdeloriginal.org](mailto:info@lacdeloriginal.org)  
[admin@lacdeloriginal.org](mailto:admin@lacdeloriginal.org)

The last email address enables us to securely and conveniently receive annual contributions through Interac e-Transfer. I continue to apply my expertise in managing the website and archiving all LOHA documents.

### 7. Promotional Materials

To enhance the sense of belonging and foster community spirit, we continued our initiative to promote Lac de l'Original. We ordered refrigerator magnets and postcards that were given to members with their 2024 membership cards. We also offered a promotional fabric bag as a prize at our events. Additionally, we continued selling coffee mugs and T-shirts at cost: \$7.50 for the mug and \$20.00 for the T-shirt.

### 8. Official Languages

It is important to acknowledge the linguistic duality of the property owners around the lake, which is constantly evolving. We maintain our approach of systematically translating all association publications, which are now available in both official languages. The LOHA publications are made jointly by the president and the secretary. Thanks to Jean-Frédéric Potvin, who handles the translation from French to English. To make our Facebook page more engaging, Lucie Smith takes care of preparing event invitations and posts with photos to promote LOHA activities among members. This is an effective communication tool, and we encourage you to leave comments that can help other residents of the lake while respecting everyone. The common goal is: "Keep our beautiful lake healthy!"

### 9. Conclusion

I am proud of the work accomplished by the board of directors, and I hope we have adequately represented your interests over the past year. I look forward to the 2025 season at Lac de l'Original!

**Jean Côté**  
President of the LOHA

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### **Board of Directors for LOHA 2024-2025**

From left to right: Lucie Smith (Secretary), Jean-Frédéric Potvin (Director Chemin Gagnon sector), Bernard Bourdeau (Treasurer), Jean Côté (President), Noël Cantin (Director de la Montée des Amis sector), Henry Patterson (Director Chemin Lépine sector) and Denis Bénac (Vice-President).

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### Annex 1 – Financial Statements Presented at the AGM on August 3, 2024

**Period from August 1, 2023, to July 31, 2024**

<b>Revenue</b>		
Member Contributions (61)		\$1,525.00
Sale of Coffee Mugs (65)		\$487.50
Sale of T-Shirts (33)		\$660.00
Desjardins Refund		\$3.34
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$2,675.84</b>
<b>Inventory Value</b>		
Coffee Mugs (7)		\$52.50
T-Shirts (12)		\$240.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$292.50</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Social Activities		<b>\$ 660.33</b>
AGM 2023 BBQ	\$ 201.55	
2023 Photo Contest 2023	\$ 66.27	
2024 Season Opening BBQ	\$ 336.19	
2024 Poker Run	\$ 56.32	
Water Analysis Micro B Laboratory		<b>\$ 174.02</b>
Various Contributions		<b>\$ 173.00</b>
Quebec Business Registry	\$ 38.00	
RSVL	\$ 135.00	
Office Supplies and Photocopies		<b>\$ 338.13</b>
Supplies	\$ 212.02	
2023 Directory	\$ 63.28	
2024 Directory	\$ 62.83	
Bank Fees		<b>\$ 35.40</b>
Promotional Material		<b>\$ 1,541.03</b>
Coffee Mugs (72)	\$ 526.49	
T-Shirts (45)	\$ 884.90	
Refrigerator Magnets (100)	\$ 62.42	
Tote Bags for Purchase	\$ 67.22	
Website		<b>\$ 318.48</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 3,240.39</b>

<b>Surplus   Déficit</b>	<b>-\$272.05</b>
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Cash on Hand as of August 1, 2023	<b>\$ 6,419.67</b>
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Cash on Hand as of July 31, 2024	<b>\$ 5,539.57</b>
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