Tamagor Association

NEWSLETTER

Autumn and Winter 2026-2027



Newsletter Summary

Special Report: The State of Lac Noir's Health	2
Protecting the Shores of Tamagor Nature Reserve Together	5
The beaver: Our misunderstood neighbour	7
Autumn Clean-Up: Sincere Thanks to our Volunteers	8
Next AGM: December 2, 2026, 7 p.m.	9
Closing of the Swimming Season	10
Autumn Extravaganza at Lac Noir	11

Special Report: The State of Lac Noir's Health

Over the past few months, the Association has taken a close interest in the health of Lac Noir, notably by reviewing the 2025 Water Quality **Monitoring Report – Lac Noir** (available in French only) and by commissioning a study entitled Characterization of **Aquatic Plant Beds in Lac Noir** from the specialized firm Fyto (July 2026, available in French only).

The overall assessment is very positive: our lake is resilient, its water is clear and its ecosystem is generally diverse and balanced. Nevertheless, the reports highlight some areas of concern that require particular attention and it is now, while the lake is in a healthy state, that it is important to create good collective habits to slow down its premature deterioration.



1. The water quality of the lake (2025 assessment): Good news!

Did you know that the health of Lac Noir has been the subject of a rigorous municipal-level scientific study? Following the adoption of the master plan for water in May 2020, the Val-des-Monts municipality officially launched, in May 2021, an important program monitoring the water quality.

The first three-year cycle (2021-2023) was concentrated on studying the 47 lakes in the territory that were selected due to environmental pressures and development in their surroundings. Initiated in 2024, the second three-year phase (2024-2026) is currently targeting 44 lakes: Lac Noir is one of the ten new water basins being monitored in this phase.

Special Report: The State of Lac Noir's Health (continued)

At the time of publishing this newsletter, the results of the 2026 water quality survey have not yet been made available, so here are some statistics from the 2025 survey that confirm Lac Noir as one of the water basins on the 'healthy lakes' side of the spectrum (in the oligotrophic zone):

- Clear water: The average summer transparency reaches 6.2 metres.
- Minimal algae: The presence of suspended micro-algae remains very low.
- A preserved environment: The lake remains low in phosphorus, limiting the proliferation of algae and its premature aging.
- Requiring attention: The level of phosphorus has increased significantly since the 2024 report (from 1.8 µg/L to 7.5 µg/L). The lake is at the beginning of its natural aging process (eutrophication).

👉 Click here to consult the 2025 Quality of Water Report - Lac Noir (In French)

To learn more about the environmental initiatives of our region, visit the Val-des-Monts Water Quality Monitoring Program (In French).

2. Lac Noir's aquatic plants and habitats (2026): A rich ecosystem under close monitoring

Fyto's recent inventory consists of 21 plant species across 63 aquatic plant beds (representing 12% of the surface of the lake). These statistics are an excellent sign of biodiversity, and are a testament to the balanced environment. However, two invasive alien species have been detected:

- **Eurasian Water-Milfoil**: Although it is present in 31 aquatic plant beds around the lake, its density is thankfully low for the moment. We have the unique chance to act before it proliferates.
- **European frog-bit**: A single, small colony was located.



Special Report: The State of Lac Noir's Health (continued)

To protect the ecological balance of our lake while limiting the cost of future interventions, the experts recommend the following action plan:

- **Watercraft washing (top priority)**: Systematically wash kayaks, canoes, paddleboards and rowboats coming from another body of water before launching them to prevent the introduction of new species.
- **Direct interventions in the lake**: Starting in 2027, manually remove the European frog-bit colony, if possible. For Eurasian watermilfoil, combine the installation of jute tarps over dense colonies with the manual removal of isolated plants.
- **Septic system maintenance**: Regularly inspect and pump septic tanks to reduce phosphorus inputs.
- **Shoreline protection**: Respect the integrity of the riparian buffer. Let nature do its filtering work or enhance it by planting native vegetation (a municipal permit is required).
- **Regular monitoring**: Actively monitor the situation over the coming years to keep it under control.

The Association has taken these recommendations into account and will act accordingly with the human and financial resources at our disposal.

To that effect, we are putting out a **call for volunteer divers** amongst our membership who are interested in participating in the manual uprooting of invasive plants next summer. By acting quickly, we're avoiding more costly interventions in the future.

Together, we can protect the beauty of our lake! Remember to wash your watercraft when you move from one waterway to another. By taking a few minutes to inspect, clean, and dry our equipment, we directly contribute to preserving the health of Lac Noir for our community. Thank you for your vigilance!

The Association is also exploring the possibility of launching a fundraising campaign to protect Lac Noir, similar to the one conducted by the Lac St-Pierre Association, where donations from members made it possible to clear areas of the lake affected by invasive plants.

👉 Click here to consult the detailed report on the characterization of aquatic plant beds in Lac Noir (members-only access)

Protecting the Shores of Tamagor Nature Reserve Together: Reminder Regarding Watercraft



In order to preserve the ecological integrity of our environment and respect our legal commitments, the Board of Directors wishes to provide an update on the presence of watercraft on the shores of the Tamagor Nature Reserve, notably around Lac Noir (see the map above).

Background

Over the years, the Association has made efforts to regulate the storage of watercraft along its shores:

- **2012 and 2018**: Requests to identify watercraft and announcements of removal operations for boats whose owners remained unknown after October 31.
- **2015**: During the nature reserve recognition process, a government representative pointed out that the presence of boats outside the designated area was an environmental concern.
- **2026**: Given the continued presence of abandoned watercraft along the shores of Lac Noir, a renewed call was made for owners to identify and retrieve their equipment before the end of October.

Protecting the Shores of Tamagor Nature Reserve Together: Reminder Regarding Watercraft (continued)

Our legal obligations (2022 agreement)

In 2022, the Association signed a notarized agreement with the Quebec government for the official recognition of the Tamagor Nature Reserve. This protected status imposes rules that we have a duty to enforce:

- **Respect for conservation measures (Article 2)**: The Association is committed to managing its property in compliance with the protection objectives of the reserve.
- **Launching ban (Article 9.14)**: Access to the Nature Reserve with the intention of launching a watercraft is prohibited.
- **Environmental protection and clean-up (Article 10)**: The Association is responsible for ensuring that no equipment or construction causes significant or irreversible deterioration to the natural environment. This article also authorizes the removal of garbage and belongings left on the property.

The implications for us all

The collaboration of all members is essential to maintain the nature reserve status and to protect the biodiversity of Lac Noir. Please store your watercraft in the designated area. We extend our thanks to members who are working with us towards these goals and who endeavour to keep our shared shoreline intact.



The Beaver: Our Misunderstood Neighbour



The presence of beavers in our area may raise questions or concerns, sometimes leading us to consider removing them to prevent flooding, among other things. Yet behind this unassuming rodent lies **a remarkable engineer of nature and a keystone species for the climate resilience of its environment.**

Have you noticed the huts of branches and mud in the marsh, at the northeast end of Lac Noir? They house several beaver families who discreetly contribute to the vitality of our collective natural environment. The largest rodent in North America, this nocturnal worker is remarkably adapted to aquatic life thanks to its waterproof fur, webbed hind feet, and large flat tail that serves as both rudder and alarm system. Its long orange incisors, which grow throughout its life, allow it to fell trees with impressive precision, build its family lodge and accumulate substantial underwater reserves of bark, leaves and aquatic plants to spend the winter in shelter. But **the beaver is above all an architect of ecosystems.** In arranging our waterways and constructing dams, it creates ponds and wetlands rich in biodiversity which serve as refuges for countless birds, fish, amphibians, and insects, all while naturally filtering the water and helping the earth to resist periods of extreme dryness and flooding from heavy rainfall.

Far from being a simple visitor, the beaver is an essential partner in maintaining the ecological balance of the Tamagor marsh and Lac Noir. On your next walk near the marsh at the northeastern end of the lake, keep an eye out for signs of this fascinating neighbour!

Click here to learn more about the importance of beavers in North American ecosystems

Autumn Clean-Up: Sincere Thanks to our Volunteers (and a call for next season!)

A huge thank you to our members who volunteered their time on October 24 to remove the docks from Lac Noir and Mud Bay and clean the beach before winter's arrival. Their dedication allows our entire community to enjoy these facilities.

The Tamagor Association currently has more than 200 members: Imagine all that we could accomplish if each of us gave a helping hand! Next spring, we'd love you to join us for the annual community activities where we get to meet our neighbours and contribute to maintaining the beauty of our living environment.

And now… it's time to enjoy the winter! Take out your toques and mittens to take advantage of the winter activities our beautiful area has to offer.



Annual General Meeting

Did you miss the 2025 AGM?

Don’t worry, you can consult and download the preliminary minutes of the AGM here.

Mark your calendar: AGM 2026

The next annual general meeting will take place online. This is the ideal time for you to get involved in the community, ask your questions and elect members of the board of directors.

Wednesday, December 2nd, 2026
Time: 7 p.m.
Format: virtual

Instructions for joining the meeting and the meeting agenda have been sent to members via email.



Closing of the Swimming Season

On Sunday, October 11, we held the 37th edition of our traditional end-of-season swim. For the occasion, a few brave members and their guests gathered at the Lac Noir beach to brave the cold water! Between laughter, an invigorating swim and a few spirits to warm up, conviviality and camaraderie were once again in the spotlight.



To get involved

Would you like to get involved in the Tamagor Association's Environment Committee? Send us an email.

Would you like to feature an animal or plant species, or submit a photo for one of our upcoming newsletters? Send it our way!

Send an email to association@tamagor.ca

Newsletter prepared by the Tamagor Association's Board of Directors and Environment Committee.

Autumn Extravaganza on Lac Noir. Happy New Year to All!











