

## LAKE HEALTH

Although the summer of 2025 was marked by both drought conditions and an extremely heavy precipitation event, overall lake health improved. Phosphorus levels returned to their typical levels indicating good stable water quality.

For complete test results consult:

<https://www.environnement.gouv.qc.ca/eau/rsvl/index.htm>

Lake Hughes RSVL #571

## AQUATIC PLANT and ALGAE SURVEYING

Annual surveying was conducted along the shoreline and in deeper waters using an aquascope. No invasive aquatic plant species were detected. NO EURASIAN WATER-MILFOIL HAS BEEN FOUND IN ANY OF THE GORE OR MILLE-ISLES LAKES where monitoring and surveys have been carried out.

Residents are encouraged to regularly inspect their shoreline and report any unusual plant vegetation, algae growth, or other changes in lake conditions. Early detection and reporting by shoreline property owners play an important role in protecting the health of the lake. Several new volunteers will also be patrolling the shoreline. Their efforts will complement the ongoing monitoring carried out by lake residents.

## AQUATIC PLANT ACTIVITY ON THE LAKE

An aquatic plant identification activity will be held on the lake Saturday, August 1<sup>st</sup> with an alternate date Sunday, Aug 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Participants will have the opportunity to learn about the different aquatic plants found in the lake and how to identify them.

All residents and lake users are welcome. Further details will be provided at a later date.

## EURASIAN WATER-MILFOIL INTERVENTION STRATEGY

Eurasian Water-milfoil remains the major concern for our lakes.

This extremely invasive plant is on our doorstep. Although it has not been found in our lake, an intervention strategy has been developed to ensure a rapid and coordinated response should it be detected. A brief summary of the strategy is attached to this report. The complete intervention plan will be posted on the association's website at a later date for residents to review.

NOT TRANSFERRING WATERCRAFT FROM ONE LAKE TO ANOTHER IS THE BEST PREVENTION FOR ALL  
INVASIVE SPECIES

## ENVIRONMENTAL EMERGENCY FUND and LAKE HUGHES ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP DUES

At a recent Board of Directors meeting, it was agreed that \$5000. would be allocated to an Environmental Contingency Fund. This fund will help ensure that the Association is prepared to respond quickly to environmental emergencies, such as a Eurasian Water-milfoil infestation.

As a result, it is especially important that we make a strong effort to collect annual membership dues. Association dues were \$35 in 2025 and previous years and this year they have been increased to \$40.

It is easy to overlook dues payment, and some may have unintentionally missed a year or more. If this applies to you and you would like to make a back payment, your support would be greatly appreciated.

Membership dues are typically collected in June and July, around the time of the Annual General Meeting and the distribution of the Newsletter.

2026: \$40

2025 & 2026: \$75

2024, 2025 & 2026: \$110

Membership dues may be paid by e-transfer to [ctc064@bell.net](mailto:ctc064@bell.net) Please include your lake address in the message. THANK YOU

## VOLUNTEERS WELCOME

Volunteers are always welcome to assist with environmental stewardship activities on the lake. Opportunities include shoreline patrolling, aquatic plant activities and other projects that help protect and preserve the health of the lake.

Residents interested in participating in environmental projects are encouraged to contact Heather, Bruno or any other member of the Association Board of Directors.

LHA ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Heather McCullough [heathermcc71pp@gmail.com](mailto:heathermcc71pp@gmail.com)

Bruno Estebeteguy [sfarago@sympatico.ca](mailto:sfarago@sympatico.ca)

## **Watercraft: rowboats, kayaks, canoes, pontoon boats, etc.**

To combat pollution and protect our lake, the Lake Hughes Association emphasizes that outside boats may not be launched, as they pose a threat.

We thank boat owners in advance for prohibiting their guests from bringing their own boats when visiting Lake Hughes.

For newcomers or residents wishing to purchase a used boat, it must be inspected, pressure-washed, and dried for 5 days, and inspected again before it can be launched.

## **Fireworks**

As beautiful as they may be in the sky, fireworks are prohibited on and around Lake Hughes. They have a devastating impact on the environment, especially when they end up at the bottom of the lake. Fireworks are toxic (they contain carcinogens), pose a significant fire hazard, are a major source of noise pollution, and are harmful to our pets and wildlife. Please continue to protect our beautiful lake and its surroundings.

Due to increasingly dry summers, fireworks are now prohibited throughout the MRC's territory, primarily because of the forest fires they can cause.

For more information, visit: <https://www.sopfeu.qc.ca/en/>

## **Invasive Plants**

We must remain vigilant and closely monitor invasive plants.

The three main invasive plants have been identified within the municipality of Gore and around the lake:

Japanese knotweed,

Purple loosestrife, and

Phragmites Common reed.

**Volunteers are needed to help eradicate or control large stands of Japanese knotweed found in various locations around the lake.**

**Please contact Bruno Estebeteguy: [sfarago@sympatico.ca](mailto:sfarago@sympatico.ca)**

Information on invasive plants: <https://journaldelachute.com/quebec-interdit-31-plantes-envahissantes-ce-qui-change-des-le-4-juin/>

# **Eurasian Water-Milfoil Intervention Strategy**

## **Executive Summary**

**Purpose:** Provide an intervention response plan if Eurasian Water-Milfoil (EWM), an invasive aquatic plant, is detected in our lake.

### **1. Prevention is the Priority**

Mandatory boat washing, public education, signage, annual plant surveys, and municipal regulations are the most effective and least costly defenses. Residents should follow the 'Clean, Drain, Dry' approach for all boats and equipment.

**OUTSIDE WATERCRAFT MAY NOT BE LAUNCHED ON LAKE HUGHES**

### **2. If EWM is Detected**

Confirm identification, map and assess the infestation, install buoys around affected areas, gather lake data, and consult experts immediately. Early detection greatly improves the likelihood of successful control.

### **3. Control Methods**

Manual removal is preferred for small infestations because it minimizes environmental impacts and preserves native plants.

Benthic barriers (tarps/mats) are suitable for larger dense patches but also affect native vegetation. Very large infestations require expert evaluation.

### **4. Regulations & Authorizations**

Consult Quebec environmental authorities before any intervention. Provincial, federal, wildlife habitat, and municipal requirements may apply depending on the control method and location.

### **5. Funding & Resources**

Control projects are generally funded by municipalities, lake associations, residents, and available grants. A significant infestation can cost \$100,000–\$250,000 over three years, making early action critical.

### **6. Long-Term Monitoring**

Monitoring should continue for at least five years through annual surveys and follow-up inspections, as dormant seeds can germinate years later.

**Key Message:**  
**Early Detection + Rapid Response**  
**= Lowest Cost and Highest Chance of Success.**