



Association Lac St-Pierre

By-law 741-13

Ramp Lake McGregor and Ramp Lake St-Pierre

This is to inform you that at the council meeting on May 21st, the Municipal Council of Val des Monts passed By-law 741-13 which rescinds the two By-laws 719-12 and 700-11 pertaining to the control and use of the municipal boat ramps at lakes St-Pierre and McGregor and replaced it with one common By-law 741-13 for both lake ramps.

The salient points of the new By-law are:

1. All individuals using the Municipal ramps at Lakes St-Pierre or McGregor must obtain an access permit from the Municipality.
 - a. Residents or municipal taxpayers of Val des Monts must present proof of residency in Val des Monts
 - b. Non-residents must pay a fee
2. Fees to use the Municipal ramps
 - a. Residents and tax payers of Val-des-Monts: Free
 - b. Non-residents
 - i. \$5.00 per day per boat with a motor of 0 hp to 9.9 hp
 - ii. \$20.00 per day per boat with a motor of 10 hp to 25 hp
 - iii. \$40.00 per day per boat with a motor of 25.1 hp and more
 - iv. \$150.00 for Seasonal pass per boat
3. All boat must be washed and free of any residual water in the hull or any other compartment;
4. The municipal ramp cannot be used to launch or remove any personal water craft (***motomarine***)
5. The municipal ramp cannot be used to launch or remove any boat "Wakeboard Style" which is equipped with ballasts or any other mechanism enabling the boat to produce large waves in its wake

I would like to clarify a misconception that I am hearing from some individuals. This By-law does not prohibit Wakeboats and Personal Water Craft from using the lake. The use of the lake falls within Federal Jurisdiction and it is only through the Federal Government regulatory process that any restrictions on lake use can be achieved. The other misconception is that the by-law applies to the municipal ramps and to private and commercial ramps. This is incorrect: the by-law is applicable only to the municipal ramps. It does not apply to private ramps or commercial ramps on the lakes.

This said, pursuant to section 19 of the *Loi sur les compétences municipales* adopted in 2006 by Quebec's National Assembly, all Municipalities have the authority to make by-laws in relation to the environment. On that basis, Municipalities can make by-laws which regulate the access to lakes on their territory; as long as the objectives of the by-laws relate to the protection of the environment and that the measures taken to meet those objectives have a rational link to them. This means, for example, that municipalities can make by-laws applicable to all private and commercial ramps on the lakes. Many municipalities have done so. For example, the Municipality of St-Adolphe d'Howard in the Laurentians made by-laws which provide that residents of the two lakes of that municipality can launch their own boat from their private ramp, but no one else can use that ramp for boats not owned by the resident. In addition they must respect a number of requirements such as ensuring their boat is clean, getting a permit, etc. Commercial ramps are also regulated in a similar fashion. But the new by-law of the Municipality of VDM doesn't go that far. The by-law applies only to the municipal ramp.



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While the new By-law and previous By-laws prohibit the use of the Municipal ramps to launch and remove Wakeboats and Personal Water Craft from the two lakes, there will still be these crafts on the lakes coming from outside the region of Val des Monts.

It was expressed by the Association of Lac St-Pierre that our members are pleased that the Municipal Council is taking steps to protect the health of our lakes and to improve the negative impact resulting from the boats coming from outside the region of Val des Monts. In addition we also expressed a need to build on the new By-law to strengthen it to achieve its intended purpose which is to protect the lake environment.

At our request, Council agreed that a review of the new By-law could take place within one year to assess its impact on the boat traffic and consider new initiatives or improvements to address any deficiencies noted. Issues that the Association considers necessary are:

1. A daily quota on the number of boats from outside Val Des Monts using the two lakes. Residents of Val des Monts should not be subject to this quota.
2. Controlling access to the lakes from other locations around the lake in addition to the Municipal ramps (this provision would not apply to residents who have private ramps for the launching of their own boat only)
3. Consideration for residents on the lake that owned Wakeboats and Personal Water Craft before the implementation of the By-law prohibiting the use of the Municipal ramp by these water craft.
4. Higher fees for non-residents

I ask that we attack this problem as a joint community of lake residents to find a solution that is equitable to all. This will require us all to be aware of our neighbours needs and use our influence to ensure all boaters are applying a good code of conduct.

Russel Rieger

President, Association Lac St-Pierre