

This Thursday, October 21st 2021, the Mayors of the Villages of Lake Massawippi (Ayer's Cliff, Hatley, Ste-Catherine de Hatley, Canton de Hatley and North Hatley) were informed by Bleu Massawippi of the discovery of zebra mussels in Lake Massawippi.

These mussels were not visible, on September 11th, 2021 during the inspection of the lake by the divers of Bleu Massawippi.

An emergency meeting, bringing together the Mayors and/or General Directors of the Municipalities around the lake, representatives of the MRC and Bleu Massawippi, was held yesterday. It was agreed, during this meeting to contact the authorities from Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Ministry of Forests, Wildlife and Parks in order to assess the seriousness of the situation and to decide on the actions to be taken, at the end of this season. In the meantime, the Régie du Parc will ensure that the washing stations are maintained until the proper authorities advise us.

We will obviously keep you informed of each of the upcoming steps and Ms. Hélène Daneau, Mayor of Hatley, will speak to the media in the coming days to answer questions on behalf of the three Mayors elected from the Régie du Parc Massawippi. For now, please find attached a Q & A allowing you, if needed, to answer your questions.

Q & A

1. Is it true that zebra mussels were discovered in Lake Massawippi?

Answer: Bleu Massawippi informed us on Thursday October 21st of the presence of mussels in the lake, mainly near North Hatley and Ste Catherine de Hatley.

2. How long have the mussels been present? Are there many?

Answer: According to Bleu Massawippi, no mussels were visible on September 11th, during the inspection of the lake by its divers. 40 inviting mussel sites had been verified and no mussels were seen. A strict protocol has been followed since 2017 and no mussels had ever been observed.

3. What causes mussels to be found today?

Answer: several factors may be responsible for the situation, in particular the absence of, or poor washing of the boats.

4. What are the consequences of this appearance in our lake?

Answer: The long-term consequences if the situation is not addressed and if the measures are not tightened can be significant. This is why the municipality is working closely with Bleu Massawippi but also government authorities to ensure that the situation is controlled.

5. Does winter help in mussel control?

Answer: Mussels do not breed when the water temperature is cold, under temperatures of around 12 degrees Celsius. The current fall is therefore an excellent period to carry out analyzes in the lake and eradicate those found. What will be done.

6. Can these mussels prevent us from enjoying the lake next summer?

Answer: the tightening of measures, particularly in terms of washing boats and destroying the mussels found by divers this fall, will allow us to control the situation so that everyone can continue to enjoy the lake.

7. Is the municipality concerned about the situation?

Answer: this is not good news, but the municipalities located around the lake are united in order to do everything possible to control the situation.

8. Several lakes have zebra mussels and that's okay. Is it different for our lake?

Answer: the very nature of Lake Massawippi, its high calcium level, make it a particularly vulnerable lake. We must therefore take the situation seriously.

9. Will citizens be notified?

Answer: Bleu Massawippi has just issued a press release to inform the population. The municipality will relay the information through its various information networks.

10. If I want to know more about the zebra mussel, which site should I visit?

Answer: <https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/la-faune/especes/envahissants/moule-zebree/> or [https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especes/profiles-profils/zebramussel -mouleebree-eng.html](https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especes/profiles-profils/zebramussel-mouleebree-eng.html)