



February 2023

Update on our GoFundMe Campaign - Poissons du Lac

Before getting into the update, let's summarize the purpose of this fundraiser. Over 70 years ago, Lac Tremblant was stocked with landlocked salmon called ouananiche and the species prospered many years, as our lake has all the features required for the continued survival of these magnificent fish - the depth of the lake, the quality of its water and the nutrients found in the lake, to name a few. However, we noticed a sharp decline in the smelt population found in the lake over the last three to five years, and smelts are the food of choice for our ouananiche. Some of our board members had voluntarily undertaken to stock the lake with smelts a few years ago, but couldn't keep up given the level of expense. This is when we decided to launch a GoFundMe campaign.

Sourcing the Smelts and Biologist

We have good news regarding where we will source our smelts, namely in three lakes within or in periphery of our region - lac Nominique, lac Chaud and lac des Écorces in the Mont-Laurier region. This is quite a relief because we thought we'd have to travel to the Lac St-Jean area, and that would have been an expensive undertaking.

As well, we managed to find our accredited biologist without whom we could not receive the governmental permits to source out the smelts and stock them in our lake. A permit is good for one month only and we expect to do this in May of this year.

Funding Situation and Budget

So far, we have 23 donations totalling \$8,550. Our goal is to reach \$60,000 because we plan to stock the lake with smelts once a year for the next three years, as we believe that, unlike a one-time stocking, a consistent three-year cycle will be required. We will probably re-evaluate our funding goal depending on the actual cost of the exercise for 2023. Other expenses may be added eventually to improve the spawning grounds that have deteriorated over time.

The budget for the 2023 stocking is as follows, assuming we'll have to travel to the three lakes over a five-day period to collect 15,000 smelts:

Biologist Consulting Fee	\$5,000
Lodging/Expenses Biologist/Volunteers	\$2,000
Equipment Purchases	\$400
Gas for Volunteers Who Use their Vehicles	\$800
Gifts for People Who Allow Us Right-of-Way	\$100
Permits + GoFundMe fees	\$650
Contingencies (15%)	<u>\$1,340</u>
Total	\$10,290

Any gift, large or small, will go a long way to preserve these fish. Please click on the link below to go to the GoFundMe page:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/les-poissons-du-lac>

