




## Follow-up meeting

of the Summit on the Protection  
of Gatineau Valley RCM Lakes

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**APPENDICE 1 : FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 14, 2007 – VOTES RESULT**

**APPENDICE 2 : SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 15, 2007 – VOTES RESULT**

# Word from the Chair of the Ad hoc Committee

## Pierre Rondeau

Dear Friends:

We are once again here together this spring to discuss and orient the proposals concerning the preservation of our waterways, specifically those of the Gatineau Valley. We have gathered here today because, in September 2007, we all indicated a willingness to take action to restore our environment.

In keeping with this common thrust, today's meeting is a continuation of what we began last September. At the end of the Summit to Protect our Lakes and Rivers, we agreed that an *ad hoc* committee would develop and flesh out an action plan based on the recommendations emerging from the Summit. Since that time, a committee consisting of various representatives attending the summit met in the fall and over the winter to develop their recommendations to be submitted to you. In all, we met six times to finalize our recommendations which, I hope, you will go along with.

Our collective awareness to protect our environment marks the beginning of a series of changes which, we hope, will help preserve and, in some cases, improve our quality of life. These changes must be achieved as seamlessly as possible against a backdrop of mutual respect. We are all responsible for what has been done in the past, and the idea here is not to pin the blame on anyone or to delude ourselves into thinking that someone else will solve our problems for us.

We have gotten into a collective process which must be future oriented for the well being of all of us, and the focus must be on what can be done to involve the quality of our environment.

Our Summit last September came on the heels of the first one that dealt with the economic aspects of the vacationer market. Both meetings were attended by more than a hundred people, which clearly shows us how important the quality of life of our RCM is to them and to what extent they are ahead of the curve in the Outaouais. Our awareness of this sector of economic activity has opened the door to other sustainable development concepts. The economic, social and environmental activities relating to vacationer activities must be interconnected with one another to improve and preserve this natural capital that sets us apart from the other regions in Québec, i.e., our activities relating to the preservation of our lakes and rivers. Not to come across as flag waivers, but we have been having discussions for more than a year (and in passing, other regions in Québec have held discussions of this type as well) which have sounded the alarm to others as to the importance of protecting our environment. Any actions we recommend will require a buy-in by other interests so that we can benefit from everyone's contribution to the protection of the environment.

In closing, I would like to thank you for attending today's meeting and specifically those on the committee who worked on the draft action plan which, I hope, will go a long way toward preserving our quality of life and our collective wealth.

## Schedule

*Facilitator:* Pierre Cousineau

8:15 to 8:45 Greeting

8:45 to 9:00 Word of welcome and instructions

9:00 to 10:30 Speech - Jean-François Girard

10:30 to 10:45 Break

10:45 to 11:30 Plenary session and question period.

11:30 to 11:45 Brief synopsis of the September Summit

11:45 to 1:00 Lunch

1:00 to 1:45 Presentation and adoption of the action plan emerging from the recommendations of the September 2007 summit

1:45 to 2:15 Question period

2:15 to 2:30 Closing word

2:30 Distribution of presents to the participants

## Introducing the Facilitator

## **Pierre Cousineau**

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Mr. Cousineau was trained in versification at the Collège Marie-médiatrice in Hull and received a certificate in communication from St. Paul University in Ottawa.

Mr. Cousineau was a communication adviser for Communication-Québec. He has developed training for communicators in emergencies and was a civil safety spokesman when emergency measures were implemented, which include Oka (the Aboriginal crisis), the North Shore (forest fire), Rouyn and Laval (floods), Aylmer (a tornado) and St. Amable (a tire fire).

## Introducing the speaker

### Jean-François Girard

A biologist and a lawyer specialized in environmental law and municipal law, Jean-François Girard is also the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Centre québécois du droit de l'environnement (CQDE).

As part of the municipal law team, he provides specific expertise to municipalities wishing to take up sustainable development challenges and improve the living environment of their citizens.

In addition to publishing articles in specialized magazines, he regularly gives speeches and training seminars to elected officials and citizens groups in environmental and legal fields.

## **Emerging priorities from September 14 and 15, 2007** **Summit**

The aim of the September 15 plenary session was also to come up with an action plan for vacationers and specific courses of action to be taken in the coming months. “This summit eloquently confirmed that natural resources can become an important lever for the region. What you do here will serve as an example elsewhere,” declared Roméo Bouchard, in his wrap-up summary. Using an instant electronic voting system, participants were able to produce five major observations:

A myriad of options were suggested to address each of these issues - joining a popular movement demanding that phosphates be banned in soaps; distributing all relevant information to vacationers and to entrepreneurs and various municipal stakeholders; rehabilitating shores, characterizing all lakes to be integrated into the development plan; reviewing how lakes are occupied (e.g., allowing common access to the lakes and building housing further from the shoreline); improving the knowledge of erosion-related problems stemming from human intervention; creating an obligation to reforest shorelines; putting together water quality monitoring teams; informing users on how to avoid contaminating lakes with water milfoil when transferring boats; improving vacationer involvement in municipal activities; giving municipal inspectors better tools to ensure compliance with regulations, and so on.

Although the options were numerous and imply long-range work, Summit organizers showed an interest in getting started rather quickly. “We are all somewhat responsible for protecting our lakes and rivers and ensuring water quality for tomorrow.” About thirty recommendations were proposed during the summit. For starters, I am acting first on the willingness to put together a working group quickly to come up with action to propose for 2008 as early as next spring,” indicated Gatineau Valley RCM Reeve Pierre Rondeau.

### **1 - Phosphates are enemy number one. Solutions:**

- 1.1 Join a popular movement requesting that government authorities ban phosphates in soaps;
- 1.2 Inform shoreline residents quickly and directly about existing regulations. Informative kit to be given to shoreline property owners. Newsletter sent to all taxpayers.
- 1.3 Shore rehabilitation

- 1.4 Establish a committee
- 1.5 Contact contractors to make them aware
- 1.6 Improve the tanks to limit the amount of phosphates produced.

## **2 - Lakes do have development limits. Solutions :**

- 2.1 Characterize all lakes to be included in the land use diagram. The RCM should give itself the means required to accept or reject a new project.
- 2.2 Review how the lakes are occupied, e.g., access to the lake for everyone with cottages further.
- 2.3 Produce a development model and thereby respond to the needs of the local population.

## **3 - All users of waterways are responsible for their deterioration and rehabilitation (\$). Solutions :**

- 3.1 Go through lakes associations. They must be well organized, well informed and must work with the municipalities.
- 3.2 Improve knowledge of the erosion-related problems traced back to human intervention (roads, etc.)
- 3.3 Obligation to reforest the shorelines.

## **4 - Invading species pose a major threat to our natural capital. Solutions :**

- 4.1 Improve knowledge and implement monitoring teams. React when major changes are noted.
- 4.2 Prevention is the solution. Put up signs showing what water milfoil looks like and take them down when changing lakes. Water milfoil often gets wound around the propellers of the engines.

## **5 - Local communities must regain control of their resources. Solutions :**

- 5.1 Get vacationers more involved in municipal life. Make the voting process for vacationers easier.
- 5.2 The municipalities must appoint a councilor responsible for water protection.
- 5.3 Better equip municipal inspectors when it comes to enforcing by-laws.
- 5.4 Examine the possibility of implementing Municipal Court service.

# FIVE YEAR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

As part of a local development process where changes are a necessity, it is clear that before going ahead with any changes, we must be familiar with the nature, impacts (human, social, economic, structural, environmental, etc.) and the objectives of such reforms.

This process of change must take all of these factors into consideration to ensure that they mesh together more easily once the changes are made. One of the underlying effects of altering the status quo is the “resistance to change” noted in people’s habits and behaviour. It is a human trait which is totally normal when people are asked to do things differently.

Last September, we began a process of collective reflection to protect our natural capital, specifically our waterways. We must be aware of this behaviour and see to it that any reforms we propose are seamless to attenuate or lessen this resistance to change. We must be careful about emotions getting in the way and steering us in the complete opposite direction from the initial objectives before we propose new avenues.

In this case, we believe it is time we took concrete steps over a 5-year time horizon to achieve our preservation objectives. This five-year action plan is the end result of reflections from the *ad hoc* committee formed following the September 2007 summit on the protection of Gatineau Valley lakes and rivers.

The committee met several times. In the following pages, we have presented the courses of action we hope will have a significant impact and achieve the common objectives established.

To ensure that our process is well understood, we divided the recommendations from the September 2007 summit into two groups – the municipal (and RCMs) sector and collective action (we as citizens). As we made headway in our work, we further divided the recommendations into separate fields of intervention, which are at the heart of our action plan and are as follows: A. Municipalities and the RCMs; B. Gatineau Valley Communication, Information, Education; and C. Lakes Associations.

These groupings materialized as a result of the work and questions by the follow-up committee and the action proposed based on the summit’s discussions,

the answers received in response to questions raised at the summit and the research done to broaden committee members' knowledge of certain topics.

You will find hereunder in one of the courses of action each of the 20 actions identified during the course of the summit (page 21, summit proceedings) with a schedule (under continuous development) and specific action to be undertaken to advance these priorities.

Of course, the three partners involved in this action, i.e., the Gatineau *Société d'aide au développement des collectivités* (SADC), the Gatineau Valley RCM and the Gatineau Valley Federation of Lakes and Rivers Associations will see to it that this plan is implemented and that follow-up is done. Along the way, they could add other collaborators such as the *CLD*, le *Comga*, the *UPA*, the *Office des producteurs de bois*, etc.

## A. Municipalities and the RCMs

<u>Actions</u>	<u>Timetable/ objectives/ responsible</u>
By-law enforcement	
<p><u>Facilitate access to the municipal court</u> 5.4 Examine the possibility of implementing municipal court service (September 2007 summit) Document and see how the des Collines RCM operates.</p> <p>Environmental disputes (Q2R8) come under provincial jurisdiction and are thus dealt with in Superior Court. A municipal court cannot serve any purpose in such matters.</p> <p>However, by-law disputes (e.g., shore revitalization by-laws) could be dealt with in municipal court, if such access were available.</p> <p>However, joining up with a municipal court requires a substantial financial investment and time. In 2007, the des Collines RCM gave RCM municipalities an opportunity to join up with their municipal court, but only two took them up on the offer. At the time, this cost \$1.50 per resident, but this figure is reportedly much higher now.</p> <p>Bringing a municipal court into the picture would also necessitate harmonizing by-laws throughout the RCM.</p>	<p><u>Timetable:</u> 5 years <u>Objectives:</u> To ensure that the remaining 15 municipalities have access to a municipal court. <u>Responsible:</u> SADC, RCM, Fédération</p>
<p><u>Give the municipal inspector positions a professional profile</u> 5.3 Give municipal inspectors the tools they need to go about by-law enforcement (September 2007 summit) Give the position a professional profile, offer training and value to the position.</p> <p>In order to better equip municipal inspectors, we suggest that this position be given a more professional profile and that higher qualification standards be established (e.g., college diploma).</p> <p>The intent here is to address more proactively the increased responsibility that municipal inspectors have in environmental matters, give them an opportunity to acquire a college diploma in municipal inspections offered by the Jonquiere CEGEP, which would enable them to develop and further their knowledge. The local employment centre could be an important partner in this particular endeavour. This would also address the difficulty some municipalities have in retaining qualified personnel from outside the region. Focus is placed on who is available locally.</p> <p>There seems to be a difference of opinion between municipalities and vacationers with respect to by-law enforcement by municipal inspectors from municipalities within our RCM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Municipalities believe: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- By-laws are on the books and sufficient as they are;</li> <li>- Municipal inspectors always have the required training. In other words, no more is needed.</li> <li>- It is difficult to implement by-laws because tools have not been adapted to do the job. In most cases, it costs more to hold proceedings aimed at rectifying a</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><u>Timetable:</u> 5 years <u>Objectives:</u> Have all of the municipalities sign up. <u>Responsible:</u> SADC, RCM, Fédération</p>

## A. Gatineau Valley Communication, Information and Education

<u>Actions</u>	<u>Timetable/ objectives/ responsible</u>
<b>Communication Plan</b>	
<p>Search for financing to carry out the plan            Issuance of calls for tender            Submission of plan            Search for financing to take action.</p>	<p><u>Timetable:</u>            Fall of 2008  <u>Objectives:</u>            Submission of plan  <u>Responsible:</u>            SADC, RCM,            Fédération</p>
<p>1.2 Direct and timely information to shoreline owners regarding existing by-laws. Information kit to be given out to shoreline owners. Newsletter sent out to all taxpayers (September 2007 summit)            1.3 Shore rehabilitation (September 2007 summit)            1.5 Contact the entrepreneurs to raise their awareness (September 2007 summit)            3.1 Go through the lakes associations. They must be well organized, well informed and work with the municipalities (September 2007 summit)            3.2 Improve the knowledge of erosion problems caused by humans (roads, etc.) (September 2007 summit)            Requirement to reforest the shores (goes along with point 1.3 – Shore rehabilitation (September 2007 summit)            4.1 Improve knowledge and bring in monitoring teams. React when major changes are noted (September 2007 summit)            4.2 Prevention is a solution. Put up a water milfoil sign to raise awareness of the plant and remove it when changing lakes. A lot of milfoil ends up wound around motor propellers (September 2007 summit)</p>	<p><u>Timetable:</u>            Early 2009  <u>Objectives:</u>            Plan implementation  <u>Responsible:</u>            SADC, RCM,            Fédération</p>

<b>B. Lakes Associations</b>	
<u>Actions</u>	<u>Timetable/ objectives/ responsible</u>
Empower the shoreline residents	
If the area has sustained damage, they too are responsible	<u>Timetable:</u> On going <u>Objectives:</u> Citizen action <u>Responsible:</u> Fédération
Establishment of a regional shoreline environmental fund	
<p>Example: \$ 10 / shoreline resident / year = \$60,000/year 25\$ / shoreline resident / year = \$150,000/year</p> <p>Fund dedicated specifically and solely to the implementation of this five-year plan and to water protection research and development.</p> <p>When developing the mechanism to create this fund, bear in mind that when respondents were asked whether they would spend the money required to improve water protection, 90% answered yes, and 92% said it was essential that the lakes remain healthy.</p> <p>Actions can be undertaken individually (by the association) or in cooperation with the municipality and/or another association.</p> <p>4.3 Yellow buoys when concentration is heavy to avoid cutoffs (September 2007 summit) 4.4 Patrolling for and elimination of milfoil (September 2007 summit)</p>	<u>Timetable:</u> 1 year <u>Objectives:</u> Start of incoming funds <u>Responsible:</u> SADC, RCM and Fédération
<b>Writing of an annual environmental report by each lake association</b>	
Each association would prepare an environmental report outlining its actions.	<u>Timetable:</u> 5 years <u>Objectives:</u> All associations <u>Responsible:</u> Fédération

Note: Actions already undertaken or no longer current

- 1.1 Join the popular movement requesting that government authorities ban phosphates in soaps (September 2007 summit)  
**(The levels of government have already brought in legislation)**
- 1.4 Establishment of a committee (September 2007 summit) – **(Already done)**

## The tools

Some tools are already available to support and distribute the plan:

- The SADC can use its Web site to officially report on the progress of work and serve as a link between various cases and vacationers;
- The COMGA watershed contracts are effective ways of implementing and monitoring some very useful and structured activities that can govern several collective and citizen-oriented actions. The signing of a watershed contract could pave the way to certain types of financing.
- The communication plan to be developed will also become a permanent tool to be used to achieve several objectives set out in this action plan.
- Public meetings (vacationer associations, municipalities, stakeholders, etc.) will be organized every two years to take stock of the work done.
- The partners' committee will ensure, along with its collaborators, the establishment and follow-up of an action plan.

## Lexicon

- Cyanobacteria:** *Cyanobacteria is the name given to blue algae floating on the surface of ponds. The first species identified were blue, which is where the algae got their name. The species identified in the time since come in different colours, ranging from olive green to red.*
- Milfoil:** *The Eurasian water-milfoil is a submerged plant that grows in aquatic grassbeds. The species is distinguished from an indigenous milfoil, which is called a whitish water-milfoil, due to the segments on each side of the leaf that resemble a feather. The Eurasian water-milfoil has more than 12 segments, while the indigenous milfoil has fewer than 11. Moreover, the upper portions of Eurasian water-milfoil leaves are often truncated.*
- COMGA :** *Comité de gestion du Bassin Versant de la Rivière Gatineau (Gatineau River Watershed Management Committee)*  
[www.comga.org](http://www.comga.org)
- DSP :** *Direction de la Santé Publique (Public Health Directorate).*  
[www.santepublique-outaouais.qc.ca](http://www.santepublique-outaouais.qc.ca)
- MDDEP :** *Ministère du Développement Durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs (Department of Sustainable Development, the Environment and Parks)*  
[www.mddep.gouv.qc.ca](http://www.mddep.gouv.qc.ca)
- MRFN :** *Ministère des Ressources Naturelles et de la Faune (Department of Natural Resources and Wildlife).*  
[www.mrnf.gouv.qc.ca](http://www.mrnf.gouv.qc.ca)
- CREDDO :** *Conseil Régional de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable de l'Outaouais (Outaouais Regional Council of the Environment and Sustainable Development)*  
[www.creddo.ca](http://www.creddo.ca)

## *List of participants*

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Yvan	Lachaîne	Aire Faunique Baskatong
Benoît	Patry	Association des propriétaires des lacs Lac Edja et Caya
Denis	Lacroix	Association des propriétaires du Lac 31 Milles
Jacques	Raymond	Association des propriétaires du Lac Danford
Laura	Raymond	Association des propriétaires du Lac Danford
Georgette	Blais	Association des villégiateurs du Lac Bois-Franc
Marc-André	Leclair	Association des villégiateurs du Lac Bois-Franc
Jean-Pierre	Rondeau	Association du chemin Deschesnes
Jacques	St-Marseille	Association du Lac Castor Blanc
Denis	St-Denis	Association du Lac Castor Blanc
Rémi	St-Laurent	Association du lac des Iles pour l'environnement (A.L.I.E.)
Yvon	Labelle	Association du lac des Iles pour l'environnement (A.L.I.E.)
Malcolm	Corcoran	Association du Lac Heney
Darquise	Jolicoeur	Association du Lac Paquin
Maureen	Lachance	Association du Lac Paquin
James	Annis	Association du Lac Pémichongan
Barry	Ardis	Association du Lac Quinn
Jocelyn	Mantha	Association du Lac Quinn
Susan	Smith	Association pour la protection de l'environnement du Lac Latrouelle (A.P.E.L.L.)
David	Adcock	Association pour la protection de l'environnement du Lac Latrouelle (A.P.E.L.L.)
Daniel	Richard	Association pour la protection du Lac Murray
Jami	Quathamer	Bionest / Wyndswept
Pierre	Garceau	Bowater
Luce	Farell	Bureau de la Députée provinciale Stéphanie Vallée
Rénald	Mongrain	Centre local de développement
Jean-Marc	Potvin	Centre local de développement
Henri	Côté	Chambre de commerce de Maniwaki
Valérie	Dorion	Chambre de commerce de Maniwaki
Giorgio	Vecco	Comité de gestion du Bassin versant de la Rivière Gatineau
Denis	Simard	Comité de gestion du Bassin versant de la Rivière Gatineau
Antoine	Grégoire	Comité de protection des lacs de la municipalité de Blue Sea
Georges	Ranger	Comité de protection des lacs de la municipalité de Blue Sea
Daniel	Fortin	Conférence régionale des élus de l'Outaouais
Marc	Lachapelle	Corporation de Gestion de la forêt de l'Aigle
Nicole	Desroches	CREDDO
François	Leblanc	Direction de l'énergie, des mines et du territoire public de l'Outaouais
Louis-Philippe	Mayrand	Fédération des associations de lacs et rivières de la Vallée-de-la-Gatineau

Karen	Davison	Fédération des associations de lacs et rivières de la Vallée-de-la-Gatineau
Dominic	Bherer	Forêt Vive
Jean-Pierre	Ledoux	Génivar
André	Carle	Groupe Opti-vert
Bernard	Chauvette	Groupe Opti-vert
Alain	Ricard	La Gatineau
Jean-Jacques	Simard	Ministère Agriculture, pêcheries et alimentation
Yannick	Gignac	Ministère des affaires municipales
Claude	Beaudoin	MRC Vallée-de-la-Gatineau
Pierre	Rondeau	MRC Vallée-de-la-Gatineau
Dorothy	St-Marseille	Municipalité d'Aumond
Laurent	Fortin	Municipalité de Blue Sea
Paul	Larcher	Municipalité de Blue Sea
Réjean	Carle	Municipalité de Bouchette
Suzanne	Lamarche	Municipalité de Cayamant
Jean-Paul	Barbe	Municipalité de Déléage
Gary	Armstrong	Municipalité de Denholm
Adrien	Noël	Municipalité de Kazabazua
Josée	Parsons	Municipalité de Kazabazua
Raymond	Lafrenière	Municipalité de Lac Ste-Marie
Jim	Smith	Municipalité de Messines
Ronald	Cross	Municipalité de Messines
Yvon	Blais	Municipalité d'Egan Sud
Daniel	Gagnon	Municipalité d'Egan Sud
Mario	Couture	Office des producteurs de bois de la Gatineau
Michel	Lafrance	Regroupement des résidents de Montcerf-Lytton et Forêt vive
Pierre	Monette	SADC Vallée-de-la-Gatineau
Nathalie	Patry	SADC Vallée-de-la-Gatineau
Julie	Bénard	SADC Vallée-de-la-Gatineau
Josée	Croteau	SADC Vallée-de-la-Gatineau
Theodore	Geraets	SAGE
Annie	Parent	Société Sylvicole de la Haute-Gatineau
Tony	Lavoie	Tourisme Vallée-de-la-Gatineau
Cindy	Mc Millan	
Marc	Kelly	





