

GAUVREAU LAKE NEWS - JUNE 2008

Gauvreau Lake Environmental Protection Association - <http://enviro.gauvreau.googlepages.com>

BLUE-GREEN ALGAE: **GAUVREAU LAKE: A MODEL TO FOLLOW**

Messrs Robert Bussière, Mayor of the Municipality of La Pêche, and John Leech, President of the Gauvreau Lake Environmental Protection Association were pleased to welcome Mme Line Beauchamp, Minister of Sustainable Development, the Environment and Parks, on the occasion of her visit in August 2007 to the Outaouais, part of a provincial fact-finding tour on the problem of blue-green algae.



(Photo: Low Down)

The Minister congratulated the Association and the Municipality for their successful collaboration over some seven years in the effort to reduce blue-green algae and the public health threat presented by cyanobacteria.

Proactive from the start of the crisis in August 2000, the Municipality has put in place several programs in collaboration with the Association. To be noted among others are the subsidies and decisive measures regarding:

- 1. Water testing (for coliform and phosphates)**
- 2. A university study on the level of phosphate saturation**
- 3. Installation and maintenance of an experimental aerating windmill**

- 4. Inspection of the cottagers' septic systems**
- 5. Support for the upgrading of the septic installations at the Whippoorwill Campground**
- 6. Shoreline revitalization through tree planting**
- 7. Major financial support for planning the revitalization of the Parent Creek**
- 8. Rainwater diversion on the Kennedy Road**
- 9. Financial support for electric fencing of fields along Parent Creek to prevent access by animals**
- 10. The elimination of beaver dams along Parent Creek**

PARENT CREEK RENEWAL: THE NEXT PRIORITY

Thanks to the initiative of your Association, the environmental consulting firm PRO FAUNE has recently published a 'Development Plan for the Aquatic Habitats and the Banks of Parent Creek', the principal inflow to Gauvreau Lake. This study report identifies a number of concerns that affect the quality of the aquatic habitats of the creek, (and as a consequence, the water quality of Gauvreau Lake), including the condition of the creek banks along the farm fields, electric fencing and access by cattle for drinking water.

This study was completed thanks to financial aid from several partners: la Fondation de la faune du Québec; the Municipality of La Pêche; Mme Stéphanie Vallée. MNA for Gatineau; the Caisse Populaire Desjardins Masham-Luskville, and; private donors and property owners at Gauvreau Lake.

Information already available was combined with data collected on the ground in September 2007, allowing an evaluation of the problems of Parent Creek, and the formulation of recommendations for the

development of the potential for fauna, and of water quality. With this information, the Association and its local and governmental partners will be able to compose a plan for intervention and protection of the sensitive habitats for fauna and the creek banks in order to preserve the biodiversity of the principal inflow to Gauvreau Lake, a lake much prized by the vacationers of the region.

In summary, to improve the quality of the Parent Creek ecosystem and to optimize its potential for fauna, it is essential to keep livestock at a distance from the Creek, to establish adequate watering sites, to stabilize the creek bed and banks and to ensure the effectiveness of individual septic systems of residences in the drainage basin in order to reduce the runoff of suspended material, total phosphorus and fecal coliform.



(Photos:ProFaune)

WHAT CAN WE DO IN THE MEANTIME?

This year, our **Annual General Meeting and Information Day** have been combined to reach as many people as possible.

DATE: SATURDAY, JUNE 28TH

TIME: 10:00 AM

PLACE: MASHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE (BESIDE THE ÉCOLE DES LACS SPORTS FIELD

AT END OF Ch PASSEPARTOUT)

LaPêche (Sainte-Cécile de Masham)

INCLUDED ON THE AGENDA

- **Parent Creek Renewal Report**
- **Update on activities and plans**
- **Financial report and budget**

All residents are urged to attend and participate in the efforts to improve our Lake

Membership services available at the door/Bilingual meeting

The Lake Association Directors

Co-presidents:

John Leech, Bertrand Haubert

Secretary:

Yves Roy

Treasurer & sector rep NW shore:

John Shaughnessy

Sector reps:

Peter Jarvis, Bay Ste Anne

Marvin Sobb, Bertrand Rd.

Patrick Reid, South Shore

Anne Leech, Robertson Rd.

Catherine Barrette, Murray Rd.

Blair Kingsbury, Whippoorwill Campsite.

Directors at large:

Ian Arnold

Dan Dorion