



## Editor's note

The team at the *Regroupement pour la protection de l'eau de la Vallée de la Gatineau* (RPEVG) is pleased to present the second issue of the RPEVG newsletter, Summer 2025.

We provide an update on collaborative initiatives and activities that took place over the past year.

We present topics of great interest that concern the community from a water protection perspective, such as the training of lake sentinels at Lac des Cèdres, the inauguration of the Blue Sea Lake barrier, and the Messines watercraft decontamination station, as well as the concept of shoreline vegetation to counteract the harmful effects of torrential rains.

Finally, this calendar of activities would be impossible without the dedication of volunteers, each of whom brings their expertise in essential areas of our organization's operation.

RPEVG wishes to honour and thank them for their contributions.

*Christine Ouellet – Éditeur*

Note: While we strive for accuracy and completeness in all our reports, we acknowledge that errors may occur and commit to correcting any mistakes or omissions. The opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the RPEVG Association.



Editor's note



President's letter



RPEVG presents its action plan to the MRC



RPEVG attends the AGM of the Lac Quinn Association



Lake sentinels training organized by APLC



New barrier on Blue Sea lake in Messines



Shoreline vegetation to combat erosion



## President's letter

Dear readers,

The mission of the *Regroupement pour la protection de l'eau de la Vallée-de-la-Gatineau* (RPEVG) is to protect and enhance the water bodies and groundwater within the territory of the *MRC Vallée-de-la-Gatineau*. RPEVG's approach is to act as a leader and unifier, a change agent, a disseminator of knowledge, and a credible, recognized partner.

Thanks to the energy of our small, strong, and dedicated volunteer team, along with the support of municipalities and lake associations in the Vallée-de-la-Gatineau, we have achieved a great deal since the beginning of this year in pursuing our mission.

For example, we developed a five-year (2025 – 2029) Strategic plan and an Action and collaboration plan with the *MRC Vallée-de-la-Gatineau*. We also attended several meetings of lake associations to facilitate coordination.

On June 26, RPEVG proposed its action plan and collaboration options to the MRC's Climate Change Committee, chaired by Ms. Lamarche. Her message was clear: the MRC wants to work with us and, through us, with the region's lake associations to protect our water bodies, especially in fighting the spread of invasive aquatic species.

We ran information booths at two major boating and outdoor fairs—the *Ottawa Boat Show* in February and the *Maniwaki Hunting, Fishing, and Outdoors Show* in April—to raise public awareness about the importance of decontaminating watercraft to limit the spread of invasive species. We also produced two videos showcasing the best practices. We continue to promote awareness through regular broadcasts on CHGA.FM.

Furthermore, our website [www.rpevg.ca](http://www.rpevg.ca) is taking shape and, once fully launched, will become a central source of information, networking, and mobilization for everyone in the region concerned with protecting our water bodies.

I want to emphasize that our partners include not only municipalities and lake associations. We also want to work with businesses and citizens who understand the importance of clean water and healthy lakes for the future of our region.

We invite you to get involved by attending our next Annual General Meeting on August 10, 2025, at 10am at the Messines municipal hall.

Francis Leblanc - Président

## RPEVG Presents Its Action Plan to the MRC Climate Change Committee

On June 26, Manon Vincelette and Francis LeBlanc from the RPEVG met with the Climate Change Committee. We reviewed our action plan (see below) and explained the importance of a partnership with the MRC.

The MRC is open to the idea of hosting our website within the MRC's website and especially wants us to be the main point of contact between the MRC and local lake associations. Committee members showed openness to specific requests, such as help with watershed mapping, funding for our public awareness campaigns (e.g., CHGA, participation in boating expos), and administrative support.

We stressed the importance of promoting watercraft washing as a standard decontamination practice to prevent the introduction of invasive aquatic species.

There was no opposition at the table, only recognition that the challenge is complex and that watercraft washing stations fall under municipal responsibility rather than the MRC.

Last year, the MRC sent a letter to the Quebec government requesting that they nationalize and legislate this practice.



There was strong interest in the Lake Sentinel training initiative, organized by the *Association for the Protection of Lac des Cèdres* with funding from *As de Picque*.

Initiatives like this, as well as our participation in the Ottawa and Maniwaki outdoor shows, impressed the Warden. We concluded that the meeting was productive and agreed that we should meet more regularly to share concerns and perspectives.

## WATERSHED MAPPING OF THE LAKES!



We wish to thank the MRC for providing us with the watershed maps for the region. These will be made available to everyone on our website at: [www.rpevg.ca](http://www.rpevg.ca)

## RPEVG Attends the AGM of the Lac Quinn Association

On July 5, Francis LeBlanc attended the Annual General Meeting of the *Lac Quinn Cottage Owners Association* as president of RPEVG.

It was an opportunity to promote the importance of collaboration between lake associations and raise awareness of the Regroupement and its mission.

Lac Quinn spans the municipalities of Aumont and Mont-Laurier, and cottage owners are aware of the need to remain vigilant against the spread of invasive species. The association operates its own boat washing station. Lise and Barry Ardis are very active members of this dynamic association.



Photo: Francis Leblanc with Lise and Barry Ardis

## Ottawa Boat Show and Chasse et Pêche Plein Air Show in Maniwaki!

We express our gratitude towards the many volunteers who collaborated with us, among others, at the Ottawa Boat Show and the Chasse Pêche et Plein Air show in Maniwaki:

Marc Grégoire, Marc Ardis, Andy Xhignesse, Jim Mitchell, David Simpson, Pascal Maheu, Don Grant, Lisa Hebert, Alexis Parisé and William Coulombe, two students from Cité Étudiante de la Haute Gatineau in Maniwaki and also Michèle Rozon, the coordinator.



Photo : Francis LeBlanc et Mark Ardis.



Photo: Alexis Parisé and William Coulombe

## Lake Sentinels Training Organized by APLC

The *Sentinelle* application, developed by Quebec's Ministry of the Environment, allows everyone to report the presence of invasive aquatic species (IAS) through a mobile app and web portal. By participating, you actively contribute to monitoring and protecting biodiversity.

This summer, the APLC played an active role in preserving *Petit* and *Grand Lac des Cèdres*. A training session was offered by FYTO and, two sessions were held on June 28th and July 26<sup>th</sup> with participants coming from various lakes. This training was to help you identify and detect invasive aquatic plant and animal species during your outings on the water.

*Sentinelle* is a detection tool for invasive aquatic species (IAS) that enables you to:

### 1. Access Information

*Sentinelle* provides information on more than 65 IAS — the main animal and plant species of concern for Quebec's natural environments. You'll find descriptions, key features, and photographs to help with identification.

### 2. Report a Sighting

If you think you've encountered an IAS, take a photo and report it through *Sentinelle* with its location. This helps expand the knowledge of IAS distribution in Quebec. Your observations will be reviewed and validated by ministry professionals. Once approved, your report is added to the *Sentinelle* database.



Photo : Maude Keyser and Charlotte Bergeron from Fyto

### 3. View Submitted Reports

You can view all reports submitted to *Sentinelle* anytime on the web platform, under the "Observations" tab. Data is also periodically uploaded to *Données Québec*.

Please note that the data in *Sentinelle* is submitted voluntarily. Therefore, it may not be comprehensive or fully representative of the IAS situation in Quebec.

Since 2014, more than 8,000 reports covering over 50 IAS have been submitted and published through *Sentinelle*.

## BECOME A SENTINEL TO PROTECT OUR LAKES!

The *Sentinelle* application, from the Ministry of Environment of Quebec, allows everyone to report the presence of invasive alien species (IAS) through a mobile application and a web portal. By participating, you are actively contributing to the monitoring and protection of biodiversity.



## Inauguration: New Barrier at Blue Sea Lake and Decontamination Station in Messines

The watercraft decontamination station in *Messines* was inaugurated in 2024, followed by the commissioning of the *Blue Sea Lake* barrier in 2025. As of this summer, the system is fully operational: free for residents (with an RFID card) and paid access for non-residents (\$25 for motorboats, \$5 for kayaks, canoes, or paddleboards).

Two videos by RPEVG are available on YouTube and demonstrate how to use the system, designed by the company *Ozero*: one video covers the washing station, the other shows the decontamination process for a motorboat and a kayak, as well as barrier operation.

The payment kiosk issues a wash receipt to place on your car dashboard, which includes a QR code to open the automated barrier. Without this receipt, boaters risk a \$500 fine. The ticket is valid for 24 hours for lake entry, but exit is not time-limited, allowing shoreline residents to keep their boats in the water all summer.



Photo: Jim Smith – Directeur general in Messines

The decontamination process takes about 7 minutes and includes two steps for motorboats:

1. The hull and trailer are cleaned with a high-pressure 60°C water lance.
2. The motor shaft and live well are treated at low pressure with hot water.

Once completed, the kiosk prints a receipt. At the barrier, you scan the receipt to open the gate, back your boat into the lake, and place the receipt clearly on your vehicle's dashboard.

In 2026, similar barriers will be installed at *Petit* and *Grand Lac des Cèdres*, compatible with the Messines station. The municipality of *Grand-Remous* will also launch a high-pressure boat wash station at 506 Chemin Baskatong (at the AFC of the Baskatong Reservoir - Community Wildlife Area) starting in fall 2025.

To support this, RPEVG has created a chart showing the status and locations of decontamination stations across the region.

### CLEAN, EMPTY AND DRY YOUR WATERCRAFTS!

In more municipalities within the territory of the MRC of the Gatineau Valley, it is mandatory to clean your motorized and non-motorized boat when moving from one body of water to another.

### Be a water hero!

**PLEASURE CRAFT DECONTAMINATION WASHING STATIONS**  
MRC VALLEÉ-DE-LA-GATINEAU

🚰 RPEVG STATIONS      🌡️ HOT WATER  
 🚰 PAYING STATIONS (\$)      ❄️ COLD WATER  
 🚰 MANDATORY      📄 RECEIPT FOR RESIDENTS

**STATIONS OPERATED BY RPEVG**

- 📍 Aumont 567, ch. Principale (Dépenseur Aumont)
- 📍 Doléage 374, boul. Doléage (Municipal garage)

**RPEVG STATIONS OPERATED BY LAKE ASSOCIATIONS**

- 📍 Lac Quém 258, ch. Longwin

**STATIONS OPERATED BY MUNICIPALITIES**

- 📍 Municipality of Blue Sea 10, rue Principale et 356 ch. du Lac Long
- 📍 Municipality of Capraumont 9, ch. Lachapelle (Municipal office)
- 📍 Municipality of Deschênes 410, ch. du Pénitencier Blanc (Municipal office)
- 📍 City of Grandpierre 1, rue de la Polyvalente
- 📍 Municipality of Grand-Remous 1010, route Transcanadienne
- 📍 Municipality of Lac-Sainte-Marie 106, ch. Lac-Sainte-Marie
- 📍 City of Maniwaki 217, rue des Oubliés
- 📍 Municipality of Messines 65, rue Principale (in front of municipal office)

Prevent the spread of invasive species!

**héros DE L'EAU**  
MRC VALLEÉ-DE-LA-GATINEAU

Contact us:  
 🌐 www.facebook.com/protectondelaouay  
 🌐 www.rpevg.ca  
 📧 info@rpevg.ca

## Shoreline Vegetation to Combat Erosion

The shorelines (also called riparian strips) of our lakes are rich habitats for plant and animal life. This buffer zone, consisting of various plants, shrubs, flowers, grasses, and trees, extends 15 meters from the high-water mark, as defined by law. It provides protection and a habitat for frogs, reptiles, insects, larvae, pollinators, birds, and more.

When torrential rain falls on bare shoreline, nothing holds the soil—and all its microscopic inhabitants—in place. Vegetated shorelines, with roots that anchor the soil, protect flora and fauna from erosion. They filter runoff and retain nutrients essential to many species.

To fight erosion caused by heavy rainfall, shoreline vegetation is an easy technique that waterfront property owners can use to restore their banks to a natural state.

The method involves:

- Seeding bare surfaces with a mix of herbaceous plant seeds
- Or planting shrub species by cutting or transplanting



After seeding, watering should be done carefully to avoid runoff that would wash away seeds. The soil should stay moist until the plants clearly take root.

You can find the list of shrubs species suitable for shoreline stabilization on the [Watershed website](#): How native plants help with erosion control. You can also consult the [Native Plant Database](#) and select your zone and also visit the Quebec government website on shoreline stabilization.

- [Government of Quebec shoreline stabilization guide \(PDF\)](#) (in French only)

The RAPPEL website also provides species adapted for shoreline restoration.

- [RAPPEL list of plants adapted to shorelines](#)