



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 third issue of the RPEVG newsletter, Winter 2026.

Early in November, winter surprised us with a solid snowfall. Ski and winter-sports enthusiasts are delighted, the wood piles are stocked, and snowplows are ready to roll. Others have already shut the shutters on the cottage, turned off the water, and settled in the city for the season.

The third issue of the RPEVG newsletter brings you timely topics and a growing new section: “**News from our Lakes and rivers,**” highlighting what’s happening in our communities—initiatives related to monitoring and eliminating invasive species, as well as other local activities. For the second year in a row, the committee is preparing to participate in the Ottawa and Maniwaki boat shows. For the first time, we

are working on organizing a **Water Protection Stakeholders Summit**, scheduled for the spring.

Thank you to Danielle Morrison, our graphic designer, and to photographer Louis Grégoire, for his special contribution.

We extend our thanks to all the volunteers who bring their skills to the organization and dedicate themselves tirelessly to protecting our waterways. Their contribution is essential, and the RPEVG is grateful for their continued support. A note to those interested: we will need volunteers for the Ottawa and Maniwaki shows.

Best wishes to all for the holiday season, and may 2026 bring us peace.

Christine Ouellet -Editor



Editor's note



President's letter



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News from our lakes and rivers



Boat shows



Photo: Danielle Morrison



Photo: Louis Grégoire

Lettre du Président

Chers lecteurs, lectrices,
Our bodies of water — lakes, rivers, reservoirs, and groundwater — are a shared resource essential to our quality of life and our local economy. We all have the responsibility, both individually and through our elected officials, to safeguard this precious resource.

Of course, among us are citizens who take this responsibility particularly to heart. You'll find them in municipalities, in associations and nonprofits, and in our businesses, and we call them the "Water Heroes." The mission of the **Regroupement pour la protection de l'eau de la Vallée-de-la-Gatineau** (RPEVG) is to promote best practices and mobilize the collective efforts of our Heroes to protect the region's bodies of water.

A threat that concerns us greatly is the contamination of our waters by invasive aquatic species. Some (e.g., Eurasian watermilfoil and spiny water flea) are already present in our lakes. Others are at our doorstep. They can outcompete native species, reduce biodiversity, and contribute to the decline in the value of waterfront properties.

Eliminating invasive species once established in a lake is costly and difficult. Prevention is better than a cure. This is why we promote preventive measures such as decontaminating your watercraft to keep invasive species from entering our lakes.

We are a small group with big ambitions. We have organized watercraft-washing training sessions, and

you can also tune in to the CHGA FM Radio station to hear our information messages.

In 2026, we will have a booth at the boat shows in Ottawa and Maniwaki to promote best practices. We are also preparing to host a summit on lake protection, bringing together municipalities, associations, and other stakeholders to mobilize our efforts for better protection of our waters.

We are recruiting Heroes. If you care about the health of our lakes and rivers, visit our website at www.rpevg.ca or scan the QR code on page 3 to become a member or make a donation. We are also looking for volunteers to participate in our activities and support our mission.

Francis Leblanc - President

RPEVG online with Zeffy

In the fall of 2025, the RPEVG website was launched with the ability to make online payments for memberships or donations through the integration of a Quebec-based payment platform called **Zeffy**.

Zeffy is a fundraising and donor management platform founded in Montreal, Quebec, designed exclusively for non-profit organizations (NPOs) and charitable associations. Its revolutionary business model is based on being 100% free for non-profit organizations, which means it charges no platform fees, **no transaction fees**, and covers all credit card processing costs, ensuring that the NPO receives 100% of the funds raised.

RPEVG uses the platform for two main functions: collecting member dues and accepting donations. This no-fee structure allows us to maximize our impact by directing every dollar from donations and membership payments entirely toward our mission—for example, funding water quality awareness campaigns. Zeffy funds its operations solely through a "tip" or optional contribution that our donors are invited to leave during the payment process.

By using Zeffy's membership feature, we can easily manage different types of members — such as individual members, lake associations, and municipalities — automate annual renewals, and



maintain a centralized and organized database of our supporters.

By integrating Zeffy into our operations, we ensure that every membership fee and every donation contributes maximally to our mission. The platform offers RPEVG a secure online way to collect payments by **credit card, debit card, Apple Pay, or Google Pay**, which makes it easier for individuals, lake associations, and our municipalities to support our actions.

BECOME A MEMBER OR MAKE A DONATION!

Would you like to become a member of the RPEVG or make a donation? It's very simple. Just open your **camera app** for the QR code to appear, then tap the link to access the content.

Or click one of these links:

<https://rpevg.ca/devenir-membre/> **or**
<https://rpevg.ca/don-participatif/>



The Five-year Strategic plan

The RPEVG aims to increase its visibility with the MRC, municipalities, lake associations, shoreline residents, water users, and all residents of the region. It also seeks a clear commitment from elected officials to prevent the introduction of invasive alien species and to support the implementation of regional regulations requiring watercraft cleaning throughout the territory.

The **Regroupement** also intends to strengthen collaboration with its partners to advance major regional and national environmental initiatives related to water protection.

As part of its five-year strategic plan, the RPEVG outlines four key areas of action.

The first, **Governance**, emphasizes effective, transparent, and equitable management of water resources. It incorporates a participatory structure involving municipalities, associations, and citizens.

The second area, **Coordination**, seeks to improve collaboration among all stakeholders to maximize the impact of their actions. This includes ongoing dialogue, increased knowledge sharing, and a shared understanding of watersheds.



The third area, **Protection**, aims for specific measures to preserve lake ecosystems: pollution control, shoreline restoration, habitat protection, water-quality monitoring, and combating invasive alien species. Public education on eco-responsible practices is a core element.

Lastly, **Promotion** champions valuing lakes as vital natural heritage and encourages best environmental practices through public awareness initiatives.

WHY DO A STRATEGIC PLAN?

The five-year plan serves as a unifying **roadmap** that provides focus, guides decision-making, and creates accountability toward shared, measurable goals for sustainable growth and long-term success.

This roadmap allows the RPEVG to allocate its **resources**—financial, human, and technological—proactively and efficiently toward the most important initiatives, rather than simply reacting to short-term demands.



News from our lakes and rivers

Lac Blue Sea

This year, the **Blue Sea Lake Watershed Association (ABS)** (www.associationbluesealake.org), in collaboration with the municipalities of Blue Sea and Messines, developed a **Water Management Master Plan (PDE)** for Blue Sea Lake and its watershed.

We retained the services of **Mélissa Laniel**, biologist and project director at RAPPEL, a cooperative specializing in water protection, to lead the project.

The PDE provides a scientific foundation and a clear direction for identifying priority initiatives to maintain the health of our watershed. For more information on the PDE and its implementation, please contact ABS President **Marc Nadeau** (direction@associationbluesealake.org).

Lac Patterson

The Friends of Lac Patterson installed awareness signs this summer promoting boat-cleaning at both boat launches, along with speed-reduction signs in the channel to limit wave action.

Lac des cèdres

This past year was particularly productive, especially regarding efforts to control **Eurasian watermilfoil**. Summer 2025 marked the end of our fourth year of intensive interventions. Thanks to the sustained efforts of our teams, Fyto, and various



Photo: Louis Grégoire

partners, we estimate that about two more years of intensive work will be needed before we can transition to a maintenance-control phase—an indicator of significant, lasting progress.

The **Association for the Protection of the Cedar Lakes** was also invited to join the regional consultation table on invasive floristic species for the Outaouais region. We are honoured to contribute and share our expertise with the broader community.

We also trained about thirty people to quickly detect new invasive species, including around six dedicated sentinels for the two Cedar Lakes.

The Association remains more committed than ever to the health and preservation of our lakes. Thank you to everyone who contributes, whether directly or indirectly, to the advancement of these essential projects. To contact us: lacsdescedres@gmail.com

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.

To see a list of decontamination stations, click here:

<https://rpevg.ca/depliant-et-videos/>

Be a water hero!

STATIONS DE LAVAGE ET DÉCONTAMINATION DES EMBARCATIONS
 MRC VALLÉE DE LA GATINEAU
 STATIONS PRIVATIVES : CAJONAGE, OUTRIGER, SUP, SUP POUR ROBERTS
 STATIONS OPÉRÉES PAR LE RPEVG : Amos 667, ch. Principale (Dépenseur Amos), Décharge 174, boul. Décharge (Dépenseur municipal), Lac Quin 226, Ch. Longue
 STATIONS OPÉRÉES PAR LES MUNICIPALITÉS : Municipalité de Bessac 15, rue Principale et 300 ch. de Lac Long, Municipalité de Goyanville 5, ch. Lachapelle (Bureau municipal), Municipalité de Beauceville 112, ch. du Parcours Blanc (Bureau municipal), Ville de Grand-Ruisseau 1, rue de la Polytechnique, Municipalité de Grand-Ruisseau 1110, rd Transcanadien (caserne d'incendie), Municipalité de Lac des Martyrs Rue du Quai Public, Ville de Messines 257, rue des Ombres, Municipalité de Messines 65, rue Principale (en avant du bureau municipal)
 Éviter la propagation des espèces envahissantes! Voir démo.
 Contactez-nous : www.rpevg.ca, www.gatineau.ca, www.messines.ca, www.beauceville.ca, www.grandruisseau.ca
 héros DE L'EAU

News from our lakes and rivers (cont.)

Lac Quinn

Mark Ardis has been appointed president of the Lake Quinn Association. He succeeded Lynn Spraggs. The association thanks Lynn Spraggs for her loyal service and unwavering dedication to the Lake Quinn Association.

Reservoir Baskatong

Ice fishing, a favourite winter sport among outdoor enthusiasts, will be permitted from **December 20 to March 31**. All anglers are asked to take their garbage with them and to avoid leaving ashes on the lake, as this contributes to increased phosphorus pollution.

The municipality of Grand-Remous is not giving up. It plans to submit another proposal to the government for the installation of a boat-washing station at the Baskatong Reservoir in 2026.

Lac Heney

The **Bassin versant Lac Heney Association** is dedicated to protecting and conserving the Lac Heney watershed for the benefit of waterfront



Photo: Louis Grégoire

property owners now and in the future through education, direct action and advocacy. At our summer Annual General Meeting, we announced an important initiative for 2025-26. Our Milfoil Working Group will look at options for responding to the growing presence of Eurasian Milfoil in the watershed Lakes.



Photo: Louis Grégoire

SHARE YOUR NEWS WITH US!

Have you completed projects to protect your lake? Let us know! We'll be happy to share your projects, photos, and stories with all our members.

Your projects, ideas, and experiences can help motivate and inspire other associations to do the same.

You can reach us at: admin@rpevg.ca



Photo: Louis Grégoire

Ottawa Boat Show and Maniwaki Hunting, Fishing & Outdoor Show

The 2026 Ottawa Boat Show will take place from **February 19 to 22** at Ottawa's EY Centre and will celebrate its **50th anniversary**. The RPEVG's first exhibits, presented last year in Ottawa and in Maniwaki, were highly successful, with nearly 8,000 visitors attending the Ottawa show. This year, we hope to surpass that record.

Our goal in participating is to raise public awareness about the importance of protecting the water quality of our lakes and rivers—an issue that enjoys broad support—and to highlight the ecological challenges we are currently facing. The show also allows us to showcase leaders in water protection, such as **OZERO** and **Fyto**, who will, once again, join us in February.

Many enthusiastic volunteers helped animate our booths. In Maniwaki, we were fortunate to collaborate with the **Cité étudiante de la Haute-Gatineau**, which assigned two young student volunteers—a great reminder of how youth



engagement is important for the protection of our most valuable resource. Interested in volunteering at the show? Contact us at chris.ouellet@hotmail.com

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.

A FREE ENTRY AT BOTH SHOWS!

All you need to do is join us for four hours as a volunteer at the Shows, and your admission is free!

Our volunteers are on site to hand out brochures to visitors, answer their questions, and explain the role of the Regroupement in our community, the Vallée-de-la-Gatineau.

After your shift, feel free to explore the show as you like!

