



Photo: Danielle Morrison

Editor's look

The RPEVG team is pleased to present the fourth edition of the RPEVG Newsletter – Summer 2026.

Summer is here at last!

Vacation time has finally arrived — and well deserved. At the cottage, it's the return of neighbourly chats, happy hour drinks, grilled sausages, and long philosophical or political conversations. We can already picture ourselves fishing for trout, walleye, or whitefish, paddling or swimming across the lake, or revving up our motorboats, wake boats, or Jet-Skis while towing a fearless water-skier. Let us dream...

But have you thought about shoreline erosion? Powerful motorboats create large waves that crash onto the shore, destroying the thin strip of shoreline vegetation and sweeping away tiny creatures that have only just been born, clinging to fragile blades of grass.

For them, every wave can be fatal.

In this issue, along with the president's message, we shine a spotlight on the MRC, a radio segment on CHGA, and a look back at our winter activities: the Ottawa Boat Show, the Maniwaki Hunting, Fishing and Outdoor Show, the first Forum on Lakes and Rivers, and of course, News from our lakes and Rivers.

A big thank-you to our web master, Danielle Morrison, whose work is truly outstanding. Thanks to her achievements — including the beautiful video about the RPEVG — we're able to reach more members every day.

Christine Ouellet – Éditeur

Photo : Emmanuel Coddien



Editor's look



Letter from the President



Full Focus on MRC



Boat shows



Forum 2026 on our lakes and waterways



News from our lakes and rivers



Photo: Christine Ouellet

Letter from the President

Dear readers, the RPEVG is having an ambitious year.

We began the year with two boat shows — first in Ottawa with our partners FYTO and OZERO, then in Maniwaki in April — proudly raising our flag with an information booth highlighting the importance of boat decontamination in our fight against invasive species.

Then, on May 29, we held a forum titled *Our Water, Our Wealth*, aimed at educating and mobilizing our municipalities and lake associations in the effort to safeguard our lakes and waterways.

As a non-profit organization serving the community, we continue to seek funding to develop a regional strategy to combat aquatic invasive species. On June 16, I appeared before the MRC Council of Mayors to promote this initiative.

Our lakes and rivers are under threat, and now is the time to take action. We especially encourage young people to get involved. Please contact us, visit our website at www.rpevg.ca, or follow us on Facebook to learn more. In closing, I would like to thank all the dedicated volunteers who made these events possible/

Francis Leblanc – Président



Full focus on MRC Vallée-de-la-Gatineau

The MRC of La Vallée-de-la-Gatineau is the regional authority, and as such, it carries responsibilities across several strategic areas, including land-use planning and management, economic development, environmental stewardship, and property assessment.

The regional economy is supported in part by the forest industry — a historic pillar that continues to play a structuring role. At the same time, the recreation and tourism sector is expanding, driven by the quality and accessibility of a distinctive natural environment, contributing to the economic diversification of the territory.

The MRCVG relies on the expertise of highly skilled and rigorous professional teams across all its services. Within their respective mandates, these teams ensure the delivery of high-quality services to citizens, in line with the orientations and priorities set by the MRC Council, chaired by Warden Chantal Lamarche.

Together, all teams contribute — through a coordinated and integrated approach — to advancing organizational priorities and supporting the coherent, sustainable, and structured development of the territory.

Natasha Desjardins, Coördinator
communications,
MRC Vallée-de-la-Gatineau

Ottawa Boat Show and Maniwaki Hunting & Fishing Exhibition

The RPEVG took part in the Ottawa Boat Show (February 19–22) as well as the Maniwaki Hunting, Fishing and Outdoor Expo (April 10–13). The goal was to take advantage of the large crowds at these events — roughly 11,000 visitors in total — to educate, raise awareness, and inform boaters.

Our aim was to promote the fight against invasive species and to remind everyone of the importance of boat decontamination, which remains our main tool for action.

In Ottawa, we invited to join us two companies active in our region and directly involved in water protection: **Fyto**, whose mission is to slow the spread of Eurasian watermilfoil, and **OZERO Solutions**, which offers modern decontamination systems as well as access-control mechanisms that ensure compliance with municipal regulations.



Photo : Christine Ouellet

***A heartfelt thank-you** to our 24 volunteers who staffed the booths : Peter and Susan Annis, Lise et Barry Ardis, Mark Ardis, Marianne Kenney Beaulne, John Bennett, Yvon Blanchard, Tom Brandt, Vincent Carbonneau, Nicole Desrosiers, Gabriel Guertin, Louis Grégoire, Corey Hoekstra, Francis LeBlanc, Joanne Lefebvre, Pierre Morin, Judy et Gail McConnery, Danielle Morrison, Christine Ouellet, Yves Racine, Gilles Richard, Dorothy St-Marseille, et Manon Vincelette.*

Boat Decontamination on CHGA 97.3 FM Maniwaki

Once again this summer, you can hear a sponsored announcement from the RPEVG on Maniwaki's 97.3 FM. It airs from Wednesday to Sunday, five times a day, from June 10 to September 6 – between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m. on weekdays, and between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on weekends. The message reminds boaters that cleaning their watercraft before launching is essential to controlling and preventing the spread of invasive species. Be sure to tune in to CHGA FM.

2026, The First Forum on Lakes and Waterways

On May 29, we held in Messines the forum on lakes and waterways titled *Our Water, Our Wealth*, attended by roughly seventy participants.

This event brought together experts, municipal representatives, lake associations, environmental organizations, and citizens to launch a regional dialogue around three major themes: the challenges related to protecting our water bodies, the solutions and action priorities, and the development of a coordinated action plan.

Participants benefited from high-quality presentations offered by:

- Cobali and ABV des 7, the two watershed organizations active in our territory, Pierre-Étienne Drolet and Pascal Samson.
- Chrystelle Matte-Richer from CRE Laurentides and the Québec Lakes Coordination Table
- Marie-Ève St-Amand from Aire faunique Communautaire du Baskatong
- Vincent Gagné, founding president of Fyto
- Jean-François Martel, executive director of RAPPEL

The presentations are available on the RPEVG's website and offer an excellent source of information for municipalities and lake associations wishing to deepen their understanding of issues affecting our lakes and waterways.

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



Photo : Christine Ouellet

BECOME A MEMBER OR MAKE A DONATION!

Would you like to become a member of the **RPEVG** or make a donation? It's easy!

Simply open your camera app and point it at the QR code. When the link appears, tap it to access the page.

Or click one of these links:

- Become a member: <https://rpevg.ca/devenir-membre/>
- Make a donation: <https://rpevg.ca/don-participatif/>



News from Our Lakes & Rivers

The Mont Morissette trails remain open, but the observation tower remains closed for safety reasons.

<https://associationblueseas.org/infolettre/?lang=f>

Lake Heney

To help combat the spread of aquatic invasive species, Lake Heney is encouraging boaters to reduce their speed on the water. Navigating in shallow areas (less than 5 m) acts like an underwater mixer: the propeller stirs up bottom sediments, releasing phosphorus and nitrogen that have accumulated over decades. Once resuspended and exposed to sunlight, these nutrients fuel the growth of aquatic plants and algae, which invade the lake and reduce water clarity.

Boat speed amplifies this resuspension effect: accelerating, turning, and navigating in less than 3 m of water increase bottom erosion and disturb fish habitat and aquatic vegetation. More information:

<https://bvlacheney.ca/fr/2026/06/10/infolettre-des-membres-printemps-2026/>

Lake Quinn

This summer, Lake Quinn will celebrate its fiftieth anniversary. Several community activities — including dinners and dances filled with laughter and fun — are planned throughout the season.



Photo : Francis LeBlanc

Lake Blue Sea

This summer at Lake Blue Sea, the municipality is reminding boaters that mandatory boat washing is essential to protect water quality. The yellow buoys installed on the lake mark sensitive zones where speed must be reduced and navigation carried out with caution to limit the spread of Eurasian watermilfoil. They help protect the shoreline, swimmers, and natural habitats; thank you to all boaters for respecting them to ensure the lake's safety and health.

For everyone's safety on the lakes, we also emphasize the importance of navigating at reduced speed near the shore, respecting the yellow buoys, and keeping a safe distance from swimmers and non-motorized watercraft. Careful boating helps protect the lake and ensures an enjoyable summer for the whole community.

The Vallée-de-la-Gatineau Regional County Municipality (RCM), it is mandatory to clean motorized and non-motorized watercraft when moving from one body of water to another. Please consult the list of boat washing and decontamination stations in the RCM.

You can find the list of decontamination stations here:

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

Be a water hero!

STATIONS DE LAVAGE ET DÉCONTAMINATION DES EMBARCATIONS
VALLEÉ-DE-LA-GATINEAU

STATIONS OPÉRÉES PAR LE RPEVG

- Arsenal 687, ch. Principale (Dépenseur Arsenal)
- Décharge 174, boul. Décharge (Dépenseur municipal)

STATIONS DU RPEVG OPÉRÉES PAR LES ASSOCIATIONS DE LAC

- Lac Quinn 256, Ch. Longue

STATIONS OPÉRÉES PAR LES MUNICIPALITÉS

- Municipalité de Blue Sea 55, rue Principale et 300 ch. de Lac Long
- Municipalité de Deseronto 8, ch. Lachapelle (Dépenseur municipal)
- Municipalité de Pontiac 618, ch. Du Parcours Blanc (Dépenseur municipal)
- Ville de Granby 3, rue de la Polytechnique
- Municipalité de Grand-Rivier 1555, rue Transcanadienne (carré d'Innovation)
- Municipalité de Lac-du-Moine Rue du Quai Public
- Ville de Massonville 287, rue des Oléans
- Municipalité de Massonville 65, rue Principale (au nord de bureau municipal)

Éviter la propagation des espèces envahissantes! Voir démo.

héros de l'eau
C'est ensemble qu'on peut protéger l'eau!
www.herosdeleau.ca
#herosdeleau

News from Our Lakes & Rivers (cont.)

Kazabazua

The Municipality of Kazabazua is planning to install a new boat washing station in the village, which will be available for your use soon.

The municipality of Alleyn & Cawood (Danford Lake) in the Pontiac MRC celebrates 150 years of history, community, and pride this year!

Throughout the year — and especially in June — a major festive weekend will bring the entire community together around a variety of activities and shared moments. From winter fun to summer festivals and community gatherings, the event will highlight cultural, recreational, historical, and family-friendly activities. Many of them will be free or offered at low cost so everyone can take part. Contact: admin@alleyn-cawood.ca

Lake Pemichangan

The Friends of Lake Pemichangan have published a study, conducted in collaboration with RAPPEL, on trout spawning grounds in Lake Pemichangan. We are pleased to announce that they are in good condition!

However, they require ongoing monitoring to prevent the spread of milfoil and, even worse, spiny water flea. For this reason, we continue to

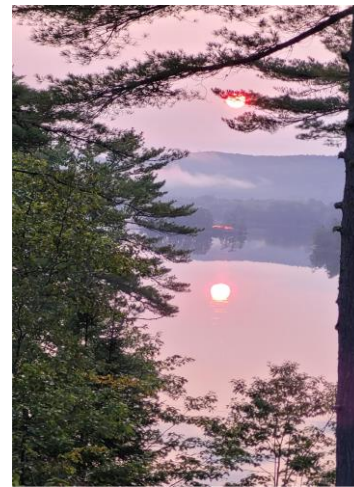


Photo : Christine Ouellet

emphasize the importance of mandatory boat washing on our lake.

Reservoir Baskatong

The municipality of Grand-Remous is still awaiting a response to its grant application submitted to the Ministry of the Environment for the installation of a boat-cleaning station. The Baskatong Reservoir Community Wildlife Area (AFC), in collaboration with the Ministry of the Environment, the Fight Against Climate Change, Wildlife and Parks (MELCCFP), is continuing this year its monitoring of spiny water flea.

Lake Cayamant

The municipality of Cayamant has installed a new boat-decontamination station from OZERO Solution (at the same location as the previous one) at 6 Lachapelle Road. This year, the service is free for everyone, but in 2027 a payment terminal will be added when the new regulation comes into effect.

SHARE YOUR NEWS WITH US!

Have you completed projects to help protect your lake? We'd love to hear about them! We would be happy to share your projects, photos, and stories with all our members.

Your projects, ideas, and experiences can help inspire and encourage other lake associations to take similar action.

You can reach us at: admin@rpevg.ca



Photo: Danielle Morrison

News from Our Lakes & Rivers (cont.)

Lake Métayer

The Lake Métayer Association (ALMA) has joined the RPEVG and is collaborating in the preservation of the water bodies we all care deeply about. On our small 2.5-kilometre lake, we can fully enjoy its natural beauty and benefits, as it is not yet affected by invasive species. In this context, our association promotes responsible practices among Lake Métayer vacationers.

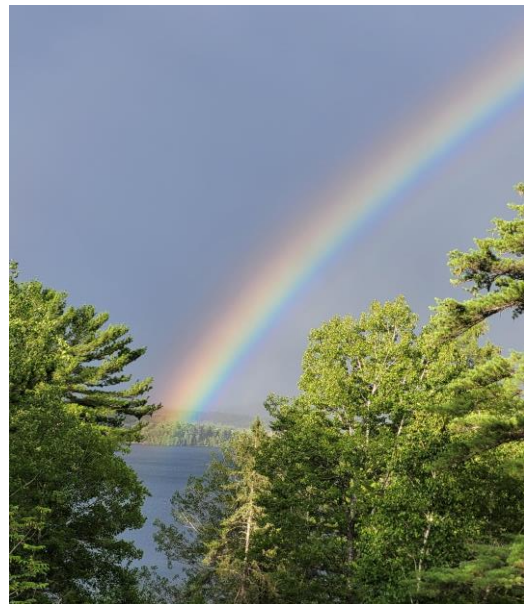
Informing and raising awareness are therefore our main priorities, as many vacationers unfortunately underestimate the impact of their actions. In other words, “polluting for fun” remains, sadly, a habit for some.

The good news is that many of us are committed to interacting responsibly with the nature around us. Let’s keep hope alive!

Cedar Lakes

On June 5, 2026, Ronald Cross, mayor of the Municipality of Messines, and Manon Vincelette, president of the Association for the Protection of the Cedar Lakes (APLC), announced a series of new prevention and control measures aimed at protecting the municipality’s lakes and strengthening efforts against aquatic invasive exotic species (AIEE).

Building on the achievements of 2025, Mayor Cross announced the installation of new mechanized gates at the boat launches of Small and Big Cedar Lake during the summer of 2026.



We also highlighted the launch of the brand-new website www.NaviguerMessines.ca, created by the APLC in collaboration with the Municipality. This site brings together all the information needed to comply with regulations on boat decontamination and on preventing the spread of aquatic invasive exotic species (EAEE).

The event concluded with a demonstration of how the decontamination station works, presented by Maxime Guay, technology director at OZERO Solutions, who took the opportunity to reiterate the importance of boat decontamination in efforts to prevent the spread of AIEE.

More information: www.aplcedres.ca

