



Working Group for an Integrated Water Management Plan for Val-Des-Monts Lakes and Watersheds Project – March 2012

The management of the water catchment basins of the Blanche River takes into account the various uses and factors of water (environmental, social, political, economic, and cultural). To this end, the Federation of Lakes of Val-des-Monts (FLVDM) has partnered with the Agence Bassin Versant des 7 (ABV des 7) to develop a watershed management plan for the Blanche River that affects the 80 lakes and waterways within the Municipality of Val-des-Monts.

The Integrated Water Management Plan for Val-des-Monts Lakes and Watersheds (ILMPVDM) is a lake characterisation study that will provide a “snap shot” of our lakes’ water basins in order to prepare a comprehensive guidance plan that will identify water quality problems, and includes an action plan to implement corrective and preventive measures. The Project will also provide an opportunity for other like-minded stakeholders to collaborate towards improving the overall water quality for our lakes.

The Project will be carried out in three phases. Phase I will focus on the lake characterisation studies, including diagnoses of the watersheds, and the drafting of the guidance plan. Phase II will centre on implementing the recommendations arising from the guidance plan, followed by monitoring and evaluating the Project (Phase III).

The proposed methodology will be the same that was developed by COBALI (Lièvre River Watershed Committee), the organisation that prepared the watershed Guidance Plans for Rhéaume, Bataille and Louise (Sucker) Lakes. These reports have been posted on the Association’s web site and can be found at psll.ca/e/002/~002_index.htm#studies.

Why develop an integrated water management plan?

- It avoids fragmented sector-based management of water usage.
- A guidance plan is the best method to monitor the multiple dimensions and complexities of water use.
- Effectively manages water and eco-systems through increased citizen participation.
- Recognises that every action, intervention, project and policy have repercussions for susceptible water and aquatic eco-systems.

Water-related recreational tourism is the main economic driver of Val-des-Monts. If an action plan – complete with short-term, medium-term and long-term objectives – is not developed, water quality could rapidly deteriorate leading to a reduction in tourism, fewer businesses within Val-des-Monts, the devaluation of waterfront properties, and shrinking tax revenues for the Municipality!

Let us work together to ensure that our children inherit ecologically sustainable lakes and waterways.

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