



## **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 Blanche River is an ensemble of coordinated decisions and actions – collectively and privately – which take into account the various uses and factors of water (environmental, social, political, economic, 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 water shed 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 Water Sheds**

(LMPVDM) is a lake characterisation study that will provide a current “snap shot” of our lakes’ water basins in order to prepare a comprehensive guidance plan that will clearly identify water quality problems, including an action plan to implement corrective and preventive measures. The Project will also provide an opportunity for other like-minded stakeholders to participate and 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 water sheds, 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, 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.

### **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.

### **Project Phases (2012 to 2017)**

The FLVDM will work in collaboration with lake associations and affiliated stakeholders – Municipality of Val-des-Monts, MRC des Collines, Outaouais Regional Conference of Elected Officials (CRÉO), des Draveurs School Board, hunt and fish clubs, farmers, forestry companies, local businesses and cottagers – to develop an integrated water management plan.

- ❑ Identify funding sources:
  - The projected budget is \$124,900, allocated over four years.
  - A \$50,000 funding proposal was submitted to the Municipality of Val-des-Monts in December 2011.
  - A meeting with Municipal Council was held on February 28, 2012, to present the details of the Project and the funding proposal. Municipal Council rejected the funding proposal in July 2012.
- ❑ Develop the Characterisation Plan (Terrestrial Component):
  - Collect shoreline descriptive data and photos for each lake.
  - Confirm physical chemistry of the lakes (Eutrophication state).
  - Catalogue aquatic plants.
  - Register beaver habitats (risk factors).
  - Record wetland characteristics.
  - Catalogue flora and fauna (including endangered status).
  - Create a multi-purpose, indexed database that cross-references all of the data collected.
- ❑ Develop the Characterisation Plan (Theoretical Component):
  - Compile and analyse the data collected (including previous studies).
  - Map the various characteristics (geological, surface deposits, eco-forestry, land uses, shorelines, wetlands, etc.).
  - Identify problems.
- ❑ Draft the Water Guidance Plan:
  - Implement a solid action plan for improving or maintaining water quality.
  - Develop a concerted planning system for the watersheds and lakes.
- ❑ Evaluation of the project.

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 fewer shoreline property owners and cottagers. The result: 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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 Working Group for LMPVDM

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