



Update on the Integrated Lake Water Management Project – March 2013

Within the framework of the *Integrated Lake Water Management Project* (ILWMP), twelve lakes were surveyed during the 2012 summer. The successful analysis and subsequent categorisation of these lakes was completed by Mélanie Renaud (FLVDM Coordinator), Marion Loubière (an intern from France), and a group of volunteer students. The Project would not have been possible without the efforts of the Federation of Lakes of Val-des-Monts, the ILWMP Working Group and the support of the Municipality of Val-des-Monts. The Project was also made possible with assistance from the Agency of 7 Watersheds (ABV 7) which provided the services of the French intern from May to August 2012.

During May to August 2012, eleven lakes – situated northwest of the catch basin – were inventoried: Achigan, Bois Franc, Bran de Scie, Champeau, Clair, Écluse, Galipeau, Huot, Marbre, Newcombe, and Petit Huot. One lake – Brassard – was inventoried east of the watershed.

Each lake study consisted of:

- Shoreline analysis and categorisation in accordance with the guidelines developed by the Quebec Ministry of Sustainable development, Environment, Fauna and Parks (MDDEP) and the Laurentian Regional Council of Environment.
- Inventory of the aquatic plant beds.
- Inventory of beaver presence and habitats.
- Inventory of the wildlife and flora.
- Analysis and categorisation of all the tributaries and outlets (i.e. streams entering and exiting the lakes).
- Inspection and categorisation of all the road culverts.
- Water transparency and the depth of the lake basin.

Water sampling for physico-chemical parameter testing was not conducted due to the cost of the laboratory tests, lack of equipment, and the current funding shortfall for the Project. However, Val-des-Monts' Department of Public Works has agreed to purchase the much needed equipment (geomantic software, high-end digital camera and hand-held GPS unit) which will subsequently be on loan to the Working Group. Water Guidance Plans for each lake have been completed and the mapping of the lakes is underway.

The Working Group also produced an instructional video on total phosphorus and water transparency sampling techniques. The video provides technical assistance for lake associations and their volunteers who collect water samples and perform water transparency readings. The video also provides answers to many questions on how to properly gather water samples from a lake. The video will be available on the Federation's web site www.federationdeslacs.ca/home.htm and its Facebook page (www.youtube.com/watch?v=nKn6aLjMirQ). It will also be sent to lake associations within Val-des-Monts.

Next Steps

- Revise the current and future budgets.
- Identify research funding and external partnerships.
- Hire a new intern for 2013.
- Finalise the water management plans and mapping of the lakes.
- Organise a meeting with the lake associations to submit the reports.
- Determine which lakes will be studied in 2013 and develop partnerships to access the lakes.
- Draft a questionnaire to collect environmental data which would be sent to waterfront property owners.

This is the first small step towards preserving our waterways and sensitising the public in a collaborative effort to improve and protect our environment. Let us continue to work together to ensure that our children inherit ecologically sustainable lakes and waterways.

France Joncas, Association Representative
Working Group for ILMPVDM