



Association pour la Protection du Lac Massawippi inc.  
Lake Massawippi Water Protection Association inc.

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## **Eau potable - Cynobactéries ASSEMBLÉE PUBLIQUE Sathurday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> 2006**

### **A) Mot de bienvenue**

09H00 - 09H15 : Ouverture de l'assemblée par Denis Bachand, animateur et Michel Clairoux, président de l'Association pour la protection du lac Massawippi

### **B) « J'ai pour toi un lac »**

09H15 – 09h30 : Extraits choisis de ce film

### **C) Informations données par les experts**

09H30 – 09H40 : Santé Publique du Québec : Louise Galarneau, md  
09H40 – 09H50 : MAPAQ : Roberto Toffoli, agronome  
09H50 – 10H00: UPA: Noël Landry, agronome  
10H00 – 10H10: COGESAF: Stéphanie Martel, d.g.  
10H10 – 10H20: RAPPEL: André Beauregard, président  
10H20 – 10H30 : MDDEP : Émile Griéco, directeur régional  
10H30 – 10H40 : Conservation Baie Missisquoi : Nathalie Fortin, présidente  
10H40 – 10h45 : Parc Régional Massawippi, Pierre Levac, président  
10H45 – 11H30 : Période de questions (45 minutes)

### **D) Proposition de stratégie d'intervention de l'association**

11H30 – 12h00 : Validation et réaction de l'assemblée

## THE EXPERTS

*Louise Galarneau, specialist in Community Health, Direction de la santé publique*

### **Abstract**

Mrs. Galarneau comes to give a report on the role of the direction of the public health in the management of a cyanobacteria crisis. She will also speak to us on how the population should prepare to meet another blue algae infestation.

### **Biography**

Mrs. Galarneau occupied the position of medical officer in environmental health at the "Direction de la Santé Publique" (DSP) in Outaouais between 1998 and 1999. Since this time, she occupied the same position within the DSP in Estrie.

*Roberto Toffoli, agriculture environment water management advisor, MAPAQ*

### **Abstract**

Roberto Toffoli will present the Ministry's services in Estrie and its involvement in the preservation of water quality in the agricultural environment. The Ministry's goal is to answer questions and inform the population on agriculture problematic with cyanobacterias.

### **Biography**

Roberto Toffoli is an agronomist, employed by the Quebec Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Estrie Region, since 1988, where he presently holds the position of agriculture environment water management advisor. He advises enterprises to help them adopt farming practices aiming to reduce diffused pollution. He also collaborates with all watershed basin organizations in establishing projects in Estrie. His principals sectors of activity are the soil erosion, the shoreline bank protection of landscaping, the control of the farm animal access to water flows and the agricultural drainage.

*Noël Landry, President, UPA-Estrie*

### **Abstract**

Mr. Noël Landry will have a speech about the decision from the Federation of UPA-Estrie to subscribe to the strategy and the principles proposed by the COGESAF. He will also testify to the desire of UPA-Estrie and its agricultural producers to take an active part within the regional cyanobacteria consultation committees. Finally, Mr. Landry will also indicate how UPA-Estrie and its unions will mobilize towards the realization of projects dealing with sustainable agricultural practices.

### **Biography**

Noel Landry is a Cookshire region dairy farmer and a long time UPA member. He has been President of the UPA-Estrie Federation since 2004.

*Stéphanie Martel, General Manager, COGESAF*

**Abstract**

COGESAF proposes an intervention strategy to limit the proliferation of cyanobacteria which addresses three objectives: Reduce the phosphorus incoming into the watershed basins; reduce the level of phosphorus already present in the waters; monitor, evaluate and control the cyanobacteria and their toxic efflorescence. In order to succeed with these objectives, the strategy relies on 5 principles: an integrated management approach, a watershed basin territorial management, dialogue and conciliation, a participative approach and a sense of responsibility. In order to meet the fixed objectives, COGESAF presently works toward the creation of Cyanobacteria Concert Regional Committees (CRCC) which have the mandate to plan for preventive and curative actions to counter the proliferation of cyanobacteria and to ensure their application. These committees will convene all involved parties (MRC, municipalities, forestry, agriculture, shoreline owners, recreation /tourism sector and others) and work in collaboration with the watershed basin consultation group which will have a coordination and support role.

**Biography**

Stephanie Martel holds a political science bachelor degree and masters in Environmental studies from the University of Sherbrooke. She has been employed by the Saint-Francois River Watershed Basin Management Committee (COGESAF) since autumn 2002. She has contributed to the foundation of COGESAF and is presently its General Manager. She works in concert with local authorities and towards partnership development. She participates in various projects with many partners (Technical day, Collaboration agreements, etc.) and sits on several monitoring committees, of which includes the Lake Memphremagog Water Management Quebec/Vermont Leading Committee.

*André Beauregard, President, RAPPEL*

**Abstract**

M. Beauregard will speak about solutions to stop the cyanobacteria blooms. He identifies five (5) principal goals: to inform people of individual and collective **choices**, to stop the arrival of **sediments**, to stop the arrival of **phosphorous** and to stop the **warming** of water and water in ditches.

**Biography**

Mr. Beauregard holds the position of President of the RAPPEL. Also, he has chaired the Association of the Sugar Loaf Pond for 11 years. He took part in the publication of several information documents such as the newspaper of the Association, the waterfront owner guide and other publications in regards to cyanobacteria. Finally, he is responsible for several environmental programs in regards to the following subjects: technique of the lower third (municipal ditch maintenance), motorized watercraft, shore re-naturalization, water quality monitoring program, sediments, coliform and cyanobacteria analysis.

*Nathalie Fortin M.Sc., President, Conservation Baie Missisquoi*

**Biography**

Mrs Fortin is a molecular biologist within the microbiology environmental department of the Biotechnology Research Institute of Canada's National Research Council. This year, she started a project which is aiming the development of molecular tools for the detection of toxin-producing cyanobacteria. She is starting her second year as President of the Baie Missisquoi Conservation group (CBM) and has been involved in activities of CBM for close to four years. CBM is a non profit organization founded in 1989. The group initiates and supports projects aimed at restoring and protecting the Baie Missisquoi's water quality.

**Massawippi Lake Protection Association (MLPA)**  
**(December 2<sup>nd</sup> 2006)**

Intervention Strategy to counter  
**Cyanobacteria in Lake Massawippi**

Whereas the proliferation of cyanobacteria is a **health**, domestic water and recreational activities **hazard**, and a **sign of the lake's premature aging** (eutrophication);

Whereas the main factor for cyanobacteria proliferation is the excess of nutrients, particularly the **phosphorus** supply reaching the lake;

Whereas phosphorus comes mainly from;

- Fertilizers utilized for lawn and golf courses,
- Fertilizers utilized in agriculture (manure, slurry and other),
- Sediments from faulty and sub-standard residential septic installations,
- Sediments from municipal overcharged and/or sub-standard sewage water treatment plants,
- Soil erosion due to clearing and lack of stream, river, and other water area shoreline vegetation.

Whereas there is a consensus among experts on the causes of cyanobacteria, and that we are all **individually and collectively** responsible;

Whereas solutions needed to diminish the lake eutrophication must be applied **within the whole Lake Massawippi watershed basin** situated in the Memphremagog and Coaticook MRCs,

Whereas the **Massawippi Regional Park** is comprised of five municipalities: North Hatley, Canton Hatley, Hatley, Ayer's Cliff and Ste Catherine de Hatley;

Whereas the enforcement of the solutions undergoes a rigorous regulation and a stringent application;

**The Association commits to:**

**Intensify** awareness amongst its members and the watershed basin population;

**Promote** the re-vegetation (plants, shrubs, trees) of shoreline banks and its tributaries with the collaboration of RAPPEL;

**Bring** into force a Monitoring Committee which will collaborate with recognized authorities in regards to environmental regulation respect;

**Promote** a more reasonable and peaceful utilization of the lake, so that movement of sediments, by motorized craft, be reduced to its most possible limit.

**Request** of the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks and of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food that they take their responsibility in order to minimize the supply of harmful nutrients reaching our rivers and other water sources through streaming;

**Request** from the Massawippi Regional Park and all the MRC municipalities listed above that they coordinate their regulations;

**WE REQUEST FROM OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS TO LEGISLATE AS FOLLOWS:**

**Measures to be put forward prior to May 1<sup>st</sup> 2007:**

- 1) **Forbid** all usage of artificial and natural fertilizers, herbicide, lawn and landscaping pesticides in the 5 shoreline municipalities. Compost to be used as an alternative.
- 2) **Launch** a five-yearly program of re-vegetation of lake shoreline protection banks of all Massawippi watershed basin water flows : Meet a minimum of 3 meters of re-vegetation around Massawippi Lake prior to November 1<sup>st</sup> 2008 liable to penalty;
- 3) Have an independent firm **inspect** and verify the good working order of all septic installations of secluded residences within the 5 municipalities around the lake and require corrective measures;
- 4) Get experts **to verify** that the municipal sewage treatment plants in order to meet rejection norms at all times, and that standards be revised to respect the receptor's content (Tomifobia River) in regards to phosphorus quantity allowed ;
- 5) **Extend** the MRC Memphremagog tributary water quality study program to the Coaticook MRC, and most importantly, on the Tomifobia and Niger rivers;
- 6) **Proceed** in hiring environment inspector-agents mandated with ensuring respect of aquatic environment protection.
- 7) **Require** the "inferior one third method" clause to be included in tender stipulations for municipal road ditch maintenance , as recommended by RAPPEL and the Quebec Transportation Department.

***Medium term measures***

- 8) **Revise manure and slurry spreading norms** taking into account geographic realities (land slopes) and Estrie climatic conditions.
- 9) **Review actual regulations concerning all water flows of the watershed basin**, streams, rivers, drainage ditches, and all other water accumulation areas), in order to ensure an adequate bank protection taking slope levels into account, especially in the agricultural environment where the actual 3 meter bank protection band **should be increased** for enhanced protection.
- 10) Pursue the five-yearly shoreline bank re-vegetation program in order to meet a completion status by November 2012 (10m to 15m if the slope is more than 30%).

**Our tax dollars must serve to develop an action plan and pay for regulations and law application control protecting us against the pollution of our water flows.**

**Let us, together, ask with force that our elected officials act.**