

# LE FLEUVE

Newsletter

St. Lawrence Vision 2000

VOLUME 5 ■ NUMBER 1 ■ FEBRUARY 1995

## IN TUNE

From now until the year 2000, St. Lawrence Vision 2000 has made biodiversity one of its priorities. From now on, a greater attention will be given to species, ecosystems, conservation, and the sustainable use of resources.

In a real spirit of partnership, a team of specialists from Environment Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the ministère de l'Environnement et de la Faune du Québec join their efforts, share information and develop a global program which focuses on the preservation and protection of the biodiversity of the St. Lawrence ecosystem. Our great River, we have to protect it!

But many questions come to mind. For example, where shall we begin? How will targeted goals be harmonized? How will the funding be distributed? Thanks to technical committees formed from within the departments involved, all projects of interest are analyzed. Recommendations are then made and the Biodiversity Harmonization Committee "harmonizes" the steps to subsequently follow. It is through a concerted effort that we can come to an understanding and take action.

It is time to put an end to the numerous departmental rowboats that meet on the same river performing similar tasks. From now on, we work together, we carry out our plans together, we use our funding toward a common goal and we proceed in unison. Today, the protection of the biodiversity of the St. Lawrence ecosystem follows these new game rules.

The Biodiversity Harmonization Committee

## Go With the Flow... Follow «Le Fleuve»

**Y**ou have in your hands the first issue of the Newsletter "Le Fleuve" the SLV 2000 way: a rejuvenated and more efficient visual workmanship, the new conspicuous SLV 2000 logo and a content always concerned with the stakes associated with the conservation and the protection of the St. Lawrence ecosystem and the main tributaries.

Le Fleuve sets itself out to be an essential and obvious link, the only established connection with the targeted public of SLV 2000. Its role is to accurately reflect the efforts regarding the conservation, protection, and restoration of the St. Lawrence ecosystem within a perspective of sustainable development, including a special attention to new interventional priorities deserving to be better known and understood.

Le Fleuve is a means of communication, which hopefully, will serve as a privileged tool. Therefore as partners, you will have the opportunity to scrupulously monitor the progress in the different components of intervention, as well as to participate, in a way, in the development of better knowledge and in the various activities generated by SLV 2000.

As you know, the St. Lawrence Vision 2000 Action Plan is a major sustainable development project which can only be accomplished through active community involvement and participation, primarily from riparian communities,

decision-makers as well as the various concerned parties.

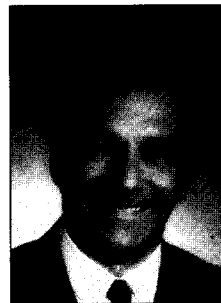
With this in mind, SLV 2000 will have to play a strategic role in communication, by increasing awareness and improving the distribution of information and knowledge, to provide partners, decision-makers, and the community, essential data for the joint planning and decision-making. We are convinced that through collective, mutual, and harmonized efforts, we will

be able to effectively preserve this remarkable natural heritage known to us as the St. Lawrence.

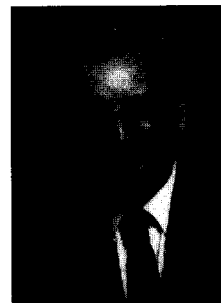
In the oncoming years, we hope to rely on a dynamic network already made up of people concerned with the protection of the St. Lawrence in a perspective of sustainable development. Furthermore, we invite you to become active and even interactive partners by sending in your comments and suggestions, as well as relaying information or brief news to be distributed, or events to be announced. We invite you to go with the flow with Le Fleuve!

The Co-chairpersons of the Agreement:

Jean-Pierre Gauthier and  
Denys Jean



Jean-Pierre Gauthier  
Director General Environment  
Canada, Québec region



Denys Jean  
Assistant Deputy Minister of Policies  
Ministère de l'Environnement  
et de la Faune du Québec

# A Second Wind for the St. Lawrence

**T**he fluvial ecosystem is a vast unit built on the relationship between the different species and their habitat, not to mention the human population that interacts with this ecosystem. This explains the global environmental approach set forward within the framework of SLV 2000. From the onset, this broadened approach paves the way to new areas of intervention (5) that are of a strategic importance to riparian communities as well as the fluvial ecosystem itself.

In the Health Component, for example, we know that certain contaminants found in the environment can have an effect on human health. SLV 2000 will, therefore, try to gain a better understanding of the relationships between the St. Lawrence and the health of the riparian populations to consequently protect and promote their well-being.

More than 60% of the population of Québec lives on the St. Lawrence riverside. Half of these draw from it their drinking water. This explains the importance of acquiring reliable data on the composition, the functioning, and the vulnerability of the St. Lawrence ecosystem. This additional information will then be provided to organizations and to the general public so as to promote enlightened decisions. This is precisely the role the Decision-Making Assistance Component wants play in the SLV 2000.

It is through that same spirit of partnership that SLV 2000 intends to develop along with the general public, the Community Involvement Component. Starting from the notion that active and increased participation of regional and local populations is essential in guaranteeing the conservation and the development of resources of the St. Lawrence, SLV 2000 aims to encourage this participation in the definition and follow-up of interventions considered as regional priorities, and to support, both technically and financially, the creation of community-based projects. Some thirty environmental projects have already received support.

On the other hand, it has been shown that pollution emanating from high density

agricultural areas adversely affect the quality of the St. Lawrence ecosystem. The SLV 2000 Agricultural Component therefore aims to modify some agricultural practices and to significantly reduce pollution of agricultural origin so as to regain possible uses of affected waterways.

Finally, the Biodiversity Component wants to implement in the St. Lawrence and some of its tributaries, the principal recommendations on biological diversity adopted by the United Nations Convention. A special attention will be given to threatened or vulnerable species, to low or declining populations, and to their habitats.

## A More Global Approach by Way of the Tributaries

The contribution of tributaries to the pollution of the St. Lawrence as well as their importance in the preservation of the biological diversity of the fluvial ecosystem are well known. Thus, throughout SLV 2000's mandate, the water quality of some twenty tributaries will be subjected to a continuous supervision. Furthermore, as a priority, SLV 2000 plans to take action on seven tributaries of strategic importance for the St. Lawrence. These are the Assomption, Boyer, Chaudière, Richelieu, Saguenay, Saint-Maurice and Yamaska rivers.

In order to determine which tributaries to prioritize, the members of SLV 2000 have taken into account several factors, including the relative impact of the river on the St. Lawrence's environmental problem, the current knowledge and available data on the condition of resources and the habitat, the ability to obtain, before the end of the agreement, measurable improvement in the identified problems, a good representation of problems commonly encountered within the province of Québec, and a good geographical distribution.

Moreover, throughout the St. Lawrence Vision 2000 mandate, we shall supervise the condition of the St. Lawrence and 24 of its tributaries.

## READINGS

### Action Plan for the Restoration of the Horned Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*) in Québec

Shaffer, F., P. Laporte and M. Robert. 1994. Action Plan for the Restoration of the Horned Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*) in Québec. Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada, 40 p.

The Horned Grebe is an aquatic bird whose present distribution is limited to the Îles-de-la-Madelaine. The Îles-de-la-Madelaine constitute, in fact, this species' only nidification site in eastern North America. Québec's grebe population probably comprises between 10 and 20 couples.

The Action Plan for the restoration of Horned Grebe suggests a series of actions that especially seeks to develop better knowledge of the biology of the Horned Grebe population in the Îles-de-la-Madelaine and to insure the protection of the habitats associated with this species.

In addition to the proposed actions, the document assesses the available information on this species: its biology, its habitats, its geographical distribution, its existing statuses, the condition of its population and susceptible factors limiting its growth.

### Qualité des eaux du Saguenay - Lac Saint-Jean 1979-1992

Hébert, S. 1995. Qualité des eaux du Saguenay - Lac Saint-Jean, 1979-1992. Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Faune du Québec, Direction des écosystèmes aquatiques. 58 p. + annexes.

The Aquatic Ecosystem Branch of the ministère de l'Environnement et de la Faune du Québec is about to publish a document that, based on physico-chemical data collected between 1979 and 1992, gives a spatio-temporal representation of the water quality of the Saguenay River and the main tributaries of Lac Saint-Jean.

On the clean-up plan, the study reveals a 15 fold increase in domestic wastewaters treatment in 1992, as compared to the situation that prevailed in 1979. It also reveals that interventions aiming at the reduction of industrial discharge, particularly those originating from the pulp and paper and aluminum industries, have permitted substantial progress during those 13 years.

# A New Agreement: To Move Forward!

**T**he first Canada-Québec Agreement for the conservation, protection, clean-up and restoration of the St. Lawrence, from which spawned the St. Lawrence Action Plan (SLAP), has had positive repercussions. Opinions are unanimous! Whether it be the conservation of 5,000 hectares of wildlife habitats or the 74% reduction in toxic effluent discharged by 50 priority industrial establishments, significant and tangible results are observed.

Onwards and upwards with the new Action Plan, since the official signing of the Canada-Québec Agreement, last April 18, St. Lawrence Vision 2000

has taken specific action. From then on, all conditions are pooled so as to continue the Action Plan phase I. By signing this agreement, ending March 31, 1998, Ottawa and Québec plan to continue the SLAP efforts in the protection matters by the reduction measures of liquid toxic emissions. Additionally, the two levels of government want, with this agreement, to increase conservation, as well as the prevention efforts for the fluvial ecosystem, by favoring a global approach in environment management and by insuring an active participation of the community and the full range of partners involved.

## Significant Economic Repercussions

Besides its environmental benefits, the St. Lawrence Vision 2000 Agreement will also have at the economic level, important repercussions.

With an overall budget envelope of 191 million dollars, compared to 173 million for the SLAP, there is no doubt that SLV 2000 will have economic repercussions at least equivalent to that of the SLAP. "It is necessary to consider the scope of the activities that are proposed in this new plan," mentions Albin Tremblay, secretary of the Management Committee

Agreement for Canada. "It is also worth noting the addition of 56 new industries in the Protection Component as well as major interventions that will be undertaken in the new sectors covered by the agreement, more especially in the areas of health, agriculture and the restoration of wetland."

According to an independent study on economic repercussions, the SLAP has generated indirect and direct benefits in the order of 1 billion dollars, creating about 11,000 jobs in five years. It should also be noted that the 50 high priority industrial establishments themselves invested some 750 million dollars.

## Priority Industries : A Jump from 50 to 106

**S**t. Lawrence Vision 2000 continues the St. Lawrence Action Plan's efforts to reduce discharges of toxic industrial effluent into the St. Lawrence and its tributaries. Furthermore, SLV 2000 will take on an additional 56 for a grand total of 106 industrial establishments, more than doubling the initial number of 50. This objective clearly reflects the determination of the two levels of government to reduce toxic discharges into the St. Lawrence.

Three types of industries are targeted: to industries discharging their wastewater without adequate treatment, we demand a 90% reduction in liquid toxic effluent; to industries

already having established treatment technologies, we call for an optimal reduction of liquid toxic effluent discharges; and to regulated industries, we ask them to assess the impact of toxic effluent discharges and consequently establish the appropriate measures to follow in order to optimally reduce their effect on the natural environment.

In addition, SLV 2000 will provide funding aimed at developing approximately sixty technological projects designed specifically to eliminate toxic substances.

# A Renewed Structure, a New Dynamics

**T**he new Canada-Québec Agreement that presides over the implementation of St. Lawrence Vision 2000, benefits from an essentially renewed and slightly more substantial structure than its predecessor. This structure is essentially justified by a slight broadening of the action plan, which now integrates several new components.

The composition of the Agreement's Management Committee rests on a spirit of partnership between the two levels of government. The two co-chairpersons of the Agreement are Jean-Pierre Gauthier, Director General for Environment Canada, Québec region, and Denys Jean, Assistant Deputy Minister of Policies at the ministère de l'Environnement et de la Faune du Québec.

Two other Québec government representatives are members of the Management Committee, George Arsenault, Assistant Deputy Minister of Wildlife, and Louis-Gilles Cloutier, acting Director of public health. For the federal government, Bernard Leblanc, Director General of Fisheries & Habitat Management of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Michel Lamontagne, Director of the Environment Conservation Branch of Environment

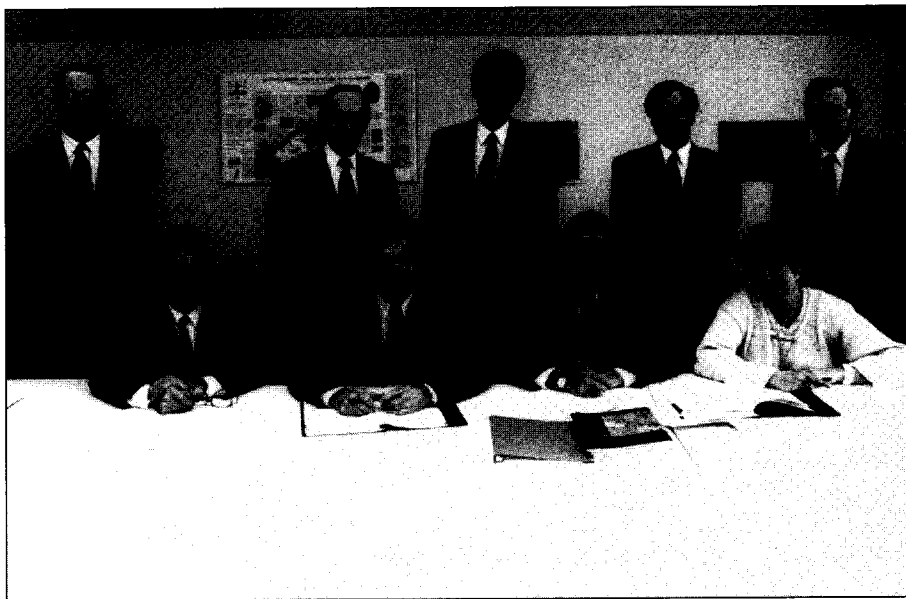
Canada, Québec region, and Peter Toft, of Health Canada, are mandated to manage the Agreement.

Finally, two representatives acting as secretaries of the Agreement complete the Management Committee. These are Albin Tremblay, Director of Corporate Affairs Branch of Environment Canada, and Ronaldo Raviolatti, of the ministère de l'Environnement et de la Faune du Québec, acting as coordinator of the Québec Agreement.

## Harmonization: A Notch Higher

The first responsibility of the Management Committee is to specifically insure the harmonization between the two levels of government concerning the completion of St. Lawrence Vision 2000. Combining will to action, seven harmonization committees have been created: Agriculture, Decision-Making Assistance, Biodiversity, Communications, Community Involvement, Protection, and Health.

Continued page 5 ►



The Agreement Management Committee. From the top, left to right:

Albin Tremblay, Ronaldo Raviolatti, Jean Bouvra, George Arsenault, Peter Toft.

From the bottom, left to right: Michel Lamontagne, Jean-Pierre Gauthier, Denys Jean, Michèle Bélanger

## MILIEUS

SLV 2000 recognizes the important role that the community plays in the protection of the environment. The MILIEUS chronicle will attempt to highlight different non-profit organizations actively involved in the preservation of their environments.

### Conservation Baie Missisquoi

In February 1989, the Haut-Richelieu region has witnessed the birth of the non-profit organization called Conservation Baie Missisquoi. A dredging project in one Missisquoi Bay's tributary, the rivière aux Brochets, is the reason for the group's existence. In adamant disagreement with the project, regional representatives produced a memoir showing that the dredging of the river was not as beneficial as was led to believe, and that it presented too many important risks for wildlife habitats and the soil stability.

Since this first mission, at one time or another, many people concerned by environmental issues have joined the Conservation Baie Missisquoi. Actively involved in its community, this group encourages people and private or public organizations to participate in community-based projects aimed at the protection and conservation of the environment, the improvement and maintenance of the quality of life.

This organization oversees various projects. From the manufacturing of compost boxes or grocery bags made of cloth, to the planning of awareness sessions, the group's philosophy is clear: to incite people to adopt daily attitudes that are harmonious with their environment. A similar commitment is given to the protection of natural habitats.

At the heart of the group's recent activities, two large-scale projects are attracting a lot of attention. One is the preservation of eight wetlands in the region of Missisquoi Bay and the other, is the protection and management of one of rivière aux Brochets secondary basin. These two projects have found support in various branches and organizations: Canadian Wildlife Service, ministère de l'Environnement et de la Faune, Wildlife Habitat Canada, ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation and la Fondation de la faune. Some of them participate in these projects as real partners, and assist in its evolution.

Photographie: Vissons

"The emphasis placed on harmonization reflects its importance in the SLV 2000's mandate. The harmonization has to be accentuated and changed from a simple exchange of information to a systematic effort to coordinate projects," points out Albin Tremblay. "However, given the new dynamics generated by the sharing of projects, we are aware that the creation of new committees represents an important challenge. It is always hard in the beginning, but as we learn to work together, open-mindedness and harmony follow. Since the creation of the committees, the dynamics have taken form and the chemistry between partners has slowly been developing."

Ronaldo Raviolatti notes that the arrival of several new partners not only brings a new dynamics, but a new beneficial awareness as well, especially in sectors of health, agriculture and even protection of threatened species. It is an area of strategic intervention for SLV 2000.

## An Emphasis on Prevention... And Participation

The current Action Plan centers its activities on two main themes: the conservation of ecosystems and the prevention. Prevention is a SLV 2000 priority. "Our society has to learn to anticipate and prevent problems rather than pay to have them fixed, after all prevention is still the best cure. It is therefore, more than ever, necessary to rely on public awareness," claims Ronaldo Raviolatti. "This justifies the importance for the Agreement directors to consult and encourage active participation from the riparian communities and local organizations in carrying out community-based projects and thereby, informing them of their responsibilities regarding the implementation of appropriate measures to insure the conservation and the development of resources in the St. Lawrence."

## List of Each Component Co-chairpersons

COMPONENT	CO-CHAIRPERSONS
PROTECTION	Jean Cinq-Mars, Environment Canada Kathleen Carrière, ministère de l'Environnement et de la Faune du Québec
DECISION-MAKING ASSISTANCE	Lynn Cleary, Environment Canada Denyse Gouin, ministère de l'Environnement et de la Faune du Québec
BIODIVERSITY	Michel Lamontagne, Environment Canada Richard Châtelain, ministère de l'Environnement et de la Faune du Québec
HEALT	Andy Gilman, Health Canada Louis-Gilles Cloutier, ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT	Albin Tremblay, Environment Canada Guy Boucher, ministère de l'Environnement et de la Faune du Québec
COMMUNICATIONS	Clément Dugas, Environment Canada Luc Poirier, ministère de l'Environnement et de la Faune du Québec
AGRICULTURE	Esther Côté, Agriculture & Agro-Food Canada Guy Demers, ministère de l'Environnement et de la Faune du Québec

## CONTACTS

### Readings

To obtain the Action Plan for the restoration of the Horned Grebe, write to the following address:

Environment Canada  
Canadian Wildlife Service  
1141, route de l'Église  
C.P. 10 100, 9<sup>e</sup> étage  
Sainte-Foy (Québec)  
G1V 4H5  
Tel.: (418) 648-7225

To obtain the Saguenay water quality report - Lac Saint-Jean 1979-1992, call: 1 800 561-1616

### A New Agreement: To Move Forward!

Albin Tremblay  
Environment Canada  
(418) 648-4619  
Ronaldo Raviolatti  
MEF  
(418) 643-7860

### To Conserve Biodiversity is to Keep the Balance in the Ecosystems (File)

Richard Châtelain  
MEF  
(418) 644-2823  
Michel Lamontagne  
Environnement Canada  
(418) 648-7808

### Missisquoi Bay: To Protect a Bay of Exceptional Habitats (File)

Francine Hone  
CWS  
(418) 648-4554  
Rosaire Jean  
MEF  
(418) 646-6691  
France Pelletier  
Conservation Baie Missisquoi  
(514) 248-0055

# To Conserve Biodiversity is to Keep the Balance in the Ecosystems

**B**iodiversity on Earth has become a major challenge for the world scientific community. Species preservation has become a first-rate issue on the international agenda. "Species and ecosystems of the Earth will soon be seen as an asset worth protecting and managing for the well-being of humanity as a whole." (Brundtland Commission Report, 1987).

## SLV 2000: Priority to Environmental Biological Aspects

The long term objective of the Biodiversity Component of the St. Lawrence Vision 2000 is to preserve and maintain the biological diversity of the St. Lawrence ecosystem. "With the first St. Lawrence Action Plan, we have solved the most urgent pollution problems; with the second plan, biological aspects of the environment will be dealt with further, which is the logical step to follow" points out Richard Châtelain, co-chairperson of Québec's Biodiversity Harmonization Committee. "Thanks to an ecosystem-based approach to environmental management, SLV 2000 targets the conservation of not only the species inhabiting the St. Lawrence and some of its tributaries, but also the conservation and the protection of habitats that provide essential support for their survival," adds Michel Lamontagne, co-chairperson of Canada's Biodiversity Harmonization Committee.

Biodiversity plays a vital role in the balance and stability of ecosystems. It especially favors the settlement of more resistant communities more apt to regenerate rapidly following natural or manmade stresses. It is also necessary to consider that the wildlife represents an immense reservoir of future alternate food resources and that a large number of living species constitute a source sustainable resources which is the cornerstone of many economic activities. Moreover, let us not forget that biodiversity is a valuable source of genetic material, as well as the source of many discoveries in the pharmaceutical and medical worlds.

Ever since the ratification by several countries, including Canada, of the Agreement on biological diversity, during the 1992 Rio de Janeiro's Earth Summit, the sustainable use of resources and the conservation of the biodiversity have become more than ever the focus of interest for resource management directors, for environment pressure groups as well as politicians and the general public. This Agreement centering on the intrinsic value of biological diversity in environment, genetic, social, economic, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational and aesthetic plans, has as goals its conservation, the sustainable use of its resources and the balanced and equitable exchange of advantages derived from the exploitation of the genetic resources.

## Large-scale Goals

"The St. Lawrence's economic and recreational touristic importance, the ecosystem's wealth, and the impacts it sustains are sufficient incentives for Ottawa and Québec to join their expertise and know-how in the research and implementation of satisfactory solutions" points out Mr. Lamontagne. With a budget envelope of close to 30 million dollars, the Biodiversity Component has set its goal on applying, in the St. Lawrence and seven of its tributaries, the principal guidelines stated in the Agreement on diversity.

The people responsible for the Biodiversity Component have set high goals for themselves. They demand, by 1998, the following results: the conservation of 7,000 hectares of priority habitats; the help in the maintenance or recovery of 12 threatened or declining species; the continuation of the St. Lawrence beluga recovery plan; the restoration of the smelt population in the Boyer River; the increase productivity of five disturbed marine habitats; the establishment of a network monitoring the condition of the St. Lawrence; and the implementation of a plan for preserving, restoring and enhancing coastal areas.

For the year 1994-1995, the Harmonization Committee of the Biodiversity Component coordinates the implementation of 77 projects. "Here, in Québec, the implementation of the St. Lawrence Vision 2000 Action Plan has accelerated

work and research already under way in the St. Lawrence and its tributaries. It has allowed the initiation of new priority projects and the targeting of aspects that deserve a particular attention," mentions Mr. Châtelain. "In the matter of habitat conservation, we have every reason to believe that our 1994-1995 objectives will be reached, and perhaps even exceeded."

"The broadening of the SLV 2000 Action Plan to include some tributaries of the St. Lawrence adds a very interesting dimension to the Canada-Québec Agreement" emphasizes Mr. Lamontagne. The role played by tributaries in the St. Lawrence's global environmental problem and the wildlife and plant potential of such environments are significant and well recognized. The Saguenay, for example, contains several sites serving as habitat for a well known marine mammal, the beluga, whose population is considered threatened in the St. Lawrence. The mouth of the Boyer River, with its important spawning ground for Rainbow Smelt, or the Richelieu River, with its remarkable network of bogs, islands and aquatic plant communities are other examples of priority environments.

The implementation of biodiversity conservation projects is crucial, especially when considering the dangerously high number of endangered species and knowing that our ecosystems are subjected to tremendous pressures.

## Missisquoi Bay

# To Protect a Bay of Exceptional Habitats

**T**he Richelieu River is the most important tributary south of the St. Lawrence. It originates from the Champlain Lake and rejoins the St. Lawrence some 120 km further. The southern section of the river, the Haut-Richelieu, and the northern section of the Missisquoi Bay are this river's richest and most diversified wildlife areas. Marshes, bogs and aquatic plant communities shelter waterfowl, fish, reptiles, amphibians, and mammals. Several of Québec's rare wildlife and plant species are seen there: the Indian Wild Rice, the Massachusetts or Bog Fern, the Map Turtle, the Spiny Softshell, the Redfin Pickerel, the Least Bittern, etc.

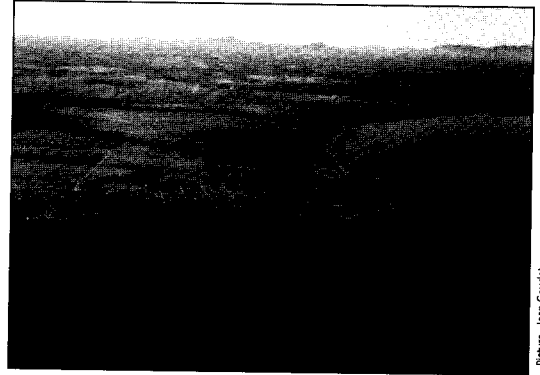
For a long time now, the beauty and ecological value of Missisquoi Bay has interested the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) as well as the ministère de l'Environnement et de la Faune du Québec (MEF). By the end of the 70s, a project for the creation of ecological reserves in this region was initiated. "All are unanimous to say that this region deserves a particular attention, that conservation and protection actions are essential," mentions Serge Labonté from CWS of Environment Canada. "At the CWS," he continues to say, "Francine Hone devoted defender of the bay's conservation projects, has been actively working for several years on the realization of this file."

## The Spark it Needed

"In recognizing the Richelieu as a priority tributary, SLV 2000 has given us interesting human and financial resources to move forward with our projects," mentions Rosaire Jean from the Direction of Conservation and the Ecological Heritage of MEF. "Land acquisition in order to preserve habitats as ecological reserves or the labelling of vulnerable species are endeavors, that in years to come, have a better chance of becoming a reality." Mr Labonté adds that "SLV 2000 gives us the spark needed for our continued work aimed at the conservation of the bay's wildlife habitats."

The Missisquoi Bay arouses not only the interest of the different levels of government, but that of local community as well. In 1989, a group of citizens created the non-profit organization called Conservation Baie Missisquoi. This organization regulates the protection and conservation of the various wetlands around Missisquoi Bay.

For two years now, the Conservation Baie Missisquoi has worked, among others things, on a Private Land Management Program. This type of program constitutes in Québec, an innovative approach. It involves the negotiation of agreements with the real estate owners, so as to have them protect, manage and use their land while taking into account the fauna and flora found there. These agreements, for example, can take



Picture: Jean Gaudet

For a long time now, the beauty and ecological value of Missisquoi Bay has interested the CWS as well as the MEF

the form of servitudes or passage rights. "Since we do not have to purchase and manage the land, a lot of time and money can be saved. The Private Land Management Program is an effective way to preserve land," mentions France Pelletier, president of the Conservation Baie Missisquoi.

## An Efficient Brainstorming Session

During a recent meeting, representatives of the Conservation Baie Missisquoi group, the MEF and the CWS discussed their preoccupations regarding the Missisquoi Bay and elaborated, to the everyone's satisfaction, an action plan. Among other things, the MEF has given a private enterprise the mandate to complete an ecological characterization study of the region as well as its potential for conservation. "With the soon to be completed report," points out Rosaire Jean of the MEF, "We will have an overview of the

environment and consequently plan more efficiently the logical steps to follow. Priority sectors will be targeted with respect to the number of rare species, the observed wildlife and plant diversity and the region's environmental problems."

The CWS has subsidized the conception of field files in order to encourage Conservation Baie Missisquoi's action in the Private Land Management Program. "With these files, we separately examine the owners and properties, establish their profiles and take land inventories," adds Mrs. Pelletier. "Thanks to these files, our message is supported by concrete data making the establishment of owner agreements easier."

SLV 2000 gives a long time simmering project, a second wind. Several parties are offered the possibility to participate in the conservation and preservation of a region of great interest.

# AGENDA

## Americana 95, Pan-American Environmental Trade Show

Environmental ideas and multiple resources Forum, Americana 95 wants to offer to enterprises in the environment sector a first-rate arena for scientific, technical, and commercial exchanges. Americana 95 is a commercial exhibition, a cultural program as well as conferences, industrial tours, and a commercial counter. Americana 95 will take place at the Montréal Convention Centre from March 21 to 24, 1995. This Environmental Trade Show is made possible by l'Association québécoise des techniques de l'environnement (AQTE). Tel.: (514) 270-7110.

## The 4th provincial conference on the Zebra Mussel

The 4th provincial conference on the Zebra Mussel is part of a technical day of l'Association québécoise des techniques de l'environnement (AQTE). This highly technical and scientific one day-conference addresses water-conveyance-system management directors, the scientists, the members of environmental organizations and the students. It will be a good opportunity to update the situation in Québec.

This one day-conference will be held at Montréal's Park Hotel on March 28, 1995. Registration fees, including cocktail and meals, are \$70 for members, \$85 for non-members, and \$45 for students. For further information, contact Mr. Daniel Bertrand at (514) 922-3515.

# IN BRIEF

## Secretaries of the Agreement

The Secretaries of the Agreement are Albin Tremblay, for Canada, and Ronaldo Raviolatti, for Québec.

Since 1985, Mr. Tremblay has been working for Environment Canada. He is closely involved in the development, coordination, and implementation of large-scale policies and environmental programs. Mr. Tremblay now fills the position of acting Director of Corporate Affairs Branch since its reorganization in 1993.

Mr. Raviolatti is a trained engineer and has a master's degree in environment. He has been working for a number of years in the areas concerned with the environment, through which he has worked under La Régie des eaux du Québec, of the Services de protection de l'environnement du Québec and of the ministère de l'Environnement et de la Faune du Québec. Mr. Raviolatti is currently working as Assistant Deputy Minister of Policies in the ministère de l'Environnement et de la Faune du Québec.

# LE FLEUVE

Newsletter  
St. Lawrence Vision 2000

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