

July 10, 2006

## **Gatineau River water testing results for July 6<sup>th</sup> 2006**

Friends of the Gatineau river (FOG) – Amis de la rivière Gatineau (ARG) is a non-profit volunteer organization that is committed to the preservation of the Gatineau River watershed. FOG conducts water quality tests of the Gatineau River as a public service with support from the municipalities of Lapêche, Cantley and Chelsea and clubs and associations that use the river for recreational purposes.

The first of three days of water testing for the 2006 summer season was conducted on July 6<sup>th</sup>. In general terms, the testing indicated that the Gatineau River continues to be high quality recreational water.

In undertaking the tests, FOG respects the standards established by the Québec Ministry of the Environment . An “A” rating – excellent for recreational purposes, is between 0 and 20 coliforms per 100ml, “B” – good is between 20 and 100 coliforms per 100ml, “C” – acceptable is between 100 and 199 coliforms per 100 ml and “D” – not recommended above 200 coliforms per 100ml. Analysis is done by a certified laboratory.

For Lapêche, the Wakefield Covered Bridge Park rated “A”. The Railway Turntable Park rated a “A” and the public dock an “B”. The test of the mouth of the Lapêche River indicated a “C” rating which, although higher than other sites on the Gatineau, is a slight improvement over past years.

In Chelsea, the water quality at the Farm Point Community public dock showed a good “B” rating as did the Cascades Club dock. Water quality at the Burnet Rd. access was a “B” rating. Tests at the Gatineau River Yacht Club indicated a “B” rating. At Tenaga Property Owners’ Beach showed an “A” rating.

In Cantley, the Mary Anne Phillips Park beach showed an excellent “A” rating, as did the outflow near Romaniuk Rd. It is also notable that Blackburn Creek mouth tested at an “A” rating for fecal coliform.

In addition to the E Coli testing FOG has, with the assistance of the Chelsea H2O program, expanded the range of tests being performed to include a series of other factors including water temperature. Average water temperature on July 6<sup>th</sup> in the lower Gatineau was 21.5 Celsius. We have also started testing strategic points for nutrients to create a baseline of data for future comparisons.

For further information: Alain Piché  
827-3750