

Gatineau River Water Testing Results for August 24, 2011: Good results emphasize the need for River protection by local government

Friends of the Gatineau river (FOG) – Ami(e)s 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 La Pêche, Cantley and Chelsea and clubs and associations that use the river for recreational purposes.

FOG volunteers conducted tests on Wednesday, August 24 for the third day of the 2011 season. This series of test results, based on over 70 water samples taken from Farrellton to the Chelsea Dam indicated good or excellent water quality for recreational purposes with relatively low levels of fecal e-coli bacteria. The results emphasize once again that the Gatineau is a high quality recreational resource for our community. Its protection must be a constant priority in all decisions of local government.

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 fecal coliforms per 100ml, “B” – good is between 21 and 100 coliforms per 100ml, “C” – acceptable is between 101 and 199 coliforms per 100 ml and “D” – not recommended above 200 fecal coliforms per 100ml. Analysis is done by MicroB, a Québec government certified laboratory.

For La Pêche, the waters at the Farrellton Bridge rated “A” excellent. On the basis of a few samples, the Wakefield Covered Bridge rated “B”. The test of the mouth of the La Pêche River indicated a “B” rating an improvement over previous months. The Wakefield public dock indicated “B” as did the southern boundary of La Pêche.

In Chelsea, the water quality at the Farm Point Community public dock showed a “B”, or ‘good’ rating. The Cascades Club water front, and the Burnet Rd. access point both tested “B”, ‘good’. There were similar ‘good’ results for the Gatineau River Yacht Club and the Tenaga Property Owners’ Association Beach.

In Cantley, the Mary Anne Phillips Park beach showed a strong “A” or excellent rating, as did the outflow near Romaniuk Rd and tests in the mouth of the Blackburn Creek.

In addition to the E Coli testing FOG, with the assistance of the Chelsea H2O program, conducts a range of tests to include other criteria including water temperature, turbidity, and dissolved oxygen. Average water temperature on August 24 in the lower Gatineau was 22 degrees Celsius.

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Contrôle de la qualité de l'eau pour fins récréatives – Basse Gatineau

Lower Gatineau River Water Quality for Swimming/Recreation

Été - Summer 2011

Normes de qualité au Québec pour fins récréatives Water quality standard for bathing/recreation in Quebec	
Nombre de coliformes fécales / Number of fecal coliform unité (CFU) par 100 ml. Colony forming units(CFU) by 100 ml.	Classe Quality
0 -- 20	A excellent
21 – 100	B bon / good
101 – 199	C acceptable
200 --	D non / not recommandé

Lieux d'analyse/ Test locations	Date	Classe/ Class (Moyenne géométrique/ Geometric mean)
Pont Farrellton Bridge	24-08-2011	A (6.9)
Pont Couvert Wakefield Covered Bridge	24-08-2011	B (23.9)
Rivière La Pêche River	24-08-2011	B (76.5)
Ferme Cohen Farm	24-08-2011	A (19.6)
Quai Farm Point dock	24-08-2011	B (26.6)
Chemin Burnett Road	24-08-2011	B (25.4)
Parc Marianne-Philips Park	24-08-2011	A (15.3)
Ruisseau Blackburn Creek	24-08-2011	A (15)
Ruisseau Romaniuk Creek	24-08-2011	A (18.6)
Club Cascades	24-08-2011	B (22.1)
	25-07-2011	A (8.2)
	28-06-2011	B (42.5)
Gatineau River Yacht Club	24-08-2011	B (21.5)
	25-07-2011	A (3)
	28-06-2011	B (48.33)
Tenaga Property Owners Association Beach	24-08-2011	B (28.2)
	25-07-2011	A (2.7)
	28-06-2011	B (44.22)

Les **Ami(e)s de la rivière Gatineau** (ARG) est une organisation de bénévoles. De concert avec des partenaires communautaire elle vise à conserver, protéger et améliorer la qualité écologique du bassin versant de la rivière Gatineau et cela pour le bénéfice des générations actuelle et future.

The **Friends of the Gatineau River** (FOG) is a volunteer organization which, working with community partners, endeavours to conserve, protect and improve the environmental quality of the Gatineau River watershed for the benefit of current and future generations.