

Gatineau River Water Testing Results for September 6, 2010

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.

The third and final day of water testing for the 2010 summer season was conducted on Labour Day, Sept. 6th. This series of test results, based on over 75 water samples taken from Farrellton to the Farmers Dam indicated that the Gatineau River is "excellent" quality recreational water. Lower temperatures in recent weeks and increased water levels and flow appear to have resulted in an overall decrease in E coli bacteria levels. Clarity was also significantly improved. Despite lower E coli counts the river remains vulnerable to increasing shoreline development and boat traffic.

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 21 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 MicroB, a Québec government certified laboratory.

For La Pêche, the waters at the Farrellton Bridge rated "A" or excellent. On the basis of a few samples, the Wakefield Covered Bridge also rated "A". The test of the mouth of the La Pêche River indicated a "B" rating or "good". The Wakefield public dock also indicated "A".

In Chelsea, the water quality at the Farm Point Community public dock showed a "A", or 'excellent' rating. The Cascades Club water front, and the Burnet Rd. access point both tested "A", excellent, as did the tests at the Gatineau River Yacht Club and the Tenaga Property Owners' Association Beach.

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

We also conducted a test of the Kazabazua River mouth. The Kazabazua River tested "B" or "good" on September 5th.

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, ph, total dissolved solids and dissolved oxygen. Average water temperature on Sept. 6th in the lower Gatineau was **20.9°C**. We also test strategic points for nutrients to create a baseline of data for future year comparisons.

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Ami(e)s de la rivière Gatineau / Friends of the Gatineau River

**Contrôle de la qualité de l'eau pour fins de baignade – Basse Gatineau
Lower Gatineau River Water Quality for Swimming/Recreation
Été - Summer 2010**

Normes de qualité au Québec pour fin de baignade Water quality standard for bathing in Quebec	
Nombre de coliformes fécaux / 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	06-09-10	A (13.21)
Pont Couvert Wakefield Covered Bridge	06-09-10	A (20.78)
Rivière La Pêche River	06-09-10	B (28.87)
Ferme Cohen Farm	06-09-10	A (14.94)
Quai Farm Point dock	06-09-10	A (9.77)
Chemin Burnett Road	06-09-10	A (5.14)
Parc Marianne-Philips Park	06-09-10	A (12.01)
Ruisseau Blackburn Creek	06-09-10	A (7.76)
Ruisseau Romaniuk Creek	06-09-10	A (17.98)
Rivière Kazabazua River	05-09-10	B (28.41))

Les **Amis 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.

Pour plus de renseignements / for more information: Alain Piché 819- 827-3750 / Ronnie Drever 819-459-3037