

Executive Summary – PRO FAUNE Report  
“Plan for the Development of the Aquatic and Creek bank Habitats of the Parent Creek”

The Gauvreau Lake Environmental Protection Association, in collaboration with the Municipality of La Pêche, has been working for several years on the protection and restoration of the water quality of the Lake, and its drainage basin. Notable among the actions taken or supported by the members of the Association are numerous studies of the condition of the aquatic environment.

Desiring to preserve and improve the aquatic habitats and the water resources in the drainage basin, the Association decided to draw up a development plan for the Parent Creek, the principal inflow to the Lake.

This study was completed thanks to financial aid from several partners: la Fondation de la faune du Québec; the Municipality of La Pêche; Mme Stéphanie Vallée. MNA for Gatineau; the Caisse Populaire Desjardins Masham-Luskville, and; private donors and property owners at Gauvreau Lake.

Information already available was combined with data collected on the ground in September 2007, allowing an evaluation of the problems of Parent Creek, and the formulation of recommendations for the development of the potential for fauna, and of water quality. With this information, the Association and its local and governmental partners will be able to compose a plan for intervention and protection of the sensitive habitats for fauna and the creek banks in order to preserve the biodiversity of the principal inflow to Gauvreau Lake, a lake much prized by the vacationers of the region.

In summary, to improve the quality of the Parent Creek ecosystem and to optimize its potential for fauna, it is essential to keep livestock at a distance from the Creek, to establish adequate watering sites, to stabilize the creek bed and banks and to ensure the effectiveness of individual septic systems of residences in the drainage basin in order to reduce the runoff of suspended material, total phosphorus and fecal coliform.

Recommended measures:

- distribution of the study and coordination with the stakeholders
- confinement of livestock and installation of watering sites
- inspection of septic systems of the residences situated in proximity of the Creek
- re-naturalization of the habitats for brook trout downstream from Ch Irwin and on Gibson Creek
- cleanup of the Creek (between Ch Irwin and Ch Gélinas )
- research on the quality of the habitats

Residents and owners of land that borders Parent Creek, agricultural groups and private corporations in the area, as well as the different levels of government will all have important roles to play in the restoration of the Creek. Besides financial contributions and support for the measures to be undertaken, they should analyse their actions and, if applicable, modify their individual and collective behaviour to reduce the negative impact on the water quality of Parent Creek.