

MAJOR CLEAN-UP

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For decades, a portion of the waters of the basin of Rivière La Guerre have naturally flowed into the Rivière Saint-Louis. At the junction of the two rivers, under the Chemin de Planches, doors allow to block this flow during major floods lean of the Rivière Saint-Louis. The clean-up, carried out by the MRC, the ASLSF and the Agri-Environmental Club in 2006 and 2007, has helped reinvigorate this stream by removing debris and especially accumulated sediments that considerably impede the flow (see photo below).



During non-flood periods, the flow to the Rivière Saint-Louis is estimated at a maximum of 0.7 m³/sec. This clean-up has mainly resulted in a significant decrease in pumping from Rivière La Guerre to Lac Saint-François. The purpose of the clean-up was to selectively cut trees that leaned over the river and threatened to create short-term obstructions.



*Are we finally going to clear this river?

This effort helped to remove falling trees, floating branches, and obstructing beaver dams, to repair collapsed culverts and reduce summer pumping by more than half.



Beaver dams create damaging ice jams that hinder the flow of the river and cause substantial expenditures for municipalities. In this regard, and according to the environmental impact study conducted in 2011, from 2007 to 2012, the Municipality of Saint-Anicet invested nearly \$ 10,000 per year in the maintenance of waterways.

Today, despite commendable concerted efforts, the situation is still deteriorating and remains worrying. The municipal maintenance of Rivière La Guerre is not really respected and is not as systematic. The watercourse gets cluttered and the flow towards Rivière Saint-Louis continues to decrease.



*Cleaning up helps: water flowing here will not go to the lake

ASLSF considers the systematic clean-up and maintenance of watercourses to be, in the short term, an imperative recurring initiative to reduce pumping.

On another note, ASLSF, MAPAQ, the Agri-Environmental Club, the MRC and the municipalities are investigating other potential solutions. Flow management is certainly a crucial issue, but they also consider the reduction of agricultural lands' erosion and the revegetation of shorelines as initiatives that would further reduce excessive pumping and its impacts on health and the environment while accommodating local agricultural activities.