

RESHAPING

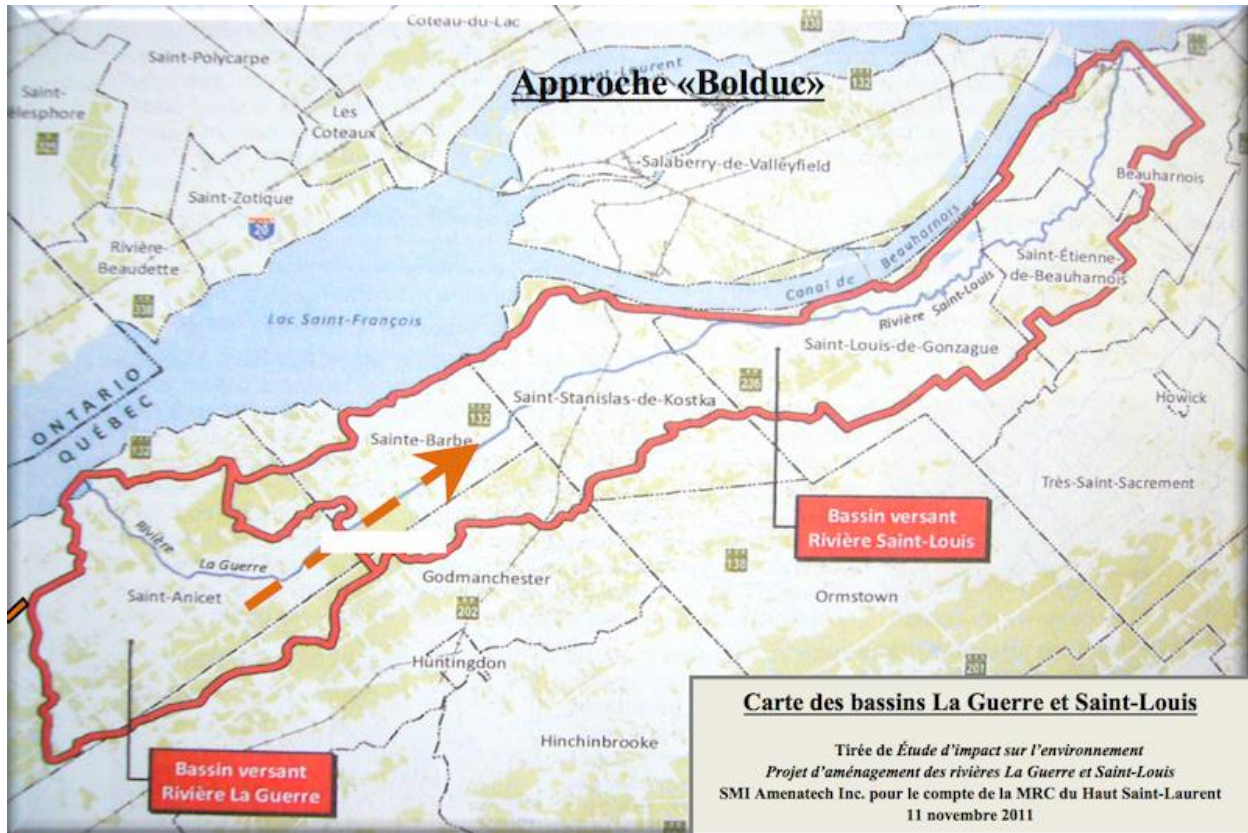
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Over the years and especially during periods of low water in summer, the water of the rivers is very quickly stagnant and a dense aquatic vegetation grows. This vegetation and obstructions along the Rivière La Guerre affect the flow towards the Saint-Louis River basin (see photo below).



The cleaning of the rivers, carried out in 2006 and 2007, certainly made it possible to clear this vegetation, to increase the flow rate to 0.7 m³/sec and to halve the pumping towards Lac Saint-François in the summer, but the vegetation has taken over very quickly.

Inspired by the previous study conducted by the engineer Bolduc, the reshaping or the so-called "Bolduc Approach", is an option that consists of digging the bed of both rivers over 11 km to increase the flow of Rivière La Guerre towards Rivière Saint Louis up to 2 or 3 m³/sec. The proposed reshaping is schematically illustrated on the following map. We can observe the limit of the two watersheds in red and, in orange, the direction of the current and the portion of the digging.



*Red surrounds the watersheds

This project, which aimed to reduce 75% of pumping, was the object of an environmental impact study led by the MRC du Haut-Saint-Laurent. Following this uncompleted study, the government expressed reservations about reshaping because of potential environmental damage such as:

- Digging of the bed of both rivers over a distance of 11 km;
- Deforestation of 4,000 m²;
- Disturbance of 18,500 m² of wetlands.

On a technical level, they question the frequency of sediment cleanings required to maintain the flow at 2 m³/sec. On an administration level, they doubt the sustainability of the required agreement between the municipalities involved to ensure the maintenance of operations.

Following these findings in the fall of 2013, the government asked the local authorities to consider other alternatives such as, among other things, the construction of pipes to move the effluent from the pumping station in the white waters of the lake, away from the shore.

The ASLSF remains convinced that reshaping remains one of the most beneficial solutions proposed for the reduction of the pumping of the waters of the Rivière La Guerre.