

Comité de Zones d'interventions prioritaires Les Deux Rives / Les Deux Rives ZIP Committee (Stéphane Doucet, Director)

La Trame Verte de Bécancour: Introduction of forest corridors and the sanitation of surface water through environmental development projects.

Centre-du-Québec region, MRC de Bécancour, Bécancour

Dilemma:

La Trame Verte de Bécancour includes the Léon-Provancher Ecological Reserve as well as part of the MRC de Bécancour region, including seven waterways and Lake Saint-Paul, which is affected by blooms of cyanobacteria.

Human activity is affecting the water quality of these rivers and streams, which run through residential areas and farmland. The riverbanks lack the vegetation and environmental protection measures necessary to maintain the quality of the water, which ultimately flows into the Saint-Laurent River via Lake Saint-Paul and the Godefroy River downstream.

Reliable data indicates that irregularities in water quality occur when riverbanks are deforested and lack environmental protection measures. The cartographic study shows that considerable sections of these waterways are flanked by little or no vegetation; as a result, the extensive amount of phosphorous flowing into these rivers is contributing to the eutrophication of Lake Saint-Paul.

The waters of the Saint-Laurent River and Lake Saint-Paul have a buffer effect on the region, yet the eutrophication of Lake Saint-Paul threatens to eliminate this effect, which will probably result in the disappearance of rare plant species present in these latitudes.

Solutions

1. The creation of forest corridors linking the region's wooded areas with the Léon Provancher Ecological Reserve.
2. The sanitation of surface water and the protection of the aquatic ecosystems in the tributaries and Lake Saint-Paul through the implementation of important environmental measures.

Objectives

1. Raise awareness.
2. Educate.
3. Propose concrete measures.
4. Implement measures.
5. Introduce a new population of *Justicia americana*

Advantages

Improved water quality and aquatic habitats; the creation of wildlife habitats; conservation of biodiversity; a population aware of the importance of wetlands.