



A Word from the President

Whew! For Action Saint-François and our valiant volunteers, the arrival of winter means the end of the fine weather and the clean-up season. We always take this occasion to look back on the year and put together this little newsletter for our members. Our faithful readers (well, we can dream, can't we?) may remember last spring's special issue which focused on the Summit of the Americas. Well, we don't have any long learned articles on world events for you this time. I will merely observe that the big media aren't telling us that oil, once again, is the chief issue in the war in Afghanistan and what's motivating the US government's intervention there.

Pierre Dansereau

But back to our own highly subversive activity: taking an interest in the quality of our environment here at home. The clean-up crews covered a lot of ground this year. Robert Léo Gendron reports on our ninth season, which included the removal of quite a few tires: some thousands among the countless exemplars of this wonderful product of our . . . oil-based . . . civilization. In the month of June, Action Saint-François also participated in a planting project along the banks of the Magog River: Amélie gives details.

We mounted two exhibitions in 2001 to showcase our clean-up

work along watercourses. These events were organized with the gracious cooperation of Galerie Horace and Presse Boutique Café, among others. In this issue, we take advantage of the occasion to spotlight our organization's main partners, beginning with those who have been supporting Action Saint-François for a number of years.

We are always pleased to publish environmental information articles, mainly on water, aquatic ecosystems, watersheds, and the like. In this issue, Alexandre Saint-Laurent makes the scientific information on water accessible to the layman in an article that will help us all refresh our memories about the wonderful H₂O

molecule. We also invite you to read Amélie Fréchette's article on urban gardens and the role they play in the water cycle: she's done some very interesting research on this little-known subject.

Last but not least, let me bring an important topic to your attention: the protection of wetlands. These undervalued ecosystems compare, in terms of productivity and biodiversity, with the tropical rainforest whose rapid destruction we deplore. Very few wetlands in the Eastern Townships are truly protected and there is certainly action we can take to keep them from disappearing.

Pleasant reading, and a good winter to all!

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*Would you like to take a look at our newsletter on
the Internet ? With the same pictures in color ?*

<http://www.asf-estrie.org/asf/journaux.htm>



Clean-up operations in 2001

Saturday, May 5, 2001, 7:30 a.m.: The year's first Action Saint-François clean-up operation is today and, like every year, I'm a little nervous. I'm wondering whether people will get involved in our environmental improvement activities as they have in past years. Of course, I've done my homework: on Wednesday and Thursday I called about forty people who had said they would help out this year, but nothing in this world is ever certain. Some people give their word and then take it right back (maybe remembering they only have one to give?) . . . But my doubts gradually subside as the volunteers start to show up.

**Robert Léo Gendron,
Coordinator, ASF**

It IS fantastic that volunteer participation in our clean-up activities is still going strong after nine years. It IS encouraging to think that people are giving up their Saturday mornings to come and pick up trash from the banks of the streams that feed our beautiful Saint Francis River, and I tell myself things aren't going so bad. To be truly honest, though, every year I hope the number of volunteers will go up, but it doesn't. In fact, I

need more and more imagination to convince the Eastern Townships populace to get more involved in protecting their environment.

It's not hard to show the advantages of participating in our clean-up operations. First of all, lots of people want to get involved in a concrete effort to improve the

environment, but they don't know what. Action Saint-François has the perfect answer: the nice thing about our clean-ups is that they're something people can do that is specific, useful, real, and simple.

Going and picking up trash along a streambank won't save the world or solve all environmental problems, but it does do a lot of good. First of all, there are direct benefits for the stream

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Clean-up Operations Report November 2001

| Water course | Municipality | Méetal (Kg) | Glass and plastic (Kg) | Tires (Kg) | Waste (Kg) | Total (Kg) | Number of Volunteers | Number of Outings | |
|--------------------|--------------|----------------------|------------------------|------------|------------|------------|----------------------|-------------------|--|
| Ruisseau Veillette | Compton | | | | 1 848 | 1 848 | 9 | 1 | |
| Ruisseau Sévigny | Compton | 2 673 | | | 622 | 3 295 | 1 | 33 | |
| Ruisseau Labbé | Rock Forest | 3 163 | 30 | 1 443 | 1 075 | 5 711 | 35 | 9 | |
| Downey Pond | Waterville | | | 312 | 312 | 624 | 5 | 2 | |
| Ruisseau Paquette | Compton | 272 | 120 | 120 | 250 | 762 | 15 | 2 | |
| Ruisseau Thibault | Sherbrooke | 118 | | 669 | 575 | 1 362 | 7 | 2 | |
| Ruisseau Papillons | East Angus | 15 965 | | 180 | 812 | 16 957 | 58 | 13 | |
| Ruisseau Kendall | Waterville | 1 190 | | | | 1190 | 2 | 1 | |
| Ruisseau Key | St-Élie | | | 36 000 | | 36 000 | 68 | 2 | |
| Ruisseau Nick | Rock Forest | | | | | | 4 | 1 | |
| | | Tree-planting | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL | | 23 381 | 150 | 38 724 | 5 494 | 67 749 | 216 | 36 | |

Clean-up : Cont'd from page 2

and all the living things that depend on it (including human beings). Second, people who get involved in these operations clearly see how certain Eastern Townships streams are deteriorating. This raises environmental awareness. And then, too, the clean-ups are a great opportunity to meet other people who share your environmental values. Plus they're a way of getting outside and using your body, pumping some badly-needed oxygen through your system. Finally, at the end of your day's labours, you can feel truly proud and satisfied: you have helped do something vitally important for the environment!

Really, as far as I can see the Action Saint-François clean-up operations are purely positive! I myself find them very satisfying. So all you people who haven't signed up yet, you don't know what you're missing. Unfortunately, if you've suddenly decided you'd like to participate, the clean-up season is over. But if we get our grant from Environment Canada like we have for the last six years, you can sign on next year. We still have plenty of streams to clean up. I invite you to come and be part of this special activity, so useful for the planet and its inhabitants. As for those who helped with this year's clean-up operations, let me express infinite gratitude - on your behalf!



Brief partial report on the 2001 season

This year we accomplished 30 clean-up operations, in the municipalities of Compton, Rock Forest, East Angus, Waterville, and Sherbrooke. The table below gives various types of data on each of the streams we cleaned up.

It was a bumper crop of tires this year, because we finished cleaning up a site with some 6000 tires, which we began working on in 1999.

As for volunteer participation, we nearly reached our objective of an average of 10 people per Saturday clean-up. Two rainy Saturdays have to be taken into account, as well as a few when it was too warm and sunny to get many participants.

Overall, it was a good year for our clean-up operations. Lots of new people came out, and we made new connections with high schools and ecology

students from Collège de Sherbrooke. Our media visibility this year was also excellent. Which reminds me: you are cordially invited to a press conference on Monday, November 26, 2001, at Press Boutique Café, 4 Wellington N, where we will present the final report on our 2001 clean-up season. See you next year!



A garden on my roof

Re-establishing the water cycle in an urban environment

by Amélie Fréchette

The natural water cycle

The cycle of water in nature is well known - water from lakes, rivers and oceans evaporates, rising and forming clouds, and falls again on the earth as rain or snow. This precipitation can accumulate temporarily, as bodies of water, evaporate again, or sink through the earth and run towards waterways, and the cycle begins anew.

The water cycle in cities

Cities always disturb the natural order of things. In this case, cities "import" water to meet the needs of its residents. A certain quantity is taken from surface water or subterranean sources, and drawn into the city's territory.

On another front, transportation



A residential rooftop garden

(source: www.rdrop.com/users/krishna/willweek.htm)

environment, wherein water penetrates the soil or accumulates in one spot and drainage is at a minimum.

In a city, artificial collection can direct all this water towards lakes and rivers. This re-creation of a part of the natural water network causes several problems. Since water is directly channeled into rivers instead of being temporarily absorbed by the soil (like a sponge), we see, at the height of downpours, much higher levels than in a natural

waterway. The risk of floods and overflowing sewers is much higher.

Adding to this problem is higher bank erosion caused by elevated water levels, forcing a large number of particles into the water. This sediment harms water quality considerably, as it causes high silt, clogged spawning grounds and elevated levels of aquatic plant life

As well as these particles, water flowing into rivers after running through an urban environment brings with it all the pollutants that a city can offer - oils, heavy metals, etc. - which are fed back into nature. When we use water as a cooling system, we raise its temperature, too - and modifying water temperatures can disrupt aquatic and river ecosystems.

Roof gardens (green roofs) and vertical gardens

In current urban structures, it's not easy to find short-term solutions to re-establish the water cycle in cities. Vegetation can help solve the problem, however, offering a moderating effect on certain environmental problems created by cities.

In North America, parks represent the only recognized method of integrating vegetation into cities. In Europe, however, rooftop gardens are growing in recognition and popularity. In Germany, for example, there are regulations that enforce the creation of roof gardens on all new industrial



A vertical garden

(source: www.smc-msc.ec.gc.ca/acsd/airg/socioeconomic_e.html)

and industry produce water, in the form of vapor, which adds to cities' natural precipitation. This importing of water and production of vapor has the effect of creating "surpluses" of water in cities.

In the case of non-absorbent city surfaces (asphalt, concrete), only a minute amount of water can sink into the earth. The rest is drained away. This is the inverse of the natural

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buildings. In Switzerland, green space that will be occupied by a new building must be relocated to its roof. Even older buildings are being converted.

It's difficult to measure their effects, but there is every reason to believe that a large number of rooftop gardens and vertical gardens help moderate the effects of urban environments on the water cycle, as well as on the climate and ecosystems. It is safe to say that a city that incorporates a significant amount of vegetation, including such gardens, will enjoy several benefits.

With regard to channeling problems alone, rooftop gardens can make a huge difference. In effect, a garden can absorb 75% of the precipitation it receives, and release this water gradually, as does the soil in a natural environment. This slows water collection and reduces the risks of flooding, sewer overflow, erosion, water pollution (plants can act as a filter) and the heating of aquatic environments.

The principle behind a rooftop garden is to allow plants to grow on flat roofs or gently sloped ones. There are two types: the extensive and the intensive. Extensive gardens don't require much maintenance. Their "weight" and costs are relatively small. They consist of a thin layer of soil and hardy species of plants - alpine, desert and indigenous vegetation. They support mainly species capable of surviving conditions natural to rooftops: dryness, intense heat, freezing, a lack of oxygen, etc. They don't require much irrigation or fertilization, if any, and are well suited for large surfaces.

Intensive rooftop gardens are heavier, and put more stress on structures. They are more costly, require maintenance, and demand frequent watering. They consist of a thick layer of soil that supports a

large variety of vegetation, including trees and shrubs. They can permit the development of more extensive ecosystems than extensive gardens. They can also be used to grow food.

Vertical gardens incorporate plants that grow on the walls of buildings. Vertical gardens have a lot of potential; the potential surface area on building walls is much greater than that on roofs. When planning such a garden, one must take into consideration the direction the walls face - those that face south or west are most suited for plant growth.

Environmental Benefits

As well as helping to reestablish the natural water cycle, vertical and roof gardens also have the following benefits:

- Energy efficiency: vegetation acts as a natural insulating layer for buildings;
- The possibility of growing consumable food, reducing the environmental damage of transport and pollution;
- Filtration of atmospheric pollutants (smog);
- Augmentation of oxygen production and a lowering of CO₂ through photosynthesis;
- Reducing the phenomenon of urban "thermal islands" (local climate differentials caused by cities), including a drop in wind and airborne particles;
- Lowering of city noise;
- Creation of green corridors that help preserve habitats and biodiversity, particularly in insects and birds;
- Constructive use of space that is otherwise wasted.

Rooftop and vertical gardens are an apparent and partial solution



*A semi-extensive garden on Toronto's City Hall roof
(source: www.peck.ca/grhcc/overviewdemo.htm)*

to the pressures that cities create on ecosystems. Data on the impact this has on city environments has not yet reached a quantifiable stage, but researchers are currently working on compiling these facts, including professionals at Environment Canada and Laval University.

Learn more at:

- http://www.smc-msc.ec.gc.ca/airg/vertical_gardens.htm
- <http://www.cityfarmer.org>
- <http://www.ec.gc.ca> (search for "green roof")
- <http://www.interlog.com/~rooftop>
- Peck, Steven W., Callaghan, Chris et al. (1999) Greenbacks from green roofs: forging a new industry in Canada. Société Canadienne d'Hypothèque et de Logement, s.l., 57 p.
- Laurie, Ian C. (1979) Nature in cities. John Wiley & Sons, s.l., 428 p.
- Hough, Michael (1984) City form & natural processes. Van Nostrand Reinhold Company, New York, 281 p.
- Oke, T.R. (1987) Boundary Layer Climates. 2e édition, Methuen, New York, 435 p.



Water - A vital resource

Since we use this resource in such vast quantities, people tend to forget the essential role of water in our lives. We can give up much of what progress has given us in terms of comfort, but we cannot survive without water. In this article, let's review some of the peculiarities of this liquid and precious resource. I would like to say before starting that much of the material in this article has been inspired by or drawn from Chapter 3 of "Biologie," edited by Neil A. Campbell and Richard Mathieu of Éditions du Renouveau Pédagogique in 1995.

By Alexandre Saint-Laurent

First of all, let's look at a few commonly known facts. The human body is made up of 70% water, and plants contain generally 80 to 95%; all require water to live, even if just a little bit. The origins of life on earth are related to water, and we keep a relic of that to this day - the liquid pouch in which foetuses develop is mainly filled with water. Conception, nourishment and the continuance of life can all be attributed to water.

Here are a few interesting facts about water. It's the only substance that exists in three different states - ice, water and water vapour are all just three different forms of exactly the same material. Kinetic (displacement) energy of H₂O molecules is related to its state. If you heat water, you speed up its particles, and they distance themselves from each other until they change their state and become steam. When water cools, the links between the molecules shrink and ice forms. These explanations are simplistic, but a good summary of the phenomenon.

Water molecules are polarized (one part is negatively charged and the other positively, like a magnet) and they attract each other to form an orderly structure. Molecules link up via hydrogen and exert a cohesive force. This force allows the molecules to displace themselves through plant vessels and arrive at the leaves. Surface tension allows water to form drops. This form has a very small surface/volume coefficient as all the molecules "cling together."

Water is a thermal regulator. Land located close to oceans is an obvious example of this phenomenon. Through the summer, water masses absorb solar heat and keep the temperature cooler than inland. In the winter, this energy is returned to the atmosphere, making the climate a bit milder. This phenomenon happens because water has special heat-retentive properties, which means that it takes more energy to raise one gram of water by one degree Celsius than one gram of earth or another substance. Water maintains the global temperature within limits acceptable for the life.

Water occupies more space when frozen...it is said to "dilate." When cooling, water molecules form a crystalline network, where each molecule is firmly linked to its neighbour. It's strong enough that icebergs can destroy even the most "unsinkable" ships. Ice is less dense than water and floats, which cuts off cold air currents and protects aquatic species from intense cold in the winter. Without this feature, few fish would survive the winter months.

Water is also an incredible solvent. It allows for the dissolution of several products currently in use, to clean surfaces and make mixtures. It cannot, however, dissolve the metal, glass, and non-biodegradable garbage that is frequently found in the region's waterways. That's why Action Saint-François works, along with other groups, to clean up waterways and remove the wastes found in them.

It should be mentioned in closing that water is an amazing medium for fun - whether you swim, dive, sail or boat, without a certain level of water quality, your enjoyment of water sports will definitely be diminished.



Wetlands - ignored and essential natural habitats

Wetlands - ponds, marshes, swamps, peat bogs and river basins - play a basic role in maintaining the quality of our environment. They are essential for the health and balance of our lakes, rivers and waterways. Misunderstood and often disliked, wetlands are actually natural filters for the waters of our lakes and waterways. They contribute to flood control by absorbing and storing excess water when water levels swell or during heavy precipitation. They're exceptional habitats which harbour a multitude of species, both flora and fauna, several of which are endangered. In fact, they compare favourably to large tropical forests with regard to diversity and biological productivity.

What makes a wetland?

A wetland is a place at the surface of the soil which is occupied for part of the day or year by a large amount of water. Almost an aquatic environment during high waters, wetlands also practically become dry ground during droughts. This arbitrariness - a peculiar ambivalence between water and dry land - explains their vast biodiversity and impressive biological production. .

A mere puddle, a roadside ditch, a hollow where water collects - these are all examples of wetlands that can rapidly develop their own flora and fauna. On a larger scale, riverbeds and waterways, marshes, swamps, ponds and peat bogs are wetlands that one can find in a freshwater environment such as the Eastern Townships.

Types of Wetlands

River regions: shores and littorals

The banks of rivers and waterways mark the transition between aquatic environments and land. Most of the animals that live there do it for its proximity to water, explaining the extraordinary diversity of these environments. Riverbanks harbour almost all the species of small mammals present in other habitats

Littorals make, along with the banks, the shoreline area of a lake or waterway. It's the party of the bed that extends from the edge to the place where the water depth increases significantly. The littoral is a more strictly aquatic environment hosting a multitude of plants essential to the survival of any number of

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animals, and to maintaining water quality.

Marshes and swamps

While shorelines are subject to more complex dynamics in which the aquatic environment alternates and intermingles with that of the land, large surfaces that border ponds, lakes and rivers often host marshes and swamps.

Marshes and swamps appear to be expanses of water strewn with small ponds and rivulets. They support a wide variety of plants, much to the delight of the wildfowl and animal species that live there (birds, amphibians, insects, mammals, etc.). Swamps are usually located slightly above marshes, a bit closer to land environments, and are characterized largely by the presence of trees and shrubs like alders, willows, cedar and spruce.

Marshes and swamps are no strangers to large fluctuations in water levels. Spring flooding marks the division with land environments, while the more strictly aquatic environment reappears with the presence of vascular plants, submerged at depths approaching 4.5 m.

Ponds

Ponds are basins permanently occupied by stagnant water (a more strictly aquatic environment). They're small lakes with shallower water, often surrounded by marshes. They are often the result of beaver dams or



natural basins carved out by retreating glaciers.

Peat Bogs

Peat bogs are wetlands that are created by surrounding conditions - mainly climate and drainage - that favour the accumulation and decomposition of organic material. Basically, poor water circulation causes an oxygen deficit, limiting the effects of microorganisms in the soil. This aids in the creation of peat deposits according to vegetative debris, with a depth of a few centimetres to five metres. The topography of the St. Lawrence lowlands and cold climates of flatlands like Abitibi and Lac-Saint-Jean are particularly conducive to the creation of peat bogs. Close to Sherbrooke, the Johnville peat bog is well known, particularly amongst botany enthusiasts. There, one can find about a dozen orchid species, and two types of carnivorous plants.

The role of wetlands

Until recently, wetlands were considered waste land, infested with mosquitoes and only usable

after draining and filling. Today, wetlands are recognized as dynamic, productive and diverse ecosystems.

Havens for biodiversity

Wetlands support habitats, nesting grounds, food sources and resting places for a number of species of waterfowl and other animals like reptiles, amphibians, fish and mammals. More and more, almost half of Quebec's endangered and threatened plants are associated with wetlands or river basins.

Productive ecosystems

The productivity of an ecosystem is the quantity of biomass produced by living organisms. At its simplest, we find primary productivity resulting from photosynthesis and plant growth. The wetlands of our region, when regarded as biological producers, can be ranked close to large tropical forests - the most prolific ecosystems on the planet.

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Wetlands : Cont'd from page 8

A mainstay of our environment

Wetlands filter the waters of our lakes and waterways. Vegetation retains sediments that float in water, contributing to water clarity. Certain plants also absorb pollutants in their roots and/or use phosphates, also purifying our used water. The BAPE, in its report on water management, stressed "the capacity of a few dozen hectares of wetlands to filter and purify used water is equivalent to that of a treatment plant worth millions of dollars."

Wetland protection

From the point of view of drainage basin management, wetlands should be recognized and protected as valuable resources. Unfortunately, economic interests and development projects that do not account for the well-being and quality of life of the population as a whole threaten a large number of these places.

Our region hosts 600 wetlands one hectare large or larger, wherein 125 are bigger than five hectares. Amongst these, several are recognized wildlife preserves, notably for large numbers of waterfowl or as habitats for muskrats. Mainly located on private land, their safety rests on the basic principle of sound drainage basin management on a voluntary basis.

A variety of legal tactics can be used by owners that want to contribute in a more "formal" way,

such as forging a conservation agreement with a non-profit environmental group like Action Saint-François. Most of these agreements maintain the private use of the land, and consist simply of expressing respect for the natural integrity of the sites in question (a commitment to prevent, for example, residential, industrial and residential development) for a minimum of 25 years. Such an agreement with a non-profit group can offer several advantages...the government, to this end, is about to announce a number of more substantial incentives for landowners. Quebec has to make up for lost time - and, in the southern end of the province and thorough the Townships, the creation of natural preserves in private land will certainly be a good step forward.

As part of a pilot project by the Comité du Marais de Kingsbury (the Kingsbury Marsh Committee, or MAKI), a group is currently working towards voluntary

conservation of wetlands through managers, owners and organizations. A beautifully illustrated brochure on wetlands and ways of protecting them is an available and valuable resource. For a copy of this brochure, please contact one of the following people:

Pierre Dansereau, 819-563-1938
Jocelyne Bastien, 819-826-5623

T-shirts for sale

Great T-shirts: 100% cotton, in natural unbleached sandy-beige colour. Front shows the Action Saint-François logo (green) in full detail. Back: an original work of art depicting the watershed of the Saint Francis River. We would like to thank the artist, Isabelle Loignon, for her excellent volunteer work and her dedication to Action Saint-François.

T-shirts sell for \$15 each. Available in three sizes: medium, large, and extra-large. You can get yours by calling 563-5362, or dropping in to see us at Action Saint-François, 18 Wellington North, Sherbrooke. (It's best to call before you come.)



Two gallery openings for Action Saint-François

This year, Action Saint-François found some innovative ways to enhance its visibility: it organized a photography exhibit at the Presse Boutique Café restaurant and teamed up with Sherbrooke's Galerie Horace for an extraordinary artistic project.

Action Saint-François . . . in action!

Since the first clean-up operations in 1993, Action Saint-François has built up an extensive collection of photos. We got together with the Presse Boutique Café restaurant to present some of the most striking images of the thousands of hours of work done by volunteers over the years. From August 15 to September 15, some thirty photos graced the restaurant's walls.

Dominique Cormier, a talented graphic artist from the region, designed an Action Saint-François placemat for the occasion. The mat, which was printed in an edition of 1000, presented a fun questionnaire to find out what people know about our organization. We would also like to thank sponsors Imacom communications visuelles inc. and Copie King, who laminated the photos and provided posters.

We got a lot of positive response to this exhibition, and we hope to do it again next year, especially since it attracted new members and volunteers.

Art serving the environment

Artists from the region and Action Saint-François worked together this year on an extraordinary project. At the beginning of the season, the artists went out with our volunteers, in search of junk to inspire their creativity. In their hands, a host of miscellaneous objects, including bits of old beaten-up bicycles and extinct washing machines, became

veritable works of art. The pieces were displayed at Galerie Horace from September 15 to October 15 and the public loved the originality of the exhibition. The artists have promised to repeat this wonderful activity next year, and Action Saint-François will certainly be there!

Combating desertification

By Amélie Fréchette

On June 16, Carrefour de Solidarité Internationale invited Action Saint-François and RAPPEL to mark the World Day to Combat Desertification by participating in a riverbank planting activity.

Each of the organizations had a specific role in the project: Carrefour de Solidarité Internationale managed the project and paid for the shrubs, while RAPPEL provided technical expertise on planting. Action Saint-François was asked to assemble a group of volunteers. The Association de la rivière Magog, Rock-Forest, Ascot Inc. and the Town of Rock Forest gave their consent for the planting to be done at the "Halte du Passant", located at the confluence of Ruisseau Nick and the Magog River, a site that is particularly vulnerable to erosion.

Although the number of volunteers was low, they put in more than two hundred blue iris and sweet gale plants. A poster was also designed to inform visitors about the problem of desertification and the role played by riverbank vegetation. The poster, which was installed on the site later in the summer, also protects the young plants, which are hard for visitors to see.



Acknowledgements

A lot of water has flowed under the bridge since Action Saint-François was founded in August 1992. Of course, we've had a lot of support over the years from the many volunteers who have been brave enough to get up on a Saturday morning to enjoy an Action Saint-François clean-up operation. Thanks to each and every one of you for participating. A special tribute to the students of Mont Notre-Dame: for the second year in a row, they really helped make our activities a success. We hope they will be an inspiration for other young people in the region.

In addition to the volunteers, there are some other vital partners who deserve our most heartfelt thanks. Here we would like to honour

those who have contributed time, money, and goods and services (lending vehicles, tools, etc.).

First of all, our very special thanks to the Fleurimont firm Olympique Métal and its owner, Denis Bourque, who have been an outstanding partner since 1994. In addition to providing us with free containers for transporting scrap metal, Mr. Bourque always gives us a good price for our loads, even when the metal we bring in isn't worth much to his company. He has also done countless small services for us, without charging us a penny. This year, he repaired our trailer for free, as well as installing doors, which are very useful for more efficient loading. And after hours of hard work, it's always a pleasure to pull in at Olympique Métal and see Mr. Bourque's cheerful, smiling face!

We also thank the City of Sherbrooke for giving us free use of the landfill site, and

sorting centre for recyclable materials (glass and plastic).

Last but not least on our list of recurring partners, we would naturally like to thank Environment Canada, which has been supporting our streambank clean-up activities for six years now. Note that since last year, we have been listed in the "Success Stories" section of the Environment Canada Web site. That's a great acknowledgement of our work that really helps put us in the public eye.

This year we also had support from some new partners, particularly in the area of promotion for our organization. Here they are:

- **Presse Boutique Café**, who have let us use their space to hold press conferences for the last three years; this year, they worked jointly with us to organize our photo exhibit.
- **Imacom communications visuelles inc.** and **Copie King**, who sponsored the photo lamination and posters for our exhibit at the Presse Boutique Café.
- **Dominique Cormier**, graphic artist, who created a placemat and illustrations for our photo exhibit.
- **Galerie Horace and its artists**, who presented a show of art works created from trash gathered along streambanks.
- **Recycle Québec**, who helped us remove tires from a site in St-Élie d'Orford.
- **The Town of East Angus**, who gave us a free loan of heavy machinery to clean up a site where there were 25 cars.

Many thanks to all, and we hope the work will go better than ever next year!



Action Saint-François

The new members of Action Saint-François from March the 31st, to November 30th, 2001

ASCOT

Johanne Trempe

ASCOT CORNER

Sylvie Leclerc

BROMPTONVILLE

Alexandre Saint-Laurent

FLEURIMONT

Benoit Lavoie
Jacques Houde

LENNOXVILLE

Clement Mallalieu
Collin Grimson
Élisabeth Beljers
Francis Marineau
Gail Farrell
Jim Brodie
Josée Moisan
Mireille Gagné

Nancy Simpson
Valois Boudreault

ROCK FOREST

André & Pierrette Laneville
Chantal Foucher
Claire Poulin
Claude & Line Charbonneau
Claude (Roubac Estrie) Veilleux
François Villeneuve
Françoise Boutin
Gaston Naessens
Ghyslain Champagne
James Corriveau
Jocelyn Fréchette
Richard Robitaille
Robert Perreault
Serge Guay
Sophie Gauthier
Stéphane Brosseau
Véronique Cibert

SHERBROOKE

Alain Beaumont
Alain Bergeron
André Giroux
André Jacques
André Roy
Bénédicte Therien
Carol Harris
Catherine Allary
Catherine Coderre-Portas
Catherine Gagnon
Chantal Boutin
Christian Legeault
Christine Arguin
Clément Vallières
Danielle Cronin
Danielle Fréchette
Édith Couture
Edmond Desbiens
Élyse Ménard
Francheska Gaulin
Frédéric Plourde
Germaine Bilodeau
Gilles Hébert
Gilles Tremblay
Gloria Duchesneau
Hugues Bergeron
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On November 31st we number 516 members in good standing.
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The board of directors of Action Saint-François is made up of :
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**ACTION
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ACTION SAINT-FRANÇOIS A NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION FOUNDED IN AUGUST 1992 BRINGS TOGETHER CITIZENS CONVINCED OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ENVIRONMENT. THE GROUP IS INTERESTED IN THE RESTORATION AND PRESERVATION OF AQUATIC MILIEUS OF THE SAINT-FRANÇOIS RIVER WATERSHED. CLEAN UP, EROSION CONTROL AND REPLANTING PROJECTS ALONG WATERWAYS AND FLOOD PLAINS ARE ORGANIZED BY ACTION SAINT-FRANÇOIS. WE WANT TO HEIGHTEN AWARENESS OF THE POPULATION TO THE NECESSITY TO ACT IN ORDER TO PRESERVE THE HYDROLOGICAL NETWORK OF OUR TERRITORY. ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE 25\$. FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL US AT (819) 563-5362.