

# **THE OTTAWA-GATINEAU WATERSHED ATLAS (OGWA) PROJECT COMMUNITY PANEL**

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The Ottawa-Gatineau Watershed Atlas (OGWA) Project is an exciting endeavor that will integrate watershed management on both sides of the Ottawa River in addition to providing a comprehensive public educational tool. Pollution Probe is working in collaboration with local partners to develop a web atlas that will use maps to guide community members through their watershed. The atlas will take advantage of the sharing, exploration and exchange of geo-spatial data amongst partner agencies in the Ottawa-Gatineau region. Alongside the maps contextual discussion in both French and English on water issues will be included in order to raise community awareness and understanding. The aim of OGWA is to improve the management of one of the region's most valuable resources. The project will take an ecosystem approach, utilizing a watershed boundary, rather than political boundaries, for the inclusion of collaborating partners, data, and information.

## **COMMUNITY PANEL EXPLAINED**

The OGWA Project seeks to ensure that the application is relevant to the broad and diverse community members within the watershed through the construction of this Community Panel. The role of the Community Panel is to:

- Share ideas and concerns over local water issues
- Contribute to the design of the atlas (both map and web page)
- Provide feedback on the contextual information produced for each map

## **WHAT DO MEMBERS GET?**

The opportunity to voice their concerns and ideas surrounding water issues in the region.

## **WHAT IS REQUIRED OF ME?**

Panel will be asked to participate in four meetings from now until Spring 2008. Meetings will be held in a central location in the Ottawa-Gatineau region. You will be asked to give views and opinions on water issues and concerns in the Ottawa-Gatineau watershed.

## **WHAT DOES THE PANEL DO?**

The Community Panel will help to scope the content of the watershed atlas, and, will be asked to participate in the design and testing of the web-based atlas. The Community Panel will also provide input on the clarity of the content developed for the atlas.

## **WHAT IS THE STRUCTURE OF THE PANEL?**

The Community Panel will be composed of 15 members of the public from both sides of the Ottawa River. It is our intent to have a diversity of members with equal representation from Ontario and Québec.

**WHEN DOES THE PANEL MEET?**

There will be four Panel meetings held in the evenings

*Meeting I: January 3, 2008*

Public concerns related to water in the Ottawa-Gatineau region

*Meeting II: January 2008 (Date TBD)*

Website design for public users

*Meeting III: May 2008 (Date TBD)*

User testing of atlas (website and mapping application)

*Meeting IV: June 2008 (Date TBD)*

User evaluation of website content

Meeting dates are tentative and will be discussed upon the forming of the Panel.

**WHEN WILL I SEE SOME RESULTS?**

The pilot phase atlas will be constructed by April 2008 with the final release of the Atlas expected in the Fall of 2008.

**HOW WILL THE VIEWS/CONCERNS IDENTIFIED IN THE COMMUNITY PANEL BE INCORPORATED INTO THE OTTAWA-GATINEAU WATERSHED ATLAS PROJECT?**

The panel co-ordinator will convey the ideas discussed in the Community Panel meetings to the project team members. This will inform the design and usefulness of the Atlas. The meetings are scheduled in advance of the project team meetings in order to ensure the comments have been considered.

**WHERE ARE MY DETAILS KEPT?**

All personal details will be kept confidential and will only be used for the purpose of the OGWA Project. Information will not be distributed to third parties.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The Ottawa-Gatineau Watershed Atlas Project has received financial support from GeoConnections, a national program initiative led by Natural Resources Canada. GeoConnections and its program participants are working to enhance the Canadian Geospatial Data Infrastructure, an on-line resource that enables decision-makers to access, combine, and apply geographic information to gain new insights into social, environmental, and economic issues.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE COMMUNITY PANEL PLEASE CONTACT:**

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Comité du bassin versant de la rivière Gatineau  
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