

Every Drop Counts!

A drainage basin or watershed is the entire area which is drained by a lake or river and its tributaries. It acts like a funnel, collecting all the water within the area and channeling it into a lake. Its area is defined according to natural barriers (topography) NOT by humans, road maps, or administrative decisions. Each river, lake and wetland has its own watershed basin that may also be part of a larger drainage basin.



Everyone is responsible for the environment, and it is essential that water is managed collectively. We must stop acting individually and work together. Even those who do not live near bodies of water must join in and preserve water for the health of our lakes, rivers, and mankind.

Industries

Releases toxic compounds in the air and water. Emissions from motorized vehicles also send toxic particles in the air, which return to earth with precipitations.

Agriculture and logging

The spreading of fertilizers and pesticides can pollute and contaminate the water. Forest harvesting may increase runoff, nutrients and sediments load into lakes and may accelerate its aging process.

Homes

Wastewater, phosphate-based products, pesticides, domestic fertilizers, and artificial shorelines can contribute to the deterioration of the health of lakes and rivers.

Tourism and holiday resorts

Certain boating activities, intensive use of fertilizers on golf courses, artificial shorelines, the use of phosphate-based products, and deficient or substandard septic systems, are all detrimental to water quality.

Watershed agencies of the Laurentians:

Abrinord
www.abrinord.qc.ca

Abv des 7
www.abv7.org

Cara
www.cara.qc.ca

Cobali
www.cobali.org

Cobamil
www.cobamil.ca

Rouge, Petite Nation, Saumon
www.rpns.ca

Shore dwellers are not the only ones responsible for the problems confronting lakes. ALL human activities (residential, agricultural, logging, etc.) within the watershed may have a direct impact on water quality. Whether it is the draining of a wetland to construct a road, the clearing of trees to build a residential complex, the modification of waterways, or the elimination of a stream's natural shoreline, every land-use related actions affect the natural flow and quality of surface waters.