



## **DANFORD LAKE PROPOSED MEGA LANDFILL PROJECT**

**Presented by:**

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# DANFORD LAKE PROPOSED MEGA LANDFILL PROJECT

## Introduction

My name is James Irwin and I reside at 362 Route 105 in Kazabazua, Québec. I am also a rate payer in the Municipality of Almeyn & Cawood and current President of the Five Mile Beaver Club.

## Brief Explanation of Interest in the Project

The Five Mile Beaver Club was incorporated in the Province of Québec under the provisions of Chapter 155 SRQ 1941 by virtue of ruling of the Ministry of Fish and Game on September 24, 1959. The Club owns lot numbers 20, 21, 22 and 23 of Range 6 in the Municipality of Almeyn and Cawood. This body of land is comprised of 385 acres and has approximately one and one quarter miles of riverfront on the Picanoc River (Appendix 1).

The Club's constitution states in Article 3 that the purpose of the Club is to provide for individual members and their guests a place for recreational activities. Its twenty-five members, and their families and friends, fish during the season on the Picanoc River, primarily in the stretch of river from the clubhouse up to Pine Point, which is located immediately across from the proposed landfill area. In order to survive financially, the Club hosts an annual fishing derby at which the public participants access the river through the Club's property to harvest pike, pickeral and bass. This popular event is well attended and many fish are caught and consumed by fishermen of all ages and their families, including small children.



*Five Mile Beaver Club*



*Picanoc River, as seen from Five Mile Beaver Club*

Located immediately downstream is the Bear's Den, a club consisting of thirty members engaging in similar activities. Lot 14, Range 6 is home to the Pourvoirie Wayne Tanner, a public fish and game club which offers its facilities to both Canadian and American sportsmen. In the short distance between lots 14 and 24 there are three fish and game clubs and a private lodge (Appendix 2).

The waters of the Picanoc River have no sources of pollution and have been enjoyed for decades by canoe enthusiasts, including former Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, who frequently paddled

through its pristine waters in search of quiet and solitude.

## Project Related Concerns

### A. Leachate

This proposed mega landfill site would make this fishing area the most leachate polluted sector of the river. Concerns about consumption of fish that live in these waters would jeopardize the purpose of the clubs on the Picanoc River. As well, the ability of this small river (with slow flowing water during dry weather periods) to handle the leachate are of major concern.

### B. Ground Water Contamination

The proposed megadumps' plastic membranes can and have failed at other locations. Failure of these membranes would contaminate the drinking water of the Club and the entire area, as well as the river itself.

### C. Noise

The constant bulldozing and trucking at the proposed site will certainly be heard by fishermen and canoers on the river. White water canoeing, a sport rapidly growing in popularity, has been bringing tourists by the busload to the river's rapids and provides economic growth in the area with negligible negative environmental impact. The noise would, without question, damage this growing industry and discourage fishing enthusiasts.

### D. Seagulls and Vermin

A landfill containing millions of tons of garbage cannot help but attract seagulls, rats, mice, crows, ravens, bears and other scavengers in vast numbers, which will pollute the river and lakes of the entire area and cause permanent environmental damage. This will have a huge negative impact on the value of vacation property like the Five Mile Beaver Club. Area real estate agents claim that vacation property values have already dropped by 30% in the region in anticipation of the landfill project.



*"Esprit"*  
*Former Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau exploring  
the Picanoc River*



*Picanoc River*

## E. Traffic Hazards

Like all users of Routes 105 and 301, the Five Mile Beaver Club members and their guests will encounter many enormous garbage trucks on already narrow, crooked and dangerous roads. According to a recent article in the *LowDown to Hull and Back News* newspaper, Transports Québec has already designated Route 105 as a dangerous highway even before this project.

## Project Improvements and Summary

A private entrepreneur, using a limited liability numbered company, dumping garbage on government land for profit, is an absolute recipe for disaster.

The traffic problem could only be improved by relocating the processing of the garbage closer to the source, ie: the city of Gatineau. Lechate, ground water contamination, seagulls and vermin could be completely eliminated by using the most modern and efficient method of garbage disposal available – plasma gasification. This method would immediately dispose of refuse and simultaneously produce electricity. At the same time, the tourist industry and vacation property values on which the local economy and municipalities depend would be protected.



*The Picanoc River contributes to the local economy by attracting fishing and boating enthusiasts, with negligible environment impact*

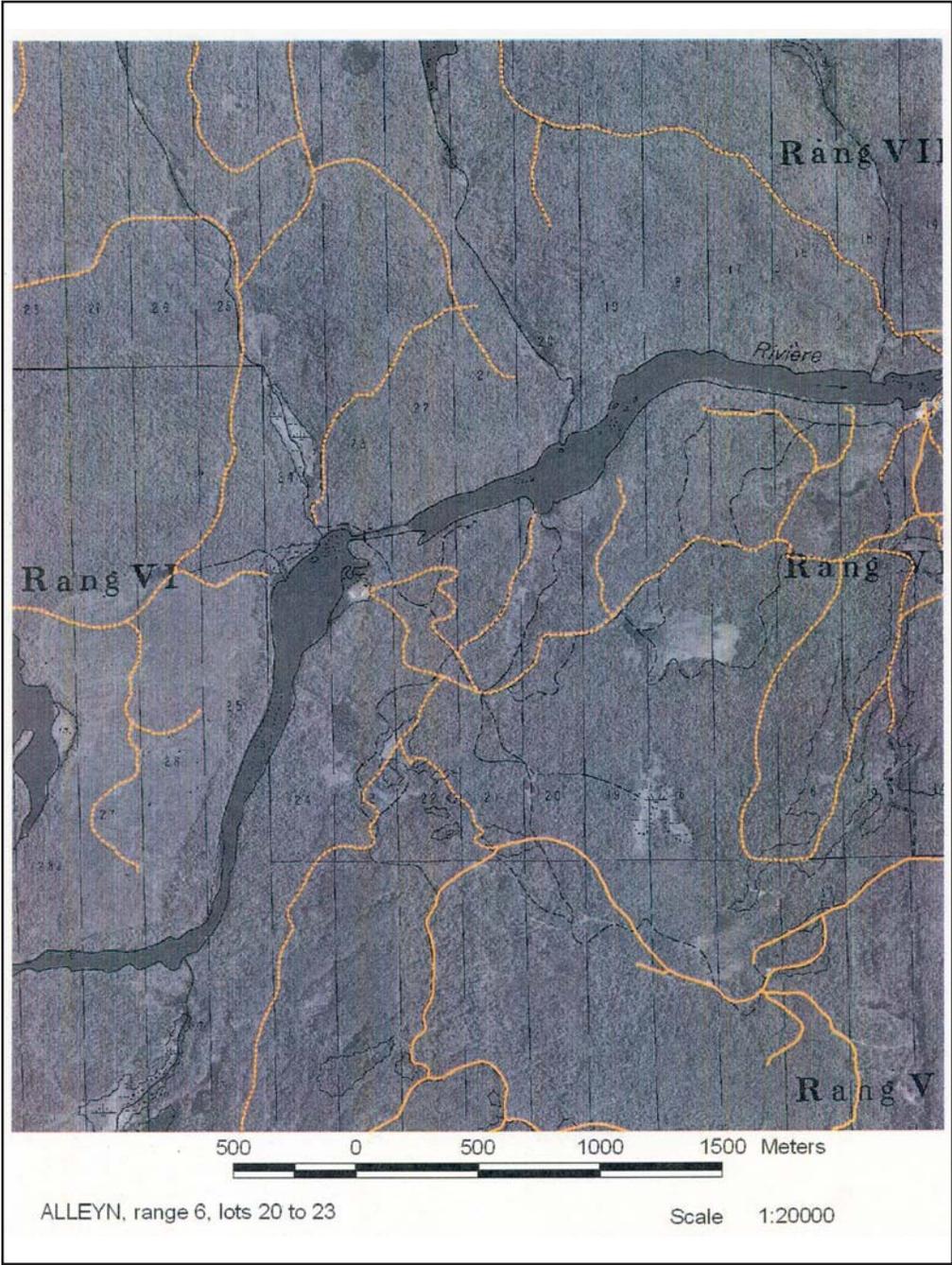
At a meeting of the Five Mile Beaver Club held in June 2006, it was moved and passed by the members of the Club that they were against the proposed mega landfill project. I strongly oppose this project, and feel that it should not receive government authorization to proceed. In an era of worldwide environmental awareness, this is an important opportunity for the Québec government to put a stop to a potentially environmentally disastrous project and embrace 21<sup>st</sup> century technology that its citizens can trust and be proud of.

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James Irwin  
President, Five Mile Beaver Club  
June 2007

# APPENDIX 1

## Map of Land Owned by the Five Mile Beaver Club



The Five Mile Beaver Club owns lot numbers 20, 21, 22 and 23 of Range 6 in the Municipality of Alleyn and Cawood. This body of land comprises of 385 acres and has approximately one and one quarter miles of riverfront on the Picanoc River.

