

THE PARK

BULLETIN

Project of Pontiac Chats Falls Park

Winter 2013



Photo: Landscape of Pontiac Chats Falls Park © David Massé

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Launch of the Bulletin

The project partners of Chats Falls Park decided to produce a periodic bulletin to inform people and groups interested in the developments of this issue.

The partner's group consists of Municipalities of Pontiac and Bristol, MRC de Pontiac and des Collines-de-l'Outaouais, CLD de Pontiac and des Collines-de-l'Outaouais and, finally, the Conférence régionale des élus de l'Outaouais (CRÉ-O). They met to develop a recreational park project that improve the quality of life for residents and stimulate economic development in the area while respecting the principles of sustainable development.

What is the Chats Falls Park project ?

Pontiac Chats Falls Park is a project of innovative development which will offer visitors a unique experience of recreation and interpretation in an exceptional natural environment. It will encourage the practice of outdoor activities, both on land and on the river, and raise visitors awareness about historical events that have marked this place, located on the banks of the Ottawa River.



Photo: Blue Lily at Chats Falls Park
© David Massé



Did you know?

Chats Falls Park was the site of a trading post which belonged, to a colonel, Joseph Mondion (1786-1799), the XY Company (1800-1804), the Northwest Company (1805-1821) and the Hudson Bay company (1821-1837).



Painting

Top: Canots de la Compagnie de la Baie d'Hudson aux rapides des Chats, aquarelle by Phillip J. Bainbrigg, 1838. Source : Library and Archives Canada, acc. no 1983-47-18.

Bottom: Rapides sur la rivière des Outaouais, en amont de la décharge de fer, aquarelle by Philip J. Bainbrigg (1817-1881) between 1836 and 1842. Source: Library and Archives Canada, acc. no 1983-47-4.

A Public Consultation for the Park Project

This part of the bulletin report almost exclusively on the outcome of the public consultation held June 9 which was intended to gather ratepayers ideas and comments on the project of Pontiac Chats Falls Park.

The consultation was held Saturday, June 9 2012, from 9 am to 12 pm, at the Jack Graham Community Center of Bristol. Approximately 90 people participated on this event.

The consultation workshop was held in three phases: project update and questions period, workshop discussions and back to plenary session. Among the questions we found : "What are the positive elements of the project?", "What are your concerns?", "What would you like to see in the Chats Falls Park?" All participants were able to express their opinions and suggestions.

Some Activities in the Heart of the Park...

Why not?

During the public consultation, many people have shown their interest in the park by suggesting original activities. Participants have proposed implementing outdoor activities such as kayak rentals, hiking trails, bike trails or equestrian trails.

Since the history of Pontiac has a strong importance for its residents, participants would like to promote it. For example, establish sites such as trading post or native gardens.

Educational activities such as children's activities or guided tours would be appreciated.

Obviously, the infrastructure establishment has to be considered. People have suggested a site for celebrations and festivals, a camping site and even a patrimonial accomodation site.

Good to know...

During the discussions, positive aspects about the project were mentioned.

Among these, are the development of history and culture, contribution to the economy and tourism, improving the quality of life and preservation of nature and biodiversity.

Of course, these positive points are not without preoccupations since participants have indicated that the general challenges of the project left them with some concerns. Road and water traffic, zoning, owners right and decision making are part of those.

In order to proceed, the participants expect proper procedure and management, transparency, and, above all, citizen participation.

LASTEST NEWS

Municipalities of Pontiac and Bristol and MRC de Pontiac and des Collines-de-l'Outaouais, request by a formal resolution, the ministère des Affaires Municipales, des Régions et de l'Occupation du Territoire (MAMROT) to study the possibility of developing a regional park on the territory of Chats Falls.



Photo: View of Georgian Bay Canal, Municipality of Pontiac © Benedikt Kuhn

To contact us:

Please call:
819-648-5689 x 301

or

Send us an e-mail at:
info@chatsfalls.ca



To read the complete report on the public consultation, please visit:

www.chatsfalls.ca/documents/index.html