

BAPE study announced on Quyon Ferry's plans to upgrade

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QUYON: A BAPE -- *bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement* – hearing is scheduled for 28th October 2008 to inform the public of the plans to modernise the Quyon Ferry.

The object of the information evening is to allow citizens to be informed about the project, the evaluation procedure and the impact on the environment. The consultation period begins September 30th and terminates November 14th.

During this 45 day period, any citizen, group or organisation may request a public examination of the project by the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks. The documentation describing the project and its possible repercussions on the environment maybe accessed at the Luskville Library or the Pontiac Town hall; and is also available online at www.bape.gouv.qc.ca, under the heading « *Mandats en cours* » until November 14th.

The project:

The Quyon Ferry enterprise proposes to modernise the ferry system which crosses the Ottawa River from Quyon in Quebec to Mohr's Landing in Ontario. The project involves replacing the current two ferries with one cable drawn boat measuring 36.5 metres. This would allow the ferry to carry twice the number of vehicles, as well as oversized vehicles such as farm machinery, trailers and RV's.

The project requires the purchase of the new ferry, the installation of an underwater steel cable to be anchored at each wharf, and the new access ramp on the Quebec side, requiring dragging to create. The entire project is estimated at slightly over 3 million dollars.

The repercussions:

The period of construction may have effects on noise levels and water quality due to the heavy machinery and kind of construction materials required. The promoter, Don McColgan, has proposed various measures to safeguard the construction, such as halting the work during the periods of fish breeding and has also has promised to alert river users to the work to ensure the safety of boaters and fishers.

Mr. McColgan claims the new ferry system will improve waiting and travelling times for ferry users and therefore reduce the use of gas and the amount of exhaust created.

“We have been working on the plans for 4 years and have focussed specifically on the environmental angle for the past 20 months,” stated Mr. McColgan. “We held an information meeting in Quyon last July which was attended by 90 people and another in Fitzroy Harbour that was attended by 45. So far most concerns were regarding the safety of

the cable -- and being 15 000 pounds in weight, you can be sure it's going to be a great deal deeper than a 6 foot long keel on a sail boat."

The meeting with the BAPE representative and Mr. McColgan is scheduled for the 28th of October 2008, 7.30p.m., at the Lusville Community Centre, next to the Municipality of Pontiac town hall: 2024, on route 148.

For more information on the project, contact M. Ugo Demetriade, at 418 643-7447 extension 425 or toll free at 800 463-4732, or by email at:

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