

PRESENTATION to BAPE re SAMONIX, September 29, 2026

My name is Winston Sunstrum. I live at 676 Chemin River, L'Isle-aux-Allumettes on a waterfront property that my wife and I bought in 1979. We retired to the property in 2001 and again became Quebec residents.

Connection to the Ottawa River and the Pontiac: My Mother's homestead was a farm with Ottawa River frontage on L'Isle-aux-Allumettes. My parents moved our family back to St. Joseph on L'Isle-aux-Allumettes in 1952 when I was 7 years old. Every year since then I have had the pleasure of swimming in the Ottawa River, including this year 2026. There is nothing more relaxing than floating on your back, dipping the back of your head in the water, and looking at the sky. Fishing in the river was a large part of my life while growing up in St. Joseph. Boating in the Ottawa River from Rapides-des-Joachim to Bryson has been a pleasure over the past 25 years. Suffice is to say that the Ottawa River has been a large part of my life for the past 74 years.

Departure from the Pontiac: There were few opportunities for work while growing up on L'Isle-aux-Allumettes in the 1950's and early 60's. I left the Pontiac in 1964 to find work in Sudbury, then further north in Manitouwadge, Ontario. From there it was Ottawa, Brockville, Kemptville and Red Rock before retiring back to L'Isle-aux-Allumettes in 2001. In all those years I always returned to the Pontiac for visits and vacations.

The BAPE hearings in Campbell's Bay: I had heard horror stories about acrimonious and difficult BAPE hearings in other jurisdictions. I attended both sessions to see for myself. I came away very impressed with the process. I was impressed by all of the participants. There were respectful questions followed by respectful answers and the opportunity to elaborate. The skill of the moderator contributed a great deal to the respectful process. **The Pontiac should be proud of how the hearings unfolded.**

The Ottawa River and the Environment: We all have an impact on the environment and most of us in the Pontiac have had an impact on the Ottawa River. This includes individuals, residents, cottagers, farmers, business owners, municipalities and even provincial/federal operations. Road salt, septic tanks, municipal waste treatment facilities, etc are all needed as we live our lives. **Having these needs while ensuring the health of the Ottawa River is our shared responsibility.**

The Ottawa River as a generator of economic development: From the fur trade and logging operations to the present day cottage industry and electricity generation, the Ottawa River has played a key role in the economic development of the Pontiac. This can continue with the approval of the Samonix project. I feel confident that, with today's technologies, the Ottawa River will remain healthy.

The Samonix Project: One of the biggest needs in the Pontiac is **Economic Development**. Samonix is one project that can help with that. We need more jobs for our young people. Keeping more people employed here will provide more customers for the businesses that are here now. A project the size of Samonix will attract more spin off businesses.

“A project anywhere in the Pontiac is good for the whole Pontiac”: [I am not the originator of this quote]. I was a Municipal Councillor on L’Isle-aux-Allumettes from 2005 to 2009. For two years in a row the municipal shares paid to the MRC Pontiac for operational costs and policing went up 25% in one year, followed by another 25% the next year. That’s a huge increase over 2 years. When I inquired I found out that the Smurfit Stone mill in Litchfield closed and stopped paying municipal taxes. This affected all other municipalities in the Pontiac that had to increase their shares to make up the loss. **A new project, such as Samonix, would increase the tax base and that would financially benefit all municipalities.**

Let’s move this project forward: The Samonix Team, the Ministère du Développement durable de l’Environnement et des Parcs, the MRC Pontiac and the Municipality of Litchfield are all capable of working collaboratively to ensure the successful implementation of this project, while also ensuring the health of the Ottawa River.

To the **SAMONIX TEAM** I say, **“WELCOME TO THE PONTIAC”**.