

Les Amis de la Rivière Kipawa

Les Amis a registered, non-profit organization based in Temiscaming, Québec. The organization was founded in 1998 in response to the Tabaret project plan to divert the Kipawa River to feed a new 132 MW hydro-electric generating station.

Our Mission is:

To protect the ecological and recreational values in the Kipawa River from Laniel to Lake Temiscaming.

Protecting ecological values means:

- making sure the aquatic ecosystem is protected, maintained or enhanced
- protecting fish habitat, in the river, and in Lake Temiscaming around the mouth of the river

Protecting recreational values means:

- promoting the area's rich history and natural heritage
- recognizing the river's historic recreational use
- protecting and promoting the future tourism and recreation potential of the river and the region

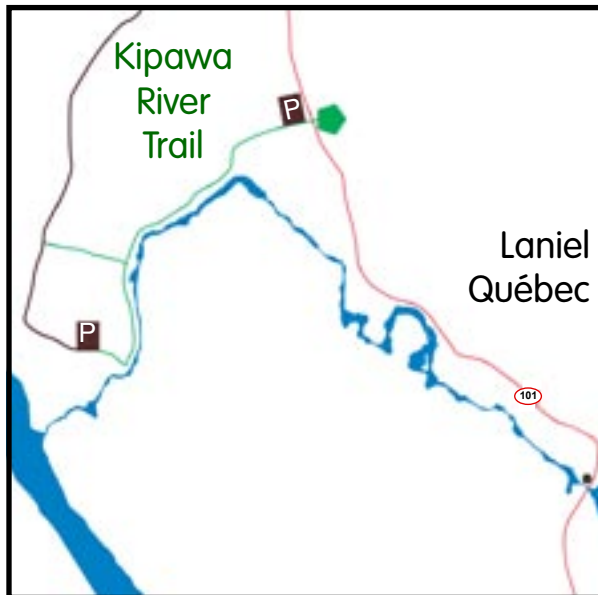
Les Amis is completely opposed to the Tabaret project. Tabaret is too big for the Kipawa watershed and far too destructive. We believe that there is a better, wiser way to make use of the Kipawa River's resources.

Les Amis is pro-development. We strongly support the sustainable use of natural resources for the benefit of the public. We believe natural resources such as the Kipawa River should be used wisely and conserved for future generations.

The Kipawa River has been very popular with paddlers since 1970, and it's recreational value is growing, attracting whitewater canoeists and kayakers from Quebec, Ontario and parts of the United States.

The river has been the site of the Kipawa River Rally, a fun and exciting annual paddling festival, since 1987. This rally is the second oldest event of its type in eastern North America.

The Kipawa River has the full potential to be one of the cornerstones of a regional tourism development strategy that could provide economic benefits for area communities far into the future.



Kipawa River Trail

The Kipawa River Trail is a perfect example of positive development and use of natural resources.

The 7-km, \$106,000 trail was constructed through a partnership involving the Municipality of Laniel, the Temiscaming MRC, Tembec, and Les Amis de la Rivière Kipawa.

Les Amis de la Rivière Kipawa
c/o Doug Skeggs
197 Esther Street
Ontario, Ont. K8A 3C3

www.kipawariver.ca

la rivière Kipawa Laniel, Québec



The Kipawa River flows from Lake Kipawa down to Lake Temiscaming on the upper Ottawa River in northwestern Québec.

This 16-km section of river is beautiful and almost completely pristine, with towering white and red pine along its banks, many sets of rapids, and a 90-foot waterfall. The area is rich in history and natural heritage. This part of Québec is the traditional territory of the Algonquin people. Early explorers and fur traders camped at the mouth of the Kipawa River as far back as the 1690s. The lumbermen of 19th century drove their logs down the river. In the 20th century, the Kipawa was the backdrop for several Hollywood movies and the summer playground of north America's rich and famous.

Tabaret

The Tabaret project involves a proposal to dig a completely new outflow from Lake Kipawa, build a 132 MW generating station and feed it by diverting the 16-km section of the Kipawa River from its natural streambed.

If this project goes ahead, the Kipawa River as we know it, and as it has been for the past 12,000 years, will be eliminated.

Our Concerns

Les Amis de la Rivière Kipawa has looked very closely at the Tabaret project. We have spoken to biologists and engineers who are experts in their fields. We have also considered each of the project “conditions” set by the developer, and we have come to the following conclusions:

• Profitable?

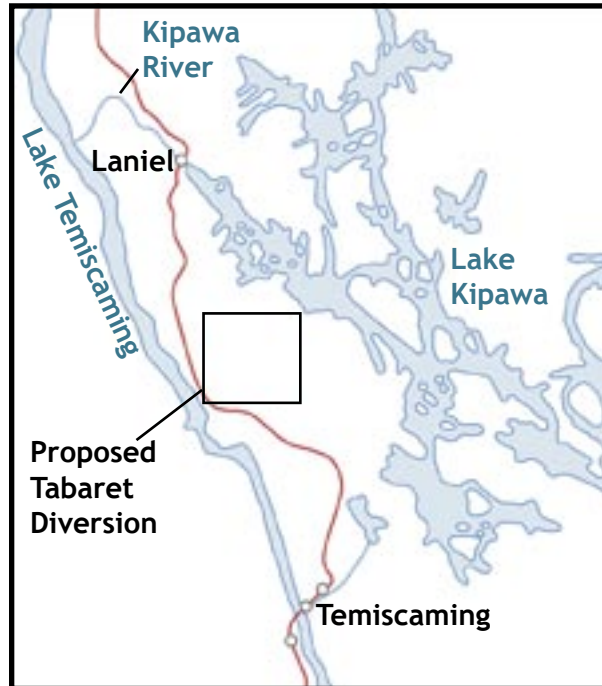
Tabaret is designed to use every drop of water available in the Kipawa watershed, but will only run at 44 percent capacity. The generating station the developer wants to build is far too big for the Kipawa, and cannot be profitable under any reasonable business model, unless there are plans to bring more water into the system from somewhere else.

• Environmentally Acceptable?

The Tabaret project involves the diversion of the Kipawa River from its natural streambed. Diverting the Kipawa will eliminate the existing aquatic ecosystem of the river, will destroy fish habitat, will severely restrict access and navigability for users of the river, and will impact water quality on parts of Lake Kipawa. By any environmental measure, this is completely and indisputably unacceptable.

• Well-Received by Local Communities?

All of the discussions and negotiations over Tabaret have been held behind closed doors. Long-time users of the river and even property owners on the river, have been left completely out of the discussions. Les Amis is in favour of an open, honest, public discussion of all issues around the Tabaret project. If a project is to be well-received by local communities, the public must have an opportunity to be informed and evaluate the impacts.



The Tabaret project plan involves the diversion of a 16-km section of the Kipawa River from its natural streambed into a new man-made outflow from Lake Kipawa.

10 Reasons Why Tabaret is a Bad Idea

- 1) Tabaret is too big. The station is designed to use every drop of water available in the Kipawa watershed, but will run at only 44 percent capacity. We believe the Tabaret station is designed to use water diverted from the Dumoine River into the Kipawa watershed in the future.
- 2) The Tabaret project will eliminate the aquatic ecosystem of the Kipawa River.
- 3) Tabaret will leave a large industrial footprint on the landscape that will impact existing tourism operations and eliminate future tourism potential.
- 4) The Tabaret project is an aggressive single-purpose development, designed to maximize power generation at the expense of all other uses.
- 5) River-diversion, such as the Tabaret project, taking large amounts of water out of a river's natural streambed and moving it to another place, is very destructive to the natural environment.
- 6) The Kipawa River has been designated a protected greenspace in the region with severe limitations on development. This designation recognizes the ecological, historical and natural heritage value of the river and the importance of protecting it. Tabaret will eliminate that value.
- 7) If necessary, there are other, smarter and more reasonable options for producing hydro power on the Kipawa watershed. It is possible to build a low-impact generating station on the Kipawa river, and manage it as a “run-of-the-river” station, making use of natural flows while maintaining other values, with minimal impact on the environment.
- 8) The Kipawa watershed is a rich natural resource for the Temiscaming Region, reasonably close to large urban areas, with huge untapped potential for tourism and recreation development in the future. Tabaret will severely reduce this potential.
- 9) Tabaret provides zero long-term economic benefit for the region through employment. The plan is for the station to be completely automated and remotely operated.
- 10) The Kipawa River is 12,000 years old. The river was here thousands of years before any people came to the region. The Tabaret project will change it forever. The future of this river is in our hands.