

Greens: Faulty installation disrupts ecosystem



Town of St. Lazare has asked for a survey of work on culverts under Chemin St. Louis as a result of complaints.
by Matthew Brett <http://www.hudsongazette.com/> last accessed on August 21, 2008

ST. LAZARE Councillors and environmentalists have brought the repaving of Chemin St. Louis into question, causing town council to call for an investigation of the construction project by town engineers. Chemin St. Louis resident and former engineer Dag Radicevic raised alarm bells when he saw that streams running under the road were choked by newly installed culverts. Radicevic maintains that the culverts are built higher than the water level, causing the natural flow of the stream to be cut off. Councillor Chico Levy and Green Coalition president David Fletcher were brought on site and both agreed that the culverts threaten to destabilize surrounding wetlands. Levy said the new culverts had begun to dry up wetlands required to filter the town's drinking water. St. Lazare is entirely serviced by well water. "Where there was a pond, there is no pond. The wetland is drying up," Levy said. "When you create a situation where a wetland is drying up because of your incompetence, you're destroying one of the filters for our water table. We need those wetlands to keep the water clean." Levy presented photos of the culverts during the August council meeting, and promayor Michel St. Louis said the town would have engineers look into the matter. "Civil engineering projects must now include as one of the defining parameters thorough ecosystem protection," Fletcher wrote when contacted by email. "St. Lazare, as other municipalities, must now be held to a higher standard than it was in the past." Mayor Paul Carzoli said inspectors will survey work on the culverts to determine what action should be taken.