



PRESS RELEASE

Gatineau Loppet Carries the Demi-marathon de la Voie verte Forward

Chelsea, Quebec — September 4, 2026 — Gatineau Loppet and Marc Roy Consulting are pleased to announce a new chapter for the Voie Verte Half Marathon: Gatineau Loppet will assume responsibility for organizing this well-established regional running event.

This transition will allow the event to continue growing while preserving its strong roots in the Chelsea community and the MRC des Collines.

Founded in 1979, Gatineau Loppet is a non-profit organization with extensive experience in staging major sporting events. In addition to the renowned Gatineau Loppet, the organization also produces Courons Gatineau, held each September. Bringing the Demi-Marathon de la Voie Verte into its family of events will allow Gatineau Loppet to fulfil its ambition of offering major outdoor sporting events driven by excellence and rooted in the heart of its community.

“Welcoming the Demi-Marathon de la Voie Verte into our family is truly something close to our hearts. The communities of Chelsea and the MRC des Collines are integral to the Gatineau Loppet, as our cross-country ski races have linked Gatineau, Chelsea and La Pêche for nearly 50 years. It is a privilege to deepen this long-standing relationship, and we look forward to teaming up with local residents to write this new chapter together while respecting the event’s roots and local character,” said **Philippe Lebel**, President of Gatineau Loppet.

The organization’s Executive Director, **Jérôme Poulin**, shares this enthusiasm.

“For us, this is a wonderful opportunity to put our experience, team and expertise to work for an event with a proven track record. Our priority will be to ensure a smooth transition for participants, volunteers, partners and the entire community,” said Mr. Poulin.

A two-year transition plan

To ensure maximum continuity, **Marc Roy** will remain involved with the event as a consultant for the next two years. His role will include sharing his expertise, supporting the Gatineau Loppet team through the transition, and helping preserve the identity and vision that have quickly established the Demi-Marathon de la Voie Verte as a must-attend regional event.

“After launching and growing the Demi-Marathon de la Voie Verte, it was important to me that its future be entrusted to an organization that deeply understands the Chelsea community and has the expertise needed to help it grow. Gatineau Loppet is the ideal partner to lead this next chapter,” said **Marc Roy**.

“This transfer is not a departure, but rather a way to give the event the resources it needs to continue developing over the long term. I will remain closely involved over the next two years to ensure a smooth transition and share all my experience with the new team.”

An event that remains at the heart of Chelsea

Despite this change in organizer, the DNA of the Demi-Marathon de la Voie Verte will remain the same. The event will continue to showcase **Chelsea, its community, businesses, volunteers and local organizations** that contribute to its success.

Supporting the Chelsea community will also remain a priority, particularly through involvement with local organizations, collaboration with regional partners, and the economic and community benefits generated by the event.

“In a way, the Voie Verte belongs to the entire community. It was therefore essential to me that the next chapter be written with local people,” added **Marc Roy**.

Statement from the Municipality of Chelsea

“The Municipality of Chelsea is proud to support the Demi-Marathon de la Voie Verte, an event that brings people together, contributes to the vitality of our community and supports important causes.

We are pleased to see the event continue to grow under the leadership of Gatineau Loppet, a well-established local organization, while maintaining its roots in Chelsea.

We would also like to recognize Marc Roy’s work and commitment over the years.

This transition will help ensure the event’s long-term future and allow us to continue offering residents of Chelsea and the surrounding region a sporting activity that brings our community together year after year,” added **Brian Nolan**, Mayor of the Municipality of Chelsea.

Next steps:

In the lead-up to the next edition of the Demi-Marathon de la Voie Verte, the Gatineau Loppet team will meet with partners, organizations and members of the Chelsea community to ensure a smooth transition and continue building this collaboration.

In the meantime, Gatineau Loppet invites running enthusiasts to [Courons Gatineau](#) on **September 26, 2026**. Registration is now open, and participants are invited to come run from one river to the other!

See you on August 22, 2027, for the third edition of the [Demi-Marathon de la Voie Verte](#)

The next edition of the Demi-Marathon de la Voie Verte will take place on Sunday, **August 22, 2027**. Good news for runners: **registration has been open since September 1, 2026**.

About the Demi-Marathon de la Voie Verte

The Demi-Marathon de la Voie Verte is a running event held along the former railway line between Wakefield and Chelsea. The event offers a unique experience showcasing Chelsea's heritage, scenery and community, while supporting local initiatives and organizations.

About Gatineau Loppet

Founded in 1979, Gatineau Loppet is a non-profit organization that organizes large-scale, accessible outdoor sporting events. Its flagship namesake event is Canada's largest annual cross-country ski gathering and the only Canadian stop on the Worldloppet circuit. The organization aims to become a Quebec leader in outdoor sporting events, recognized for its excellence, community roots and international reach.

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Spokespersons available for interviews:

- **Philippe Lebel**, Chair of the Board of Directors, Gatineau Loppet - 613-222-0157
- **Jérôme Poulin**, Executive Director, Gatineau Loppet
- **Marc Roy**, Owner, Marc Roy Consulting

Source and information:

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