

SNC calls for landslide research funding

THE NATION – The recent fatal Quebec landslide hit close to home for South Nation Conservation (SNC) and underscored the need for greater more proactive research to pinpoint sensitive formations along water-courses.

That's the appraisal from SNC General Manager Dennis O'Grady who said the May 10 incident at Saint-Jude immediately triggered memories of the largest slide on record in the local watershed.

It occurred in 1993 at Lemieux, a once bustling hamlet which today is all but deserted. On that occasion, 17 hectares of land gave way, forming a crater 680 metres long by 320 metres wide and 18 metres deep. Four years ago, a new plaque was erected to mark the spot.

Unlike the recent Quebec slide which resulted in death, only minor injuries were sustained by a passing motorist in the Lemieux incident. As a preventative measure, SNC bought out the owners of 28 properties considered at risk and has discouraged new development in the area.

O'Grady called on governments to set aside some money to permit exploration of suspected sensitive land formations.