

# Park Journal



## PARC NATIONAL des Îles-de-Boucherville

English Version

2007-2008 Tour





# THE GRAND TOUR OF QUÉBEC'S NATIONAL PARKS



Environmental protection is at the heart of the concerns of our society. Not a day goes by without this topic being discussed in the media and public forums. In addition to adhering to the strict conservation mission of national parks, Sépaq has chosen to adopt an ecological approach in the day-to-day management of territories.

Most of the good practices implemented aim to reduce energy consumption, drinking water consumption, and greenhouse gases emissions associated with the improvement of and access to national parks.

Among the many actions taken to improve our management-related environmental scorecard, mention may be made notably of the residual material management program, the use of 100% post-consumption recycled paper, the reduction of our fleet of vehicles, greater reliance on public transit services, the use of solar energy, better

water management by controlling shower utilization times, the use of biodegradable household products, and the reduction of grass-covered surfaces.

We would like to thank all Quebecers and visitors from outside Québec who have chosen to frequent national parks over the last seven years.

Your comments have enabled us to improve our approaches as well as the range of activities and services that we offer. Your many visits, close to 3.6 million visit-days in 2006, have encouraged us to offer you, on a daily basis, a high-quality "Park Experience" tailored to your needs. Continue to inspire us... For our part, we promise to keep up our work: promoting the discovery of and access to Québec's most beautiful protected natural heritage while ensuring an acceptable minimum impact.

National parks are here for you to enjoy!

Discover our regional parks



Raymond Desjardins  
Vice-president of Operations  
Parcs Québec

Yvan Bilodeau  
President and CEO  
Sépaq



## The Mission of Parcs Québec

With a view to achieving harmonious development at the cultural, social, economic and regional levels, *Parcs Québec* is responsible for the conservation and development of territories that are representative of Québec's 43 natural regions or exceptional sites, while ensuring that they are accessible for educational and outdoor use.

All of Québec's national parks were created in accordance with World Conservation Union standards. The criteria are defined as follows:

- A relatively vast area that represents one or more ecosystems that are moderately or not at all transformed by exploitation;
- Where animal and plant species, geomorphological sites and habitats are of particular interest from a scientific, educational or recreational viewpoint, and that offers scenery of great beauty;
- In which the highest competent authority of the country has taken measures to eliminate exploitation and to instill respect for the ecological, geomorphological or aesthetic aspects, on the whole;
- Where a visit is authorized, under certain conditions, for educational, cultural or recreational purposes.

## Welcome

The entire team at the *Parc national des Îles-de-Boucherville* is proud to welcome you in this protected natural territory.

You are showing up to visit us in ever-increasing numbers, and we are always just as happy to welcome you and do everything possible to make your visit a most pleasant, enriching one.

Throughout the year, the *Parc national des Îles-de-Boucherville* offers a variety of activities in a setting just perfect for relaxing and discovering.

Curious and keen? Want to find out more about this site's fauna, flora or history? Let me invite you to take part in one or another, and why not in several, of our discovery activities.

Such a small but highly frequented park requires us to exercise care and vigilance and increase conservation efforts. Several such measures need your complicity and support. We thank you in advance for your collaboration.

Have an enjoyable visit!

Serge Perreault  
Park Director

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Version française disponible

## Activities and Services

### Spring, Summer and Autumn

- Discovery Activities • Bicycle Riding • Hiking
- Canoeing and Sea Kayaking • Introductory Sea Kayaking Courses
- Bicycle and Watercraft Rental • Discovery and Services Centre
- Reception and Information Desk - Boutique Nature - Exhibit - Snack and Dairy Bar

### Winter

- Snow Hiking • Snowshoeing • Nordic Skiing • Snowshoe Rental
- Discovery and Services Centre
- Reception and Information Desk - Boutique Nature - Exhibit



# A Necklace of Islands in the Heart of the Saint-Lawrence

BY DANIELLE CHATILLON  
SUPERVISOR, CONSERVATION AND EDUCATION SERVICE

A few minutes away from Downtown Montreal lies a haven of islands, channels and thoroughfares bustling with natural life and history in the heart of one of the mightiest rivers in the world: the Saint-Lawrence. This is the *Parc national des Îles-de-Boucherville*, a representative sample of the Saint-Lawrence Lowlands' natural heritage.

In this outstanding environment, aquatic, semi-aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems mix. Wildland dominates a good part of the territory, testifying to these islands' agricultural past. They reflect nature's taking back its true identity. Here and there, a few wooded areas spring up, the largest of which is undoubtedly the Grosbois woodland, measuring 18 hectares in surface area. But these islands are also kingdom to freshwater wetlands. Marshes, bogs, sloughs, swamps and inundable meadows abound.

This combination of aquatic, semi-aquatic and terrestrial environments is home to highly diversified fauna and flora. Indeed, the Park comprises over 260 plant species, of which six are likely to be designated endangered or vulnerable: one that is legally designated vulnerable: the Blood-root (*Sanguinaria canadensis*) and one that is legally designated endangered: the Dragon-Root (*Arisaema dracontium*). The small territory of this park shelters the largest populations of this plant in Quebec.

The Park also numbers about 45 fish species, 7 amphibian species, 6 reptile species, almost 20 mammal species (White-Tailed Deer, Red Fox, Mink, Meadow Vole, Beaver, Muskrat, etc.), and over 240 bird species (American Goldfinch, Yellow Warbler, Mallard, Great Blue Heron, Northern Flicker, Great Horned

Owl, etc.) surveyed in the Park. An interesting fact is that the *Îles de Boucherville*, in the heart of the fluvial corridor, are right along one of Eastern North America's major migratory routes. They provide a rest area for migrating waterfowl as well as a spot for nesting and rearing the young.

Among all the park's animals, one species has legally been designated endangered: the Map Turtle (*Graptemys geographica*), while four other species are likely to be designated endangered or vulnerable:

- two reptiles, the Northern Brownsnake (*Storeria dekayi*) and Northern Watersnake (*Nerodia sipedon*); and
- two birds, the Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*) and Sedge Wren (*Cistothorus platensis*).

The *Îles de Boucherville* archipelago also boasts a long human history. Aborigines are said to have lived here over 2,000 years ago. In addition, subaquatic archaeological works have revealed, apart from the confirmed presence of two shipwrecks, that the channels surrounding the islands could be one of the largest breaking up yards for old steamboats in the world. For a long time, from the territory's seigniorial integration to the park's birth, these islands also provided a finest area for agriculture, hunting and fishing, as well as a waterside resort. Then *Île Grosbois* even held, from 1909 to 1928, one of the first amusement parks in Quebec: King Edward Park. Visitors could enjoy a host of entertainment, from a horse race track to rollercoasters. Finally, in 1984, the territory became the *Parc national des Îles-de-Boucherville*.



BLOODROOT



WHITE-TAILED DEER



Jean Sébastien Perron

# Winged Wonders

BY JENNIFER BÉLANGER  
PARK WARDEN

People are often afraid of them, yet we would highly benefit from allowing them to take up a bit more space in our surroundings. Indeed, as we look for more and more protection against biting insects and the West Nile virus, bats can provide tremendous help, for they exert tight control over biting insects. It is believed that a single big brown bat can gobble up to 600 mosquitoes per hour. And it is even more astonishing to discover that they catch all these insects without ever seeing them thanks to their use of echolocation: indeed, like a radar, bats emit ultra-sounds and monitor their "bounce-backs" (echo return) to accurately determine a prey's distance, size, speed, and direction of movement. This hunting method is probably among the most sophisticated in the animal world.

Of the 925 species of bats known around the world, only eight are found in Quebec. These creatures are particularly sensitive to changes occurring in their environments, which makes them highly dependable as ecological indicators. In this light, we took stock of them in the park's territory in 2006.

But how do you detect such a small and inconspicuous animal? Make no bones about it: it is impossible to identify bats



BIG BROWN BAT

on the fly, for they measure less than 13 cm (5 in), fly very fast, and produce no noise audible to the human ear. The solution lies in using a sort of electronic ear that can transform bat-generated ultra-sounds into audible sounds. But again, it is impossible to identify which species we are then dealing with, due to the calls being so fast.

Our team of park wardens thus made recordings of these calls all summer long and sent them to a firm specialized in the field. In laboratories, scientists slow down the recordings, then plot a graphic of the calls... which makes the distinguishing traits emerge. Indeed, each bat species has its own hunting sonogram, much as a unique song that allows them to nab their preys.

After spending about 15 nights tracking these winged phantoms, we were all feverishly looking forward to receiving



LITTLE BROWN BAT



Sylvain Ménard

the results of our effort and patience. To our gladness, they exceeded our expectations! Seven out of eight Quebec-based bats inhabit our park: the Big Brown Bat, the Eastern Pipistrelle, the Hoary Bat, the Silver-Haired Bat, the Eastern Red Bat as well as two *Myotis*-type bats whose calls are inextricable. In future years, we will perform this survey again to observe whether numbers of individuals and/or species have changed. Stay tuned...

## THE GREAT OUTDOORS AND CONSERVATION - THE 7 PRINCIPLES OF *Leave No Trace Canada*

Because its role encompasses more than conservation alone, Parcs Québec wants to use every possible occasion to foster support among visitors to its national parks for the adoption of ecologically responsible practices in outdoor activities. This is the reason Parcs Québec is proud to have chosen to promote the principles of *Sans trace*, the french version of the popular American *Leave No Trace* program. This code of outdoor ethics is based on the following seven principles:

- Plan Ahead and Prepare
- Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
- Dispose of Waste Properly
- Leave What You Find
- Minimise Campfire Impacts
- Respect Wildlife
- Be Considerate of Other Visitors



These principles are of course inherent in the regulatory framework that governs our national parks.

At the same time, awareness and application of *Leave No Trace* values in every single one of our outdoor activities, even the most unnoteworthy among them, can help reduce their impact on our natural environment.

To learn how you can best play your part inside Québec's national parks, you can consult [www.parksquebec.com](http://www.parksquebec.com), and click on the *Conservation Mission* tab.

To find out more about *Leave No Trace*, go to [www.aventure-ecotourisme.qc.ca](http://www.aventure-ecotourisme.qc.ca), choose English, then click on the *Leave No Trace* tab.



# Discovering the Islands... on Foot or on Bicycle



Jean-Sébastien Perron

## L'ÎLE SAINTE-MARGUERITE

### Bicycle and Hiking Trail

The seven kilometres this multi-purpose trail covers form a belt around the island. All along your trek, you will be able to appreciate different views of the river and stop at the numerous picnic grounds provided.

### Interpretation Signs

«Islands to Explore » (in French only)  
14 signs, of which 6 are located on *Île Sainte-Marguerite*, border the bicycle and hiking trail, presenting some of the park's various prominent features. Consult the park map on pages 8 and 9 to pinpoint the signs.

### A Necklace of Islands in the Heart of the Saint-Lawrence - Exhibit

What are the park's typical environments and its main inhabitant animals? What are the highlights of the park's history? How long has the territory been used by humans? These are only a few of the facets you will learn by walking the park's thematic exhibit located in the Discovery and Visitor Centre. Open 7 days per week at the scheduled hours indicated on page 15.

### Rustic Hiking Trails

These trails have been planned, laid out and set up specifically for hiking on a cut grass base, and are reserved for hikers only. They feature three loops - Grande Rivière (4 km), Petite Rivière (2.5 km) and Grand-Duc (1.5 km) - twisting and turning from and to the Discovery and Visitor Centre and allowing you to witness the park from different angles and viewpoints, such as wooded areas and regenerating fields.

### Les secrets du sentier du Grand-Duc (in French only)

At the entry point to the *Grand-Duc* loop, take a copy of this brochure from the dispenser box provided. This tool, complete with colour photos, will help you encounter unsuspected facets of our park at 11 stop and vista points identified along the 45-minute hiking circuit. Take pleasure in identifying trees and examine a tree cut down by inhabitant beavers.



### Rallye nature (in French only)

Before setting off on the *Grand-Duc* Rustic Trail, you can also pick up the Nature Rally leaflet at the Discovery and Visitors Centre. All along the *Grand-Duc* loop, your knowledge will be tested at various stop points corresponding to questions in the leaflet.

## L'ÎLE DE LA COMMUNE

The *Île de la Commune* offers five kilometres of bicycle and hiking trail. Access is by the little cable ferry (*bac à câble*) from *Île Sainte-Marguerite*. This free service is offered from mid-May to end of October. Find out more about it on page 15.

### Vistas from Atop the Tower

On *Île de la Commune*, about two kilometres away from the main parking lot, an observation tower over 15 metres high has been erected. It allows visitors to take in a splendid view on the most important marsh area of the park, where fauna and flora add to the scenery. In the background, you will see one of the mightiest rivers in the world, the Saint-Lawrence, and a breath-taking view of Montreal's downtown skyline and its port.

## L'ÎLE AUX RAISINS

### Ile aux Raisins Hiking Trail

Accessible from the observation tower on *Île de la Commune*, this looping 3.5-km trail has a somewhat "wilder" look and feel to it since no other site work or development has been carried out on this island. The diversity of this environment, at times open at times wooded, adds to the island's innate charm. The view it provides of the others islands is worth the detour. Though the trail is accessible to hikers only, you can still reach it on bicycle and park the latter on its stand at the entrance to the trail.



Parcours le monde

MALLARD DUCK

### Bird-Watch Leaflet

If bird-watching fascinates you, stop by at the Interpretation and Visitors Centre and pick up our leaflet listing the plethora of bird species to be observed at the park. The list is available in English on the park's Web site: [www.parksquebec.com](http://www.parksquebec.com)

## L'ÎLE GROSBOIS

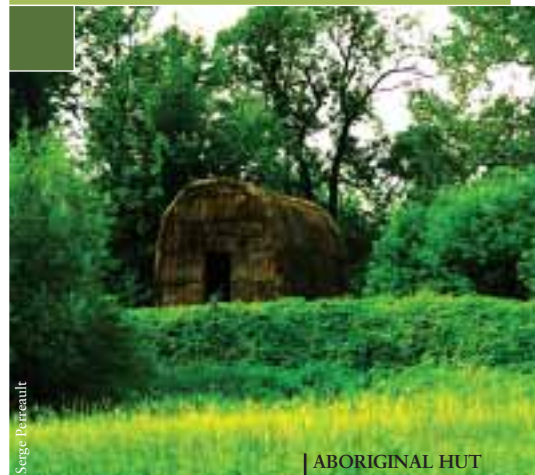
*Île Grosbois* can be accessed from *Île de la Commune* via a wooden bridge. The complete circuit of this island measures about seven kilometres via a bicycle and hiking trail.

### Boucher-de-Grosbois Archæological Site

If you feel like travelling in time and plunging back into the customs practised and way of life led by the aboriginals that inhabited the territory some 1,000 years ago, head to the Boucher-de-Grosbois Archæological Site located right by the Grosbois Relay. Various facilities such as a drier, a smokehouse, a leather stretcher and fireplaces now adorn the site and allow you to better understand the lifestyle of that era's aboriginals. Two interpretation signs and a brochure (in French only) available on the site provide a host of information; as well, on certain days, a park warden on hand will provide further details on your discoveries.

### Grosbois Relay

Did you know these islands once featured an amusement park with roller-coasters and a hippodrome? Find out about our islands' astonishing history by witnessing the permanent photograph exhibit "An Archipelago and A History". Rest rooms and drinking water are also available at the relay.



Serge Perreault

ABORIGINAL HUT

# Aboard a Kayak or Canoe



Danny Champagne

FRAGRANT WATER-LILY

### Canoeing and Sea Kayaking

Visiting the park via the islands' internal waterways means guaranteed new surroundings. We suggest a Marked Nautical Trail on which you are sure to make a multitude of discoveries and find out your position using the park map. The full circuit (markings 1 to 10) takes at least three hours to complete. You can rent watercraft on site or bring in your own nautical equipment. Upon request and presentation of a photo identity card, the rental centre can lend you a cart for transporting your craft from the parking lot.

### Fauna and Flora Guide

(in French only)

Using the discovery guide to life in the marsh, learn about fauna and flora while canoeing in the channels that separate the islands. Upon request and presentation of a photo identity card, the Rental Centre can lend you this guide free of charge.



### Guided Sunset Tours

Sunset time is a magnificent moment in the channels surrounding the islands and marshes within them. This is why this year, we have planned guided sea kayak tours at day's end in June, July and August. Departure takes place at the Rental Centre for a ride lasting around three hours (departure time varies from one month to the other). Rates: \$35.10 per adult, \$17.55 per 10- to 17-year old child (equipment included, taxes and access rate extra). Reserve early by phoning the Discovery and Visitor Centre at 450.928.5088.

### Introductory Sea Kayaking Courses

A basic introduction, a discovery of the site, information on safety rules, and practical advice make up the program for this course held from 9 A. M. to 12 P. M. every Saturday morning from May 19 to September 29, 2006. Rates: \$35.10 per adult, \$17.55 per 10- to 17-year old child (equipment included, taxes and access rate extra).

N.B.: Introductory sea kayaking and canoeing courses can be provided to organized groups (both adults and youngsters).

## OUR GREEN APPROACH TO THE DAILY MANAGEMENT OF NATIONAL PARKS

Sépaq thinks and acts green in managing the national parks under its care. It knows how important national parks are to the success of sustainable development and lets this guide every environmental decision it makes. Concrete measures include:

- An ecological integrity program to monitor the state of health of parks
- More and more buildings powered by solar energy
- Public transportation in the Hautes-Gorges-de-la-Rivière-Malbaie, Gaspésie, Jacques-Cartier and Oka national parks
- Electric vehicles in the Oka and Îles-de-Boucherville national parks
- Downsizing and rationalization of the vehicle fleet
- Reduction in drinking water consumption in campgrounds thanks to water meters in showers
- A waste management program
- Progressive discontinuation of the use of plastic bags for consumers
- Promotion tools printed on 100% postconsumer paper
- Biodegradable household products
- Natural or neon lighting

These actions are proof of our commitment to help improve the use of resources and preserve the land for the benefit of current and future generations.



# Parc national des Îles-de-Boucherville



## Your Personal Contribution to Conserving the Park

Do you love the park? We work hard so that you and your children can benefit from an extremely rich natural environment. However, as the number of visitors keeps increasing with every passing year, your collaboration is essential.

Do you wish to contribute to conserving this natural environment? Here is how you can help, and very simply:



- Leave your dog(s) home. These animals are a source of disturbance and disruption for fauna and other visitors. Dogs can even attack and endanger survival of certain species such as the White-Tailed Deer, often harassed or injured during a pursuit or chase.



- Remain on the authorized trails at all times in order to ensure a minimal degree of peace and tranquillity for the park's abundant fauna. Avoid disturbing the fauna by trying to approach it.



- Let the animals feed themselves. Human food is not always appropriate for their nutritional needs. In addition, animals that have become too familiar with humans often cause numerous annoyances, can even harass you to obtain food, and can more easily fall prey to poaching. For their own

good, and your pleasure, let the park's wildlife remain wild.



- Refrain from picking flowers and plants. One isolated picking of a bouquet may have only a negligible impact. However, the same act imitated by tens or hundreds of visitors could produce major consequences on the natural environment's integrity and aesthetic value.

In brief, observe rules and regulations in effect at the park and check out the list of authorized activities posted at the Discovery and Visitors Centre.



## Recycle! It's important...



Glass...



Metal...



And plastic...



PLASTIC, GLASS, METAL



...are recyclable. Thank you for contributing to the protection of the environment by putting your containers in the tubs provided for this purpose, in all national parks in the Parcs Québec network.



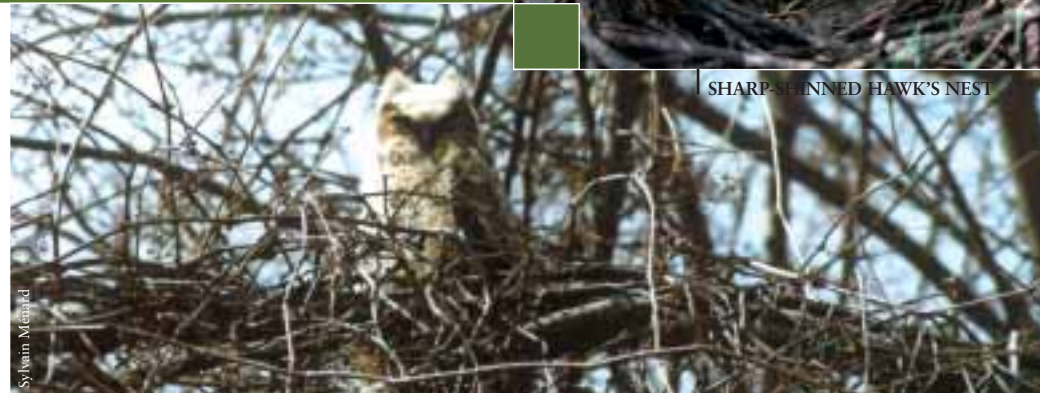
# Searching for Raptors

BY DENIS HENRI  
PARK WARDEN

On Monday, April 24, 2006, a team of park wardens systematically patrol the 8.14-km<sup>2</sup> territory. The mission: discover all birds of prey likely to nest in the park! This was meant as the very first field inventory of its kind to be organized and taken in the entire park. First though, a bit of a backgrounder!

Quebec is home to 25 different raptor species. Ten of these are so-called nocturnal hunters (owls), while the other 15 are day-time hunters (Falcons, Hawks, Sparrowhawks, Eagles, Fish-Eagles, Sea-Eagles, Harriers and Ospreys). Among all of them, eight are highly unlikely to nest in the Greater Montreal region, for their distribution area generally lies much more to the north: the Rough-Legged Hawk, the Bald Eagle, the Golden Eagle, the Gyrfalcon, the Great Grey Owl, the Snowy Owl, the Boreal Owl and the Northern Hawk-Owl. Thus 17 raptor species are liable to nest in the *Parc national des Îles-de-Boucherville* and its vicinity.

Habitat is a very important factor in choosing a nesting site for birds of prey. While some like to hunt in fields, prairies, marshes and other open areas, such as the *Parc national des Îles-de-*



SHARP-SHINNED HAWK'S NEST

JUVENILE GREAT HORNED OWL

*Boucherville*, others prefer settling in wooded areas. To this date, five raptor species have been found to nest in the park: the American Kestrel, the Northern Harrier, the Sharp-Shinned Hawk, the Short-Eared Owl and the Great Horned Owl. The relatively tiny size of our wooded areas makes them uncongenial for species that prefer these habitats, such as the Northern Goshawk, the Red-Shouldered Hawk, the Broad-Winged Hawk, the Barred Owl and the Northern Saw-Whet Owl. Additionally, as there are no tall buildings, bridges or rocky cliffs, the prestigious peregrine falcon will find no inclination to make its nest here. However, a couple of this species was observed for two straight summer seasons near the *Île Charron* bridge. The 2006 inventory allowed us to

confirm nesting of three raptor species: the American Kestrel, the Sharp-Shinned Hawk and the Great Horned Owl. Two Long-Eared Owls were also observed, but a visit in June could not confirm their nesting. It is very sure that the Northern Harrier nests somewhere on the islands, but finding a nest on the ground in tall grass is not exactly a piece of cake!

In the not-too-distant future, we hope to confirm nesting of the Red-Tailed Hawk, the Long-Eared Owl, the Cooper's Hawk or the Eastern Screech-Owl. What will the next discovery be?



Denis Henri

# Rare Crawling Reptiles

BY ANNICK BOIVIN  
PARK WARDEN

Snake. Does the word make you shiver and shudder? It must be admitted that horror movies have built up a very cruel image and reputation for this animal. Eight different snake species inhabit Quebec, all under the Colubridae family. None of them have any fangs, but this does not mean they are defenseless! They can coil themselves like ropes, they can swell, fake a bite, actually inflict painful bites, and even play possum! Snakes will also release a nauseating liquid through the cloaca if they are scared. Enough to dissuade anyone from handling them!

Our park is inhabited by three species of snakes: the Common Gartersnake, the Northern Brownsnake and the Northern Watersnake. The one most often observed in Quebec is the Common Gartersnake, which can

measure up to 70 cm in length. Its three stripes, often yellow, make it easy to identify.

The Northern Brownsnake is more modest in size, measuring between 25 and 35 cm in length. The rarity of this field dweller has made it an ecological indicator of our park's condition. Thus we made an inventory of its population in a particular section of the park in 2006, and we will follow up with it annually. The method is simple. As snakes are ectothermic (cold-blooded), their body temperature is controlled and determined by outside factors (ambient temperature, sunlight exposure, etc.), and they come to sprawl underneath objects that retain the sun's warmth and absorb its energy. So we spread asphalt shingles around in their habitat. All we have to do is flip them over and take count of the snakes beneath.

Concerning the Northern Watersnake, its presence was certified once. It is the longest snake representative in Quebec, at 110 cm. It is easy to guess its fondest habitat. As its name implies, the Northern Watersnake lives close to marshes, ponds and herbaceous shores. We carried out a search for potential habitats in the *Chenal du courant* in Spring 2006. Only long-term follow-up will enable us to find out whether the individual observed in the park was part of a local population.

The Northern Brownsnake and Northern Watersnake are both likely to be designated endangered or vulnerable species in Quebec. Their scarcity stems from several factors, including their sedentary nature and destruction of their habitat by intensive urban development. Fortunately, the park's animal and plant populations are protected against such threats!



NORTHERN BROWNSNAKE



COMMON GARTERSNAKE

## School Programs *(offered in French only)*

The park offers two schooling programs for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> elementary cycle students. Designed in the spirit of the school reform, these programs suggest several activities that enable elementary students to share an enlightening, privileged learning experience with Mother Nature. Before the activities take place, we send teachers an educational guide and copy book, and provide them with software on the [www.parksquebec.com](http://www.parksquebec.com) Web site in order to make sure all activities run appropriately before, during and after the park visit. Teachers have access to two options :

### Free Programs

Teachers can carry out these programs on their own; in fact, these were designed accordingly. However, it should be noted that a park warden meets with the group both at the beginning and end of the visit at the park.

### Programs Subject to Pricing

If teachers so wish, a park warden can animate these programs in full during the visit at the park. The rate is then set to \$120 per class (plus sales taxes).



Viscy Yvelere

## AVENTURE ÉCOTOURISME QUÉBEC

The outfitters, members of Aventure Écotourisme Québec, in collaboration with Sépaq, offer you several stays and guided activities especially conceived for having you discover exceptional natural spaces.

AEQ groups together more than one hundred producers in adventure tourism and in ecotourism that join forces for offering you high-quality products.

Consult the Association's website for planning your guided activities in Sépaq's national parks, wildlife reserves and tourist centres

For more information on the Association and his members:  
[www.aventure-ecotourisme.qc.ca](http://www.aventure-ecotourisme.qc.ca)

**Saint-Bruno**  
1221, boul. des Promenades  
450-441-3888

## Always supportive!



# Discovery Activities

(Activities scheduled are offered in French only but are available in English upon reservation)



April	
<b>Saturday</b> 21, 28 Behold Migrating Ducks 9:30 A.M.	<b>Sunday</b> 22, 29 Behold Migrating Ducks 9:30 A.M.
In the Footprints of the White-Tailed Deer 1:30 P.M. and 3:30 P.M.	In the Footprints of the White-Tailed Deer 1:30 P.M. and 3:30 P.M.
May	
<b>Saturday</b> 5, 12, 19 Introduction to Bird-Watching 9 A.M.	<b>Sunday and Legal Holiday</b> 6, 13, 20 Introduction to Bird-Watching 9 A.M.
5, 12, 19, 26 Behold Migrating Ducks 9:30 A.M.	6, 13, 20, 21, 27 Behold Migrating Ducks 9:30 A.M.
12, 19, 26 Discovery Stand and Boucher-de-Grosbois Archæological Site 10:30 A.M. to 4 P.M.	13, 20, 21, 27 Discovery Stand and Boucher-de-Grosbois Archæological Site 10:30 A.M. to 4 P.M.
5, 12 In the Footprints of the White-Tailed Deer 1:30 P.M. and 3:30 P.M.	6, 13 In the Footprints of the White-Tailed Deer 1:30 P.M. and 3:30 P.M.
19, 26 Birds Ahead! 1:30 P.M. and 3:30 P.M.	20, 21, 27 Birds Ahead! 1:30 P.M. and 3:30 P.M.
June	
<b>Saturday</b> 2, 9 Introduction to Bird Songs 9 A.M.	<b>Sunday and Legal Holiday</b> 3, 10 Introduction to Bird Songs 9 A.M.
2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Rabascaw Ride in the Marsh 9:30 A.M.	3, 10, 17, 24, 25 Rabascaw Ride in the Marsh 9:30 A.M.
Discovery Stand and Boucher-de-Grosbois Archæological Site 10:30 A.M. to 4 P.M.	Discovery Stand and Boucher-de-Grosbois Archæological Site 10:30 A.M. to 4 P.M.
Indicators of Wildlife 1:30 P.M. and 3:30 P.M.	Indicators of Wildlife 1:30 P.M. and 3:30 P.M.

July	
<b>Saturday</b> 7, 14, 21, 28 The Islands on Bicycle 9:45 A.M.	<b>Sunday and Legal Holiday</b> 1, 2, 8, 15, 22, 29 Rabascaw Ride in the Marsh 9:30 A.M.
Discovery Stand and Boucher-de-Grosbois Archæological Site 10:30 A.M. to 4 P.M.	Discovery Stand and Boucher-de-Grosbois Archæological Site 10:30 A.M. to 4 P.M.
First in the Field 1:30 P.M. and 3:30 P.M.	First in the Field 1:30 P.M. and 3:30 P.M.
August	
<b>Saturday</b> 4, 11, 18, 25 The Islands' History Through Time 9:30 A.M.	<b>Sunday</b> 5, 12, 19, 26 The Islands' History Through Time 9:30 A.M.
Discovery Stand and Boucher-de-Grosbois Archæological Site 10:30 A.M. to 4 P.M.	Discovery Stand and Boucher-de-Grosbois Archæological Site 10:30 A.M. to 4 P.M.
A Thousand and One Secrets of the Park 1:30 P.M. and 3:30 P.M.	A Thousand and One Secrets of the Park 1:30 P.M. and 3:30 P.M.
September	
<b>Saturday</b> 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Discovery Stand and Boucher-de-Grosbois Archæological Site 10:30 A.M. to 4 P.M.	<b>Sunday and Legal Holiday</b> 2, 3, 9, 16, 23, 30 The Islands' History Through Time 9:30 A.M.
1, 8, 15, 22 Beavers on the Islands 1:30 P.M. and 3:30 P.M.	Discovery Stand and Boucher-de-Grosbois Archæological Site 10:30 A.M. to 4 P.M.
29 In the Footprints of the White-Tailed Deer 1:30 P.M. and 3:30 P.M.	2, 3, 9, 16, 23 Beavers on the Islands 1:30 P.M. and 3:30 P.M.
	30 In the Footprints of the White-Tailed Deer 1:30 P.M. and 3:30 P.M.
October	
<b>Saturday</b> 6, 13 Discovery Stand 10:30 A.M. to 4 P.M.	<b>Sunday and Legal Holiday</b> 7, 8, 14 Discovery Stand 10:30 A.M. to 4 P.M.
In the Footprints of the White-Tailed Deer 1:30 P.M. and 3:30 P.M.	In the Footprints of the White-Tailed Deer 1:30 P.M. and 3:30 P.M.

**Do not miss our evening activities on Tuesdays and Wednesdays! From June to mid-August. For further information and reservations: call the Discovery and Services Centre at 450.928.5088.**

## Upon Reservation for Groups

Your group can participate in one or more of these activities on weekdays. In addition, one other activity, namely "Ride around the Islands", is part of our group offering. For further details and to reserve, call 450.928.5088.

## Behold Migrating Ducks\*

Aboard a rabascaw, discover the variety of ducks that stop over in the marsh and take advantage of this unique habitat as a staging area!

**Duration :** about 2 1/2 hours  
**Departure point :** Rental Centre  
**Rate :** \$8.34/adult- \$4.17/child (plus taxes)

## In the Footprints of the White-Tailed Deer\*

Take a vehicle ride and set off to discover the behaviour and habitat of the largest animal in the park! A park warden will lead you to the various places on the islands where it is most likely to be found.

**Duration :** about 1 1/4 hours  
**Departure point :** Discovery and Services Centre  
**Rate :** \$4.39/adult- \$2.19/child (plus taxes)

## Introduction to Bird-Watching\*

Want to learn to identify birds? This training activity is made to measure for you! After an in-class session that teaches you the basic concepts, your new theoretical knowledge is put to the test as part of a guided hike that enables you to experience the variety of the park's bird life. Binoculars and identification guide are provided.

**Duration :** about 3 hours  
**Departure point :** Discovery and Services Centre  
**Rate :** \$13.16/participant (plus taxes)

## Birds Ahead! \*

Come watch some of the 190 bird species surveyed to this date in our park, and understand the importance of this territory for bird life in the regional context of the Saint-Lawrence Lowlands. Binoculars and identification guide are provided.

**Duration :** about 1 1/4 hours  
**Departure point :** Discovery and Services Centre  
**Free**

## NEW Introduction to Bird Songs \*

A bird has just sung nearby, but which bird is it? Learn to distinguish birds by their calls and songs in a practical training session. An interpretive talk followed by a guided hike will enable you to hone your ears! Binoculars and identification guide are provided.

**Duration :** about 3 hours  
**Departure point :** Discovery and Services Centre  
**Rate :** \$13.16/participant (plus taxes)

## Rabascaw Ride in the Marsh\*

Marshes as natural environments are often largely unknown and sometimes ignored, but how rich in animal and plant variety! A park warden will guide you aboard a rabascaw in this area where your senses will wake up and revel!

**Duration :** about 2 1/2 hours  
**Departure point :** Rental Centre  
**Rate :** \$8.34/adult- \$4.17/child (plus taxes)

## Indicators of Wildlife\*

Ever wondered which animals inhabit our islands? Are they feathered? Furred? Scaled? A park warden will lead you along the Great Horned Owl's Path (*Sentier du Grand-Duc*) and show you how to recognize the telltale signs of their presence in the park.  
**Duration :** about 1 1/4 hours  
**Departure point :** Discovery and Services Centre  
**Free**

## NEW! The Islands on Bicycle\*

Saddle your bicycle and explore the great variety of the park's habitats. From marsh to forest, discover the islands' plant, animal and historical heritage.

**Duration :** about 2 hours  
**Departure point :** Rental Location  
**Rate :** \$5.70/adult- \$2.85/child (plus rental and taxes)

## First in the Field\*

Fields are dull, trite and lifeless? Look again! Here, multi-coloured flowers and animals of all kinds abound! Join the group and also encounter the fascinating world of insects!

**Duration :** about 1 1/4 hours  
**Departure point :** Discovery and Services Centre  
**Free**

## The Islands' History Through Time\*

As part of an excursion aboard a rabascaw, unearth the highlights of this territory's human history, from prehistoric times up to the park's creation. You will also make a stop at the archæological site.

**Duration :** about 2 1/2 hours  
**Departure point :** Rental Location  
**Rate :** \$8.34/adult- \$4.17/child (plus taxes)

## A Thousand and One Secrets of the Park\*

The park conceals numerous mysteries... come and unveil its unique landscape, its multiple habitats, its principal trees and its diversified fauna.

**Duration :** about 1 1/4 hours  
**Departure point :** Discovery and Services Centre  
**Free**

## Beavers on the Islands\*

This ingenious rodent has left its mark all through our territory's history! Take part in this excursion in the islands to debunk this fascinating natural builder and its particular way of life.

**Duration :** about 1 1/4 hours  
**Departure point :** Discovery and Services Centre  
**Free**

## POSTED ACTIVITIES

### Discovery Stand

Got a shower of questions concerning the park, its flora, fauna and history? Come meet our park wardens near the cable car descent on *Île Sainte-Marguerite*. They will make it a pleasure to satisfy your curiosity. In addition, mounted animals and information signs will reveal this territory's distinctive features. Subject to change without notice. **Free**

### Boucher-de-Grosbois Archæological Site

Further to archæological excavations, this site has been laid out to show the way of life of Iroquoians who inhabited these islands long ago. Visit this campsite, located close to the *Relais Grosbois*, with a park warden who will fill you in on a surprising historical aspect of this park. Fire lighting demonstrations and artifact reconstitution are also on the menu. Subject to change without notice. **Free**

## WEEKDAY EVENINGS

### The Beaver at Sundown\*

Take an excursion off the beaten track, aboard a rabascaw at nightfall. Learn about the beaver's behaviour in its habitat at the times of day best suited for its observation!

**Schedule :** Tuesdays and Wednesdays June 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20, 26 and 27; July 3, 4 and 31; and August 1, 7 and 8.  
**Duration :** about 1 1/2 hours  
**Departure :** 6:30 P.M., at Rental Centre  
**Rate :** \$6,14/adult - \$3,07/child (plus taxes)

### NEW! Sunset Safari\*

Take a vehicle ride to visit the park when everything is quiet and peaceful. Or is it really? This safari will lead you into the "night life" of these islands' inhabitants.  
**Schedule :** Tuesdays and Wednesdays July 10, 11, 17, 18, 24 and 25.  
**Duration :** about 1 1/2 hours  
**Departure :** 7 P.M., at Discovery and Services Centre  
**Rate :** \$5.27/adult - \$2.63/child (plus taxes)

\* To participate in these activities per schedule, please register either in person at the Discovery and Visitors Centre or by calling 450.928.5088 (minimum age required for rabascaw excursions).  
N.B.: A minimum of eight people is required for any activity on the program to take place.

# The Islands in Winter

Since Opening Day over 20 years ago, the park has been open year-round. During winter, *Île Sainte-Marguerite* offers hikers, snowshoers and cross-country skiers new scenery and an atmosphere that is beyond just peaceful. The islands' flat terrains make practising these activities accessible to the whole family.

The marked, packed rustic trails planned and set up specifically for hiking feature three loops: *Grand-Duc* (1.5 km), *Petite Rivière* (2.5 km), and *Grande Rivière* (4 km). Snowshoers and skiers can take advantage of seven kilometres of marked, non-mechanically groomed trails. Snowshoes (for adults and children) can be rented on site at popular rates.

A large part of our islands' fauna stays active even in cold weather. Thus winter, owing to the snow's white blanket and the trees bare of any leaves, is highly suitable for observing these animals and indications of their presence (Red Fox paw tracks, White-Tailed Deer droppings, Squirrel nests, etc.). Ask for your copy of the winter activities leaflet and visit our Web site at address [www.parksquebec.com](http://www.parksquebec.com).



Sylvain Ménard

# Ours Services

## Calendar and Opening Hours

Service	Dates Open	Hours	Days
Discovery and Visitors Centre	April 1 to May 11 May 12 to September 3 September 4 to October 28 October 29 to March 31	9 A.M. to 5 P.M. 8 A.M. to 7 P.M. 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. to be determined	7 days/week 7 days/week 7 days/week to be determined
Cable Ferry * (Bac à câble)	May 12 to September 3 September 4 to October 8 September 4 to October 8 October 9 to October 28	10 A.M. to 7 P.M. 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. 10 A.M. to 6 P.M. 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.	7 days/week Weekdays, hourly service Weekends + Legal Holidays Weekends
Snack and Dairy Bar	May 12 to June 3 May 12 to June 3 June 4 to September 3 June 4 to September 3 September 4 to October 8	11 A.M. to 4 P.M. 11 A.M. to 6 P.M. 11 A.M. to 6 P.M. 11 A.M. to 7 P.M. 11 A.M. to 5 P.M.	Monday, Thursday and Friday Weekends + Legal Holidays Weekdays Weekends + Legal Holidays Thursday to Monday
Bicycle and Watercraft Rental **	May 12 – May 25 May 26 – September 3 May 26 – September 3 September 4 to October 8	9 A.M. to 5 P.M. 9 A.M. to 7 P.M. 8:30 A.M. to 7 P.M. 9 A.M. to 5 P.M.	Thursday to Monday Weekdays Weekends + Legal Holidays 7 days/week
Snowshoe Rental **	December to March 31	to be determined	to be determined

\*Opening date may vary depending on water temperature

\*\* Equipment must be returned before closing time.

The sale of rental equipment will take place on Saturday, October 13, 2007, from 9 A.M. to 4 P.M.

The calendar and opening hours may be subject to modifications depending on visitor traffic and outside temperature.

## Enjoy a Taste of Paradise in the heart of Montreal !



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ALL PROFITS ARE REINVESTED IN THE PARKS TO ENSURE THEIR PRESERVATION.

## Bicycle and Watercraft Rental Rates (Before Sales Taxes)

	1 hour	3 hours	1 day
Canoe	\$11.85	\$23.69	\$33.57
Rowboat	\$11.63	\$23.26	\$33.13
Rabascaw	\$53.97	\$107.72	\$153.80
Single-Seater Sea Kayak	\$12.94	\$25.67	\$36.64
Double-Seater Sea Kayak	\$17.55	\$34.88	\$49.80
Life Vest (without rental)	N/A	N/A	\$4.61
Rowing and Paddling (without rental)	N/A	N/A	\$4.61
Adult Bicycle	\$9.87	\$19.53	\$28.08
Child Bicycle	\$4.83	\$9.65	\$13.60
Tandem Bicycle	\$14.48	\$28.96	\$41.03
Trailer Bicycle	\$6.36	\$13.16	\$18.21
Child Carriage	\$6.58	\$13.16	\$18.65
Bicycle Helmet (without rental)	N/A	N/A	\$4.61
Volley-Ball Court Rates	\$11.41	\$22.82	\$32.69

## Access Rates (Sales Taxes Included)

Category	Daily	Park Card	Network Card
Adult (aged 18 and over)	\$3.50	\$16.50	\$30.00
Family (1 adult with children aged 6 to 17)	\$5.00	\$25.00	\$45.00
Family(2 adults with children aged 6 to 17)	\$7.00	\$35.00	\$70.00
Child (6 to 17)	\$1.50	\$7.50	\$15.00
Organized Adult Group	\$3.00 /pers	N/A	N/A

Subject to change without notice. The Park and Network Cards are valid for 12 months as of the purchase date. Children aged under 6, organized pupil groups (pre-school, elementary and high school), organized youth groups aged 6 to 17, and organized student groups (college and university) can access the park free of charge for educational purposes.



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