



*Fondation
Hydro-Québec
pour l'environnement*

ANNUAL REPORT

2015
YEARS

2015 YEARS

CONTENTS

- 1 Message from Management
- 2 The Foundation
- 4 Geographical Distribution of Projects Supported by the Foundation in 2015
- 6 Lands and Forests
- 10 Rivers and Lakes
- 12 Wetlands
- 16 Awareness and Education
- 18 Review of Operations
- 22 Financial Statements
- 28 Board of Directors 2015

Abbreviations, acronyms and symbols

| | |
|-----|------------------------------|
| ha | hectare |
| IBA | Important Bird Area |
| MRC | regional county municipality |
| UPA | Québec farm producers' union |
| ZIP | area of prime concern |





MESSAGE FROM MANAGEMENT

This year marks the 15th anniversary of the Fondation Hydro-Québec pour l'environnement. Since its creation, the Foundation has supported well-defined initiatives by partners dedicated to protecting the environment and raising awareness about the importance and fragility of natural areas. The Foundation's funding program is a tangible expression of Hydro-Québec's desire to help enhance and protect Québec's natural heritage.

Since its inception in 2001, the Foundation has granted over \$13 million to 130 organizations, municipalities, regional county municipalities and band councils, supporting 238 projects with a total value of more than \$42 million. We are proud to be associated with all of these projects, which could not have been realized without our partners' commitment, determination and enthusiasm. We want to thank all the volunteers, partners, experts and the Foundation's Board members and staff who contributed to the projects described in this year's report as well as those carried out over the past 15 years.

In 2015, we funded 16 new projects in nine of Québec's administrative regions, allocating a total of \$964,485. Focused on ecologically rich areas, these initiatives will benefit 62 species considered threatened, vulnerable or likely to be so designated based on Québec's *Act respecting threatened or vulnerable species*. This remarkable contribution to the protection of at-risk species is a result of the many high-quality projects submitted to the Foundation, and we congratulate the proponents who design and implement them.

In closing, we would like to welcome Gilles Lemieux, who joined the Foundation's Board of Directors in March 2015, and to express our sincere gratitude to Michelle Dyke, who was the Foundation's Executive Director for the 2015 fiscal year.

/s/ Stella Leney
President

/s/ Carlo Gagliardi
Executive Director

*Tip of Île Bouchard in
the Fleuve Saint-Laurent,
across from Saint-Sulpice*
© alm Par Avion

On the cover:
*Snag, Lacs Fauvel area
in Blainville*
© Nature-Action Québec

Other photo sources
are provided at the end
of the report.

Mission

The Fondation Hydro-Québec pour l'environnement is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to help Québec communities develop a sense of ownership of their environment, enjoy it responsibly and pass on this natural heritage to future generations.

Objectives

The Foundation funds tangible initiatives in local communities across Québec, whose environmental and social benefits serve community interests. The projects it supports are the result of collaboration at the local level and have the following aims:

- To protect, restore and enhance natural habitats
- To educate target publics about local environmental issues

These objectives go hand in hand: an environmental protection or rehabilitation project will have no enduring effect if the people who have an impact on the site do not feel concerned. Similarly, the message of an awareness-raising or educational activity will go unheeded if it does not give people a way to take action.

The Foundation supports projects that are likely to have direct, positive impacts on specific natural areas. Educational projects satisfy this criterion if they focus on changing the behavior of clearly defined target groups with respect to the natural areas they use. Thus, educating the public about general environmental issues is not part of the Foundation's mission.

Principles

- Support local initiatives that reflect the desire of communities to steward their environment
- Focus on joint projects that have the active support of a number of partners
- Fund initiatives with positive and tangible environmental and social impacts

Conditions of participation

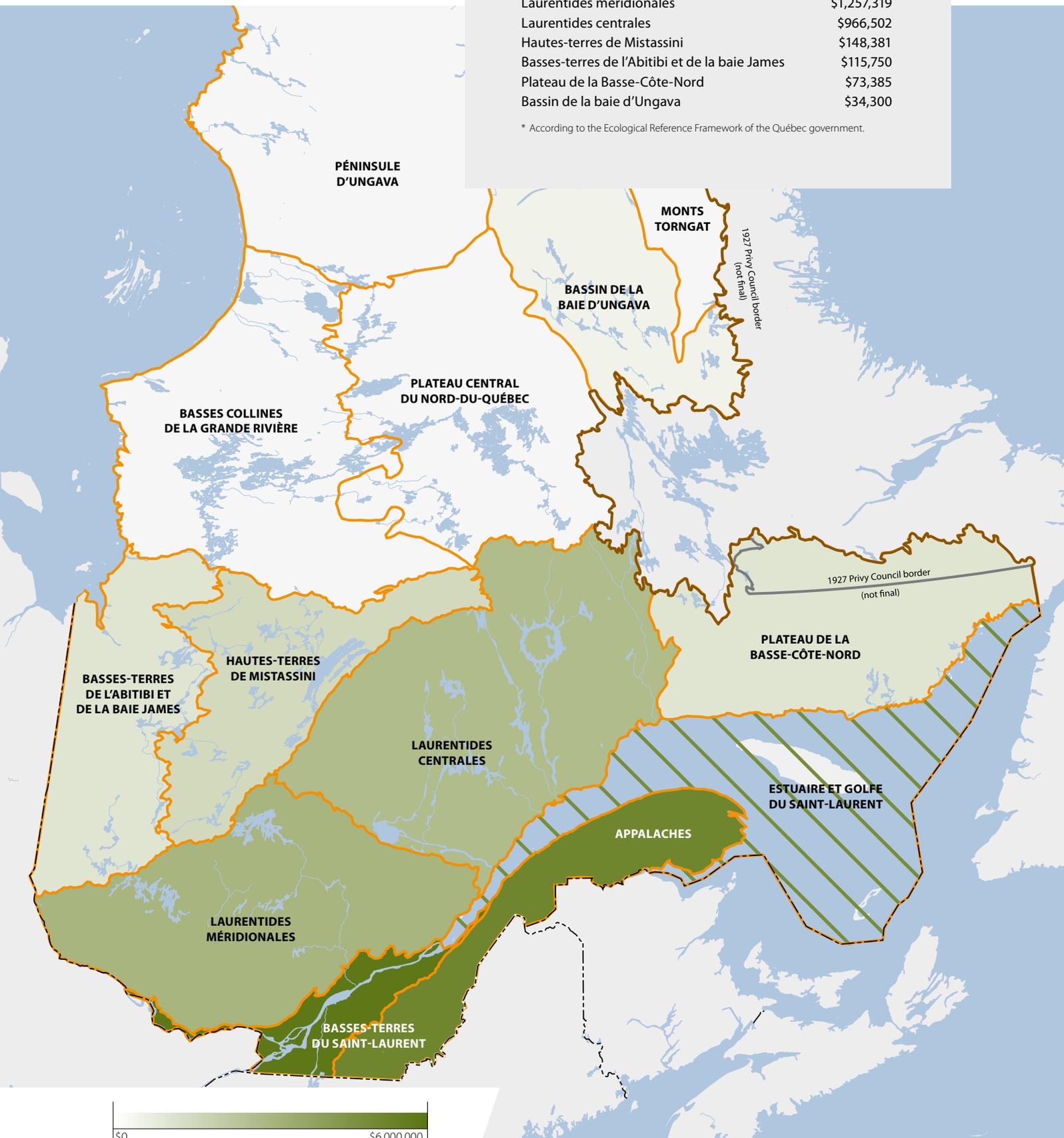
Within the limits of the funding allocated each year by Hydro-Québec, the following are eligible for a grant from the Foundation:

- Projects that are in line with the Foundation's mission, objectives and principles
- Projects presented by municipalities, MRCs and band councils or nonprofit organizations duly registered in Canada and able to show that their projects are not personal or for profit but serve community interests

Breakdown of the Foundation's contributions (2001–2015)*

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Basses-terres du Saint-Laurent | \$5,801,448 |
| Appalaches | \$2,663,912 |
| Estuaire et golfe du Saint-Laurent | \$2,077,321 |
| Laurentides méridionales | \$1,257,319 |
| Laurentides centrales | \$966,502 |
| Hautes-terres de Mistassini | \$148,381 |
| Basses-terres de l'Abitibi et de la baie James | \$115,750 |
| Plateau de la Basse-Côte-Nord | \$73,385 |
| Bassin de la baie d'Ungava | \$34,300 |

* According to the Ecological Reference Framework of the Québec government.



GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY THE FOUNDATION IN 2015





Lands and Forests

1. Protection and enhancement of the islands in the Fleuve Saint-Laurent between Montréal and Saint-Sulpice
2. Creation of habitats for Lac Saint-Pierre's bat population
3. Improvement of visitor management at Domaine Pointe-de-Saint-Vallier
4. Enhancement of the Blainville bog – Lacs Fauvel area
5. Enhancement of Pointe Verte on the Gaspé Peninsula
6. Development, discovery and protection of Dekay's brown snake habitats

Rivers and Lakes

7. Parc régional Montagne du Diable, an exceptional area to protect
8. Enhancement of Molson marsh and trails at Boisé-Jean-Milot
9. Development and enhancement of Parc régional Obalski: spotlight on waterfront environments

Wetlands

10. Conservation of the Venise-Ouest bog
11. Consolidation of the protection and enhancement of the Red Mill bog in Trois-Rivières
12. Acquisition, protection and restoration of the Saint-Denis-sur-Richelieu wetland – Mathieu property
13. Development and enhancement of the Du Tremblay woodland

Awareness and Education

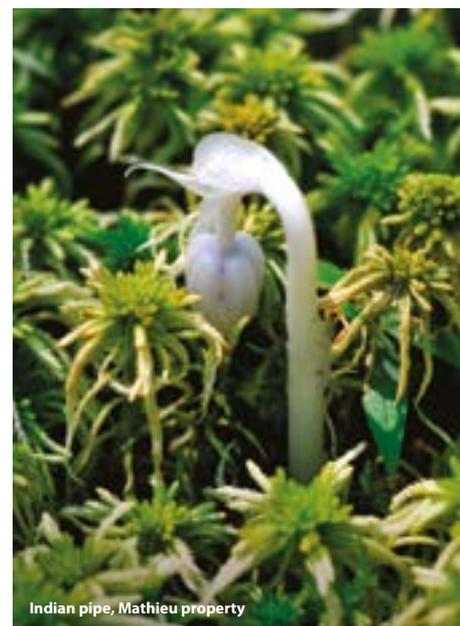
14. Digital rally at the Refuge faunique Marguerite-D'Youville
15. Centre de plein air de Beauport wetlands: awareness and enhancement
16. Awareness and education in the Rivière des Hurons watershed



Île à l'Aigle in the Fleuve Saint-Laurent



Parc régional Montagne du Diable



Indian pipe, Mathieu property

LANDS AND FORESTS



Pointe-à-Caron sector on Lac Saint-Pierre

| Project | Area (ha) | Proponent | Expected Total Cost (\$) | Foundation's Contribution (\$) |
|--|----------------|---|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Protection and enhancement of the islands in the Fleuve Saint-Laurent between Montréal and Saint-Sulpice | 241 | Nature Conservancy of Canada | 458,180 | 140,000 |
| Creation of habitats for Lac Saint-Pierre's bat population | 0.29 | Comité ZIP du lac Saint-Pierre | 40,725 | 18,225 |
| Improvement of visitor management at Domaine Pointe-de-Saint-Vallier | 25 | Nature Conservancy of Canada | 92,861 | 48,840 |
| Enhancement of the Blainville bog – Lacs Fauvel area | 97 | Nature-Action Québec | 121,910 | 48,590 |
| Enhancement of Pointe Verte on the Gaspé Peninsula | 35 | Nature Conservancy of Canada | 125,360 | 25,000 |
| Development, discovery and protection of Dekay's brown snake habitats | 55.3 | Saint-Lawrence Valley Natural History Society | 48,645 | 40,860 |
| TOTAL | 560.62* | | 887,681 | 321,515 |

* Includes forests affected by the Du Tremblay woodland (72 ha), Red Mill bog (9.03 ha) and Saint-Denis-sur-Richelieu wetland projects (16 ha) in the Wetlands class and the Boisé-Jean-Milot (7 ha) and Parc régional Montagne du Diable (3 ha) projects in the Rivers and Lakes class.





Ile Beauregard, Verchères

Protection and enhancement of the islands in the Fleuve Saint-Laurent between Montréal and Saint-Sulpice

Between 1978 and 2006, the Nature Conservancy of Canada acquired over 1,423 hectares of rich natural environment on 16 islands in the Fleuve Saint-Laurent (St. Lawrence River) between lakes Saint-Louis and Saint-Pierre — more precisely, in the archipelagos of Montréal, Varennes, Repentigny, Verchères and Saint-Sulpice.

These natural habitats are critical to many plant and animal species, a number of which are considered at risk in Québec and Canada. The least bittern, yellow rail, short-eared owl and copper redhorse are among the species found in these areas.

To minimize the environmental impacts from the growing number of boaters who visit these natural islands, trails will be laid out to channel hikers and interpretation panels will be installed to educate them about the ecological treasures there, as well as their extreme fragility. Markers visible from boats will inform visitors about the conservation role of these sites. Awareness-raising activities will also be carried out in each of the five cities and towns where the islands are located to cultivate long-term protection of these important and sensitive areas.



Monarch butterfly, Pointe-à-Caron sector

Creation of habitats for Lac Saint-Pierre's bat population

Due to its rich ecology and uniqueness, the Lac Saint-Pierre area was designated a World Biosphere Reserve. The Comité ZIP du lac Saint-Pierre has been developing and restoring Pointe-à-Caron, a site with exceptional wildlife biodiversity located in Louiseville at the juncture of Lac Saint-Pierre and the mouth of the Rivière du Loup.

Since 2009, the organization has been enhancing the forest, creating facilities for aquatic wildlife and adding visitor infrastructure. The site's attractions include one of the longest raised boardwalks in Québec.

For this project, the Comité ZIP focused on bat (chiroptera) habitat, since seven of Québec's eight bat species can be found around Pointe-à-Caron. The committee built a bat maternity roost and nest boxes, planted shagbark hickory — the bark provides shelter for bats — and installed educational panels to foster responsible cohabitation between humans and bats. Five bat species are likely to be designated as threatened or vulnerable in Québec.



Maternity roost for bats

LANDS AND FORESTS



Pointe de Saint-Vallier



Lacs Fauvel sector, Blainville

Improvement of visitor management at Domaine Pointe-de-Saint-Vallier

Pointe de Saint-Vallier, protected with the help of the Nature Conservancy of Canada, is located about 40 kilometres east of Lévis, within one of the largest migratory bird corridors in North America. The site is a popular refuge for birds that visit the freshwater estuary of the Fleuve Saint-Laurent. Moreover, owing to the special features of the estuary's shore, the area harbors a dozen plant species that are not found anywhere else in the world.

Between 2006 and 2011, the site's potential was developed through an enhancement project funded by the Fondation Hydro-Québec pour l'environnement. Thanks to the combined efforts of the Nature Conservancy of Canada, the Canadian Heritage of Quebec and the Corporation du Domaine Pointe-de-Saint-Vallier, the site is now accessible and attracts over 1,500 visitors yearly. The current project involves the addition of new visitor facilities, including two new educational interpretation panels and a bulletin board at the entrance and upgraded signage designed to support year-round access while significantly reducing abuse of the site and encouraging visitors to take responsibility for the area's rich but fragile ecology.

Enhancement of the Blainville bog – Lacs Fauvel area

In 2012, the city of Blainville adopted a conservation and enhancement strategy to protect its natural heritage. It asked Nature-Action Québec to prepare a master plan for the conservation, management and enhancement of Blainville's natural areas, as well as a five-year plan that includes nearly 175 actions covering the entire city.

One of the sites targeted by this strategy is the Blainville bog, which is one of the last remaining large bogs in the Montréal area. It connects to the Grand Coteau forest, another important natural site in Montréal's northern suburbs, through a corridor made up of a mosaic of natural environments.

With funding from the Fondation Hydro-Québec pour l'environnement, Nature-Action Québec's first initiatives on this site will develop observation areas, install a footbridge and four interpretation panels to reduce harmful behaviors and educate users of the Lacs Fauvel area about the site's environmental bounty.



Hibernation shelter created for snakes



Walking path at Pointe Verte

Enhancement of Pointe Verte on the Gaspé Peninsula

In 2013, thanks to funding from the Foundation, the Nature Conservancy of Canada acquired the forested part of Pointe Saint-Pierre — known as Pointe Verte — located about 40 kilometres from Gaspé. Part of an IBA, Pointe Verte has outstanding natural features and landscapes, and a unique history. This impressive site offers spectacular scenic views of Percé Rock and Île Bonaventure, includes a typical, still-intact coastal forest, and attracts many birds, including some at-risk species.

To protect this fragile site and control visitors wishing to enjoy the Gaspé Peninsula's most beautiful landscapes, barriers and fences will be erected and a forest trail will lead to the shore. Moreover, three new panels will educate users about the importance of preserving this rich, sensitive environment.

Development, discovery and protection of Dekay's brown snake habitats

In 1988, the Saint-Lawrence Valley Natural History Society founded the Ecomuseum Zoo to fulfill its mission of educating the public about wildlife and its habitats. The Zoo's research and conservation activities focus mainly on Québec's reptiles and amphibians. Its efforts have led to the creation of the Atlas des amphibiens et des reptiles du Québec, the largest database on the topic.

The current project, carried out in partnership with the Foundation, aims to protect and improve the habitats of Québec's most urban reptile: Dekay's brown snake. Grass snake populations are severely compromised in the Greater Montréal area due to the continual loss of open grassland, shrubland and active or fallow farmland, habitats that are essential to the life cycle of these reptiles. As a result, development of high-quality habitats and a campaign to educate the citizens who share the city with these snakes have become essential measures to preserve, and perhaps increase, these populations.

This project involved restoring fallow lands and building winter hibernation shelters for snakes in the Cap-Saint-Jacques, Bois-de-Liesse and Pointe-aux-Prairies nature parks owned by the city of Montréal, where Dekay's brown snake populations are known and established. An interpretation panel at each site will educate visitors about the ecological significance of these areas for reptiles and amphibians.

RIVERS AND LAKES



Lac de la Montagne,
Parc régional Montagne du Diable

Parc régional Montagne du Diable, an exceptional area to protect

Located in the municipalities of Ferme-Neuve and Mont-Laurier, the Parc régional Montagne du Diable was established in September 2012 around the second-highest peak (after Mont Tremblant) in the Laurentians. It is a major tourist attraction in the Hautes-Laurentides region. Over 70% of the park's surface area has been earmarked as a biodiversity reserve and an old-growth exceptional forest ecosystem (EFE). The park is home to hundred-year-old hemlock groves and forests typical of high altitudes that shelter Bicknell's thrush, a species listed as vulnerable in Québec. The park also includes 202 hectares of maple and yellow birch forest that has never been affected by significant natural disasters.

To limit the environmental damage, especially the impact on streams, ponds, waterfront areas and wetlands that could be caused by the substantial increase in visitor traffic expected in the coming years, the Parc régional Montagne du Diable organization is endeavoring to control how visitors use the site and to educate them about helpful and harmful behaviors. The measures covered by the project include building and improving walking trails to protect the park's streams and wetlands, and installing 16 interpretation panels covering such topics as stream protection, conservation of waterside buffer strips, wetlands and biodiversity.

| Project | Number of Rivers and Lakes | Proponent | Expected Total Cost (\$) | Foundation's Contribution (\$) |
|--|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Parc régional Montagne du Diable, an exceptional area to protect | 1 lake | Parc régional Montagne du Diable | 99,557 | 35,620 |
| Enhancement of Molson marsh and trails in Boisé-Jean-Milot | 1 river (stream) | Comité de surveillance Louis-Riel | 41,964 | 24,660 |
| Development and enhancement of Parc régional Obalski: spotlight on waterfront environments | 1 lake | FaunENord | 91,319 | 49,900 |
| TOTAL | 3 rivers or lakes | | 232,840 | 110,180 |



Walking path in Boisé-Jean-Milot

Enhancement of Molson marsh and trails in Boisé-Jean-Milot

In 2015, thanks to the Foundation's support, the Comité de surveillance Louis-Riel began to develop and enhance Parc du Boisé-Jean-Milot, located at the corner of Boulevard Langelier and Rue Bélanger in Montréal's Mercier-Hochelaga-Maisonneuve borough.

Covering a total of seven hectares, Boisé-Jean-Milot is the second-largest park in the borough and features special topography: a young forest grows at the top and bottom of a steep hill, at the foot of which lies Molson marsh, in the bed of a former stream. It is an important wetland for the limited and fragile urban biodiversity.

Heavy traffic in the woodland has exerted increasing pressure on the environment. For example, the erosion of slopes caused by off-trail trampling affects some plants. There are also many other signs (vandalism, pollution, picking of plants, etc.) indicating a lack of respect for these ecosystems.

The project's goal is to give Montrealers sustainable access to the park by improving the marsh trail, building a 20-metre boardwalk, and installing nine interpretation panels to promote responsible behavior and educate users about the park's biodiversity.



Raised boardwalk, Chibougamau

Development and enhancement of Parc régional Obalski: spotlight on waterfront environments

Located in central Chibougamau, Parc régional Obalski was founded in 1974 and obtained regional park status in 2012. The park is managed by FaunENord, an organization dedicated to protecting and sustaining wildlife and ecosystems in the Chibougamau area. In 2015, with the support of the Fondation Hydro-Québec pour l'environnement, FaunENord continued to develop measures to encourage citizens and waterfront residents to adopt sound practices for protecting waterfront buffer strips and help them understand that these areas are important to the water quality in local streams, rivers and lakes. Educational materials and workshops, a new interpretation trail and model banks have now been added to the attractions in Obalski park.

To support the project's educational focus, two model waterfront sites, one with mature vegetation and the other with regenerating vegetation, were developed as examples for the public. In addition, the project included the development of an interpretation trail on boardwalks along the mature model site, the creation of technical training tools for waterfront property owners and contractors, as well as educational activities about riparian environments for the general public. It also included the creation and installation of 18 panels to inform visitors about the techniques used on the model sites and important aspects of riparian vegetation and wildlife.

WETLANDS



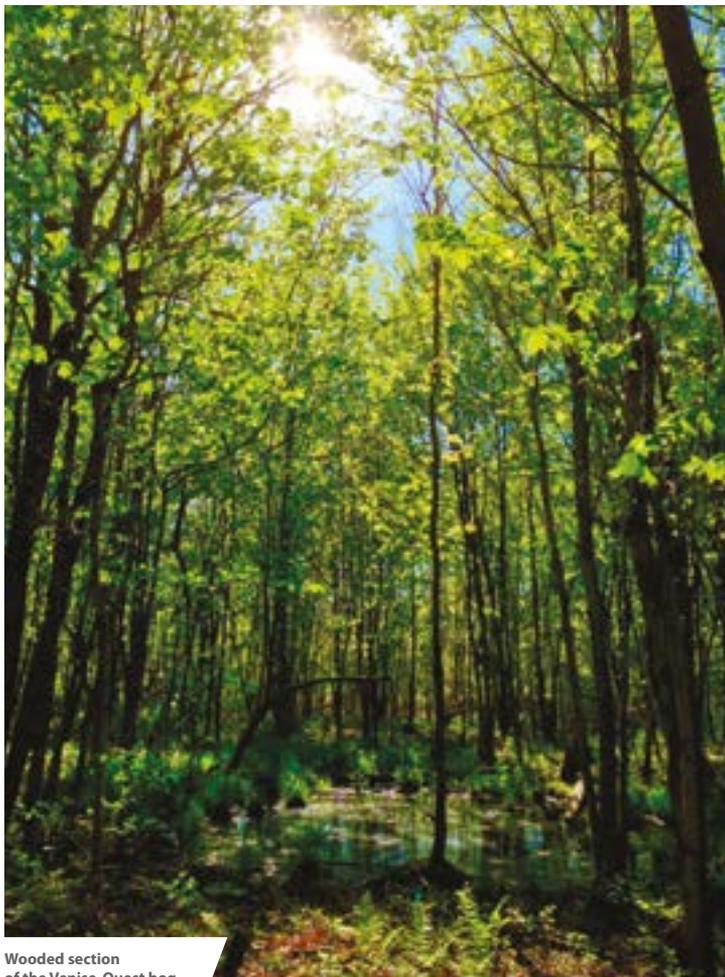
Open-water basin in Red Mill bog

| Project | Area | Proponent | Expected Total Cost (\$) | Foundation's Contribution (\$) |
|---|-------------|---|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Conservation of the Venise-Ouest bog | 153.3 | Nature Conservancy of Canada | 580,748 | 182,000 |
| Consolidation of the protection and enhancement of the Red Mill bog in Trois-Rivières | 22.11 | Nature-Action Québec | 112,678 | 39,000 |
| Acquisition, protection and restoration of the Saint-Denis-sur-Richelieu wetland – Mathieu property | 116.09 | Centre de la Nature du mont Saint-Hilaire | 504,722 | 47,750 |
| Development and enhancement of the Du Tremblay woodland | 15 | Nature-Action Québec | 280,453 | 133,260 |
| TOTAL | 368* | | 1,478,601 | 402,010 |

* Includes wetlands affected by the Fleuve Saint-Laurent islands project (60 ha) in the Lands and Forests class, and the Parc régional Montagne du Diable project (1.5 ha) in the Rivers and Lakes class.



Rhodora in the Venise-Ouest bog



Wooded section of the Venise-Ouest bog

Conservation of the Venise-Ouest bog

To fulfill its conservation mission, the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) has been acquiring property since 1962 with a view to preserving a rich natural heritage for all Canadians. To date, thanks to its sponsors and partners, NCC has protected over 39,200 hectares in Québec, including 800 hectares of habitats of interest near Lac Champlain.

In 2015, with the help of several partners, including the Fondation Hydro-Québec pour l'environnement, NCC acquired a 158-ha property in the Venise-Ouest peatland, in Saint-Georges-de-Clarenceville. This important 566-ha wetland, 67% of which is now protected, is home to many threatened or vulnerable species. The property expands the area covered by the Tourbière-de-Venise-Ouest nature reserve, part of which is accessible to the public.

One of the rare and remarkable plant species found in this area is the bog fern, designated as threatened in Québec. The bog harbors a significant population of almost 10,000 of these ferns, the most abundant colony of this plant in Québec. In addition to the property acquisition, the project has an awareness-raising component that includes a video, a brochure, an interpretation panel and an educational open-house day for the public.

WETLANDS



Blue flag, Red Mill bog

Consolidation of the protection and enhancement of the Red Mill bog in Trois-Rivières

Nature-Action Québec returned to the Red Mill bog in Trois-Rivières this year, again with the Foundation's help. It acquired two properties, adding a total of 31.14 hectares of biodiverse natural environments to the land that will be protected forever.

This valuable environment is one of the largest bogs in the Trois-Rivières area. It is home to many plant species likely to be designated threatened or vulnerable, including showy lady's-slipper and Virginia chain fern. It also contains rare jack pine stands with sphagnum moss, classified as exceptional forest ecosystems (EFE), and is one of the places east of Abitibi where the sandhill crane can be seen.

The current project is part of a broader plan to protect the natural environments in the city of Trois-Rivières. In 2013, thanks to the contribution by the Fondation Hydro-Québec pour l'environnement, Nature-Action Québec acquired 41.68 hectares of the bog. This year's initiative consolidated the organization's protection project, increasing the protected bog area to 83.63 hectares. In addition, awareness-raising materials (two panels) will be developed so that the public can learn to appreciate the unique ecological features of the bog without damaging it.



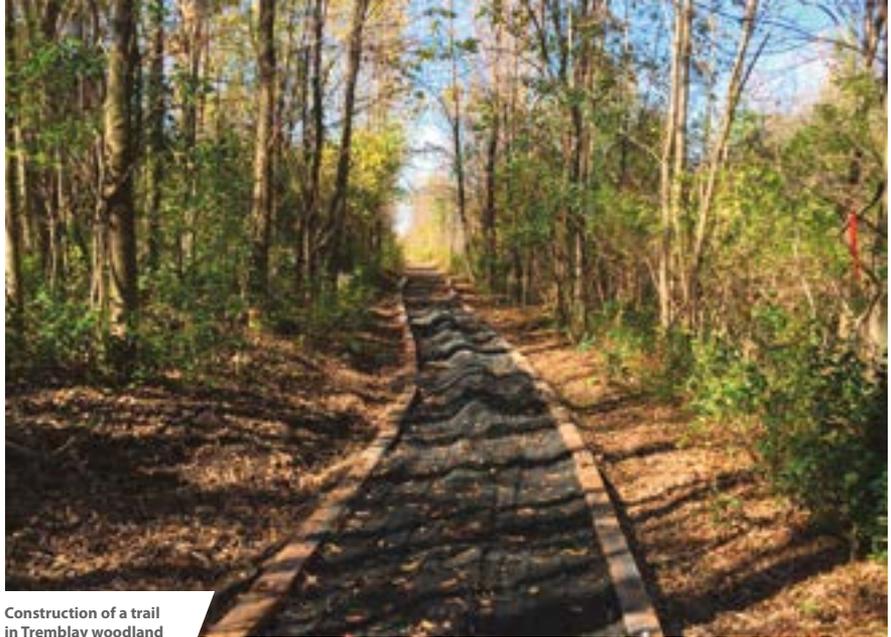
Sphagnum carpet, Mathieu property

Acquisition, protection and restoration of the Saint-Denis-sur-Richelieu wetland – Mathieu property

In 2015, the Centre de la Nature du mont Saint-Hilaire proudly announced that the largest wetland in the MRC of La Vallée-du-Richelieu is now protected for all time. In fact, over 270 hectares of natural environment were granted protected status subsequent to transactions supported by the Foundation. This was the most significant conservation-related acquisition in the Mont-Saint-Hilaire biosphere reserve since the mountain was donated to McGill University by Brigadier Gault in 1958.

The Mathieu family topped off this transaction by donating a \$275,000 property for conservation. Mr. Mathieu wanted to see this unique, rare natural area recognized as a nature reserve. His wish will be fulfilled, leaving a precious heritage for future generations.

The Centre de la Nature du mont Saint-Hilaire will complete the project by restoring part of the property to allow water to flow freely and by planting trees and shrubs to limit invasion by undesirable plant species. These measures will secure a choice habitat for the many rare species that frequent the area, including the Canada warbler, olive-sided flycatcher and pickerel frog, which are likely to be designated threatened or vulnerable.



Construction of a trail in Tremblay woodland

Development and enhancement of the Du Tremblay woodland

Covering an area of 492 hectares, the Du Tremblay woodland overlaps the city of Boucherville and two boroughs in the city of Longueuil. It is part of the Greater Montréal Trame verte et bleue program and of the Mont-Saint-Bruno forest corridor. The massive loss of forests and wetlands in the Montérégie region since the 1950s makes the Du Tremblay woodland a biodiversity hotspot, host to a wide variety of plant and animal species, including the western chorus frog, which is designated vulnerable in Québec.

In 2007, Nature-Action Québec began working to protect and enhance the Du Tremblay woodland, in partnership with the city of Boucherville. The organization currently owns 87 hectares of this woodland. In August 2012, the Québec Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs recognized part of the Du Tremblay woodland as a nature reserve on private land (Boisé-Du Tremblay nature reserve).

Due to the scarcity of natural areas in Montérégie, this island of greenery is a popular destination for hikers. Unfortunately, they trample fragile plants and disturb wildlife habitats, including that of the western chorus frog. Thanks to the Foundation's support, 1,272 metres of forest trails were built, including some boardwalk sections. Furthermore, four interpretation panels will be installed, and educational workshops and other information materials about amphibians are being developed, all for the benefit of Boucherville residents and other visitors.



Sphagnum, Mathieu property

AWARENESS AND EDUCATION



Painted turtle at the Refuge faunique Marguerite-D'Youville

Digital rally at the Refuge faunique Marguerite-D'Youville

Héritage Saint-Bernard is an organization whose mission is to protect, develop, enhance and manage the natural areas entrusted to it. It was founded in 1987 with the specific aim of protecting a unique and biodiverse site: the Refuge faunique Marguerite-D'Youville, located on Île Saint-Bernard in Châteauguay. This wildlife refuge offers eight kilometres of walking trails in extraordinary natural environments. The site's shorelines, marshes, swamps and woodlands are home to a number of animal and plant species that are threatened, vulnerable or likely to be so designated. Among them are the least bittern, red-bellied woodpecker, western chorus frog, common map turtle, Canada garlic, bulbous bittercress and shagbark hickory.

Environmental education and the organization of recreational activities are integral components of Héritage Saint-Bernard's programming. In fact, thanks to the extensive expertise developed by the organization over the years, it is now considered Greater Montréal's leader in this field. Year after year, this outstanding site and its facilities welcome over 20,000 visitors.

Soon, the site's visitors will have a new way to discover the fertile wetlands of the Refuge faunique Marguerite-D'Youville: a digital rally, available free of charge on various mobile devices. This fun, innovative application, made possible with the Foundation's support, will enable visitors to explore the refuge's wetlands at 11 stations on the site and to solve an environmental problem: the game will help them learn how to be environmentally responsible.

| Project | Proponent | Expected Total Cost (\$) | Foundation's Contribution (\$) |
|---|--|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Digital rally at the Refuge faunique Marguerite-D'Youville | Héritage Saint-Bernard | 94,254 | 49,980 |
| Centre de plein air de Beauport wetlands: awareness and enhancement | Education and Water Monitoring Action Group (EWAG) | 111,710 | 49,500 |
| Awareness and education in the Rivière des Hurons watershed | Fédération de l'UPA de la Montérégie | 68,414 | 31,300 |
| TOTAL | | 274,378 | 130,780 |



Centre de plein air de Beauport

Centre de plein air de Beauport wetlands: awareness and enhancement

The Education and Water Monitoring Action Group (EWAG) is an organization that encourages Québec communities to get actively involved in protecting aquatic ecosystems. Since 1989, EWAG has been developing programs and knowledge acquisition tools that instill in people a heightened sense of responsibility for the richness and fragility of the wetlands near them.

Recognized experts in the development of educational tools (*J'adopte un cours d'eau*, *Survol Benthos*, *Tic Tac G'Eau*, *Éduc Nature*, *Cours d'eau branchés*, *Attention à l'habitat du poisson*), EWAG also manages an interpretation site at the Centre de plein air de Beauport, which is owned by the city of Québec.

The funding from the Foundation will enable the organization to develop awareness-raising materials regarding the importance, bounty and ecological value of the region's wetlands, many of which have been destroyed. Guided tours, an audioguide, a rally, workshops, interpretation panels and an interactive Web page will be used to educate 750 youngsters and enhance awareness in more than 2,500 people through EWAG's educational activities and workshops for elementary schools, day cares, and its own day camps, as well as those who visit the Centre de plein air de Beauport.



Interpretation panel, Saint-Jean-Baptiste

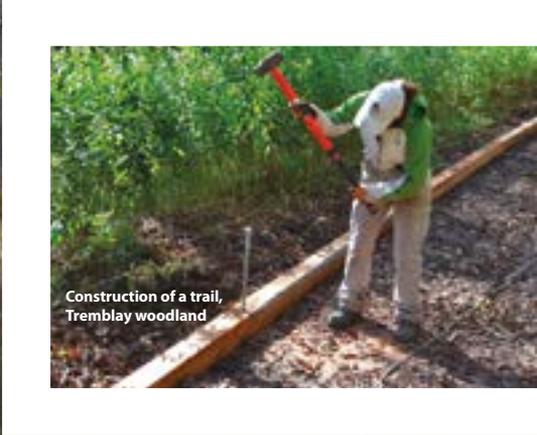
Awareness and education in the Rivière des Hurons watershed

The Rivière des Hurons, whose watershed covers an area of 334 square kilometres in the MRCs of Maskoutains, La Vallée-du-Richelieu, Rouville and Haut-Richelieu, flows through land that is mainly used for farming (78% large-scale and 15% market gardening). Considered the most polluted river in Québec, the Rivière des Hurons empties into the Rivière Richelieu in the Bassin de Chambly, impacting the habitat of a species designated as threatened, the copper redhorse.

In 2012, the Fédération de l'UPA de la Montérégie joined forces with its farmer members to help green the Rivière des Hurons' banks and enlarge the buffer strips along it by planting trees and shrubs. As a follow-up to this initiative, a project focused on education and awareness, supported by the Fondation Hydro-Québec pour l'environnement, will endeavor to persuade 80% of the population of the Rivière des Hurons watershed (about 50,000 residents), as well as the area's visitors, to take concrete steps to improve water quality and aquatic habitats.

The project was rolled out in 10 of the watershed's municipalities. The UPA has installed 25 panels along municipal roads to mark the watershed's boundaries and inform drivers about the area they are entering. Thanks to the Foundation's contribution, this initiative was expanded with an additional 15 panels installed in municipal parks. The park panels describe the fish that live in the watershed's streams and suggest steps people can take to improve water quality. Moreover, 5,000 information flyers explaining the panel project and describing specific things that can be done were distributed to the area's schools, municipal offices and recreational and tourist sites.

REVIEW OF
OPERATIONS



Construction of a trail,
Tremblay woodland

Construction of a boardwalk,
Tremblay woodland

Since its inception in 2001, the Foundation has granted \$13.14 million in funding to 238 projects with an estimated total value of \$42.07 million.

The framework for reviewing grant applications submitted to us has always reflected our desire to support initiatives that have substantial impacts on the conservation of Québec's natural heritage.

The tables below show the projects funded by the Foundation in each project class since 2001, with the area and type of environment.



Short-eared owl

Grant distribution by class

| Project categories | Number of Projects in 2015 | Number of Projects since 2001 | Amounts Granted to Partners (\$) in 2015 | Amounts Granted to Partners (\$) since 2001 |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|--|---|
| LANDS AND FORESTS | 6 | 67 | 321,515 | 4,748,208 |
| RIVERS AND LAKES | 3 | 57 | 110,180 | 2,913,857 |
| WETLANDS | 4 | 60 | 402,010 | 3,683,543 |
| AWARENESS AND EDUCATION | 3 | 54 | 130,780 | 1,792,710 |
| | | | | |

Protection, restoration and enhancement of lands and forests

Area of Lands and Forests Targeted by the Projects

| Period | Area (ha) |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| 2015 | 560.62 |
| Total since 2001 | 9,739.86* |

* Some land and forest areas have benefited from several projects funded by the Foundation. In these cases, the areas concerned have been included in the table only once.

Protection, restoration and enhancement of wetlands

Area of Wetlands Targeted by the Projects

| Period | Area (ha) |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| 2015 | 368 |
| Total since 2001 | 9,028.34* |

* Some wetlands have benefited from several projects funded by the Foundation. In these cases, the areas concerned have been included in the table only once.

Protection, restoration and enhancement of rivers and lakes

Number of Rivers and Lakes Targeted by the Projects

| Period | Number of Rivers | Number of Lakes | Total Number of Rivers and Lakes |
|-------------------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| 2015 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Total since 2001 | 75 | 66 | 141* |

* Some rivers and lakes have benefited from several projects funded by the Foundation. These cases have been included in the table only once.

Awareness and education

Natural Environments Targeted by the Project

| Period | Number of Projects* | Projects Related to Lands and Forests | Projects Related to Rivers and Lakes | Projects Related to Wetlands |
|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 2015 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Total since 2001 | 54 | 18 | 27 | 22 |

* A project may involve several types of environment.



Canada warbler



Northern long sedge

Protection of threatened and vulnerable species or species likely to be so designated

The biological diversity guidelines¹ adopted by the Québec government in 2013 are based on the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020* and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets². These government guidelines aim to achieve concrete results with respect to the conservation and sustainable management of biological diversity for present and future generations.

In 2015, 28 threatened or vulnerable species and 34 species likely to be so designated, according to the classification in the *Act respecting threatened or vulnerable species*,³ benefited from projects supported by the Foundation.

Since 2001, the Foundation has contributed to the protection of 60 of the 116 plant and animal species designated threatened or vulnerable under this Act (as at October 2, 2015).

In addition, from 2003 to 2005, the Foundation supported a project to bring striped bass back to the Fleuve Saint-Laurent (St. Lawrence River). This fish, extirpated in Québec in the mid-1960s, was reintroduced using stocks from the Miramichi River.

Number of Threatened or Vulnerable Species Targeted by Foundation-Funded Projects since 2001*

| | |
|--|-----|
| Extirpated community | 1 |
| Threatened or vulnerable species | 60 |
| Species likely to be designated threatened or vulnerable | 163 |

* Each species is counted only once although some have benefited from several projects. Species status reflects the designation in effect when the project involving it was accepted by the Foundation.

1. www.mdelcc.gouv.qc.ca/biodiversite/orientations/orientations.pdf [In French only]
 2. Adopted in October 2010 at the Convention on Biological Diversity in Nagoya (Japan).
 3. Act adopted by the Québec government in 1989.

Foundation's contribution to the protection of plant and animal species in 2015

THREATENED OR VULNERABLE SPECIES

Plants

| SPECIES | STATUS | PARTNERS |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|----------|
| wild leek | vulnerable | 1 |
| green dragon | threatened | 1 |
| Canada wild ginger | vulnerable to harvest | 4 |
| white wood aster | threatened | 10 |
| Victorin's water hemlock | threatened | 3 |
| Parker's pipewort | threatened | 3 |
| Victorin's fringed gentian | threatened | 3 |
| ostrich fern | vulnerable to harvest | 1, 4 |
| pitch pine | threatened | 10 |
| bog fern | threatened | 10 |
| large-flowered bellwort | vulnerable to harvest | 4 |
| Provancher's fleabane | threatened | 3 |

Birds

| SPECIES | STATUS | PARTNERS |
|--------------------------------|------------|----------|
| harlequin duck | vulnerable | 5 |
| <i>anatum</i> peregrine falcon | vulnerable | 1, 5 |
| Barrow's goldeneye | vulnerable | 5 |
| Bicknell's thrush | vulnerable | 7 |
| least bittern | vulnerable | 1 |
| bald eagle | vulnerable | 2 |
| yellow rail | threatened | 1 |

Reptiles

| SPECIES | STATUS | PARTNERS |
|--------------------------------|------------|----------|
| wood turtle | vulnerable | 10 |
| common map turtle | vulnerable | 1, 10 |
| Eastern spiny softshell turtle | threatened | 10 |

Amphibians

| SPECIES | STATUS | PARTNERS |
|---------------------|------------|----------|
| western chorus frog | vulnerable | 13 |

Fish

| SPECIES | STATUS | PARTNERS |
|---------------------|------------|----------|
| copper redhorse | threatened | 1 |
| river redhorse | vulnerable | 1 |
| eastern sand darter | threatened | 1 |
| channel darter | vulnerable | 1 |
| bridle shiner | vulnerable | 1 |

NUMBER OF SPECIES: 28

Partners – 2015 Projects

1. Nature Conservancy of Canada (islands in the Fleuve Saint-Laurent)
2. Comité ZIP du lac Saint-Pierre
3. Nature Conservancy of Canada (Domaine Pointe-de-Saint-Vallier)
4. Nature-Action Québec (Blainville bog)
5. Nature Conservancy of Canada (Pointe Verte)
6. Saint-Lawrence Valley Natural History Society
7. Parc régional Montagne du Diable
8. Comité de surveillance Louis-Riel
9. FaunENord
10. Nature Conservancy of Canada (Venise-Ouest bog)
11. Nature-Action Québec (Red Mill bog)
12. Centre de la Nature du mont Saint-Hilaire
13. Nature-Action Québec (Du Tremblay woodland)
14. Héritage Saint-Bernard
15. Education and Water Monitoring Action Group (EWAG)
16. Fédération de l'UPA de la Montérégie

SPECIES LIKELY TO BE DESIGNATED THREATENED OR VULNERABLE

Plants

| SPECIES | PARTNERS |
|--------------------------|----------|
| northern long sedge | 10 |
| shagbark hickory | 2, 13 |
| swamp white oak | 10 |
| showy lady's-slipper | 11 |
| golden hedge-hyssop | 10 |
| Virginia St. John's-wort | 4 |
| butternut | 3, 4 |
| old switch panicgrass | 1 |
| Illinois pondweed | 1 |
| yellow water buttercup | 10 |
| trailing wild bean | 1 |
| poison sumac | 10 |
| long-spurred violet | 10 |
| Le Conte's violet | 1 |
| Virginia chain fern | 10, 11 |
| southern wild rice | 10 |

Birds

| SPECIES | PARTNERS |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Nelson's sharp-tailed sparrow | 1 |
| short-eared owl | 1, 5 |
| chimney swift | 4 |
| olive-sided flycatcher | 12 |
| Canada warbler | 12, 13 |
| rusty blackbird | 2 |
| sedge wren | 1 |

Mammals

| SPECIES | PARTNERS |
|----------------------|----------|
| rock vole | 9 |
| southern bog lemming | 9 |
| silver-haired bat | 2 |
| hoary bat | 2 |
| red bat | 2 |
| eastern pipistrelle | 2 |

Reptiles

| SPECIES | PARTNERS |
|---------------------|----------|
| Dekay's brown snake | 6 |
| eastern milksnake | 4, 6 |
| smooth greensnake | 11 |

Amphibians

| SPECIES | PARTNERS |
|----------------------|----------|
| pickerel frog | 12 |
| four-toed salamander | 4 |

NUMBER OF SPECIES: 34

Definitions

Threatened: species whose extirpation is feared.
 Vulnerable: species whose survival is precarious, but for which extirpation is not expected.
 Vulnerable to harvest: species subject to harvest pressure owing to its commercial value.

Management's Report

The financial statements of the Fondation Hydro-Québec pour l'environnement as well as all information contained in this report fall under the responsibility of Management and are approved by the Board of Directors. This responsibility involves choosing the appropriate accounting policies that comply with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

To fulfill its responsibilities, Management maintains a control system designed to provide reasonable assurance as to the protection of assets, the accounting of transactions and the reliability of the financial statements.

The Fondation Hydro-Québec pour l'environnement acknowledges its responsibility in managing its affairs in accordance with the governing legislation.

The financial statements of the Fondation Hydro-Québec pour l'environnement have been audited by independent auditors KPMG LLP in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards in Canada. The auditors' report discusses the nature and extent of this audit and expresses their opinion.

/s/ Carlo Gagliardi

Executive Director

Montréal, Québec

March 30, 2016

Independent Auditors' Report

To the Directors of the Fondation Hydro-Québec pour l'environnement

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Fondation Hydro-Québec pour l'environnement, which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2015, the statements of operations, changes in net assets, and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as Management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on our judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, we consider internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by Management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Fondation Hydro-Québec pour l'environnement as at December 31, 2015, and its results of operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

/s/ KPMG LLP*

Montréal, Canada
March 30, 2016

* CPA auditor, CA public accountancy permit No. A119245

Statements of financial position

| In Canadian dollars | As at December 31, 2015 | As at December 31, 2014 |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Assets | | |
| Cash | 1,344,234 | 997,551 |
| Contributions receivable from Hydro-Québec | 20,875 | 34,997 |
| Interest receivable | 634 | 877 |
| Total assets | 1,365,743 | 1,033,425 |
| Liabilities | | |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (note 3) | 15,356 | 19,498 |
| Net assets | | |
| Subject to internal restrictions for environmental projects | 940,248 | 662,343 |
| Unrestricted | 410,139 | 351,584 |
| Total net assets | 1,350,387 | 1,013,927 |
| Total | 1,365,743 | 1,033,425 |

The attached notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

On behalf of the Board,

/s/ Stella Leney
President

/s/ Armand Couture
Director

Statements of operations

Years ended December 31

| In Canadian dollars | 2015 | 2014 |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| Revenue | | |
| Contributions from a special fund | 1,068,272 | 101,517 |
| Interest income | 5,334 | 12,692 |
| Donation | 400 | — |
| Total revenue | 1,074,006 | 114,209 |
| Expenditure | | |
| Environmental projects | | |
| Approved during the year | 401,893 | 135,563 |
| Approved during previous years | 284,687 | 507,381 |
| Total expenditure | 686,580 | 642,944 |
| General overhead and project management | 50,966 | 34,834 |
| Total | 737,546 | 677,778 |
| Excess (deficit) of revenue over expenditure | 336,460 | (563,569) |

The attached notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

Statements of changes in net assets

Years ended December 31

| In Canadian dollars | Subject to internal restrictions for environmental projects | Unrestricted | 2015 Total | 2014 Total |
|---|---|----------------|------------------|------------------|
| Balance, beginning of year | 662,343 | 351,584 | 1,013,927 | 1,577,496 |
| Excess (deficit) of revenue over expenditure | (686,580) | 1,023,040 | 336,460 | (563,569) |
| Internal restrictions for environmental projects approved in 2015 | 964,485 | (964,485) | — | — |
| Balance, end of year | 940,248 | 410,139 | 1,350,387 | 1,013,927 |

The attached notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

Statements of cash flows

Years ended December 31

| In Canadian dollars | 2015 | 2014 |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| Operating activities | | |
| Excess (deficit) of revenue over expenditure | 336,460 | (563,569) |
| Change in non-cash working capital items | | |
| Interest receivable | 243 | (10) |
| Contributions receivable from Hydro-Québec | 14,122 | 2,403 |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities | (4,142) | 4,508 |
| Net change in cash | 346,683 | (556,668) |
| Cash, beginning of year | 997,551 | 1,554,219 |
| Cash, end of year | 1,344,234 | 997,551 |

The attached notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

Notes to financial statements

Years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014

The Fondation Hydro-Québec pour l'environnement (the "Foundation") was constituted on January 19, 2001, under Part III of the Québec *Companies Act*.

Its mission is to contribute to the long-term enhancement and protection of the environment; to promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of fauna, flora and natural habitats; and to support local needs for stewardship of the environment. As at December 31, 2015, its Board of Directors is composed of five Hydro-Québec officers and five outside directors.

The Foundation is a non-profit organization that is exempt from taxes within the meaning of the *Income Tax Act*.

1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations in Part III of the *CPA Canada Handbook*.

a) REVENUE RECOGNITION

The Foundation uses the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Unrestricted contributions and donations are recognized as revenue when they are received and as receivables if the amount can be reasonably estimated and payment is reasonably assured. Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the fiscal year in which the related expenditures are incurred.

Revenue from the Hydro-Québec special fund consists of contributions from the fund and interest paid on the fund. Interest income is recognized as it is earned.

b) EXPENDITURE RECOGNITION

Expenditures related to environmental projects are recorded when the expenditures are incurred by the organizations and approved by the Foundation.

Overhead expenses are recorded as services are received.

c) FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Foundation measures financial assets and financial liabilities at fair value on initial recognition. It subsequently measures all financial assets and financial liabilities at amortized cost.

Financial assets and financial liabilities measured at amortized cost include cash, interest receivable, contributions receivable from Hydro-Québec and accounts payable and accrued liabilities.

Financial assets measured at amortized cost are tested for impairment if there is any evidence of a potential impairment loss. The amount of the decline in value is recognized in the results as an impairment loss. A previously recognized loss can be reversed. Such reversal is recognized in income in the year in which the reversal occurs.

d) RESTRICTIONS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS

Environmental projects approved by the Board of Directors are restricted subject to the signing of a grant agreement between the Foundation and the organizations.

2. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Interest rate risk

Cash bears interest at a variable rate; consequently, fluctuations in market interest rates will have an impact on the Foundation's interest income.

Credit risk

The Foundation's cash is held by a financial institution with high-quality credit ratings. As a result, the Foundation considers that this counterparty's risk of non-performance is negligible.

Fair value

The carrying value of interest receivable, contributions receivable from Hydro-Québec and accounts payable and accrued liabilities approximates their fair value due to their short-term maturities.

3. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

During the year, the Foundation received a contribution of \$1 million (nil in 2014) from the fund reserved by Hydro-Québec. The total net asset of this fund is \$7 million as at December 31, 2015 (\$8 million in 2014). The interests generated by this fund during the year are reserved for the Foundation.

In addition, the Foundation incurred administrative overhead expenses from Hydro-Québec totaling \$23,862 (\$14,688 in 2014), none of which is included in accounts payable and accrued liabilities as at December 31, 2015 (\$4,508 in 2014). Services provided by the various administrative units of Hydro-Québec for the benefit of the Foundation are billed on the basis of actual costs under agreements between the Foundation and these units.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2015

Stella Leney

President, Fondation Hydro-Québec
pour l'environnement
General Manager – Environment
and Corporate Affairs
Hydro-Québec

Michel Bérubé

Manager – Environment
Direction – Ingénierie de production
Hydro-Québec Équipement
et services partagés

André Besner

Manager – Environmental Compliance
and Sustainable Development
Hydro-Québec

Armand Couture

Director

Chantal d'Auteuil

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Association des biologistes du Québec

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Regional Director – Manicouagan
and Director – Production
Hydro-Québec Production

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Director – Wildlife Initiatives
Fondation de la faune du Québec

Louise Pelletier

Director

Myriam Truchon

Director – Regional Affairs
and Communities
Hydro-Québec



For more detailed information on the mission, priorities and operations of the Fondation Hydro-Québec pour l'environnement or on the projects it supports, please visit: www.hydroquebec.com/fondation-environnement/en

Any comments on this report or its content can be sent to the Foundation at the address below:

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Legal Deposit – 2nd quarter 2016
Library and Archives Canada
Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec
ISSN 1708-0045
ISBN 978-2-550-74879-3
ISBN 978-2-550-74880-9 (PDF)
2016G007A – 2016E0054A

Ce document est également publié en français.
This is a translation of the original French text.

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[Page 2] *Cattails on Île aux Asperges*: Mathieu Vallée.

[Page 4] *Interpretation panel*: Catherine Plante.

[Page 5] *Île à l'Aigle*: Mathieu Vallée. *Parc régional Montagne du Diable*: Christian Parent. *Indian pipe*: Martine Hamel.

[Page 6] *Pointe-à-Caron sector*: Comité ZIP du lac Saint-Pierre.

[Page 7] *Île Beauregard*: alm Par avion. *Monarch butterfly*: Comité ZIP du lac Saint-Pierre. *Maternity roost for bats*: Comité ZIP du lac Saint-Pierre.

[Page 8] *Pointe de Saint-Vallier*: Gabrielle Cauchon Déry. *Lacs Fauvel sector*: Nature-Action Québec.

[Page 9] *Walking path*: Mike Dembeck. *Dekay's brown snake*: David Rodrigue. *Hibernation site created for snakes*: Pierre-Alexandre Bourgeois.

[Page 10] *Lac de la Montagne*: Christian Parent.

[Page 11] *Walking path in Boisé-Jean-Milot*: Comité de surveillance Louis-Riel. *Raised boardwalk*: FaunENord.

[Page 12] *Red Mill bog*: Nature-Action Québec.

[Page 13] *Rhodora*: Carine Deland. *Venise-Ouest bog*: Carine Deland.

[Page 14] *Blue flag*: Nature-Action Québec. *Sphagnum carpet*: Martine Hamel.

[Page 15] *Construction of a trail*: Martine Hamel. *Sphagnum*: Arold Lavoie.

[Page 16] *Painted turtle*: Dominic Gendron.

[Page 17] *Centre de plein air de Beauport*: EWAG-Florence Lajeunesse-Trempe. *Interpretation panel*: Catherine Plante.

[Page 18] *Construction of a trail*: Gerardo Barrios. *Construction of a boardwalk*: Gerardo Barrios.

[Page 19] *Short-eared owl*: Mycteria Dreamstime.

[Page 20] *Canada warbler*: Marie-Pier Richard. *Northern long sedge*: Martine Hamel.

[Pages 28–29] *Refuge faunique Marguerite-D'Youville*: Dominic Gendron.

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