

Journal



Parc national de
L'ÎLE-BONAVENTURE-
ET-DU-ROCHER-PERCÉ

English version 2012



Here's to your health!

The beneficial effects of nature on young people's personal development are undisputable. The 23 national parks in the Parcs Québec network are public areas, ideal for discovering nature and participating in outdoor activities. This year, Québec *National Parks Day* highlights how important enjoying nature is to our overall well-being by crafting its message around the health theme. Of course, we hope to see other iterations of this day year-round.

School program offering takes on even greater importance

Statistics indicating that young people have become increasingly sedentary and out of touch with nature have prompted concerns among the staff of our national parks. These concerns have, over the past few years, spurred our parks teams to develop an activity offering specifically intended for this group. Our parks' offering has evolved from virtually no discovery programs in 1999 to an impressive and varied line-up of 480 activities today. In 2011-2012, 377,417 or so visitors to the Parcs Québec network participated in one of the many diverse activities offered: theatrical vignettes, treasure hunts, hiking (on foot, by bike, on the water, etc.), series of talks... all told, a range of activities that brings together visitors of all ages who are curious to learn a little more about their natural and historic heritage.

Increasingly more appropriate activities for schools

Helping young people get in touch with nature also ties in with a major succession issue in our national parks. Parcs Québec works very closely with schools to ensure that they benefit from the great outdoors, often near urban centres. As they learn to better appreciate these exceptional natural environments, young people also become more aware of the challenges involved in maintaining the necessary balance between conservation and accessibility – the two components of our national parks' mission.

Our most effective advocates

Young people are our best spokespersons. Following a visit to Parc national du Bic, here's how one sixth-grader put into words the astonishment she felt during her encounter with nature: "I hope I can go back to admire all these wonders again, but on the next visit, I would take my time and bring my family... to this Park of Wonders!"

In light of our objective – to encourage youth to get in touch with nature – we will continue to develop activities and programs designed to reach out to them. We welcome you to our national parks, on behalf of all those who work there and look forward to greeting you upon your arrival!

Message from the Minister



The government attaches prime importance to the development of Québec's natural and historic heritage, as demonstrated by the extensive work done in our national parks over the past few years. This includes the major project underway at Parc national du Lac-Témiscouata. Its completion will take the government closer to the target it has set for itself – raising protected-area coverage in Québec to 12% of the territory by 2015 – and Quebecers will enjoy access to infrastructure and services that meet international standards.

Enhancement work in the Franceville sector of Parc national du Mont-Mégantic, coupled with the renovation or construction work on Discovery and Visitors Centres at three other national parks – Frontenac, Jacques-Cartier and Mont-Saint-Bruno – will also mark the completion of a whole series of essential projects intended to improve accessibility to these protected areas. Additional work will shortly begin in other national parks, including Mont-Tremblant, Yamaska and Grands-Jardins.

Parcs Québec's mandate extends beyond enhancement of our national parks, to encompass biodiversity protection and preservation. Our on-site teams possess expertise that enables them to develop strategies for research and acquisition of knowledge that are recognized in scientific communities. Another innovation was introduced five years ago when the national parks implemented their Ecological Integrity Monitoring Program – a Canadian first.

Through its partnership role, Sépaq ensures that our national parks contribute to regional economic development. The parks work with their partners, taking local realities into consideration while ensuring that development is centered on particular features and attractions specific to their territory. Each park is unique – it's now up to you to come out and discover them.

Welcome to your national parks!

Pierre Arcand
Minister of Sustainable Development,
Environment and Parks

Discover the region's other parks



Martin Soucy
Martin Soucy
Vice-president of Operations
Parcs Québec

Raymond Desjardins
Raymond Desjardins
President and CEO
Sépaq

A Word from the Team

It's an invitation... to everyone who loves wildlife, history, geology, ornithology or marine biology! Come discover this incredible playground: the *Parc national de l'Île-Bonaventure-et-du-Rocher-Percé*.

A season devoted to history, with a new exhibit about the French regime and a hike along the historic Chemin du Roy (King's Road). The park's dynamic team awaits you, ready to answer any and all questions that you might have.

Come soak up the spirit of this magical place.

The park management team



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Percé Rock Sector

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 and exceptional sites, due notably to their biological diversity, 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. A national park is 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.

Percez les mystères du rocher (activity available in French only)

Did you know that there is tropical coral at Percé? That eleven species of seabirds nest here? No? Then don't delay, come meet our park warden naturalist and you'll learn the best kept secrets of Percé Rock and the bay.

Meet up at the visitor centre

(in the Neigère building)

June 24 to September 1 (60 minutes) Every day at 3:30 p.m.

\$1.00 for access to the observation deck



Interpretation



Migratory bird refuge



CAUTION

IT'S JUST TOO DANGEROUS!

Walking alongside Percé Rock and Mont Joli is extremely dangerous. Several tons of debris fall from the rock and Mont Joli every year, during every season.



Rock slide, October 2008

Charles Robin Sector

www.facebook.com/PNIBRP



The Parc national de l'Île-Bonaventure-et-du-Rocher-Percé is on Facebook. Come join us there!



Le Chafaud

Interpretation centre on the ground floor

May 28 to October 8, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Take time out to visit our exhibition called "A Rock, an Island... a National Park". Come and discover the themes of the Parc national de l'Île-Bonaventure-et-du-Rocher-Percé. This is the best way to prepare for your outing in the natural environment.

Musée le Chafaud, on the first floor

June 21 to September 21

Every day, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

THE PERCÉ ISLANDS

Donald Cahill

Multidisciplinary exhibition

Visual arts

Artists' collective

PERCÉ: MEMORIES OF A PLACE

Jimmy Perron (Charlevoix)

Participant in the International Contemporary Art Symposium in Baie-Saint-Paul, 2011

Visual arts



Espace Suzanne Guité

Near the Percé wharf

July 15 to August 18, at 1:30 p.m.

(available in French only)

« Le Cercle des oiseaux marins »

Before you head into the park to observe the incredible seabird colonies, come discover their fascinating lives by taking part in a quiz, « Le Cercle des oiseaux marins », an activity inspired by a popular TV game show (TVA).



La Neigère

Reception lounge

May 28 to October 8, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

You will find answers to your questions about the activities and services offered in the Park.

Boutique Nature

June 4 to September 22, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

July 2 to August 24, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Take advantage of our Boutique Nature to pick up anything you might need for the day, or simply to buy a souvenir to remind you of your stay.



La Saline

Evening of Discovery

June 17 to August 25, Monday to Friday at 7:30

Lasts an average of 60 minutes. Activity fee (available in French only)

MONDAY

« Murmures au fond des mers »

Head out to discover the ocean floor in the Bay of Percé, with its countless riches and strange inhabitants. An exploration in the depth of the sea... while keeping your feet dry!

TUESDAY

« Une histoire de pêche, une histoire salée séchée! »

Come join Betsy for an evening of history and stories, as she recounts the daily life of residents of Bonaventure Island in the 19th century.

WEDNESDAY

« De l'infiniment petit à l'infiniment grand »

Discover nature's amazing diversity by taking part in a quiz game that will lead you into the very heart of the park's natural wonders.

THURSDAY

« Géants des mers »

A blow erupting from the surface of the water or a tail disappearing into the depths — the giants of the sea are as mysterious as they are impressive. Journey to the other side of the water's mirrored surface and discover the fascinating creatures that dwell in the waters of Percé.

FRIDAY

« Trucs de Fous »

A loony professor, a Northern Gannet and a human who turns into a bird... A fun and informative play featuring the park's main attraction, the Northern Gannet.

* Bad weather days

June 8 to August 18

When it is impossible to reach the island due to bad weather, our naturalists will offer fun activities in the Saline building.

Your Safety : Your Responsibility

Outdoor activities can involve certain risks. Make sure that you have the skills and abilities required for the activity you choose. It is important to know the risks inherent to this activity, to respect your limits and to use appropriate equipment. For more information, we invite you to consult our Web site at www.sepaq.com.



Centre de découverte



La Neigère



Espace Suzanne Guité

Bonaventure Island Sector

Seafarers

June 21 to August 16, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Our "seafarers" accompany you on the cruise boats that go around the park, offering lively presentations and information about the park during each cruise.

Reception

May 28 to October 8, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Members of our staff will meet you as you get off the boat on Bonaventure Island. They will take a few minutes of your time to give you information about the services and activities offered there. They will also inform you about the park's special regulations. They are at your service during your entire stay; feel free to call upon them.

Des morues et des hommes

Maison LeBoutillier

May 28 to October 8,
Guided tours from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (about 30 min.)
Schedule varies

One of the numerous treasures that *Parc national de l'Île-Bonaventure-et-du-Rocher-Percé* preserves is the human heritage from hundreds of years of cod fishing. A guided tour of the magnificent *Maison LeBoutillier* will reveal the how the cod-fish companies operated, fishing techniques used, the life of the island's inhabitants, and much more.



Guided Nature and History Walks

L'exubérance de la nature

June 24 to September 22
Hike starts at 10:15 a.m. every day
(available in French only)

On the way to the bird colony, a park warden-naturalist will guide you through the historic landscape of the island, introducing the flora and fauna typical of the island environment. Don't miss it!

Dans les pas des insulaires

July 8 to August 25, every day at 11:15 a.m.
(available in French only)

Head out on one of the most beautiful trails on the island with a park warden naturalist, following in the footsteps of the early islanders. Visit the restored homes of residents of Bonaventure Island, learn their stories and take in the gorgeous island landscapes along the way.

The Seabird Colony

May 28 to October 8, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.

And there you are! You are now face to face with more than 50,000 breeding pairs of northern gannets. A breath-taking experience! No doubt many questions will come to mind. The park warden naturalists on site will satisfy your curiosity. Furthermore, the « *Des plumes par milliers* » activity will help you become acquainted with the Northern gannet, a magnificent bird.

Search for privateer Duval

June 17 to October 8
Starting point at the head
of the *Sentier des Colonies* trail

On the way to the colony, follow the scavenger hunt at your own pace and you just might find the treasure hidden on the island by the privateer Duval!



Resto des Margaulx

June 8 to October 6, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

As everyone knows, fresh air makes for a hearty appetite. Come to *Resto des Margaulx* to replenish your energy or to have a lunch prepared. On the menu: soup (including the very popular fisherman's soup), salads, a great choice of sandwiches (lobster, crab, shrimp, chicken, ham, etc.), desserts, hot and cold beverages, beer and wine.

Boutique Nature (Île)

July 8 to August 25,
from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.



You have just realized you forgot something on the mainland? You don't have any more film or batteries to immortalize your stay here? You want to do a little bit of shopping while waiting for the boat? Then by all means, come and visit our new *Boutique Nature* on Bonaventure Island.

Services at the Seabird Colony

July 8 to August 25, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

If you have arrived at the seabird colony and suddenly realize you are thirsty or hungry, beverages and a few snacks are available on site.

Nighttime outing

July 14 to August 14
Tuesday and Saturday

Come experience the incredible feeling of being on the island at nightfall. Few can claim to have seen the gannet colony sleeping. A magical moment.



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The most accessible NORTHERN GANNET COLONY in the World

TRAIL	DISTANCE AND DURATION	TYPE	DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY	ALTITUDE (METRES)
Les Mousses	7 km – 2 h 30	Round Trip	Intermediate	120
Les Colonies	5.6 km – 1 h 30	Round Trip	Intermediate	135
Le Paget	7.4 km – 2 h	Round Trip	Intermediate	90
Le Chemin du Roy	9.4 km – 3 h	Round Trip	Intermediate	75

Secteur Rocher-Percé

Secteur historique Charles-Robin

Secteur Île-Bonaventure

Map details include: Highway 132, Parking, Le Chafaud, Rue du Quai, Rue du Mont-Joli, Wharf, and various service points marked A, B, C, and D.

- A** La Saline Evening talks
- B** La Neigère Visitor's Centre
- C** La Cantine Park management
- D** Le Chafaud Park Interpretation Centre

Landmarks: Le Petit Four, Le Mur Noir, Le Grand Four, Anse du Bilbo, Anse à McInnes, Pointe à Butler, Anse Butler, Le Cimetière, Anse à Brochet, The Ewe, The Ram, Pointe Paget, Pointe Peter-John-Duval, Pointe Wall, Le Récif, Anse Chatouilleuse, La Pinnerie, Pointe à Margaulx, La Craque, Trou des Guillemots, Corniche aux Goélands, Baie des Marigots, Bull's Cove.

Trails: Sentier des Mousses, Sentier des Colonies, Sentier Paget, Sentier Chemin-du-Roy.

Service Area:

Legend

- Visitors Centre
- Migratory Bird Sanctuary
- Interpretation
- Boutique Nature
- Observation Point
- Hiking Trail
- SnackBar
- Washrooms Facility
- Canteen
- Wharf
- Picnic Area
- Boundary
- Land Environment Zone
- Marine Environment Zone
- Preservation Zone
- Maximum Preservation Zone
- Road Network
- Trails

Échelle 1:20000

0 250 500 1000 1500 Mètres

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Four adventures on the sea await you!

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- Guided lobster fishing excursion with real lobster fisherman (approximately 1h30)
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Ticket office: 9 rue du Quai et on 224 route 132 (facing the Normandie hotel). Individual, family and group rates available. Free parking

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Jean-Pierre Cloutier, prop.

LES BATEAUX DE CROISIÈRES JULIEN CLOUTIER ENR.

A visit to the land of the whales

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Fax: 418 782-2418



Become an eco-diver? Why not?

Best practices for divers to ensure the conservation of the marine treasures of the Parc national de l'Île-Bonaventure-et-du-Rocher-Percé

The Parc national de l'Île-Bonaventure-et-du-Rocher-Percé is known for its diverse underwater scenery and its rich and colourful flora and fauna. The park welcomes divers from across Québec every summer, drawn by the seaweed, sea anemones, starfish, crustaceans and other invertebrates, as well as the many fish that live in the ocean waters of the park. However, divers exploring this environment may unwittingly cause harm to these species, unintentionally disrupting the activities that are essential to their survival, such as feeding and reproduction. Divers can accidentally dislodge plant and animal life with their dive fins or air bubbles, and stir up sediments when they touch the seabed. The following list of diving practices indicates a number of things divers can do to avoid disrupting habitats or disturbing plants and animals, thus reducing their environmental footprint. So, here are some rules you can follow to become a well-informed eco-diver.

I am mindful of the environment even before beginning the dive.

- Review the rules and regulations in effect at the dive site and adhere to them.
- Adopt environmentally friendly behaviour on board the dive boat. For example, stay at least 100 metres away from cetaceans and be very careful not to disturb wildlife (marine mammals, birds, etc.).
- Choose the anchorage site for the boat judiciously, using mooring buoys when available. Otherwise, place the anchor so that it does not drag on the bottom.
- Do not throw any waste into the ocean.
- Rinse your dive gear properly after each dive outing to avoid spreading any invasive aquatic species that may have become attached to it. In addition to helping protect ecosystems, this will extend the life of your equipment.

I protect the seabed and its habitats.

- Try to avoid contact with the seabed and other elements on the ocean bottom.
- Pay attention to your flipper strokes, as they can harm the fragile plant and animal communities that live attached to the seabed. Also, to avoid stirring up sediments, it is better to use the frog kick rather than the flutter kick when swimming horizontally.
- On no account should you handle, pick up or disturb marine organisms.
- Choose dive sites whose vulnerability and fragility are suitable for your level of experience.
- Do not feed the animals; this will help preserve their predatory instincts, food webs and the natural balance of the ecosystem.
- Be discreet and keep an appropriate distance between you and the organisms you observe so as not to change their behaviour, particularly when it comes to marine mammals.
- Remember that you are not the only person visiting these dive sites.

I respect marine mammals.

- If a seal comes to play with your equipment, it is best to continue diving, ignoring the seal. It will probably leave after a few minutes.
- If the seal becomes very pushy and will not leave you alone, calmly return to your boat – remembering to make your decompression stops – and go down again a little later.
- Do not try to feed, touch, interact or swim with any sea mammal.
- Avoid sudden movements in the presence of animals and do not try to get their attention by blowing bubbles, flashing your dive light or making exaggerated movements with your arms or dive fins.
- Do not disturb seals that are resting deep under water.



I respect the rules.

- If you are not diving with the Club Nautique (kayaking and diving club), you must register at the park and pay the admission fees before going out.
- Access to some sites is restricted due to their fragility. Please inquire at the park for details.
- Dive only during the park's operating hours.
- Do not remove anything from the sea floor.

I am an ambassador of the seas.

- If you see any environmental disruption or other unusual occurrence, please report it to the Club Nautique or to an environmental organization in the area.
- Know how to recognize aquatic invasive species and report their presence to Fisheries and Oceans Canada. Download the guidebook Aquatic Invasive Species at: www.qc.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/publications/envahissant-invasive/index-eng.asp.

Now that you are acquainted with the best diving practices, become an involved teacher by informing other divers and reminding them of the rules they might have forgotten. Keep in mind that the privilege of visiting the ocean floor comes with the responsibility to preserve this fragile environment.

By Esther Blier and Mélanie Sabourin

A Few Rules to Follow

All park users must:

- Have an access pass;
- Have a permit to stay in the park between 5 p.m. and 9:15 a.m.;
- Have a park fishing permit if they wish to fish;
- Show these documents to park staff who ask for them;
- Use only marked roads and trails;
- Engage only in the activities offered at the specified times and places;
- Gain access to Bonaventure Island only via the main dock;
- Dispose of waste in containers designated for this purpose.

Furthermore, it is forbidden to:

- Damage, introduce or remove any natural element;
- Kill, catch, wound, molest, harass, or feed an animal;
- Bring animals into the park (except guide dogs);
- Camp.

Do your part to protect the natural environment by respecting these regulations!

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Entry fees valid from April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2013

CATEGORY OR GROUP	DAILY RATES	ANNUAL CARD	
		PARK	NETWORK
Adult (18 or over)	\$6.00	\$30.00	\$54.00
Child (6 to 17)	\$2.75	\$13.75	\$24.75
Child (0 to 5)	Free	Free	Free
1 adult with children 6 to 17	\$8.75	\$43.75	\$78.75
2 adults with children 6 to 17	\$12.00	\$60.00	\$108.00
Organized adults group	\$5.25	N/A	N/A
Organized youth group (aged 6 to 17)	\$2.25	N/A	N/A
School or student group	Free	N/A	N/A

* Note: Taxes included. Park or Network card is valid for 12 months. **Prices, terms and conditions, as well as services mentioned in this newsletter are subject to change without notice.**

Parc national de l'ÎLE-BONAVENTURE-ET-DU-ROCHER-PERCÉ



In the footsteps of the islanders

On one of the island's most beautiful trails, follow in the footsteps of the islanders of a bygone time, in the company of a park warden naturalist. Visit the restored homes of some of Bonaventure Island inhabitants, learn their stories and, along the way, soak up the island's magnificent scenery.

From July 8 to August 25
Every day at 11:15 a.m.

1 800 665-6527
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Photos: Corentin Chailion and Mélanie Sabourin

Photos: Sophie Jean

The Bioparc... The Gaspésie's wild animal park

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Ville de Gaspé

Resto des Margaulx on Bonaventure Island

certifié
fourchette bleue
pour une saine gestion des ressources marines
par Exploramer

Experience a maritime feast in a historic building.

At Resto des Margaulx, our utensils are made of potatoes, our bowls and plates of corn. At the park, we compost.

The park has to use disposable dishes due to a limited supply of drinking water (impossible to wash dishes). We have chosen to use biodegradable and compostable tableware.

This tableware, 100% biodegradable within a period of 2 to 8 weeks, is manufactured using potato starch (utensils) and bagasse (dishes and napkins), which is a fibrous material remaining after the extraction of fructose from sugarcane stalks. The composting of this material is done entirely on the island.

A SITE THAT HAS THE WIND IN ITS SAILS

A must see:
new exhibit in the carpentry shop

Guided tours, cultural activities, entertainment, seafood restaurant, art and souvenir boutique

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What's new in 2012?

Conservation

Where have all the gannets gone?

Aerial surveys conducted by the Canadian Wildlife Service showed a 12% decline in the Northern Gannet colony on Bonaventure Island in 2010 and a further 9% decline in 2011. This decrease in the population of the colony, which had been growing for thirty years, is currently unexplained. One of the hypotheses put forward is that the drop is an effect of the 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, which is the winter range for 25% of the Northern Gannets in the colony. Other possible causes include a likely reduction in the quantity and quality of their food supply, poor weather conditions during the incubation period, disease, disturbance and predation.

These are complex questions that researchers will try to answer over the coming years. Scientists have been studying the colony for several years already, particularly since the disaster in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010. The research focuses on counting the number of breeding pairs and assessing their reproductive success, as well as determining their contamination rate, where they feed and where they overwinter.

Recently, researchers, wildlife managers and biologists from across North America formed a group to share information and address the problems faced by Northern Gannets.

Hopefully, answers will soon be found to help us fulfill our mission of conserving and protecting these beautiful birds, the symbol of the park.



Education

Nighttime outing, quite a privilege!

This year, we are offering several opportunities to participate in a nighttime visit to Bonaventure Island. It is a chance to witness the unique spectacle of the sleeping gannet colony, forming a snowy carpet of over 100,000 almost silent birds. In the company of a naturalist, visitors will also meet the mysterious nocturnal animals that live on Bonaventure Island and will be entertained by Native American legends recounting the origin of the land- and seascape of Percé.

Fishing at Percé under French regime

Percé is by far the place that best illustrates how the fisheries were set up and run under the French regime. No less than 500 to 600 fishermen settled here each summer to catch some 1.5 million quintals (155 million pounds) of cod. The lucrative fishery attracted French cod fishermen, French lords (seigneurs), adventurers and many others. This exhibit traces the history of the French in this area and the adventure of the North American fisheries from 1534 to 1690.



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FONDS Parcs Québec

Give and nature will return the favour!

In order to **conserve** and **protect** our national parks, it is first important to know them well. This requires the investment of both time and resources. Sépaq has created a special fund, the Parcs Québec Fund, dedicated to supporting priority conservation projects in each national parks.

To donate:

- Visit www.fondsparcsquebec.com
- Purchase an article identified as belonging to the Parcs Québec collection
- Participate in the **Adopt an animal** program
- Leave your donation in the Parcs Québec Fund box found in all our national parks
- Make a contribution when reserving online at www.sepaq.com

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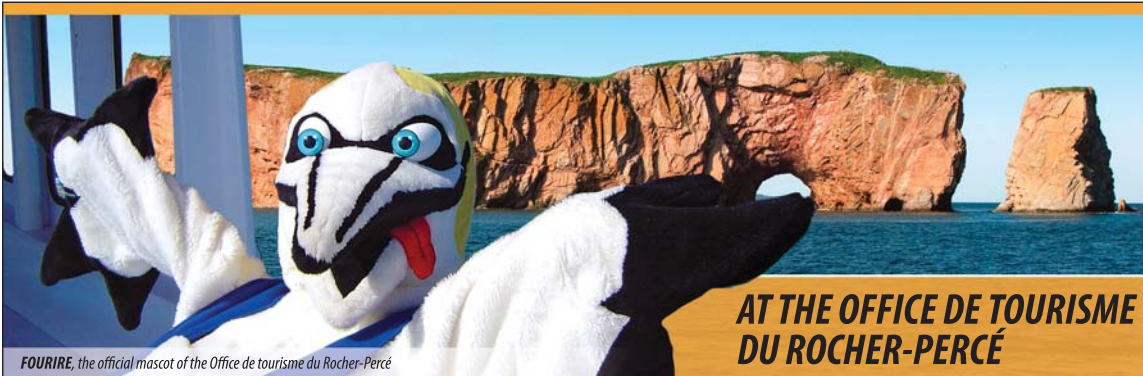
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⁽¹⁾ From Sunday to Thursday until June 21, 2012 and from September 9, 2012

⁽²⁾ Fridays, Saturdays, holidays and every day from June 22, 2012 to September 8, 2012

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