

PARC NATIONAL DES ÎLES-DE-BOUCHERVILLE

DISCOVERY GUIDE


WELCOME TO THE PARK

A natural necklace of islands in the mighty saint-lawrence at the heart of the metropolitan Montreal region... for a change of scenery a few steps away from the hustle and bustle of city life.

A few kilometres away from Montreal, right in the middle of the majestic Saint-Lawrence River, five closely knit Islands make up the *Parc national des Îles-de-Boucherville*, a highly representative sample of the Saint-Lawrence Lowlands' natural heritage.

Hikers, picnickers, cyclists, canoeists, kayakers and campers come over to get away from it all. In winter, the park offers hikers, snowshoers, cross-country skiers and fatbike enthusiasts wonderful snowy scenery, and an atmosphere beyond just peaceful.

Find out mor at sepaq.com/ilesdeboucherville

 Follow us on Facebook



Raffi
The Red Fox

THE RED FOX – THE PARK'S ANIMAL EMBLEM

A small canid roaming around on the park's islands, the red fox sports a beautiful rusty-coloured fur and a bushy tail whose end tip is always white. Its omnivorous nature leads it to feed on just about whatever it finds along its path. Active mostly from sunset to daybreak, it can occasionally be observed in the daytime.

ANNUAL QUÉBEC NATIONAL PARKS CARD

Québec's national parks offer a one-of-a-kind experience. Explore this exceptional world of nature with the Annual Québec National Parks Card, featuring:

- Unlimited access to ALL national parks for 12 full months
- Many exclusive benefits, including a free night of camping

Details at sepaq.com/parkscard

SUPERVISED ACCESS FOR DOGS



Dogs are allowed at Parc national des Îles-de-Boucherville, in certain designated areas.

All details at sepaq.com/animals

MAIN RULES*

- Dogs must remain in the places where they are authorized at all times.
- Dogs must be kept on a leash and under surveillance at all times.
- The person in charge of the dog must pick up the animal's excrement without delay.
- Barking or howling dogs as well as dogs affecting the tranquility and safety of other visitors are not allowed.

*Individuals who fail to comply with any of the rules stated above may be required to leave the area and/or issued a statement of offence, where appropriate.

Compliance with the regulations is essential, and the offer could be reviewed if non-compliance is noted.

AUTHORIZED PLACES

Summer trail L'Île-Sainte-Marguerite (multifunctional trail)

Camping RV area

Picnic area Picnic areas of Île-Sainte-Marguerite trail (Saint-Laurent, Grande-Rivière, Molson)

Nautical access point **No authorized access**

Winter trail Île-Sainte-Marguerite (multifunctional trail)

MUST-DOS



EXPLORATION ON THE SAINT-LAWRENCE

In a canoe or sea kayak, on a stand-up paddle board (SUP), or even in a foot-pedal craft, glide into the fascinating world of the *îles de Boucherville's* internal waterways. A fleet of over 100 watercrafts at your disposal!



CAMPING ON ÎLE GROSBOIS

All campsites and Huttopia tent ("ready-to-camp") sites on Île Grosbois are located in a delightful, bewitching section of the park where fields and meadows, forest sites and aquatic environments meet and mix wonderfully. Mesmerizing scenery, peace and quiet all guaranteed!



BICYCLE RIDING ON THE ISLANDS

Discover the park on our 21-km cycling trail network. The trails head out from the Discovery and Services Centre, bend and turn along the Saint-Lawrence and the Grande Rivière, and belt around all the park's major islands. As part of this family ride, take a break in one of our picnic areas sprinkled along the way.



THE PARK IN WINTER

Winter is a splendid season for outdoor activities! During winter, the park offers cross-country skiing, winter hiking, snowshoeing, fatbike riding and snow scooter (kick-sled) enthusiasts a lot to revel in, and all the relevant equipment can be rented. In addition, the new bridge opens up untapped snowy landscape exploration horizons on the other islands.



OBSERVATION ON ÎLE AUX RAISINS

This 3.4 km-long trail, dotted with interpretation signs, lets you appreciate all the impressive wealth of the flood plain..



DISCOVERY STATIONS

A new, original and unique trail made up of several rest-and-learn stops as well as a large interactive fresco located at the Discovery and Services Centre. They will enable you to take in immersive experiences on the islands' fauna, flora and history.



DISCOVER OUR TRAILS

TRAIL	LENGTH AND DURATION*	LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY	DEPARTURE
Île-Grosbois – This sun-drenched pathway provides an unobstructed view of the Saint-Lawrence River all along your trek.	7 km loop / 2 h	E	Dutch Footbridge
Île-Sainte-Marguerite – On foot or bike, solo or in a group, this versatile trail enables you to go full circle right around the island.	7 km loop / 2 h	E	Discovery and Services Centre
Île-de-la-Commune – Let this island's picturesque scenery win you over! The island's East section will overcome you with its pastoral landscape and its superb view of Old Boucherville, while in the West portion, a bit lush and on the wilder side, the observation tower offers an enchanting panorama of the wetlands.	5.1 km loop / 1 h 45	E	Tony le Sauteur Footbridge
Grande-Rivière – From plain to woodlands along the magnificent Saint-Lawrence, this trail plunges into the very essence of the <i>Parc national des Îles-de-Boucherville's</i> main sceneries.	4 km loop / 1 h 30	E	Discovery and Services Centre
Île-aux-Raisins – This island evolves with the seasons: icy in winter, submerged in spring, and dried in summer. Just what we call a flood plain! A bird-watcher's paradise for its diversified habitats, adored by hikers for its cozy, enveloping atmosphere among tall grass, this luxurious setting will charm you!	3.5 km loop / 1 h 30	I	Near the Observation Tower
Petite-Rivière – The <i>Petite Rivière</i> has quite a story to be told. Follow this pathway to take in some time travel and delve into the <i>Îles-de-Boucherville's</i> historical highlights.	2.5 km loop / 45 min	E	Discovery and Services Centre
Grand-Duc – At the very heart of <i>Île Sainte-Marguerite</i> , this short rustic trail wonderfully represents this island cluster's country setting. Take a family excursion to explore the habitat of the great horned owl, the Virginia (white-tailed) deer, the red fox and the monarch butterfly!	1.5 km loop / 30 min	E	Discovery and Services Centre
Nautical trail – The Saint-Lawrence: mysterious and attractive... Take advantage of a canoe or sea kayak trip to explore the <i>Chenal du Courant's</i> expansive marsh with its purely zen atmosphere! Lush and lavish plants under the warm summer sun, soothing bird songs, letting yourself glide serenely on the calm waves of the Saint-Lawrence... You will savour a unique outdoor experience filled with treasureable memories!	8 km loop / 3 h	I	Discovery and Services Centre
Le Castor – At the heart of wildlife action, immerse yourself in the enchanting world of the creatures inhabiting the various channels and thoroughfares in the <i>parc national des Îles-de-Boucherville</i> . You will make exceptional discoveries, including mister beaver!	4 km loop / 1 h	E	Grosbois Services Centre

Hiking **Biking** **Family experience** **Pleasure boating** **Brochure / Panels** **Dogs allowed**

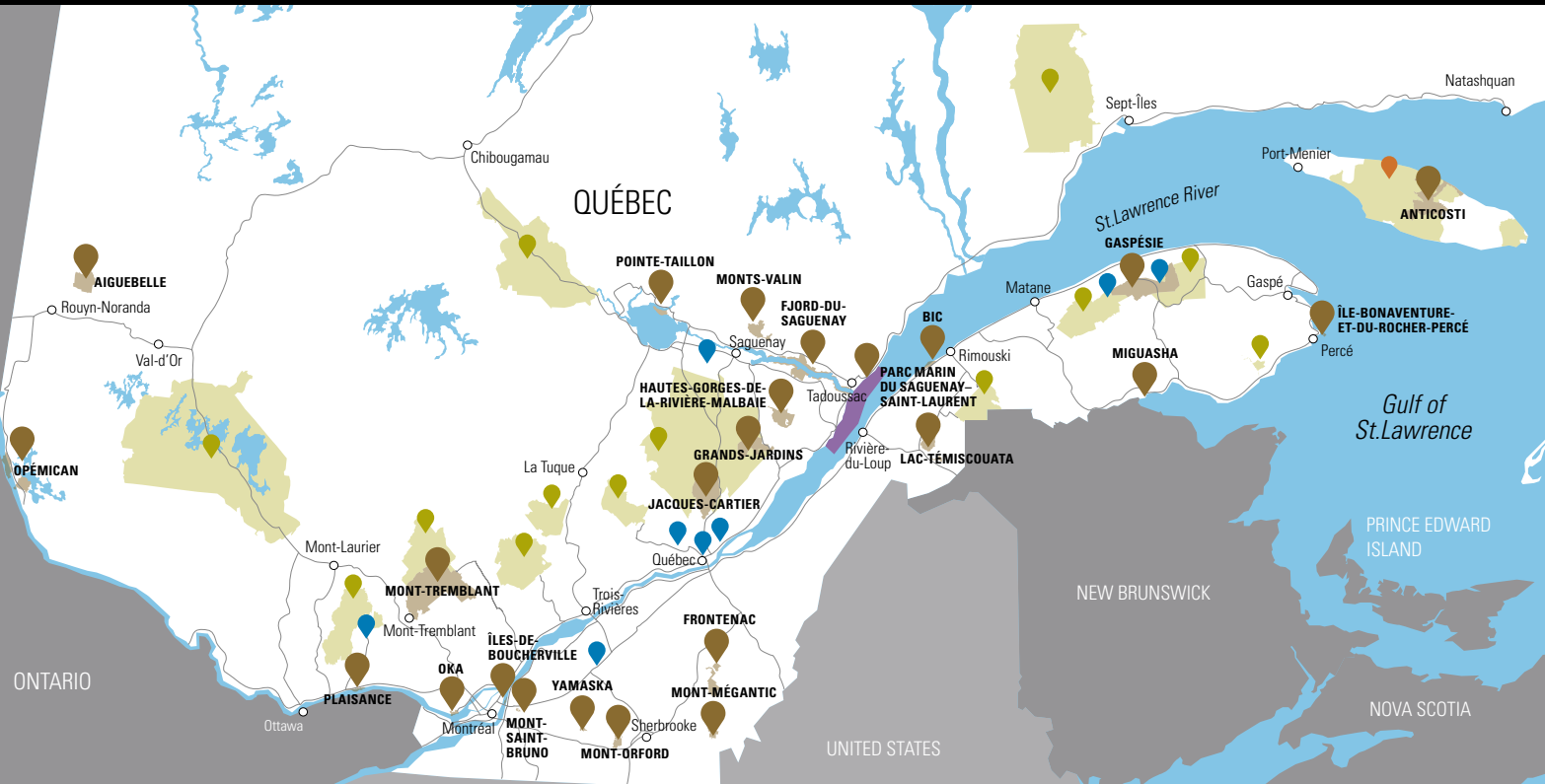
- EQUIPMENT RENTAL**
- Adult bicycle
 - Children's bicycle (gratuit en contexte familial)
 - Tandem bicycle
 - Children's cart and bike puller
 - Canoe
 - Single kayak
 - Double kayak
 - 12-seat rabascaw
 - 20-seat rabascaw
 - Rowboat
 - Stand-up paddle board (SUP)
 - Foot-pedal craft
 - Life vest, rows and paddles (without boat rental)



THE LARGEST NATURE AND OUTDOOR NETWORK IN QUÉBEC

Sépaq has the privilege of developing territories of incredible richness. Among them, 24 national parks stand out as unique. These are protected areas that belong to all Quebecers and that provide lasting memories for visitors who proudly make such exceptional destinations their own.

Discover all our destinations at sepaq.com



QUÉBEC NATIONAL PARKS DAY
 September 12, 2020
 FREE ADMISSION

SÉPAQ WINTER DAY
 JANUARY 30, 2021
 FREE ADMISSION

FREE* reusable bag with an in-store purchase of \$75 or more.

The reusable bag is made of natural wood fibre, a biodegradable and recyclable material.

*Value of \$7.99. Eligible on all purchases of \$75 or more after applicable rebates, discounts, and promotions and before applicable taxes. Exclusions: wood and convenience store products. Limited quantities available. Valid until December 31, 2020.

DISCOVERY TIME



PICNIC AREAS

Prolong your enjoyment of the park and soak in the sunny weather in this exceptional haven in the middle of the mighty Saint-Lawrence just a hop and a skip away from Montreal. Our four large picnic areas are ideal for hosting families, groups and office teams! Located right by them are children's playgrounds, bocce and volley-ball courts, table soccer games and sanitary facilities. Those of you looking for greater tranquillity will still benefit: indeed, the cycling trails are also dotted with several more picnic areas.

FISHING

In a rowboat, fishing kayak, foot-pedal craft or canoe, or simply at ford, come and tease the fish in the Saint-Lawrence channels and thoroughfares. In addition, we will develop **NEW** wade fishing areas during this season to enable you to fish at your leisure in a truly delightful setting.

Fishing licences available at the park.

Did you know that over 50 fish species populate the park's channel waters, including the largemouth bass, pike, walleye (yellow pickerel) and yellow perch?



DISCOVERY STATIONS

Come and take in these new rest-and-learn stops that we will lay out and install during the 2020 season.

Immersive experiences enabling you to discover the islands' fauna, flora and history will nurture the staging for this unique and original trail made up of a large interactive fresco and outside educational stopovers.





NOT OFFERED DURING THE 2020 SEASON

BIRDS AHEAD! FESTIVAL

On May 16 and 17, come take part in the 6th edition of our Birds Ahead! Festival. Conferences, kiosks, and activities led aboard a rabascaaw or on foot are part of the fun.

When: May 16 and 17

Where: Discovery and Services Centre

Cost: Free and priced activities

NOT OFFERED DURING THE 2020 SEASON

DISCOVER THE MARSH

Aboard a rabascaaw, navigate the calm waters of the marsh and observe diversified fauna and flora. Binoculars provided!

THESE ACTIVITIES SHOULD NOT BE OFFERED DURING THE 2020 SEASON

EVENING ACTIVITIES AT THE CAMPGROUNDS!

On Friday evenings: Bats or astronomy. On Saturdays, meet Gaétan Patte-Noire, the oldest living naturalist park warden of all our national parks or a mysterious Shaman who will captivate you with their fantastic stories!

When: Saturdays at 4 P.M., from Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day to Labour Day

Where: Grosbois Campgrounds

Cost: Paid Activity

When: Friday and Saturday evenings from Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day to Labour Day

Where: Grosbois Campgrounds

Cost: Free of charge



Did you know that the Molson channel's waters shelter the oldest first-generation steamboat breaking up yard in the world?

NOT OFFERED DURING THE 2020 SEASON

SUNSET SAFARI

Take a vehicle ride to visit the park when everything seems quiet and peaceful... Or is it really? This safari will lead you into the "night life" of these islands' inhabitants.

When: Thursday evenings July and August

Where: Grosbois Campsite or RV camping ground

Cost: Free of charge



THESE ACTIVITIES SHOULD NOT BE OFFERED DURING THE 2020 SEASON

NATURALLY CURIOUS!

All Saturday and Sunday afternoons, come and meet a naturalist park warden at the curiosity stand site to discover all the park's marvels.

When: Watch the schedule

Where: Curiosity stand site

Cost: Free of charge

SCHEDULE + OPENING AND AVAILABILITY

At all times, consult the park website to know the calendar modifications.



SERVICE	OPENING OR AVAILABILITY DATES	DAYS	TIMETABLE*	
DISCOVERY AND SERVICES CENTRE (Reception and Nature Boutique)	April 1 st – May 14	Monday to Friday Saturday, Sunday and statutory holidays	9 a.m. to 4 p.m. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	
	May 15 – June 18	Monday to Thursday	9 a.m. to 4 p.m.	
		Friday Saturday, Sunday and statutory holidays	9 a.m. to 7 p.m. 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.	
	June 19 – August 30	Sunday to Thursday Friday and Saturday	9 a.m. to 7 p.m. 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.	
		Monday to Thursday	9 a.m. to 4 p.m.	
	August 31 – October 12	Friday Saturday, Sunday and statutory holidays	9 a.m. to 7 p.m. 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.	
October 13 – March 31		7 days/week	9 a.m. to 4 p.m.	
GROSBOIS SERVICES CENTRE	May 15 – June 18	Friday	3 p.m. to 7 p.m.	
		Saturday	9 a.m. to 6 p.m.	
		Sunday and statutory holidays	9 a.m. to 3 p.m.	
	June 19 – August 30	Monday to Thursday Friday and Saturday Sunday and statutory holidays	10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.	
		August 31 – October 12	Friday	3 p.m. to 7 p.m.
			Saturday	9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sunday and statutory holidays	9 a.m. to 3 p.m.			
DAIRY BAR / READY TO EAT	June 13 – September 13	According to the schedule of the Discovery and Services Centre		
BICYCLE AND WATERCRAFT RENTAL**	May 2 – May 15	Saturday, Sunday and statutory holidays	9 a.m. to 6 p.m.	
	May 16 – June 19	Monday to Friday	9 a.m. to 6 p.m.	
		Saturday, Sunday and statutory holidays	9 a.m. to 7 p.m.	
	June 20 – September 7	7 days/week	9 a.m. to 7 p.m.	
September 8 – October 12	Monday and Friday	9 a.m. to 4 p.m.		
	Saturday, Sunday and statutory holidays	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.		
WINTER EQUIPMENT RENTAL**	December 1 st – March 31	According to the schedule of the Discovery and Services Centre		

*Subject to change without notice **All rented equipment must be returned before closing time.

The annual rented equipment sale will take place beginning September 7, 2020 for watercraft, and starting October 12, 2020 for bicycles. Prices, terms and conditions, and services are subject to change without prior notice. **Opening and availability days and hours are also subject to changes based on customer traffic and weather conditions.**

To find out about modifications to operating and activity timetables, access our Web site at address: sepaq.com/boucherville



SLEEPING UNDER THE STARS



RESERVATION PERIOD KICK-OFF FOR THE 2021 SEASON

Camping, ready-to-camp and RV campground
May 9, 2020

1-800-665-6527 | sepaq.com

Sleep over within our confines to make the most of your stay at the park. This will enable you to set off from your base camp and discover the territory right away without wasting any transit time. And you will get a front-row seat from which to contemplate the fauna in its natural habitat!

We provide several lodging types and packages:

- Campgrounds set up without individual services
Grosbois: 50 campsites
- Huttopia tent camping (ready-to-camp) *Grosbois: 25 campsites*, accessible only on foot, by small watercraft or via bicycle.
- RV camping ground - Molson area :
15 campsites

From
\$45

ISLANDS PACKAGE

Mid-May to mid-October, 2020
Price per night, per campsite.

Thanks to the Islands Package, which includes transportation of luggage and campers, you will be able to set out from your base campsite and freely discover the territory.

The package covers:

- Campsite or Huttopia tent ("ready-to-camp") site
- Transportation in a shuttle towards the host site
- Transportation for 4 luggage pieces
- Rental of a watercraft (canoe, kayak or stand-up paddle board (SUP)) or a bicycle for 1 hour (per campsite)

THE ISLANDS PACKAGE SHOULD NOT BE OFFERED DURING THE 2020 SEASON



Free of charge!

Admission and equipment loan offered to children 17 and under.

Offer varies from one establishment to another.
First come, first served.



Our favourite offers at the park

- Introduction to Fishing Program
- Petite-Rivière Rally
- Camping on île Grosbois
- Four playgrounds
- Foot-pedal craft rental
- Family picnic
- Discovery stations
- Splash park (water play area)
- Festive evenings

CONSERVE FOR TOMORROW

NEW FAUNA HABITATS

As part of our farmland restoration project and for the purpose of creating new wetlands, we have developed a 26th marsh, covering about 650 square metres in area, on *Île de la Commune* in 2019. Water supply for this new marsh, set into a naturally wet location, will stem exclusively from water run-off. The clayey soil fits these conditions perfectly. Twisting and turning banks, gradual slopes and varying depths are among the elements we have respected in order to promote implementation of aquatic vegetation and its attractiveness to fauna. Following the implementation works, we seeded the disrupted soils with indigenous herbaceous plants.



Apart from wetlands, we have also developed herbaceous and shrubby wild lands, as well as woodlands on *île de la Commune* to favour various wildlife species.

CUTE? FOR SURE! ALONE? HARDLY!

According to scientific literature, it is desirable to maintain a deer population density of 5 deer/km² in order to preserve a balance in the ecosystem. In light of its current density of 18 deer/km², the park is contending with an overpopulation of Virginia deer, which makes plant regeneration and succession practically impossible and defeats our very mission of conserving habitats. We are currently working in collaboration with the ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs in order to draw up a plan of action intending to fend off this glut.



Did you know that as a result of our last deer stocktaking operation in the park in 2015, we came up with an inventory count of 142 deer, or over three times the viable population needed for maintaining a balance in the ecosystem?



BROWN SNAKES, OFF TO YOUR SHELTERS!

Dekay's brown snake is a species of "Special Concern" status in Quebec. Its presence in the park is well-documented, but the park encompasses very few shelters naturally adapted to host this reptile. Works carried out in 2018 and 2019 in collaboration with the Saint-Lawrence Valley Natural History Society allowed us to significantly improve the brown snake's habitat.



We fit up a total of 5 hibernacles and 63 shelters in the park in 2018 and 2019.

In 2018, we fit up 38 shelters and three hibernacles (piles of rock in which the brown snake can take refuge during winter) on île Sainte-Marguerite. In the summer of 2019, a follow-up on 50% of these new reptilian dwellings allowed us to confirm their summertime usage after less than a year. Indeed, we observed **29 brown snakes** and **11 common garter snakes** during the 8 visits we carried out. This unmitigated success demonstrates how much these structures attract these reptiles.

In 2019, we shifted our efforts to focus on île de la Commune, where we set up **25 extra shelters** and **two more hibernacles**. We carried out these works as part of our *Farmland restoration master plan*, which targeted the brown snake as a priority species to be furthered. Our follow-ups of these fit-ups will continue throughout the coming years.

A RESTORED RIVERBANK

A vegetated riparian strip protects the riverbank's stability and holds back its erosion. In addition, it filters and slows down overland run-off of nutrients and sediments towards the river. Thus it provides fauna with shelters, habitats and breeding areas. We redeveloped a portion of the Petite-Rivière channel's banks in order to limit its treading and thus improve its vegetative cover. An access ramp added to a pier allows visitors to access the channel and enjoy the view or fish at ford.



PLAY ^{IT} SAFE



Photo: Steve Deschênes, Parc national des Grands-Jardins

IN THE WILD, YOUR SAFETY IS YOUR RESPONSABILITY

Sépaq's mission is to ensure the widest possible access to Québec's most beautiful natural treasures. Sépaq is committed to the safety of its visitors and urges you to play it safe!

Preparing yourself adequately is the first step in the safe and enjoyable practice of your favourite activities. **YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY** and risk management is an integral part of your experience.

Before leaving for an excursion, **MAKE SURE YOU HAVE THE SKILLS AND ABILITIES REQUIRED** to practice your chosen activity **AND RESPECT YOUR PHYSICAL LIMITS**. Your outing should leave you with nothing but pleasant memories. We invite you to consult our safety guides for Sépaq activities, available at sepaq.com/security. You will also find a list of organizations that can help you plan your activities safely.

sepaq.com/security

CHECKLIST

BEFORE YOU LEAVE HOME

- Plan on going with at least one other person.
- Check the weather report.
- Pack water and food, even if the activity is only for a few hours.
- See that you have appropriate clothing and footwear for anticipated weather conditions.
- Let somebody know the exact location of your destination and the time you plan to return home.

ONCE YOU ARE ON SITE

- Do not rely on your cellphone.
- Check how much time it will take to complete your activity.
- Obey signs and notices, including bans on open fires.

WHEN YOU GET BACK

- Once you have completed your activity, make sure that you report to our staff anything wrong or any damage or problems you encountered.

REMINDERS

📄 During your visit to a national park, you must always carry your entry fee receipt or your annual entry card.

🚫 Remember that animals are in their natural habitat and that you are a visitor. To ensure both your safety and theirs, feeding them is prohibited; otherwise they may lose their natural fear of human beings and become aggressive.

🚫 To preserve our natural riches, you are not allowed to remove any natural elements (animals, plants, dead wood, rocks, etc.). Please also keep to established hiking trails to avoid trampling flora.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY : 911

SÛRETÉ DU QUÉBEC: 310-4141 (general number) / *4141 (for cellphones)

*Where cellphone networks are available. The costs and expenses incurred in conducting search and rescue operations are the responsibility of the beneficiary. You can obtain protection against these risks from an insurer.

Parc national des Îles-de-Boucherville

55 Île Sainte-Marguerite, C.P 310
Boucherville (Québec) J4B 5J6
Informations: 450 928-5088
Reservation: 1 800 665-6527
parc.boucherville@sepaq.com
sepaq.com/ilesdeboucherville

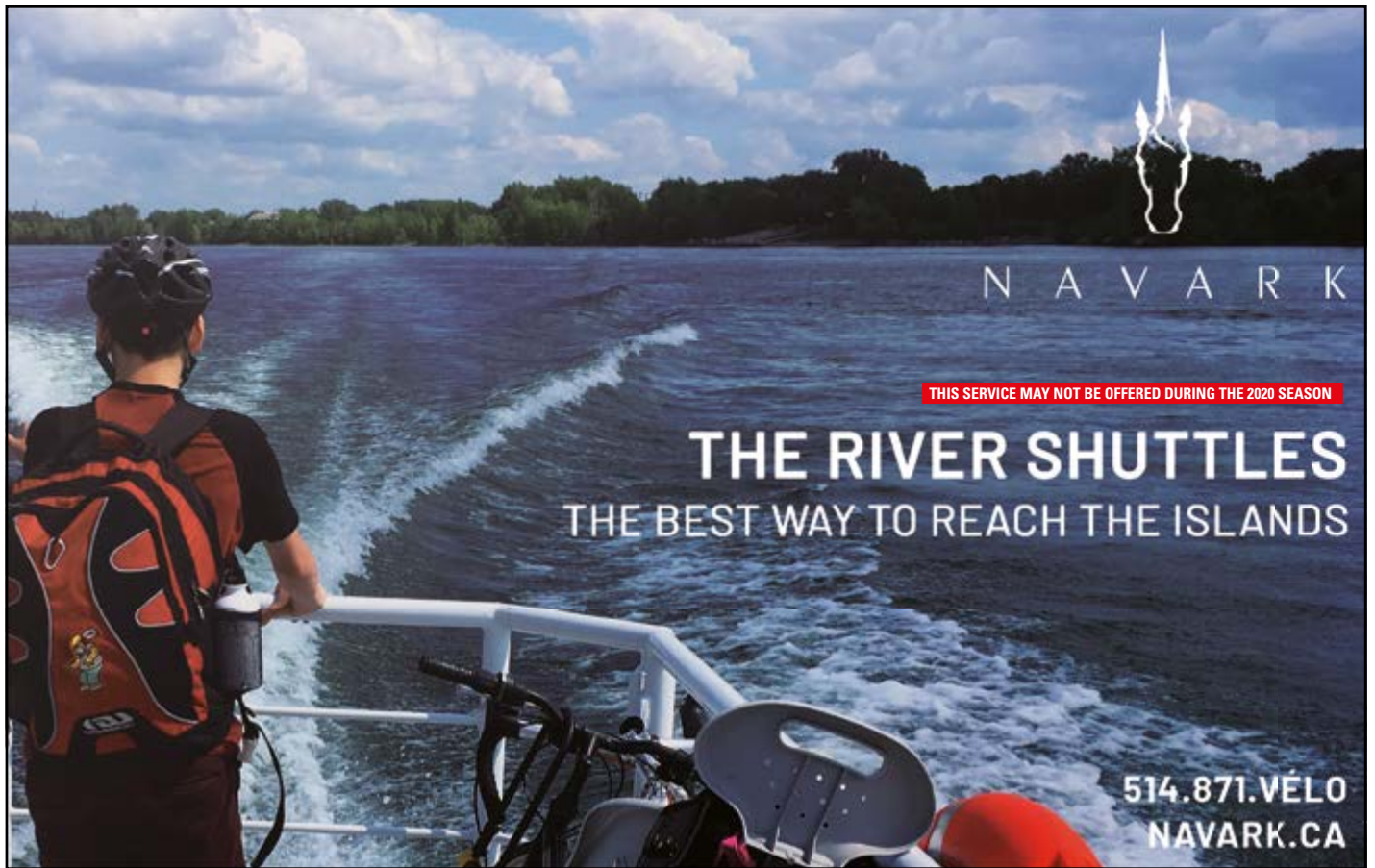
Legal Deposit: 2020
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et Claude Lafond.



PCF





NAVARK

THIS SERVICE MAY NOT BE OFFERED DURING THE 2020 SEASON

THE RIVER SHUTTLES

THE BEST WAY TO REACH THE ISLANDS

514.871.VÉLO
NAVARK.CA

THIS SERVICE MAY NOT BE OFFERED DURING THE 2020 SEASON

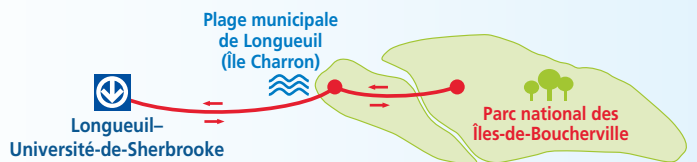
Prenez notre ligne estivale

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Les **WEEK-ENDS** et les **JOURS FÉRIÉS**
jusqu'au **6 SEPTEMBRE**



et tous les jours du 20 au 31 juillet



longueuil



TOURISME
MONTRÉGLIE

Détails au rtl-longueuil.qc.ca/busdesiles



ATMOSPHERE

YOUR PARTNER IN OUTDOOR ADVENTURES



The greatest brands available
in our 44 Atmosphere in Quebec

MERRELL



ARC'TERYX

Columbia



THE
NORTH
FACE



McKINLEY



KEEN