

PARC NATIONAL DES ÎLES-DE-BOUCHERVILLE

DISCOVERY GUIDE

2018



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 more 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

MUST-DOS



A

THE MARSH IN A CANOE OR SEA KAYAK, OR ON A STAND-UP PADDLE BOARD (SUP)

In a canoe or sea kayak, on a stand-up paddle board (SUP), or even in a foot-pedal craft, explore the fascinating world of the *Îles de Boucherville*'s internal waterways, along an 8-km marked nautical trail that takes on average three hours to complete!



B

CAMPING ON ÎLE GROSBOIS

All campsites and Huttoopia tent ("ready-to-camp") sites on *île Grosbois* are located in a very special part of the park where terrestrial compartments and aquatic environments meet and mix wonderfully.

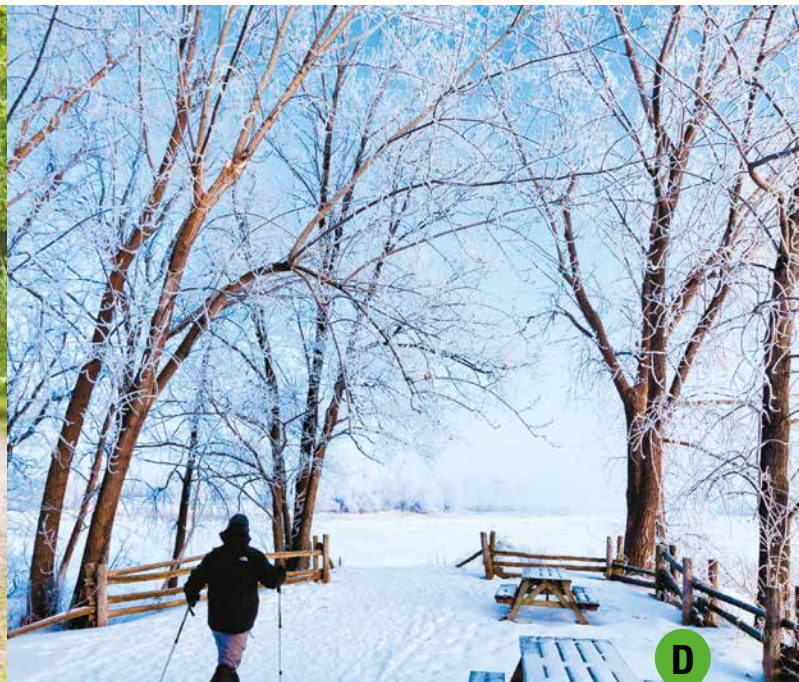
Mesmerizing scenery, peace and quiet all guaranteed!



C

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.



D

THE *GRANDE-RIVIÈRE* TRAIL IN WINTER

During winter, the park offers winter hiking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and fatbike riding enthusiasts a lot to revel in.

Take a moment to discover the *Grande-Rivière* trail.



	Registration centre / Information		Fishing site
	Playground		Parking lot
	Picnic area		Telephone
	Amphitheatre		Washroom
	Washroom facility		Observation tower
	Boutique Nature shop		Recreational vehicle dumping station
	Semi-serviced camping		Marked water
	Convenience store		Length of trail sections
	RV area		Bike path
	Golf		Trail
	Mooring area		Marked water trail
	Discovery Kiosk		Boat shuttle
	Boat and bike rental		Road network
	Boat launch		National park boundary
	Lookout		Conservation zone
	Food services		
	Boucher-de-Grosbois Archeological site		





Île de Montréal

Fleuve Saint-Laurent




















Cette carte intègre de l'information géographique de source gouvernementale. Pour des besoins de représentation, certaines données ont subi des transformations et des adaptations qui ont pu modifier la donnée originale.

Données originales utilisées	Années
Banque de données Sépaq	2018
Cartes topographiques à l'échelle de 1/20 000	2005

Source des données utilisées
Ministère de l'Énergie et des Ressources naturelles
© Gouvernement du Québec

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	3 h	E	Grosbois Services Centre
	  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	2 h 15	E	Cable Ferry
	 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	I	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	2 h 15	E	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 treasurable memories!	8 km loop	3 h	I	Discovery and Services Centre

*Durations and difficulty levels are mentioned as guides, and apply to the summer season.

E: Easy

I: Intermediate

D: Difficult

 Hiking  Biking  Family experience  Pleasure boating  Brochure / Panels

EQUIPMENT RENTAL	1 hour	4 hours	Full Day
Adult / teenage bicycle	\$14.25	\$28.50	\$41
Children's bicycle	\$7	\$14.25	\$20.50
Tandem bicycle	\$20.50	\$41	\$58.50
Children's cart and bike puller	Free	Free	Free
Canoe	\$17.25	\$34.50	\$49.50
Single kayak	\$17.50	\$35.50	\$50.50
Double kayak	\$23.75	\$47.50	\$67.75
12-seat rabascaw	\$73.25	\$146.25	\$209
20-seat rabascaw	\$122	\$244	\$349
Rowboat	\$15	\$30.25	\$43.50
Stand-up paddle board (SUP)	\$17.25	\$30	\$43
Foot-pedal craft	\$23.75	\$46.25	-
Life vest, rows and paddles (without boat rental)	--	--	\$7

Taxes extra.

Prices, terms and conditions, and services are subject to change without prior notice.



THE LARGEST NATURE AND OUTDOOR NETWORK IN QUÉBEC

The exceptional territories of Sépaq, including 24 national parks, are privileged destinations where you can enjoy all the benefits of an intimate contact with nature. Here's a special invitation from us to you: come relax at the heart of an authentic natural world that's the pride and joy of Quebecers!

24 NATIONAL PARKS | 14 WILDLIFE RESERVES | 8 TOURIST ESTABLISHMENTS | SÉPAQ ANTICOSTI

Discover all our destinations at sepaq.com



QUÉBEC NATIONAL PARKS DAY
September 8, 2018

SÉPAQ WINTER DAY
January 26, 2019



BOUTIQUES

Don't forget to visit our boutiques for a souvenir!

Profits are fully reinvested in Québec's national parks

DISCOVERY TIME



PICNIC

Extend the fun at the park and enjoy the beautiful weather amidst an exceptional haven right in the middle of the Saint-Lawrence River just a hop and a skip away from Montreal. The three expansive picnic areas are perfect for welcoming a large group of relatives or your office team! In addition, you will find children's playgrounds and comfort stations nearby.

FISHING

In a rowboat, canoe or fishing kayak, or simply at ford, come and tackle the fish for a while in the Saint-Lawrence channels. Fishing licences are available at the park.

Around 50 species populate the park's channels, including the northern pike, largemouth and smallmouth bass, and American perch.



“DISCOVERING THE MARSH”

Water fascinates and intrigues you?

While navigating the channels, discover a remarkable living environment at the very heart of the Saint-Lawrence.

The Rental Centre will lend you a full-colour guide free of charge upon presentation of an identification document with a photograph.

SEA KAYAK AT SUNSET!

With a sea kayak specialist, savour the pleasure of kayaking in the Parc national des Îles-de-Boucherville in the evening. Exploration of the site, basic introduction and practical advice are slated as part of this activity. Every Thursday night in June, July and August.

Private or group lessons also offered. Available upon reservation.

Reservation and rates: Find out by calling the Discovery and Services Centre at 450-928-5088.



BIRDS AHEAD! FESTIVAL

On May 19 and 20, come take part in the 4th edition of our Birds Ahead! Festival. Conferences, kiosks, and activities led aboard a rabascaaw or on foot are part of the fun.

When: May 19 and 20

Where: Discovery and Services Centre

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: Check out the activities timetable.

Where: Departure from the Discovery and Services Centre and the *Grosbois* campgrounds.

EVENING ACTIVITIES AT THE CAMPGROUNDS!

Saturday nights at the campgrounds are loads of fun for the whole family! Depending on the activity, come and meet *Gaétan Patte Noire* or a mysterious Shaman who will captivate you with their fantastic stories!

When: Saturday evenings during the summer

Where: *Grosbois* campgrounds

Did you know that over 200 bird species can be observed at the park?



INTRODUCTION TO FISHING

As part of the Introduction to Fishing program, youngsters will be able to open up to the fascinating world of fishing, learn how to fish and, at the end of the activity, leave with a fishing rod as well as a fishing licence valid until their 18th birthday.

When: Check out the activities timetable

Where: *Grosbois* campgrounds or *Île Sainte-Marguerite*

THE ABORIGINAL HUT

Delve into the lifestyle of the Aboriginals who lived on or frequented these islands for more than 2,000 years! Visit the reconstruction of a long aboriginal house, read the interpretation panels, and enjoy a cultural activity hosted by a park warden in the summer!

When: Check out the activities timetable

Where: *Boucher-de-Grosbois* archeological site

SCHEDULE + OPENING AND AVAILABILITY

SERVICE	OPENING OR AVAILABILITY DATES	DAYS	TIMETABLE
Discovery and Services Centre (Reception and Nature Boutique)	April 1 st – May 17	7 days/week	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
	May 18 – June 21	Sunday to Thursday	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
		Friday and Saturday	9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
	June 22 – September 3	Sunday to Thursday	9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
		Friday and Saturday	9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
	September 4 – October 8	Sunday to Thursday	9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Friday and Saturday		9 a.m. to 6 p.m.	
October 9 – March 31	See the Web site	9 a.m. to 4 p.m.	
Grosbois Services Centre	May 18 – June 21	Friday	3 a.m. to 7 p.m.
		Saturday	9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
		Sunday and statutory holidays	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
	June 22 – September 3	Monday to Thursday	10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
		Friday and Saturday	9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
		Sunday and statutory holidays	9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
	September 4 – October 8	Friday	3 a.m. to 6 p.m.
		Saturday	9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
		Sunday and statutory holidays	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Cable ferry	May 5 – May 17	Monday to Friday	11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
		Saturday and Sunday	9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
	May 18 – June 21	Monday to Thursday	11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
		Friday	11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
	June 22 – September 2	Saturday, Sunday and statutory holidays	9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
		7 days/week	9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
	September 3 – October 8	Monday to Thursday	11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
		Friday	11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
	October 9 – October 21	Saturday, Sunday and statutory holidays	9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Dairy bar / Ready to eat	May 19 – June 21	Saturday, Sunday and statutory holidays	11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
	June 22 – September 3	7 days/week	11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
	September 4 – October 8	Saturday, Sunday and statutory holidays	11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Bicycle and watercraft rental *	May 5 – May 17	Saturday, Sunday and statutory holidays	9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
	May 18 – June 21	Monday to Friday	9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
		Saturday, Sunday and statutory holidays	9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
	June 22 – September 3	7 days/week	9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
	September 4 – October 8	Monday and Friday	9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Saturday, Sunday and statutory holidays		9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	
Snowshoe and fatbike rental *	December 1 st – March 31	See the Web site	See the Web site

* All rented equipment must be returned before closing time.

The annual rented equipment sale will take place beginning September 4, 2018 for watercraft, and starting October 9, 2018 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 changes to opening and availability days and hours, visit the park's Web page any time at address <https://www.sepaq.com/pq/bou/>

Find out about public transit lines available to reach the park, by visiting our Web site..

SLEEPING UNDER THE STARS



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.

Passenger and baggage shuttles are available (\$).

- RV camping ground - Molson area
15 campsites

RESERVATION PERIOD KICK-OFF FOR THE 2019 SEASON

Camping, ready-to-camp and RV campground

October 27, 2018

1 800 665-6527 | sepaq.com



FAMILY FUN IS HERE!

Photo: Mathieu Dupuis

HERE ARE A FEW EXTRAS WE HAVE IN PLACE FOR YOU TO SIMPLIFY YOUR LIFE AND TO HELP YOU SAVE MONEY.

For your children 17 years of age and under

FREE ACCESS
to national parks

EQUIPMENT LOAN*
for the outdoors

ACTIVITIES
varied and rewarding

ACCESSORIES*
on loan for young children

*Limited quantities available



Look out for this marker which identifies the ideal family experiences.

Discover all our family destinations at sepaq.com/family

OUR TOP PICKS

AT PARC NATIONAL DES ILES-DE-BOUCHERVILLE

Take a look at our not-to-be-missed offers: popular activities, trails to discover with your family, and cosy spots for a stay.

- Introduction to Fishing program
- The Grand-Duc hiking trail
- Camping on Île Grosbois
- Three playgrounds
- Foot-pedal craft
- Family picnic



CONSERVE FOR TOMORROW



ONE BIG FIGHT OF A STRUGGLE

Since autumn 2016, we have expended considerable effort to control the common water reed, an invasive exotic plant that is threatening the territory's plant diversity. In total, we have either mechanically buried or mowed and individually treated 142 common water reed populations covering a 12,800-m² area. Following this painstaking work, we did herbaceous plant seedings in spring 2017 in order to revegetate the soil left bare and thus prevent a relapse of the common water reed on these lands.



A MOSAIC OF HABITATS!

In order to restore 106 hectares of former farmlands, we have initiated works to create a mosaic of habitats, which will be made up of wetlands, herbaceous wildlands, shrubby wildlands, and woodlands. This habitat diversity intends to meet the essential needs of the various animal species inhabiting the park or, what we also hope for, the needs of new species!

We planted 18,130 trees and shrubs on the farmlands in 2017.

A VERY GREEDY DEER

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. To protect newly planted kindling trees against damages caused by Virginia deer's excessive nibbling, we had to install around 6 kilometres of anti-cervid fencing in the summer of 2017, and thus render the "pantry" inaccessible to the deer.



BEAVER, WHERE ARE YOU?

The beaver is always present in the channels surrounding the islands. Last fall, we surveyed eight active huts. By identifying food reserves for winter and recent hut repairs, it is possible to evaluate tenure. **To find out more about the beaver, take part in the activity “The Beaver at Sundown.”**

ALL HAIL THE MONARCH!

The decline in monarch butterfly populations in North America is cause for concern. Quebec is in line with the monarch butterfly’s summer breeding habitat, which it finds back again year after year following its great migrations from Mexico. What the monarch particularly searches is the common milkweed, the only host plant that monarch caterpillars feed on. We are therefore working on protecting the monarch butterfly’s current habitats and promoting their development.

Last year, the participation of 300 youngsters in our discovery activities allowed us to plant 1,200 common milkweed seedlings.

TO EACH HIS OWN DWELLING

The status of Dekay’s brown snake in Quebec is cause for concern. This reptile especially inhabits rock piles where it looks for the necessary protection from predators and inclement weather so it can rest, lay its eggs, regulate its body’s temperature, and feed. Several surveys have confirmed its presence in the park.

To improve its habitat, the park will initiate a shelter set-up project in 2018.



PLAY ^{IT} SAFE



In the wild, your **safety** is your **responsibility**



Photo: Steve Deschênes, Parc national des Grands-Jardins

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. There are a number of organizations that can help you plan your activities safely. Do not hesitate to contact them. We also invite you to consult our safety guides for Sépaq activities on our website at

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.

 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.

 Animals find all they need to eat in nature. Feeding wildlife can be very damaging. Keep food or garbage out of reach of animals.

 We ask you to carry out all your garbage.

 Domestic animals are not accepted in Québec's national parks. However, guide dogs and service dogs are admitted.

PILOT PROJECT AUTHORIZING DOGS

A pilot project is in place authorizing the presence of dogs in FRONTENAC, JACQUES-CARTIER and OKA national parks. As of May 18, 2018, the project will be expanded to include AIGUEBELLE and LAC-TÉMISCOUATA national parks. Please read the applicable rules and authorized places at sepaq.com/animals.

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: 2018
Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec

Photos: Beside, Mathieu Dupuis, Mathieu Dupuis, Steve Deschênes, Audrey Vivier, Francis Gignac, Louise Cadieux, Valérie Patenaude, Daniel Savard, Steve Gignac, Jacques Tremblant, Brendan Lally



The best way to reach the islands,



the river shuttles.



N A V A R K

LONGUEUIL Promenade RL – Charron Island	BOUCHERVILLE Montarville dock – Grosbois Island	MONTREAL Promenade Bellerive – Charron Island
FROM MAY 19 TO JUNE 24 Saturdays and Sundays	FROM JUNE 16 TO JUNE 24 Saturdays and Sundays	FROM JUNE 23 TO SEPTEMBER 3 Saturdays and Sundays
FROM JUNE 25 TO SEPTEMBER 3 Wednesday to Sunday	FROM JUNE 25 TO SEPTEMBER 3 Wednesday to Monday	\$8.50* (kids 5 and under travel free)
FROM SEPTEMBER 4 TO OCTOBER 8 Saturdays and Sundays	FROM SEPTEMBER 4 TO OCTOBER 8 Saturdays and Sundays	
\$8.50* (kids 5 and under travel free)	\$6.50* (Boucherville's residents travel free)	

*Round trip. Sépaq entry fee not included. In service during holidays.

www.navark.ca | 514 871 8356



NATURE IS CLOSER THAN YOU THINK THIS SUMMER!

Free shuttle service by the RTL

From metro  Longueuil–Université-de-Sherbrooke

**WEEKENDS and HOLIDAYS
from JUNE 23 to SEPTEMBER 3**

Details at rtl-longueuil.qc.ca/Ebusdesiles |    



Enjoy your leisure time!

YOUR ADVENTURE AWAITS

Explore the waters

NRS

VAPOR ►

The NRS Vapor PFD gives you the look, feel and performance of a high-end life jacket for a budget-friendly price. The soft foam flotation molds to your body for all-day comfort, and you'll love the hand warmer pouch and big front pocket.



Pelican

UNISON 136T ►

The Pelican UNISON 136T blends polished design with outstanding overall performance. Built on a multichine flat bottom hull platform, this sit-in tandem kayak provides a high level of stability, great manoeuvrability, tracking, and superior capacity.



sail.ca

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