



LES AMIS DE LA RÉSERVE NATIONALE DE FAUNE DU
LAC SAINT-FRANÇOIS



**ANNUAL
REPORT
2022**

Photo : Amis RNFLSF

Discover the natural diversity of the reserve!

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PRESIDENT'S WORD

THE NEW OBSERVATION TOWER AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE DIGUE AUX AIGRETTES TRAIL!

Last year, the president's message concluded that the year 2021 will see the reception building appear and was going to be positive because the team remained in place and Karina LeClair was our coordinator. ECCC contributions fund the updating of the Friends of the national wildlife reserve area of lake Saint-François interpretation activities. So far so good.

But 2022 had a surprise in store for us...a new tower at the Digue aux Aigrettes trail (very nice view).



The Board of directors and Karina or Karina and the Board of directors had the idea of setting up a campsite near the reserve which is still in our minds (slowly and surely the idea is maturing). We have taken the preliminary steps by asking ourselves the question that is it possible? There will be a sequel in 2023.

The year 2023 will certainly be extraordinary because we will celebrate our 30th anniversary of foundation. Besides, nothing will be more ordinary with a brand new building and tower. Activities will resume slowly and another project may take shape.

Thank you to the Board, the volunteers, Karina and the whole team, not to mention the partners for their involvement.

Denis Gervais, President

WORD FROM THE GENERAL DIRECTOR

With a business like ours operating in a rural setting and not benefiting from a large budget, commitment and integrity continue to be essential conditions for the success and development of our organization. Most of us know that running a nonprofit comes with its own set of challenges, we have no choice but to face many challenges like funding and staff retention. As for an organization like ours, we also fall into the category of the ecotourism industry, and in addition to the challenge of standing out and attracting more visitors, we also have to do our best to meet their expectations, and unfortunately this remains a relentless challenge every year.

Noting that the season has gone by far too quickly, the year 2022 has presented its share of challenges, in particular due to the reduced workforce. The scope of the work remained the same, but it was obviously almost impossible to do everything. All the same, the season was rich in project development and especially in adaptation and learning of all kinds! I sincerely believe that it is important to do our best to create a positive work environment while respecting everyone's expertise and ideas, because as the saying goes, it takes a whole village to educate!

That being said, we have put a lot of emphasis on promoting our nautical and land activities, in order to respond to the tourism revival. A strong team is the result of dedication, a lot of perseverance and combative teamwork. That said, it was nonetheless another excellent season for Les Amis RNF LSF which in many areas we have greatly improved and exceeded our expectations, all thanks to a highly motivated staff.

I must acknowledge the hard work and express my gratitude to all our employees for having brilliantly ensured the success of our activities as well as the most hospitable welcome, even the pickiest seemed satisfied. You made all the difference! I would like to thank our Board of Directors for their valuable advice, support, commitment and encouragement which is essential to the proper development of our organization. On behalf of our Board of Directors and our team, we would also like to thank the entire Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) team, your support and trust has been greatly appreciated throughout the year and it is always a delight to work with such conscientious staff.

Finally, we would like to thank our dear members, donors and volunteers for your presence and support. You are at the heart of our action and a great

source of motivation to perpetuate the desire of Les Amis RNF LSF to remain active within the community.

I can proudly say that it is a real honor to be entrusted with the leadership of the organization for a third consecutive year, and I look forward to the next season to be able to work with each of you for the sustainability of this organization whose mission is so important in the current environmental and political context. Doing it together in solidarity makes the future bright and I am convinced that the 2023 season will have new opportunities and celebrations.

Our success is not just our own, it is the success of everyone involved with us in our mission.

Again, I thank you all!

Karina LeClair, general director

MISSION

With a view to sustainable development, the Friends of the Reserve wishes to publicize, promote and protect the “réserve nationale de faune du Lac-Saint-François”. These are the fundamental objectives of the organization established in 1993.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

During 2022, the Board of Directors met 4 times to ensure that the terms of the Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) contract are respected and that the management and objectives of the organization have been reached, and even that they had been surpassed.

* The ad hoc committees created by the Board of Directors for various projects met 3 times. Board and committee meetings were held largely by videoconference on the Zoom platform. Only one meeting of the Board of Directors took place face-to-face in October 2022*

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2022



Denis Gervais, President

Last year, the President's Message concluded by saying that 2021 would see the construction of the new welcome centre, and assured that it would be a good year, given that the team would be returning, and that Karina was to become director. The ECCC contribution has financed the update of activities offered at the Friends of the National Wildlife Area. So far, so good.

Moreover, 2022 had a surprise in store: a new tower at the Digue aux Aigrettes trail (with a great view).

The Board of Directors and Karina had the idea to create a campsite near the Wildlife Area, and this is still in the back of everyone's mind. We have begun the process by asking ourselves how this could be made possible. More to come in 2023.

The year 2023 will certainly be an exciting one as we will be celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Friends of the NWA's existence; only made more exciting by the new welcome centre and tower. Activities are slowly picking up and a new project may soon be in the works.

Thank you to the Board, to our volunteers, to Karina, and to the whole team, not to mention the partners for their involvement.



Serge Bourdon, Vice-president

Retired from his professional life as a craftsman-sculptor. The environment has always been a big concern for him. He sits as director of the society for the conservation and development of the watersheds of the Châteauguay area (SCABRIC), sits on the rehabilitation committee of the Châteauguay river (CRRC). Without forgetting that he was director of the Friends of the Lac Saint-François National Wildlife Reserve (AMAPRE) from 1997 to 2010, he remains active on the board of directors of AMAPRE.



Erin O'Hare, Secretary

Erin has been Executive Director of the Comité ZIP du Haut-Saint-Laurent since 2011. She has a bachelor's degree in geography and a graduate certification in project management.

She has worked in the field of water management for 10 years and sits on the board of directors of several organizations.



Amy Stolecki, Treasurer and translation support

A secondary school teacher, Amy has lived in Dundee for 20 years. She is interested in several environmental issues, especially the protection of biodiversity.

For several years, she has held a position on the board of directors of the Ambioterra group as well as that of the Friends of the wildlife reserve.



Anne-Marie Leblanc, Administrator

(Representative of Saint-Anicet)

I am a native of Saint-Anicet and raised my children there. I still live in the same place, my father's house.

I am a retired nurse and when the government asked for help I went back to work for immunization which I still do.



Ginette Caza, Administrator

(Representative-substitute of Saint-Anicet)

Municipal councilor of Saint-Anicet, retired real estate broker, she lives in Saint-Anicet on Lake Saint-François.

She is a member of several municipal committees. The environment is of great concern to her as well as the quality of life of the citizens of our region.



Yves Lalonde , Administrator

(Dundee Representative)

Holder of an undergraduate degree in political science from the University of Ottawa and a master's degree in the same field from the University of Montreal. During his graduate studies (2nd and 3rd cycle), he was a full-time lecturer for 4 years at the University of Quebec in Chicoutimi.

He has devoted almost entirely his active professional life to local and regional political life. As a member of the National Assembly of Quebec, he was responsible, for nearly 20 years, for the political office

of the member for the riding of Beauharnois-Huntingdon. He was one of the main architects of the creation of the Carrefour-Jeunesse emploi of the county of Huntingdon. Locally, he served as a councilor for the Municipality of the Township of Dundee from 1985 to 1992 and from 2008 to the present.

In terms of his social involvement, he was founding president of the Régie intermunicipale de la patinoire régionale de Huntingdon and a member of its board of directors for 7 years. He was also president of the Saint-Anicet Chamber of Commerce and a member of the board of directors for 5 years.

A resident of Dundee for over 40 years, he has always been an ardent defender of our wildlife reserve through his various occupations.



Nathan Carrière, Administrator
(Representative of the Interpretation Center of the Droulers-Tsiionhiakwatha archaeological site),



Taylor Mitchell, Administrator
(Representing the Mohawk Akwesasne Council)

2022 TEAM MEMBERS

The 2022 Friends of the Lac-Saint-François National Wildlife Reserve team was made up of :

- A liaison officer (Dylan Burrows)
- A receptionist (Lynda Martel)
- A coordinator of interpretation activities (Simon Thibert)
- A marketing & communications agent (Julia Nieuwenhof)

Five tour guides :

- Shannan Caza,
- Mariève Hébert,
- Marc-Olivier Roy,
- Ellie Lafrenière
- Rose Deschênes
- A maintenance employee from April to June (Pierre-Yves Tessier)
- A service and maintenance employee (Daniel Lafleur)
- A general director (Karina LeClair)

TEAM MEMBERS - 2022



Simon Thibert **Interpretation Activities Coordinator**

Guide-interpreter since 2019. In 2019, level 1 training in calm water canoeing and level 1 in sea kayaking (first aid certificate in the workplace CNESST:

cardiorescue/AED/Anaphylaxis),

In 2022, training and restricted maritime operator certificate.

Interpretation activities coordinator since 2022.

TEAM MEMBERS - 2022



Shannan Caza
Tour guide

Guide-interpreter since 2020, level 1 training in calm water canoeing and level 1 in sea kayaking (first aid certificate in the workplace CNESST: cardiosecours/DEA/Anaphylaxis).

In 2022, training and restricted maritime operator certificate.



Marc-Olivier Roy
Tour guide

Guide-interpreter since 2022.

In 2022, level 1 training in calm water canoeing and level 1 in sea kayaking, CNESST workplace first aid certificate (cardio-rescue/DEA/Anaphylaxis) and restricted maritime operator certificate.



Mariève Hébert
Tour guide

Guide-interpreter since 2022.

In 2022, level 1 training in calm water canoeing and level 1 in sea kayaking, CNESST workplace first aid certificate (cardio-rescue/DEA/Anaphylaxis) and restricted maritime operator certificate.

TEAM MEMBERS - 2022



Ellie Lafrenière
Tour guide

Guide-interpreter since 2022. Received in 2022, her training and her restricted maritime operator certificate.



Rose Deschênes
Tour guide

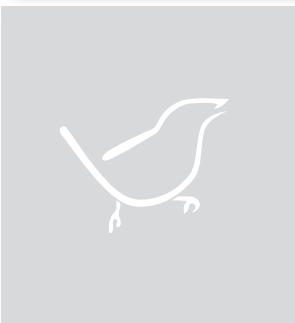
Guide-interpreter since 2022.



Daniel Lafleur
Maintenance

Received in 2020, his first aid certificate in the workplace CNESST (cardio-rescue / DEA / Anaphylaxis)

Upkeep and maintenance between 2017-2020 and 2022.



Pierre-Yves Tessier
Service and maintenance assistant

Service and maintenance assistant in 2022.

TEAM MEMBERS - 2022



Julia Nieuwenhof **Marketing and Communications agent**

Guide-interpreter since 2017. In 2018, level 1 training in calm water canoeing and level 1 in sea kayaking (first aid certificate in the workplace CNESST: cardiosecours/DEA/ Anaphylaxis).

In 2022, training and restricted maritime operator certificate.

Marketing and Communications agent since 2022.



Dylan Burrows **Liaison agent**

Chief Guide in 2018 and 2019.

In 2017, level 1 training in calm water canoeing and level 1 in sea kayaking, first aid certificate in the workplace CNESST (cardio-rescue / DEA / Anaphylaxis) In 2022, training and restricted certificate of maritime operator.



Lynda Martel **Receptionist and administrative assistant**

Received in 2022, training and restricted marine operator certificate.

Receptionist since 2021. In 2022 she became an administrative assistant.



Karina LeClair **General director**

Receptionist in 2017 and administrative assistant in 2018 and 2019. From 2020 and 2021, coordinator, then she became general director in 2022.

In 2021, level 1 training in calm water canoeing and level 1 in sea kayaking, first aid certificate in the workplace CNESST (cardio-rescue / DEA / Anaphylaxis)

In 2022, training and restricted maritime operator certificate.

VISITOR PROFILE

The profiles of visitors are varied and essentially the same as in previous years. The profiles encountered according to their frequency are:

- Photographers
- Ornithologists
- Couples
- Families
- Hikers
- Hikers with their dog*

* On this subject, we receive a lot of positive comments since the places where dogs are accepted for hiking are becoming increasingly rare.

It is impossible for us to count the number of visitors who go directly to the trails, without going through the reception centre. However, between April 27 and October 30, 2022, 2,210 visitors passed through the site's reception desk. In addition, towards the end of September, a hiker counter was installed by ECCC for the Digue aux Aigrettes trail, and we were able to count 410 visitors on this trail for the months of September and October 2022, and for the same period we were able to count 655 visitors who passed through the reception desk.

July was the busiest month with no less than 511 visitors at the reception desk alone. We noticed a small increase in traffic at the reception station compared to the previous year for the months of August and October.

On the other hand, we estimate the number of people who would have visited our trails, including those who would not have gone through the reception, about the same number as in previous seasons, i.e. more or less 5000 visitors in total for the 2022 season. This which shows us a decrease of almost 16% of our usual traffic.



Photo : Amis RNF LSF

Our 1500th visitor this season was received on August 26, we gave him a “VIP Family” membership card and a “Free-pass” card at the Droulers/Tsiionhiakwatha Archaeological Site Interpretation Center.

SURPRISE VISITS !

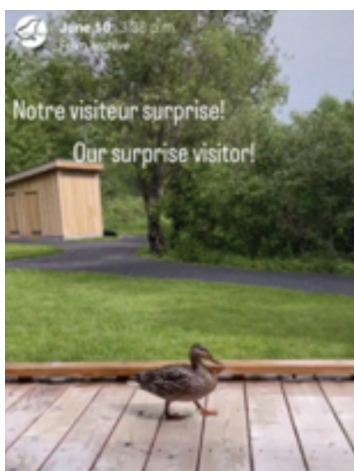
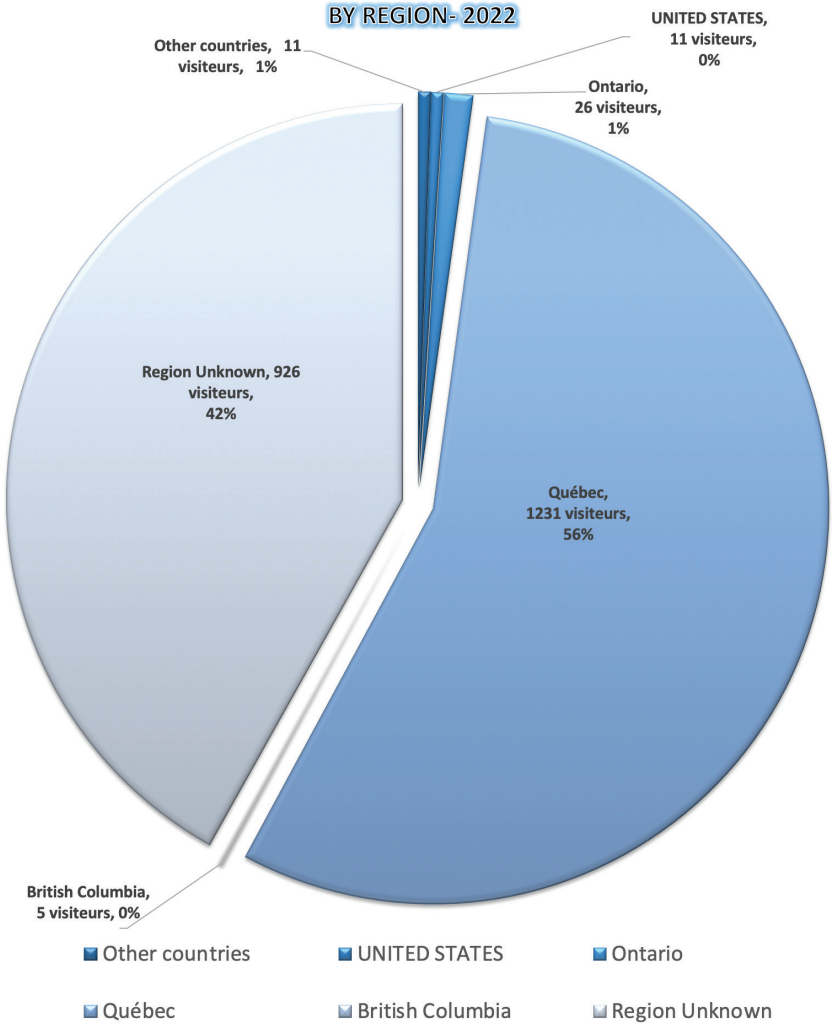


Photo : Amis RNF LSF, Julia Nieuwenhof

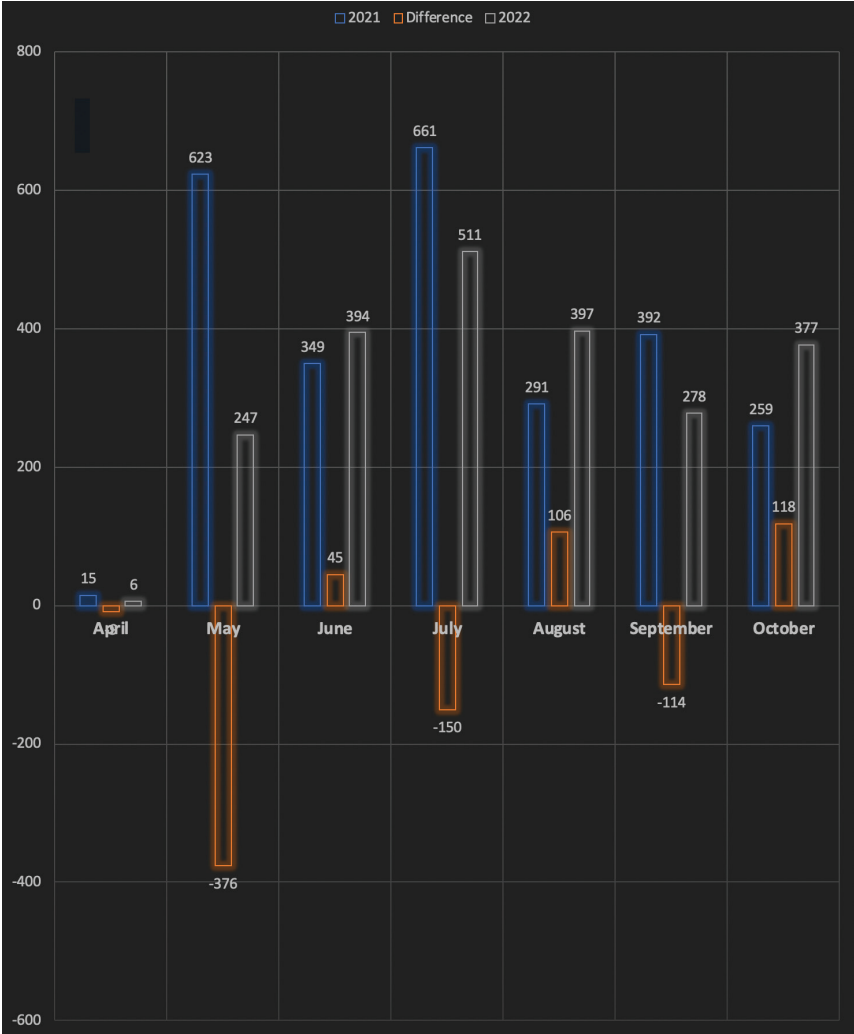
Citizens of the Haut-Saint-Laurent use the trails of the Lac-Saint-François National Wildlife Area on a regular basis: the majority of our visitors come from the province of Quebec. We estimate at 60% the French-speaking clientele against 40% for the English-speaking. A small increase in English-speaking attendance since last season. Our assumption is probably due to the reopening of the border.

Various tables of statistics are presented to you on the following pages.

BY REGION- 2022

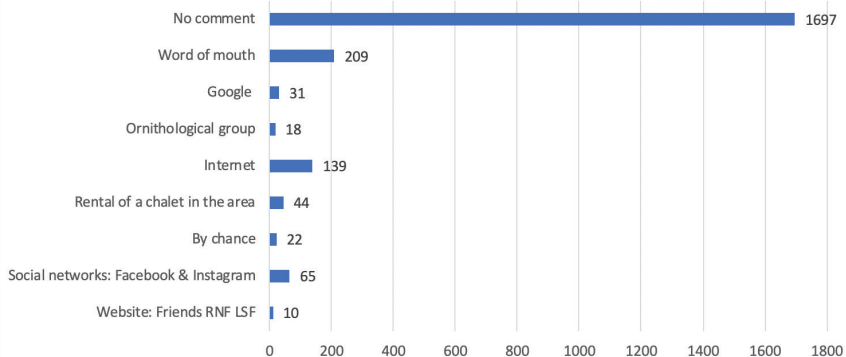


COMPARISON 2021 & 2022 FREQUENCY OF VISITORS PER MONTH

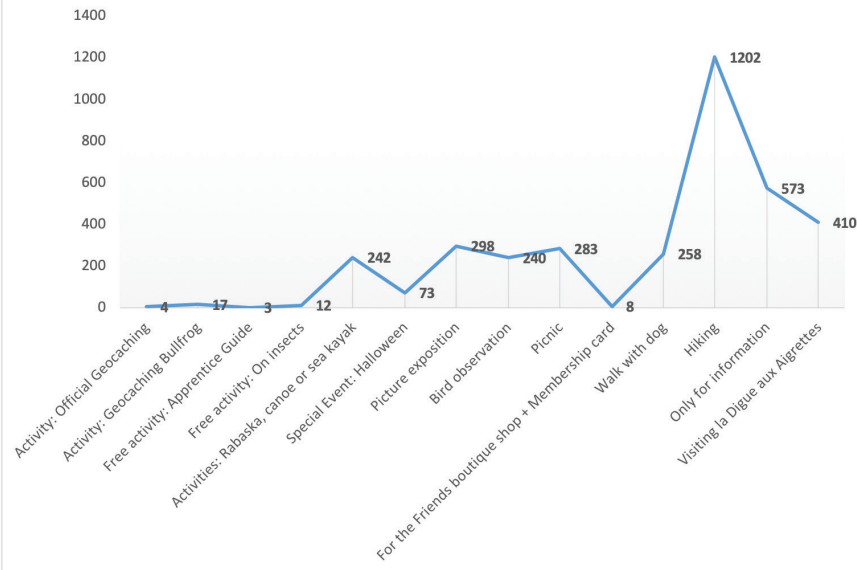






HOW THEY HEARD ABOUT US - 2022



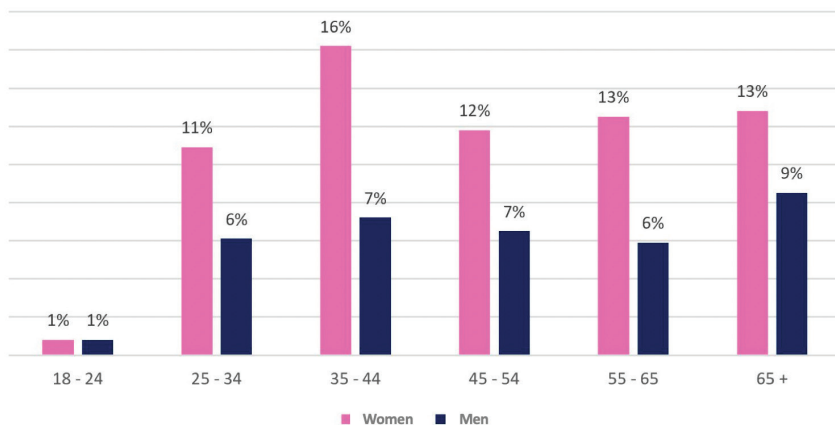
VISITORS' INTERESTS - 2022



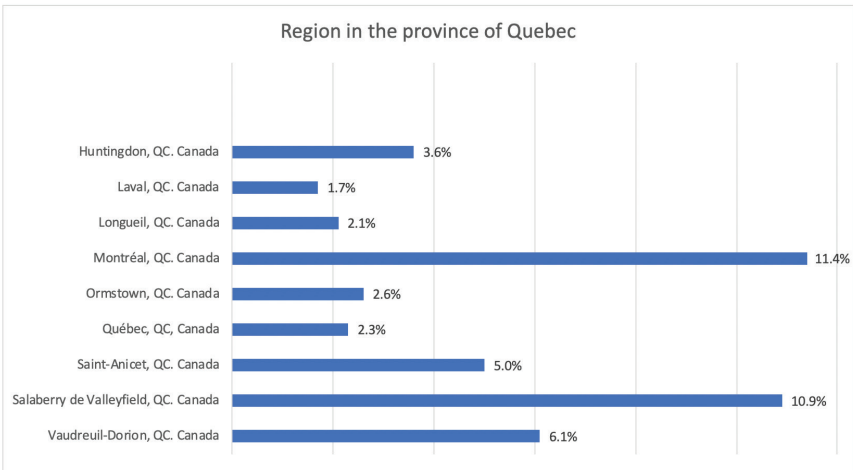
SOCIAL NETWORKS

Those who follow our page :	February 28 th 2022	February 10 th 2023	Increase or decrease in our subscribers :
FACEBOOK 	2400 people	2737 people	+ 337 people (compared to 2021-2022, it was + 132 people: therefore an increase of 87% for 2022-2023)
INSTAGRAM 	99 people	115 people	+ 16 people (compared to 2021-2022, it was + 21 people: therefore a decrease of 27% for 2022-2023)

Estimated age and gender of our subscribers



**ORIGIN OF OUR SUBSCRIBERS FROM QUEBEC
ON OUR SOCIAL NETWORKS**



VOLUNTEERS 2022-2023

The Friends of the Lac Saint-François National Wildlife Area would like to thank all those who volunteered during this season :

- M. Denis Gervais, president, Friends Board of directors
- M. Serge Bourdon, vice-president, Friends Board of directors
- M. Réal Leduc, volunteer (take care of feeders and bird houses in winter)
- Mrs. Denise Simon, volunteer (take care of feeders and bird houses in winter)
- M. Norman Nadon, volunteer (a little of everything, but mostly maintenance)



Photo : Amis RNF LSF, Lynda Martel

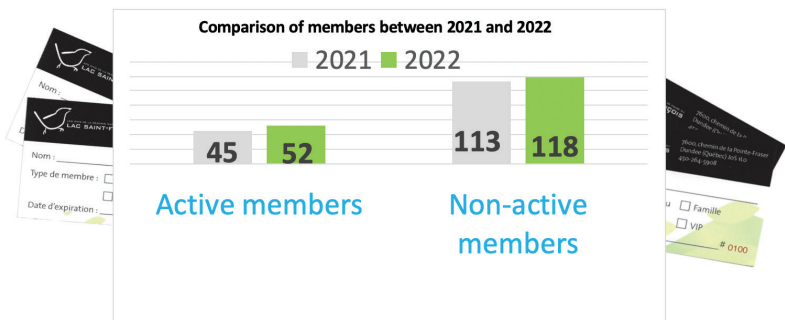
OUR MEMBERS

For many years our organization wanted software that could track not only our inventories and shop products, but also software that would be able to track our members and be updated properly and also send reminders to our members for their next renewals. Thanks to and because of the various contribution programs and grants we had received over the past two years, we purchased modern software that can do it all. The figures we present to you today are undoubtedly the exact figures.

In recent years, we have seen small, varying increases between 5 and 10%. To our surprise, this year has been an excellent year, we see an increase in membership or renewal of 14.43% compared to 2021.

Starting next year, we will no longer show you our database of all our active or non-active members. Starting next year, we will only introduce you to our active members and the type of subscription they have chosen. That being said, as of today we offer various packages between \$10.00 and \$35.00 (Individual, Individual VIP, Family Member and Family VIP Member) and have a data list of 170 members, but specifically this list breaks down like this:

- 52 member packages joined or renewed their membership for 2022.
- 118 packages of members who have not renewed their membership to date for several years.



OUR PARTNERS

The Friends of the Lac Saint-François National Wildlife Area would like to thank all those who have supported them in the exercise of their mission during this season:

- Environment and Climate Change Canada
- Local employment center (Emploi-Québec)
- Service Canada (Canada Summer Jobs)
- The MRC of Haut-Saint-Laurent
- CDC du Haut-St-Laurent
- Tourisme Montérégie
- La COOP Unifrontières — BMR (Sainte-Barbe)
- Municipality of the Township of Dundee
- Municipality of Saint-Anicet
- Municipality of Elgin
- Municipality of Sainte-Barbe
- City of Huntingdon
- Thomson Island Cultural Camp
- Mohawk Council of Akwesasne
- Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe
- Mohawk Nation Council of Chiefs
- Mrs. Claude DeBellefeuille, MP for Salaberry-Suroît
- Charles Gascon, parliamentary assistant to Mrs. Claude DeBellefeuille
- Mrs. Claire Isabelle, MP for Huntingdon
- Mrs. Marie-Claude Picard, political assisatant of the office of Mrs. Claire Isabelle
- Dorothy Lazore, mohawk translator
- Members of les Amis de la Réserve
- Visitors who made an anonymous donation
- Nature Conservancy of Canada
- Comité Zip du Haut-Saint-Laurent
- SOFASO
- And all those who support us, year after year !

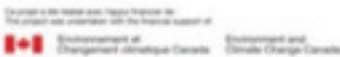
VISIBILITY OF PARTNERS

Our website being modernized a few years ago is still in place to be able to put our biggest partners in sight for all our visitors who visit our website. In this way, this gives the chance to these visitors to be able to click on the logo of this partner and they will be automatically directed to their website.

The logos of Tourisme Haut-Saint-Laurent, the MRC du Haut-Saint-Laurent, the Municipality of Dundee and Environment & Climate Change Canada appear on the home page of our website and in the annual report of the organization mentions this important support. Visitors from the Haut-Saint-Laurent are happy to see that the Friends of the Reserve benefit from the support of elected officials in the region.

Try it! Visit our website www.amisrnfclacstfrancois.com, and scroll to the bottom, click on the logo of one of our partners.

We would like to thank:



*Pour l'eau.
Pour la faune.
Pour tous.*

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The Friends of the Lac Saint-François National Wildlife Area continue to get involved as often as possible in various ways in the community. Here's how we got involved this year :

- Member of the CDC du Haut-Saint-Laurent
- Member of the Tourisme — Montérégie
- Member of the Beauharnois-Valleyfield and Haut-Saint-Laurent Chamber of Commerce & Industry

To name only those.

LOCAL PURCHASES

The Friends of the Reserve make it their duty to support the local economy. In fact, the majority of purchases and services were made with businesses in the region:

- Proxi Extra-Harnois Saint-Anicet (Gasoline and water)
- Matériaux Robidoux (materials and tools)
- BMR, La COOP Unifrontière (materials and tools)
- Design MC (Promotional material)
- Montréal Promotional Products (Promotional material)
- Marché Tradition (Water and miscellaneous)
- Garage Sainte-Barbe (Equipment maintenance and truck maintenance)
- Jean-Luc Crête, CPA (Accounting services)
- BCSC, CPA (Accounting services and bookkeeping)
- Dorothy Lazore (Mohawk translator from the community of Akwesasne)
- Trial Design - Ébénisterie architecturale (for infrastructure repair materials)
- Boutique Poils & Plumes (bird food)
- Agence Zel
- Bilodeau
- Comité Zip du Haut-Saint-Laurent
- Crivert

Pour ne nommer que ceux-là.

MAINTENANCE CONTRACT (ECCC)

For almost three decades, the Friends of the Lac Saint-François National Wildlife Area have been responsible for the reception, maintenance, animation, surveillance and security of the site. This year again, we honored our contract by carrying out our mandate with rigor and professionalism. The objectives of the organization have been achieved, and even exceeded.

The Friends of the Lac Saint-François National Wildlife Area greatly appreciated ECCC's support and involvement in the field throughout the season, especially in the context of adaptation for the two organizations regarding the new toilets and the new reception and the issues that have been apparent during the construction the site of the new observation tower in the path of the Digue aux Aigrettes.

Among the specific tasks to be accomplished, the control of invasive species is a major challenge for our organization, it must be carried out at busy times of our season, that is to say at the opening and during the month of July, when visitors are more and more numerous. Under ECCC oversight, we are responsible for controlling these invasive species, garlic mustard and frogbit.

Garlic mustard control

The 2022 season started later than usual. The employees returned on May 10th. Given the late start of the school year as well as the preparation related to the resumption of all activities, the employees were overloaded and did not have time to check the garlic mustard at the start of the season. Lack of maintenance staff, other employees had to fill maintenance tasks.

That being said, the team completed the uprooting of garlic mustard on the Digue



Photo : Amis RNF LSF, Julia Nieuwenhof

aux Aigrettes on May 26th. It was a team of 4 to 6 people. The abnormal heat made it difficult for the employees. They were dressed in overalls to protect them from ticks from the work that took place on the Digue aux Aigrettes trail, we noticed a drop in garlic mustard in some of the areas that had been identified in previous years.

For another year, we appreciated the help of the CIME Haut-Richelieu for the Érablière trail in Caryer-Piasetski. Around June 22nd, they uprooted 186 kilos of garlic mustard for 7 hours of work for 5 people. There was one last section left to do following their day, so the Friends team headed out to finish the job for a final 50 kilos.

Frogbit control

The date for the start of the control had been delayed, from which it began on June 26th by the guides-interpreters.

However, the intense workload due to the resumption of activities, the lack of maintenance employees which had to be compensated by the team as well as the oppressive heat of July meant that the work was carried out more slowly.

In the end, about 45 hours of work were done by 6 employees, a total of 75 wheelbarrows were filled. Unfortunately, they didn't have time to fully complete the frogbit control before the majority of the team had to go back to school.

This task requires a lot of time for the AMAPRE team. All the same, the maintenance employees, the guide-interpreters, the liaison agent, the activity coordinator, the marketing agent worked tirelessly throughout the season (almost until mid-October) to remove as much of the hydrocharide as possible.

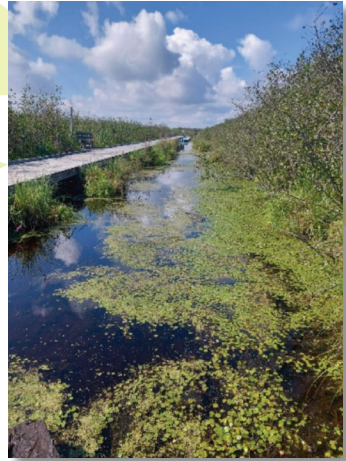


Photo : Amis RNF LSF, Julia Nieuwenhof

TRAININGS

With the return of the entire 2020 team, there were still some team members who needed training in first aid, nautical and on the flora and fauna of the reserve.

Here are those who have followed the following trainings:

- Each member of the AMAPRE team has received training related to their position.
- The two new interpreter guides (Mariève Hébert and Marc-Olivier Roy), received first aid training in the workplace on June 14th and 15th 2022, they also received their training in sea kayaking and for calm water canoeing and Rabaska on May 27th, June 3rd and June 20th.
- On June 8th, we were 8 employees who had their training and received their restricted operator certificates (maritime) VHF Radio.
- With regard to training on the Covid-19 virus, all employees have received the documents and internet links to read which were given to us in 2020 as a reminder concerning cleaning products for site disinfection.
- Each year, in June and July, the entire team receives their training on the flora and fauna of the LSF NWA. This year, the training was held in early July.

2022 PROJECTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Contribution project 2019-2023 (ECCC)

As part of this new 2019-2023 ECCC contribution project, we have recruited the services of the Comité Zip du Haut-Saint-Laurent (HSL), a non-profit organization that shares our values and stands out for its dynamism and a network of diverse collaborators to complete this project.

For the last year of this contribution, the latter will take care of developing a creative animation workshop on wildlife and its habitat and updating the action plan.

This 4-year contribution is coming to an end and will be finalized in its entirety by March 31st 2023. Here is what we have been able to achieve with this contribution in 4 years :

- Communications plan highlighting Les Amis RNF LSF and their activities
- Development plan of the Pavilion Les Grands migrants
- Develop an animation activity on the great migrants
- Produce a thematic map of the RNF LSF
- Design an interpretation panel on the history of rabaska
- Develop an activity on aquatic fauna (fish)
- Enhancement of the Trille penché path (entertainment activity)
- Update of the action plan
- Creative animation workshop on wildlife and its habitat

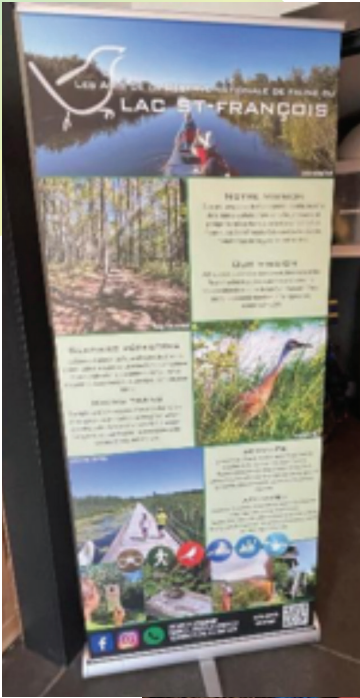
Contribution project 2020-2023 (ECCC)

This contribution was funded to us on a three-year basis.

Since the beginning of this contribution, we have had several challenges, including the complications of the pandemic and for this reason the construction of the new reception center was late. We had to adjust this contribution to help our storage needs for our belongings and update entertainment equipment that was damaged during storage, such as our life jackets. All the same, we are happy with what we were able to achieve in this contribution, even if we had to adjust the projects that were planned for this contribution.

This contribution was successfully completed in November 2022. All reports have been sent and reimbursement requests have been received. Here is what we have been able to achieve with this contribution in 3 years:

- Storage and relocation of all Friends of the NWA LSF artifacts, equipment, files in preparation for the demolition of the visitor center
- Improvement of the Migratory Pavilion.
- Design an interpretation panel on the mission of the Friends of the RNF LSF (this one had to be modified for a retractable banner).
- Replacement of belongings that have been damaged during storage.
- Improved storage space and organization for our offices for all team members.
- Improvement of equipment for entertainment activities (for example a fleet of life jackets.
- The purchase of materials to create our removable kiosk to promote the relaunch of our activities outside the Lac-Saint-François National Wildlife Area.



Our new banner!



Photos : Amis RNF LSF

- Restore our rabaskas with a new coat of paint.
- Restaurer nos rabaskas avec une nouvelle couche de peinture.

Grants and Contributions:

We remain attentive and monitor the calls for projects that will be announced in 2023, to be able to help us continue our projects and our mission. Some project ideas are:

- An accommodation project (lodging)
- A nautical and safety project
- A communication plan

To name only those.

HOURS OF OPERATION

2022 season : May 1st to October 31st

Opening time:

May 1st to May 15th :

Wednesday to Sunday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

May 15th to August 14th :

Tuesday to Sunday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

August 15th to October 31st :

Wednesday to Sunday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS : IN DETAIL

After two years of health restrictions imposed by the Department of Health, Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) and other departments, we can say that it was one of our best seasons not only because it was eventful, but also exceptional due to the revival of tourism throughout the province. That said, we had the great pleasure of being able to offer all our regular pre-pandemic activities and above all that we were able to offer the new activities that we had created in the past two years.

Visitors were more numerous than in previous years, especially since we received a large group of about 90 children and caregivers from a daycare from Côteau-du-Lac, a scout camp, a company and students from the Valleyfield College.

Visitors have appreciated that we have also offered free activities almost every weekend throughout the season, and if finances permit, we would be delighted to be able to offer this again next season.

Throughout the season, we offered visitors various activities to raise their awareness of the biodiversity of flora and fauna and our wetlands that are located on the Lake-Saint-François National Wildlife Area. In summary, here are the activities we offered:

Free self-guided activities

- Play on words
- Games leaflet
- Discover the Piasetski area
- Discover the DAG area
- Pedestrian rally 2022
- Feathers and colors
- Geocaching On the bullfrogs trail

Paid activities

- Guided outings on rabaska, canoe or sea kayak
- Personal boat launches
- Geocaching On the bullfrogs trail
- Feathers and colors
- Guide training
- What a bird !
- The anurans

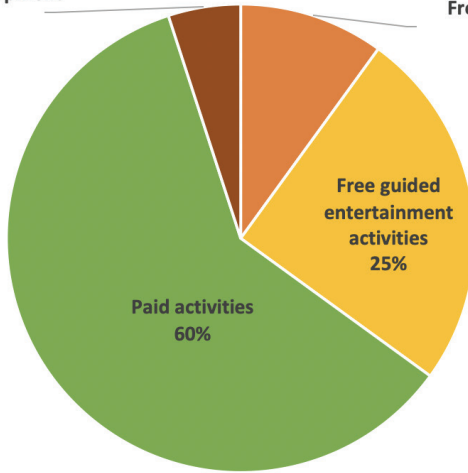
Free entertainment activities offered in 2022

- Water Filtration
- The anurans
- Guide Training
- Discovering the inhabitants of the forest
- Offered free of charge for two weekends : Geocaching On the bullfrogs trail
- Offered free of charge for two weekends : Feathers and colors
- Halloween event : various activities offered
- What a bird !
- Show me your teeth
- The insects of the LSF NWA

Activities in development and will be offered in 2023

- Seek and find the inhabitants of the forest
- Apprentice biologist
- Great migrants
- Beaver for a day (workshop)

Activities in development
5%



Free autonomous activities
10%

Free guided
entertainment
activities
25%

Paid activities
60%

OUR LAST FREE EVENT OF THE SEASON WHICH WAS CALLED « LE RALLYE EFFRAYANT »



Photos : Amis RNF LSF

THE TEAM DRESSED UP FOR THE HALLOWEEN EVENT



Photos : Amis RNF LSF

Photos from the top : Julia N., Karina L., Simon T. et photos du bas : Ellie L., Lynda M.

NEW FOR THE 2022 SEASON

As mentioned in the previous pages, with the help of contributions, the Friends of the Reserve have renewed a lot of materials that had been damaged during storage, such as entertainment materials, organizational equipment and even a new computer system.

That said, we haven't added any new products to our store, however we do have gift cards that you can top up and even virtual gift cards sent to the buyer's email. We have improved the appearance of the display of our clothes and our hats for sale, as well as we now have a small corner of various snacks and drinks such as coffee, tea, etc. for sale.



Photos : Amis RNF LSF

We are grateful that visitors mention their interest in adding children's hats and sweaters, tick tweezers, key rings and new books on flora and fauna. These proposals are not lost and will be studied again and if the situation allows us, new products could be offered in 2023-2024 to visitors.

Visit our online store:
www.amisrnf.acstfrancois.com/boutique

ACHIEVEMENTS

This year, for les Amis, we can proudly say our accomplishments have been :

- Guided excursions in the marsh and on Lake Saint-François throughout the season.
- Offering our customers free activities
- Keeping the interest of the general public to visit us during our set up of our first removable kiosk.
- New partnerships have materialized this season. A visit with the Droulers site archaeological site interpretation center on Thompson Island solidified the partnership between the three organizations.

Our kiosk set up at the Huntingdon Farmer's Market



Photo : Amis RNF LSF

The Friends of the RNF LSF team and the Site Droulers team on their way to Thompson Island



Photo taken at Thompson Island

Photos : Amis RNF LSF



The three organizations together!

- Thompson Island Cultural Camp
- The Interpretation Center of the Droulers-Tsionhiakwatha archaeological site
- Les Amis RNF LSF

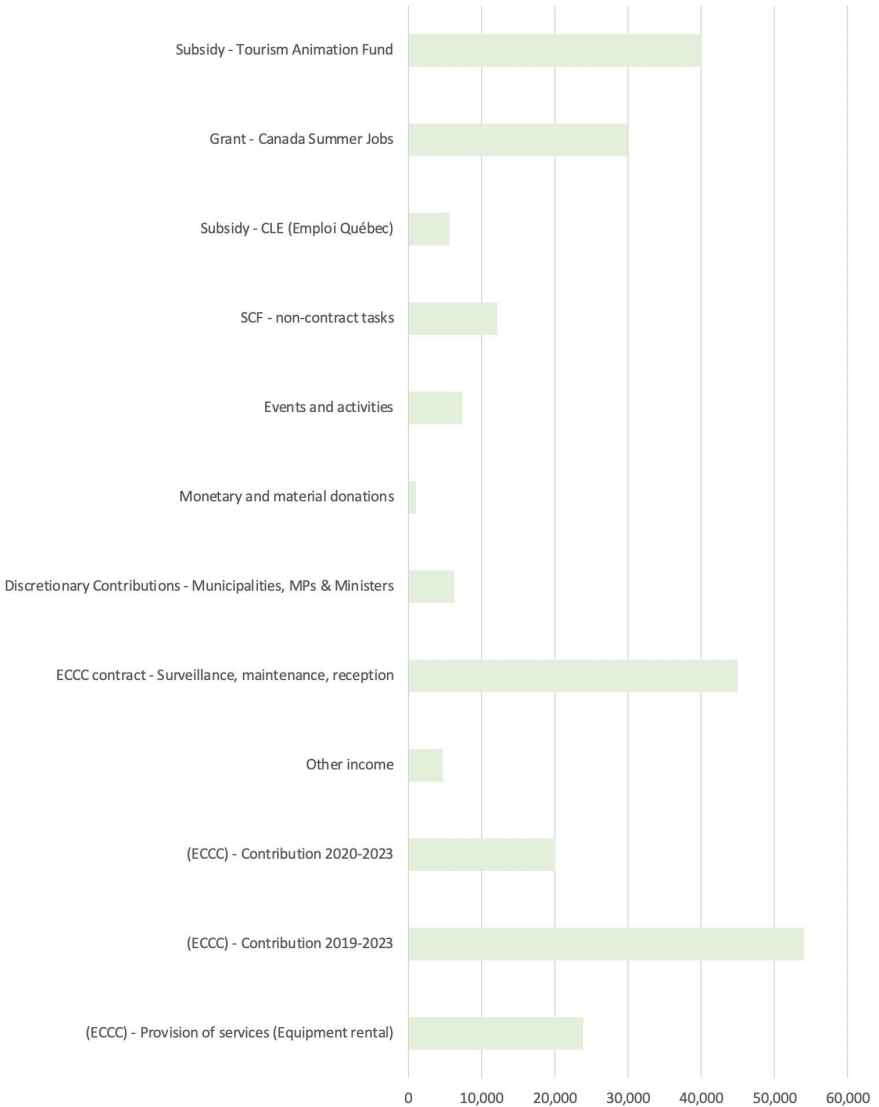
PHOTOS OF THE 2022 SEASON

A rabaska interpretation activity outing between the two teams, les Amis RNF LSF and the Droulers-Tsionhiakwatha Archaeological Site Interpretation Center to introduce them to our environment.



Photos : Amis RNF LSF

SOURCE OF INCOME - 2022



A FINAL WORD

The Haut-Saint-Laurent region is, in my opinion, still the best kept secret of the Montérégie with the Lac Saint-François national wildlife reserve, located at its southern end and that to this day, it steals the heart of visitors exploring it for the first time. Those who already know it can't resist the urge to go back to see what's new. The Reserve is unknown to the local and regional population and this remains a situation that we wish to remedy in the coming years. A great deal of effort is put into raising the awareness of elected officials and local partners each year in order to renew their financial support. This work is bearing fruit and we are proud of the trust that our MRC and the Canadian Wildlife Service place in us each year.

The activities offered by our organization contribute to attracting thousands of visitors annually. A considerable impact for the tourism industry in the region, but also the possibility of raising awareness among a wider public about the protection of wetlands. New activities are in development and will be offered in 2023 in line with our interpretation plan.

Never forget that the Lac Saint-François National Wildlife Area is a jewel of biodiversity and possibility: let's continue to work together to protect it and educate our visitors and make it shine beyond our borders.

We look forward in presenting to you in 2023 all our new activities and events that which should be back, and we look forward to seeing you again !

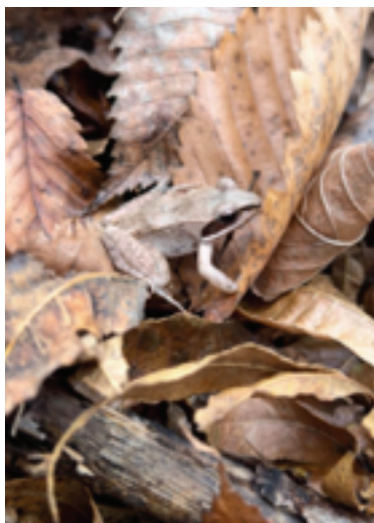


Photo : Amis RNF LSF, Ellie Lafrenière



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