

# INTERCONNEXION

Evolugen's Lièvre Region Newsletter

Summer 2023



Photos: Centre nautique de la Lièvre

## Summer is synonymous with water!

On a sunny day, nothing beats the feeling of gliding over the water on a paddle board or in a canoe, kayak or pedal boat.

The Centre nautique de la Lièvre is located at the entrance of Landing Park and provides direct access to the river at 255 Buckingham Avenue. In addition to offering non-motorized craft rentals, visitors will find all the equipment they need, including life jackets. Everything for a great nautical outing with friends or family!

*"People tell us they have a feeling of safety at the Centre nautique," says Mathieu Dupont, chair of the board the Corporation plein air de la Lièvre. "The staff takes time to get in the water as needed when explaining how to use the craft and introduce customers of all ages to safe practices."*

Since the Centre opened in 2012, Evolugen has been a proud partner and applauds their continued success. On average, there are 3,000 rentals annually, not to mention the high demand to sign up for courses. The Centre replaced most of its watercrafts in 2022 and 2023.

The Centre is open seven days a week all summer long. You can rent or launch your own non-motorized craft. For business hours, rates and online reservations, visit [www.pleinairlievre.ca/centre-nautique-de-la-lievre](http://www.pleinairlievre.ca/centre-nautique-de-la-lievre), or on Facebook [facebook.com/cnlievre](https://facebook.com/cnlievre).



You could win a  
**PADDLEBOARD!**



Take part in our short survey and you could win a paddleboard set worth \$900!

► <https://s.surveypplanet.com/m9tjg5g>





Boaters' best practices protect ecosystems.



Photos: COBALI

Pierre-Étienne Drolet, Biologist and Project Coordinator, is responsible for the Water Master Plan

## 20 years and going strong!

We often speak of "blue gold" when describing the collective wealth that water represents for Quebec. For COBALI, protecting, improving and enhancing this treasure is more than just words, it's been a mission for the past 20 years.

As the saying goes, "If you want to go fast, go alone, if you want to go far, go together." It's in this spirit that COBALI brings many partners together around its table, including municipalities and RCMs, businesses and other economic players, shoreline associations, the provincial government and various community members. Hundreds of people who have been working together to protect water for 20 years and who will continue to do so for a long time to come, because it's a huge job.

Executive director Linda Fortier is proud of the team's vitality: *"COBALI is in a growth phase, whether it's our outreach program, invasive species detection, boat cleaning stations, or our work with lake associations and municipal staff. Let's just say things are happening!"*

COBALI does both field work, such as water sampling and characterization of water bodies, and strategic planning and outreach. Its six-member team runs several projects concurrently. To learn more, follow COBALI on Facebook, YouTube and Instagram.

Gaétan Guindon, Denholm's mayor, has chaired the board for the past four years. *"COBALI has done monumental work with lake associations," he says. "There's shoreline revegetation, improved septic tank practices and water quality. RCMs and municipalities also regularly call on the team's invaluable expertise. COBALI is simply THE reference when it comes to water."*

**Do you have questions about WATER? COBALI is THE reference. Contact it!**

## COBALI: KEY DATES

- 2003 ▶ Founded, following adoption of Quebec's National Water Policy
- 2005 ▶ Detailed portrait of the Lièvre River basin
- 2007 ▶ First edition of the Summer Awareness Program, with support by Evolugen
- 2009 ▶ First Water Master Plan, a cornerstone in water management  
  
Blanche River and Pagé Creek added to the management area
- 2014 ▶ Second Water Master Plan
- 2018 ▶ Update of the 2018-2023 Water Master Plan and Action Plan
- 2023 ▶ 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary and 17<sup>th</sup> edition of the Awareness Program supported by Evolugen



## Grandes-Baies-de-l'Outaouais Wildlife Refuge

COBALI and Evolugen are among the 12 partners leading a project this summer on the coming creation of the largest wildlife refuge in Quebec, covering 28 km<sup>2</sup>. It will extend 29 kilometres along the Ottawa River, from McLaurin Bay in Gatineau to Lochaber-Partie-Ouest. Another great example of cooperation benefitting the entire region and the environment!

Visit [cgbro.org](http://cgbro.org) to learn more.

## ONCE UPON A TIME...



Owned by the Government of Quebec, the dam was built to facilitate log drives and prevent flooding downstream on the Lièvre River and as far as the Montreal area. Since 2005, it hosts the Evolgen generating station producing electricity for the region.

## RAPIDES-DES-CÈDRES: AN IDEA BENEFITTING THE REGION

The dam at Rapides-des-Cèdres and the Lac du Poisson Blanc reservoir that it created have been part of the landscape in Notre-Dame-du-Laus for nearly a century. The structure was built to facilitate log drives and prevent flooding downstream, a preventive role it still plays today during freshet.

More than 20 years ago, Evolgen had an idea: to add a small power plant to the dam and generate electricity with the water already flowing through it. Launched in 2003, the project was completed two years later when the power plant was commissioned.

The 8.9 MW plant is Evolgen's smallest on the Lièvre River, but it produces enough electricity to power the equivalent of nearly 3,000 households annually.

*"The plant is connected directly to Hydro-Québec's distribution system, which ensures greater stability for the electrical grid in the region," explains Eric Dulude, senior manager of Quebec operations at Evolgen. "The community also benefits from the fact that we hire local workers and subcontractors, and support many of its projects and organizations."*

The impressive dam remains a favourite fishing spot. When the power plant was built, Evolgen improved and expanded the walleye spawning ground downstream, one of the most productive in the region. It's a great place to fish...while keeping your distance from the dam, of course!



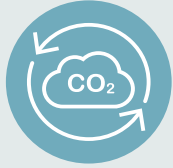
Éric Dulude, Senior Manager of Quebec Operations, was involved in the construction of the plant and now manages its maintenance crew.

## Evolugen: one of Canada's greenest employers

Accelerating Canada towards a low-carbon future is Evolugen's guiding vision. Sustainability and social responsibility form the core of its decisions, in managing its hydropower facilities here on the Lièvre River as well as elsewhere in Canada. As a result of its achievements, the company was named one of Canada's Greenest Employers in 2022.



This award is given to organizations that implement environmental initiatives and successfully reduce their environmental footprint through active employee participation. Evolugen stands out for a number of reasons:



Achieving **carbon neutrality** since 2020.



Carrying out **25 biodiversity projects** across Canada in 2022.

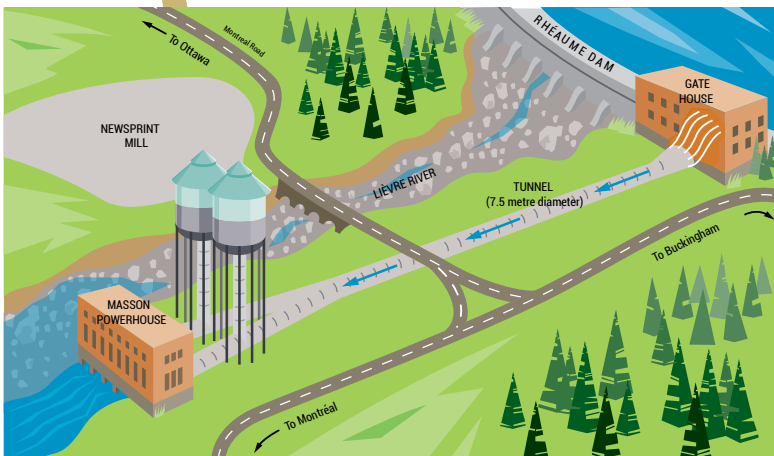


The company's headquarters in downtown Gatineau have received the prestigious **LEED environmental certification**. Additionally, employees grow fruits and vegetables on its terraces to donate the harvest to the local Gatineau Social Pediatric Centre.

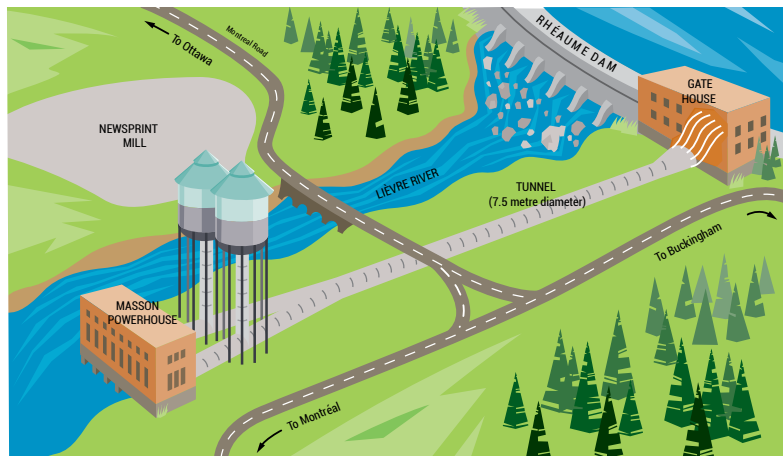


# WARNING!

Under normal circumstances, the Lièvre River flows through a huge tunnel between the Rhéaume dam and the Masson power plant. Only a small trickle of water passes through the natural riverbed over and between the rocks. But when the turbines suddenly shut down and the tunnel closes, the river immediately reverts to its natural bed in its full power, and a wave quickly covers the rocks. These turbine stoppages are unpredictable. Never venture into the riverbed. **THE DANGER IS REAL.**



Most of the time, all of the water from the river flows into the tunnel.



During a sudden shutdown of the Masson power plant, the water can no longer flow through the tunnel and must pass through the dam. The water flows quickly and forcefully into the river bed.

## INFO LA LIÈVRE

If you have any questions or comments about Evolugen's Lièvre region operations, call Info La Lièvre at **819-986-4628, 1-877-986-4364** (toll free) or send us an email at [infolievre@evolugen.com](mailto:infolievre@evolugen.com).

**STAY INFORMED** • For more information on water levels, visit us at [lievriverpower.com](http://lievriverpower.com)