

INTERCONNEXION

BROOKFIELD RENEWABLE'S LIÈVRE REGION NEWSLETTER

Summer 2026

Lièvre River: Bring on the summer fun!



Photos : Corporation plein air de la Lièvre

Water sports enthusiasts from the Basse-Lièvre region and beyond will be well served during the summer season. Two exceptional routes for canoeing, kayaking and stand-up paddleboarding are now available.

For nearly 15 years, the Centre nautique has provided access to the river's calm waters. Located in the Buckingham sector of the city of Gatineau, the Centre has all the rental equipment visitors need if they do not arrive fully equipped. In addition, last year, the municipality of L'Ange-Gardien opened a launch site for non-motorized boats. This natural partnership offers a new experience for exploring the river.

The new route begins at the L'Ange-Gardien launch site and ends 16.6 km downstream at the Centre nautique. This route can be paddled independently, but the Centre also offers a shuttle service to transport paddlers and their watercraft to the starting point.

"It's a fantastic immersion in nature just a stone's throw from the city," says Isabelle Bonami, president of the Corporation plein air de la Lièvre. "This section of the river is peaceful, bordered by

trees and fields, and the current makes it ideal for paddling. It's a unique experience in the Outaouais—a real gem!"

The second route is an 8-km round trip between the Centre nautique and the enchanting setting of Champboisé Regional Park, where paddlers can stop for a break.

L'Ange-Gardien spearheaded the addition of these routes to the La route bleue (laroutebleue.ca), a provincial network of safe paddling routes suitable for all skill levels.

"We're committed to making the Lièvre River accessible to residents and visitors alike," explains Marc Louis-Seize, mayor of L'Ange-Gardien. "With the development of the new launch site and accreditation by La route bleue, we can do so in a safe, organized manner that respects our natural environment. Thanks to the collaboration of the Corporation plein air, which provides shuttle service and equipment rentals, the experience becomes easy and accessible to paddlers of all skill levels."

The shuttle service was even nominated for the 2025 Excelor Gala. Find out why!

Routes

Descente des Draveurs

Start at 95 chemin de la Rive in L'Ange-Gardien

Take a break at Champboisé regional park

Arrive at the Centre nautique

Shuttle service available from the Centre nautique (Parc du Landing, 255 avenue de Buckingham)

16.6 km
4 h+

Centre nautique-Champboisé

(return trip, without shuttle)

Start at the Centre nautique

Take a break at Champboisé regional park

Return to the Centre nautique

8 km
2 to 4 h



Schedule and reservations:
pleinairlievre.ca

Regional Biodiversity

A rich and varied natural heritage

In just four days of fieldwork in the Basse-Lièvre region last summer, COBALI biologists recorded no fewer than 59 animal species and 137 plant species, including six species of carnivorous plants.

These new findings complement existing data to paint a more complete regional picture of terrestrial, wetland and aquatic plant species, as well as wildlife species. COBALI is conducting this research, which will continue over about 10 days this spring and summer, to inform a brand-new biodiversity conservation plan for the Basse-Lièvre region.

“The area is very rich and interesting from a natural perspective,” explains Pierre-Étienne Drolet, biologist and project coordinator at COBALI, “but relatively few ecological studies have been conducted so far compared to other regions. There is still much to explore, discover and document.”

In the winter of 2027, once all the data has been compiled, Bowman, Mulgrave-et-Derry, Notre-Dame-de-la-Salette, and Val-des-Bois will receive the conservation plan, which will include proposals tailored to each community. These

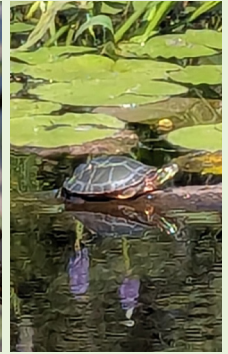
Among the species identified as rare or endangered are:



Purple bladderwort



Humped bladderwort



Painted turtle

recommendations will guide conservation efforts and identify areas of interest for conservation purposes.

Residents also have a key role to play. COBALI plans to produce a guide for property owners, suggesting best practices for supporting biodiversity: habitats of interest, thoughtful management of wooded areas and protection of shorelines. This guide will also be adapted to local circumstances and distributed in partnership with local authorities and lake associations. Check this space next year!

This project is funded by the Fondation de la Faune du Québec’s municipal biodiversity fund, the Papineau RCM, Brookfield Renewable, Kidjīmāninān – the Anishinabeg Community of Kitigan Zibi, and the municipalities of Val-des-Bois, Notre-Dame-de-la-Salette and Bowman.

Do you want to find out about ... How dams and reservoirs work?

Which companies operate hydroelectric power stations? How water levels are controlled?

... It couldn't be easier, with the six short videos produced by COBALI (videos available in French only). In just a few minutes, you'll have your answers. Simply click on the link to watch them and view a map showing the 11 dams, six power plants and three reservoirs that dot the regional landscape. Visit cobali.org, then select Centre d'information and Barrages to view them and satisfy your curiosity! *This project is being carried out with the support of the two main electricity producers on the Lièvre River: Brookfield Renewable and Boralex.*

INFO LA LIÈVRE

If you have any questions about Brookfield Renewable's operations in the Lièvre region, call Info la Lièvre at **819-986-4628** or **1-877-986-4364** or email us at infolalievre@brookfieldrenewable.com.

STAY IN THE LOOP! • For more information on water levels, visit energielalievre.com.

Weather conditions: a real roller coaster ride!

They say the only constant is change. This is especially true when it comes to the surprises the weather has had in store for us in recent years. Days with temperatures nearing 30 degrees in October, warm spells followed by torrential rain in the middle of winter, unusual periods of drought ... It's been a real weather roller coaster!

That is exactly what happened in the region last fall, the driest in more than 20 years along the Lièvre River. In the greater Ottawa River basin, which includes the Lièvre River, rainfall was 30 to 60 per cent below average from July 1 through October 15. As a result, from September to December, the amount of water reaching the Lièvre was only about half the expected volume, resulting in significantly reduced water levels in the ground and rivers. Fortunately, the Mitchinamecus, Lac du Poisson Blanc, and Kiamika reservoirs played their part by gradually releasing water throughout the winter, helping ensure that flow in the river was not as low as what Mother Nature alone would have provided.



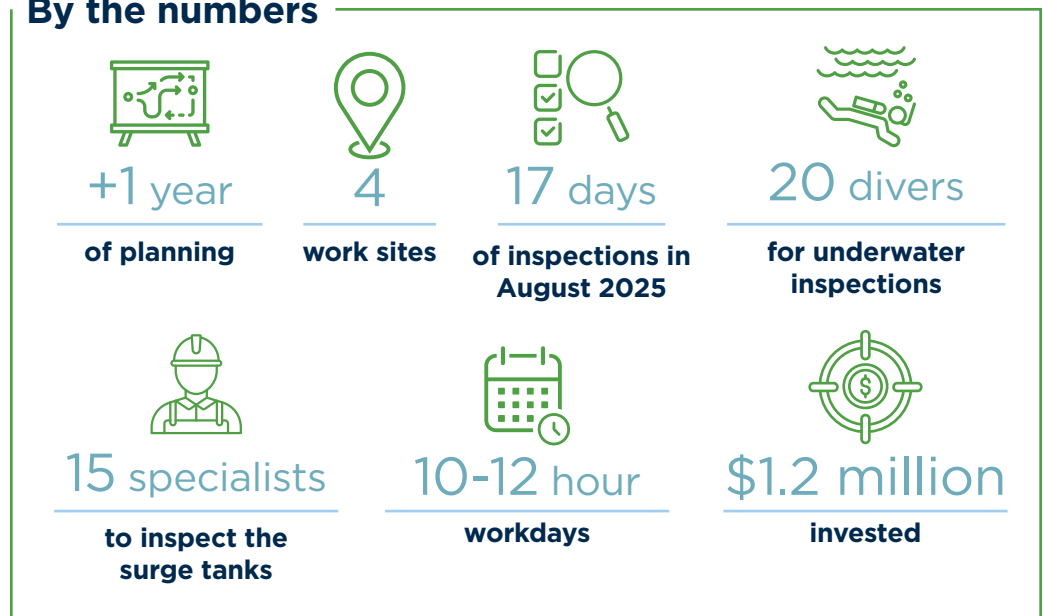
Three teams of divers thoroughly examined the structures at High Falls, Dufferin and Masson/Rhéaume.



Inspection teams braved the sweltering summer heat to examine the interiors of the surge tanks—the large reservoirs in Masson. It was a rare opportunity to see them dry!

A flurry of inspections focused on sustainability

By the numbers

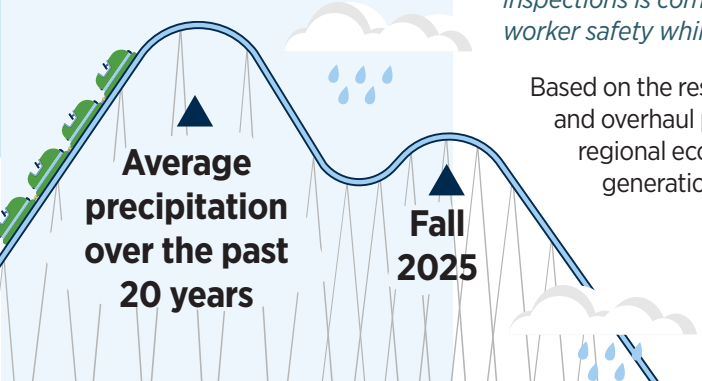


Concrete and steel are built to last—provided they receive regular upkeep, of course. Inspections and routine maintenance are therefore part of everyday operations at Brookfield Renewable. Sometimes, the company also needs to take a closer look at every nook and cranny to assess the soundness of structures, particularly for dams that are nearly 100 years old.

During an intensive period of underwater inspections last summer, Brookfield Renewable conducted an exhaustive assessment of the condition of three dams and power plants with the help of specialized divers. For the first time in more than 10 years, the Masson power plant was also completely drained so that experts suspended by ropes could inspect the interior of the surge tanks—the two large reservoirs that tower above it.

“The entire Brookfield Renewable maintenance and engineering team was fully mobilized to support the external specialists,” says engineer Nancy Paquet. “Managing all these inspections is complex, and we planned the work more than a year in advance to ensure worker safety while minimizing the impact on electricity generation.”

Based on the results of these inspections, Brookfield Renewable is planning maintenance and overhaul projects over several years. These investments will contribute to the regional economy and ensure the long-term viability of these century-old facilities for generations to come.



Landscaping near a slope

 **Doing it right!**

A spectacular view, an ideal location: building a house or a cottage near the water is a dream project. The key to success? Planning the site layout carefully before you begin.

Here are a few practical tips.*

First: always contact your local municipality before starting any such work. Better safe than sorry!

The pool is located far enough away from the slope. For a heavy structure, the safety margin is at least equal to the height of the slope. If the slope is 10 metres high, the pool should be located at least that far from the edge to avoid affecting the stability of the site.

A well-informed contractor built the house well back from the edge of the slope. The safety margin should be at least twice the height of the slope. For example, if the slope is 10 metres high, the house should be located at least 20 metres from the edge of the slope.

A large shed located near the slope might be handy, but its weight and that of its contents exert pressure on the ground, which could destabilize the soil. This risk is even higher in clay soil, as is the case along some banks of the Lièvre River.

The slope is covered with trees and dense vegetation, which stabilizes the soil and prevents erosion. The roots act like a natural net, holding the soil in place and reinforcing the slope. The species selected are perfectly suited to this little corner of paradise.

A flower garden is a beautiful thing, but this one would be better placed farther away from the slope. If it's too close, heavy watering can saturate the soil and weaken it. You should also avoid directing gutters and any water runoff toward the top of the slope.

** Note: These tips are provided for informational purposes only. Every property is unique. Before starting your project, check with your local municipality to learn about best practices and applicable regulations.*



FONDATION
SANTÉ
PAPINEAU

Fondation Santé de Papineau
Health: It's a community thing!

The health of our community is a shared responsibility, which calls on every individual and business to contribute to improving the quality of care in the Lièvre and Petite-Nation regions, among other things. This perfectly reflects the mission of the Fondation Santé de Papineau.

In 2025, the Foundation directly contributed to the renovation of the operating room and an outdoor terrace at Papineau Hospital. It also supported paratransit service in the region, as well as the acquisition of equipment at the CLSC de la Vallée-de-la-Lièvre and the Maison des aînés et maison alternative in Masson-Angers. The goal for its campaign this year is \$187,000. These funds will be used to complete major medical equipment acquisition projects.

The Foundation is one of many community organizations in the region that benefit from Brookfield Renewable's ongoing financial support. To learn more or to make a donation, visit fondationsantedepapineau.ca.