

Vaudreuil-Soulanges Green Corridor

Toward a **GREENER** forest



Landowner's Newsletter

Vol. 25 March 2019

This newsletter offers insights into the project and informative articles to learn more about the Vaudreuil-Soulanges natural areas. Enjoy!
The Green Corridor team

How well do you know your exotic invasive species?

Exotic invasive species are species from distant regions (such as another continent or biogeographical realm) that have been introduced to new areas, either intentionally or otherwise. These species tend to be highly adaptable to their new habitats and spread quickly, harming native species and threatening ecosystem integrity. They are currently considered to be one of the main causes of biodiversity loss in the world.

Be on the lookout

Here is a brief description of certain exotic invasive plants observed in the Vaudreuil-Soulanges region to help you identify them. Feel free to contact us if you need assistance.

- ◆ **Garlic mustard:** A small herbaceous plant that can reach up to 1 metre high. Its appearance varies depending on developmental stage (see photos) but is easily identifiable by the strong garlicky odour given off when its leaves are rubbed. Its seeds can remain viable in the soil for up to 5 years.
- ◆ **Common water reed :** It can reach 3-4 metres in height and is characterized by its brownish, feather-duster-like seed head. Thanks to its many seeds and underground system of rhizomes, it can spread quickly.
- ◆ **Glossy buckthorn and common buckthorn:** These shrubs that can reach 6 metres in height. They produce lots of berries and spread rapidly. Observing the leaves, will help you differentiate the two species of buckthorn: the common buckthorn's leaves are round-toothed and their veins are curved. The glossy buckthorn's leaves aren't toothed and have straight veins.



Garlic mustard
First year © NAQ



Common water reed
© NAQ



Glossy buckthorn
© NAQ



Common buckthorn
© NAQ



Garlic mustard
Second year © NAQ

Note that these are among the most prevalent exotic invasive species in the region's forests, but there are others, both in forests and in other habitats (shorelines, abandoned fields, etc.). Japanese knotweed, Himalayan balsam, wild chervil, wild parsnip, and many other species have been observed by the Green Corridor team on property visits in the area. For more information on exotic invasive species, see the Québec government's Sentinelle project website (www.pub.mddefp.gouv.qc.ca/scc). The "Espèces" sections lists exotic invasive species (including English common names) that are either present in Québec or on our doorstep. If you are interested in controlling these species on your property, contact us for instructions, since each species has its particular challenges.



Helping wildlife thrive

Your property provides excellent habitat for a multitude of wildlife species. Here is the third and last in a series of tips on how to make it more attractive to wildlife.

Structures that give wildlife a helping hand

To compensate for human-caused environmental changes, you can install structures that are helpful to wildlife, such as nest boxes for birds, bat houses, and shelter for small animals on the ground. But to be effective, these structures must be the appropriate size and be placed in the right location for the species they are intended to help. The species must also be present in the area in order to find and use such structures. Contact us for more information.

Some examples



Bat house
© Nathalie Kem



Nest box for rustic swallow
© NAQ



Shelter for small animals on the ground
© NAQ

Bat census results

In 2018, for the second year, our team conducted a bat census in the area. As in 2017, we detected the presence of the big brown bat, the eastern red bat, the hoary bat, and the silver-haired bat. The latter three species are designated as threatened or vulnerable in Québec. And for the first time, we detected another species designated as endangered in Canada, the little brown bat (or little brown myotis).

Next season, we will continue to check on the use of shelters as maternity colonies – areas where females gather to give birth and raise their young. But we need your help in locating them. If you know of an area where bats gather in numbers during the summer, please contact us by email or call to send us its location. You can also mark them on the interactive map at the Batwatch website (<http://batwatch.ca>).

Important note

While our species and habitat conservation activities will continue in the Vaudreuil-Soulanges region, please note that due to financial constraints we must interrupt the publication of our newsletter for an indeterminate period. We will nevertheless try to keep you informed of our activities through other means. If you wish to continue receiving updates about the project, please send us your email address if you have not already done so. And please feel free to contact us with any questions or comments you may have.

The various activities of the Vaudreuil-Soulanges Green Corridor project are undertaken with the financial support of:

Ce projet a été réalisé avec l'appui financier du gouvernement du Canada.

This project was undertaken with the financial support of the Government of Canada.

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