## **ON THE ECONOMIC FRONT**

Protected areas promote the diversification of local and regional economies. They also help to conserve renewable natural resources in order to maintain activities such as hunting, fishing and trapping.

Protected environments are necessary to support the tourism and ecotourism industries in the region. They also play a crucial role in sustainable forest management. Finally, protected areas are places for outdoor recreation, which promotes both physical and mental well-being.

## **OTHER USEFUL SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

- Programme des dons écologiques = Environnement Canada
- https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection 2017/eccc/CW66-238-7-1-2016-fra.pdf
- Aires protégées au Québec Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques, de la Faune et des Parcs **www.environnement.gouv.gc.ca/biodiversite/aires protegees/aires quebec.htm**

## **CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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**Fisheries and Oceans** Canada



Fondation

## Why protect the natural areas on your property?

In 2009, Ambioterra began a project to educate private owners on the ways they could protect the biodiversity and natural areas on their land and create protected areas in the upper St. Lawrence River Valley.

Beauharnois-Salaberry, the Haut-Saint-Laurent, the Jardins-de-Napierville, Roussillon and Vaudreuil-Soulanges.

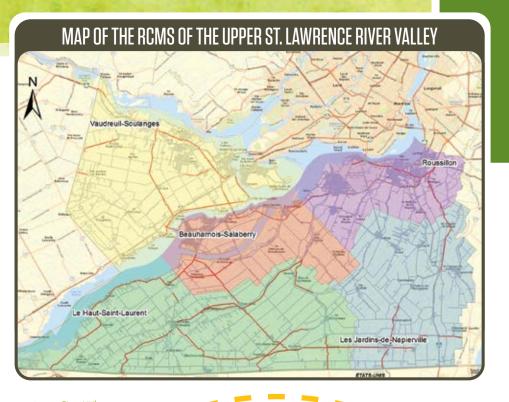
# VOLUNTARY **CONSERVATION:** WHAT IS IT ? **Upper St. Lawrence River Valley**



### **THIS PROJECT IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE LESS THAN 6% OF THE TERRITORY OF THE UPPER ST. LAWRENCE RIVER VALLEY IS PROTECTED. THIS REGION IS HOME TO A GREAT DIVERSITY OF FLORA AND FAUNA.**

Why ? The upper St. Lawrence River Valley has a mild climate and a wide variety of environments (aquatic, riparian, wetlands, forest and agricultural). It is also home to several endangered species. The biodiversity of this region, most of which can be found on private lands dedicated to agricultural production and logging, is threatened due to habitat fragmentation.

**In addition**, the majority of private land owners are unaware of the presence of these species. Therefore, they cannot take the necessary actions to protect plant and animal habitats. Fortunately, there are simple methods available to everyone that help to limit the negative impacts of human activities (development of private land, agriculture, forestry, etc.). In this leaflet, we will identify the means available to private land owners who wish to protect the natural heritage on their land.



PROTECTED NATURAL ENVIRONMENTS ARE T FROM AN ECOLOGICAL. ECONOMICA SCIENTIFIC, EDUCATIONAL, SOCIAL, HEALTH AND CULTURAL STANDPOINT. ECOLOGICALLY PROTECTED AREAS ARE BENEFICIAL FOR:

**OXYGEN PRODUCTION CREATION AND PROTECTION OF SOILS** ABSORPTION AND REDUCTION OF POLLUTANTS **IMPROVEMENT OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL** WEATHER CONDITIONS CONSERVATION OF GROUNDWATER AQUIFERS **REGULARIZATION AND PURIFICATION** OF WATER SOURCES

### ANIMALS PLANTS

Some of the endangered species in the upper St. Lawrence River Valley

American Ginseng
Black Maple
Butternut
Forked Three-awned Grass
Green Arrow Arum
Northern Maidenhair Fern
Ostrich Fern
Pitch Pine
River Bank Wildrye
Rock Elm
Small White Leek
Southern Wildrice
Two-leaved Toothwort
White Oak

American Eel **Channel Darter Chimnev Swift Common Snapping Turtle Eastern Sand Darter** Golden Winged Warbler Milk Snake Mountain Dusky Salamande Northern Brook Lamprev Northern Dusky Salamande **Rosyface Shiner** Stonecat Western Chorus Frog Wood Turtle

## How can you protect your natural heritage?

### THE WAYS YOU CAN PROTECT YOUR NATURAL HERITAGE **ARE DIVIDED ACCORDING TO YOUR NEEDS: MORAL, LEGAL AND/OR FINANCIAL**

Do you wish to maintain ownership of the whole property? Do you wish to partner with an environmental group to conserve your property? Do you wish to exploit the forest or another natural resource on your property?

These are a few of the questions owners should ask themselves when they want to protect their land. Some options require a legal commitment, while others do not. For example, signing a declaration of intent carries no legal implications, since it is a moral commitment However, should you wish to go further in your conservation efforts, there are other means of guaranteeing wildlife protection. Some of these options can provide the land owner with property tax exemptions and income tax reductions.

### The following chart summarizes the different options available

CONSERVATION OPTIONS					
CONSERVATION OPTIONS	YOU MAINTAIN OWNERSHIP	FINANCIAL-FISCAL ADAVANTAGES	LEGAL AGREEMENT	DESCRIPTION	
Declaration of Intent	YES	NO	NO	The land owner makes a moral com- mitment to conservation that rests on their honour, asserting their desire to protect the natural elements of the property.	
Management, development and enhancement agreement	YES	NO	NO	Agreement between a land owner and a conservation group to collaborate in the management, development and enhancement of the natural elements of the property.	
Rental contract (lease)	YES	NO	YES	The land is rented to either a conser- vation group, or to an agricultural or forestry producer for a set number of years, with restrictions on its use.	
Loan without charge	YES	NO	YES	The land is rented free of charge to either a conservation group or to an agricultural or forestry producer for a set number of years, with restrictions on its use.	
Agreement between landowners	YES	NO	POSSIBLE	Agreement between neighbors where- by they agree on the sustainable ma- nagement of their land. Everything can be done only between neighbors or with a conservation organization. A legal agreement may also be signed to ensure continuity of the agreement in the future, but it is not mandatory.	
Conservation servitude	YES	POSSIBLE	YES	Agreement between the land owner and a conservation group whereby the land owner renounces all ac- tivities that could be harmful to the environment.	
Sale	NO	POSSIBLE	YES	The land owner sells the property to a conservation group.	
Donation	NO	POSSIBLE	YES	The land owner donates the property to a conservation group.	
Réserve naturelle	YES	YES	YES	Legal agreement in which the land owner agrees to protect the natural elements of the property in accordance with the <i>Loi sur la protection du patri-</i> <i>moine naturel.</i>	





## A PROTECTED AREA... WHAT IS

One of the legal means available to a private landowner to protect the natural heritage of their property is known as a protected area. A protected area is a delimited territory in a terrestrial or aguatic environment in which the owner legally ensures the protection of the biological diversity and the natural resources found there.