

Shoreline nursery

The Brome-Missisquoi MRC is innovating

Brome-Missisquoi, October 8, 2009 – The fight against blue-green algae involves the protection of the banks of waterways and lakes. With the aim of encouraging shoreline improvement, the Brome-Missisquoi MRC has inaugurated, in partnership with the Town of Brome Lake, a shoreline nursery. The setting up, building of infrastructures, maintenance and management of the project for the first three years represents an investment of nearly \$225,000.

This shoreline nursery, the first of its kind in Quebec, is made possible thanks to the financial contribution of the Fonds de développement régional of the CRÉ Montérégie-Est (\$50,000), the Programme de mise en valeur des ressources du milieu forestier – phase II (\$33,000), the ministère des Ressources Naturelles et de la Faune du Québec (\$4,000 \$) and the Montreal and Ottawa Novotel Hotels (\$19,500) who are involved as part of an innovative environmental effort. For its part, the Town of Brome Lake is assuming 50% of the net costs of setting up and 20% of the net costs of maintenance, and then in turn receives 20% of the shrubs.



The Brome-Missisquoi MRC shoreline nursery will supply 25,000 mature shrubs annually for the banks of waterways and lakes to shoreline residents in the region. The MRC already has a regional nursery for ornamental vegetation, but this new nursery has been created alongside it to produce shrubs adapted to shorelines.

Shrubs are sought after by shoreline residents because their roots stabilize the banks, they feed on phosphorous, they are esthetically pleasing and do not block the view of the water. By supplying mature shrubs they can get a good survival rate, minimizing the need for maintenance and having an immediate effect on the area.

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Because the shrubs have bare roots, they must be planted quickly and in quantity every spring. Planting activities are coordinated in partnership with shoreline protection organizations for the Yamaska (COGEBY) and Missisquoi Bay (CBVBM), who will prioritize the most urgent needs, without substituting for existing aid programs for the agricultural sector. The first distribution of shrubs will be in 2012.

By favouring accompaniment rather than coercion, the Brome-Missisquoi MRC hopes to help those in the sector continue their positive effort to make the region greener and healthier. Many kilometres of shorelines will be restored year after year, which will make a real difference in water quality.

For any additional information you can contact the MRC at 450-266-4900, namely François Daudelin, forestry engineer, in charge of production (extension 245) and Simon Lajeunesse, regional waterways coordinator responsible for distribution (extension 227).

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Useful links :

Document produced by the MDDEP containing all available scientific information on the actual efficiency of upkept shorelines and their ecologic function -
<http://www.mddep.gouv.qc.ca/eau/bassinversant/fiches/bandes-riv.pdf>

Shoreline protection organizations in the MRC Brome-Missisquoi -
www.cogeby.qc.ca/ <http://baiemissisquoi.esm.qc.ca/>