



## HELLO DEAR MEMBERS

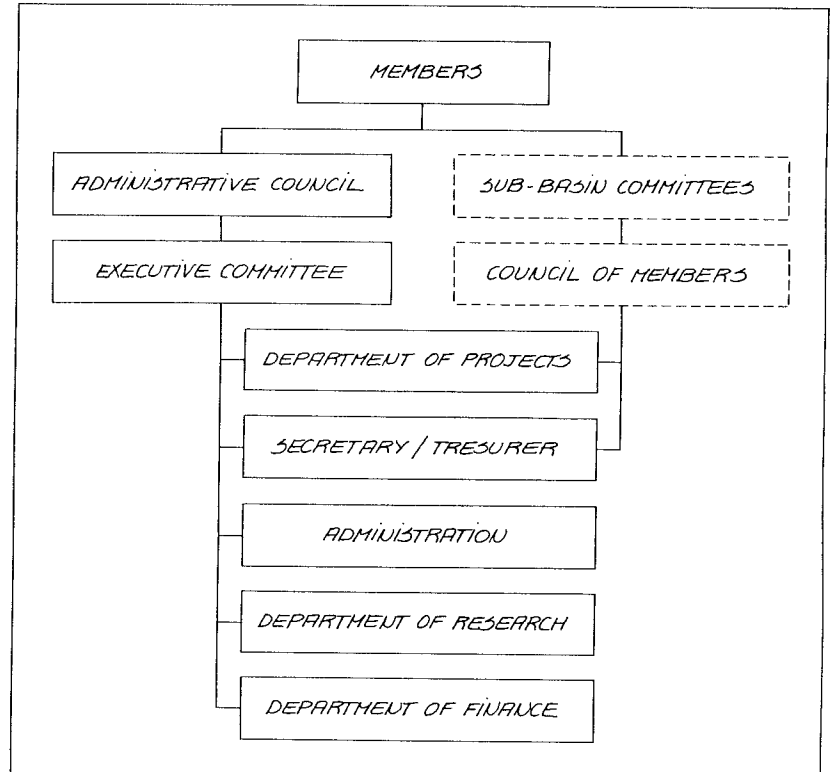
IN THIS THE FIRST ISSUE OF THE NEWSLETTER "ACTION ST-FRANÇOIS" WE WISH TO EXPLAIN TO YOU THE STRUCTURE OF THE ORGANIZATION. THE STRUCTURE OF THE ORGANIZATION, AS EMBODIED IN THE ORGANIGRAM BELOW CONVEYS TWO OBJECTIVES. FIRSTLY: TO EXPRESS THE RELATIONSHIP WE WISH TO ESTABLISH BETWEEN THE DIRECTORATE AND THE MEMBERS AND SECONDLY TO GIVE OUR MEMBERS CERTAIN DECISION MAKING POWERS ENSURING THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE REALIZATION OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL OBJECTIVES. IT IS TO THAT END, AS WELL AS TO CREATE A DIRECT LINK BETWEEN THE MEMBERS AND THE FOUNDING MEMBERS, THAT THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES HAVE BEEN CREATED: THE SUB-BASIN COMMITTEES AND THE COUNCIL OF MEMBERS. THESE BODIES ACT AS A DIRECT LINK BETWEEN YOU THE MEMBERS AND THE FOUNDING MEMBERS WHO WORK VIA THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL AND THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. THE MEMBERS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL SERVE A TERM OF TWO YEARS. AT THE NEXT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, TO BE HELD IN OCTOBER 1993, THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE SUB-BASIN COMMITTEES WILL BE DETERMINED BY ELECTIONS, THE POSITIONS OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING. THESE COMMITTEES, COMPRISING FROM TWO TO FOUR PEOPLE HAVE TWO RESPONSIBILITIES. FIRSTLY: INSPECT THE WORK DONE, IN ITS SUB-BASIN, BY THE ORGANIZATION IN ITS PREVIOUS YEAR OF OPERATIONS. SECONDLY: ACCORDING TO THE PLANS SUBMITTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PROJECTS CONCERNING THE CONDITION OF CERTAIN SITES IN EACH SUB-BASIN, NOT TO EXCEED THREE IN NUMBER, THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS WILL EVALUATE THE DEGREE OF DEGRADATION FOR EACH SITE,

EACH NEWLY FORMED COMMITTEE WILL NAME ITS DELEGATE TO THE COUNCIL OF MEMBERS, TO WHOM THE DELEGATE WILL GIVE HIS/HER REPORTS CONCERNING THE TWO DUTIES OF THE SUB-BASIN COMMITTEE. THE MEMBERS COUNCIL SHALL BE COMPRISED OF THE DELEGATE FROM EACH SUB-BASIN COMMITTEE, ONE MONTH PRIOR TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY / TREASURER WILL GIVE TO EACH DELEGATE A COPY OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE PREVIOUS FISCAL YEAR (END OF JULY). HAVING DISPOSED OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES CONCERNING THE SUB-BASIN COMMITTEES AND THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT, THE COUNCIL MEMBERS MAY THEN COMMENT ON

AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ABOUT THE WORK ACCOMPLISHED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DURING THE COURSE OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR AS WELL AS ABOUT THE OBJECTIVES FOR THE COMING YEAR. SUCH COMMENTARIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE COMMUNICATED TO THE MEMBERS, BY THE SPOKESPERSON OF THE COUNCIL MEMBERS, AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND IN THE DECEMBER ISSUE OF "ACTION ST-FRANÇOIS".

SO COME ONE, COME ALL TO THE SECOND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ACTION ST-FRANÇOIS WHICH WITH ITS SEVERAL HUNDRED MEMBERS IS AMONG THE MOST DYNAMIC ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN QUEBEC. THANKS TO YOU.

## ORGANIGRAM



FORMED

TO BE FORMED



## THE RESTORATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

THE LANDSCAPE OF A WATERSHED SUCH AS THAT OF THE ST-FRANÇOIS RIVER IS BORN OF THE MEETING OF HUMAN AND NATURAL HISTORY. THE RESTORATION OF PLACES CAN ONLY BE THE ART OF INVENTING THEORETICAL AND PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS TO CONCRETE PROBLEMS SO THAT A LONGLASTING HARMONY IS CREATED BETWEEN THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE COMMUNITY.

PUT FORWARD BY ACTION ST-FRANÇOIS, THE PROJECT TO RESTORE THE BANKS, LITORALS AND FLOODPLAINS OF THE AQUATIC MILIEUS OF THE ST-FRANÇOIS WATERSHED WILL BE THE WORK OF A TEAM SUPPORTED BY A COLLECTIVITY. THE TASK IS, EVIDENTLY, ONE

THAT WILL TAKE MORE THAN ONE GENERATION TO REALIZE, ALSO, AN ATTITUDE OTHER THAN THE INDIVIDUALISTIC ONE THAT CHARACTERIZES OUR EPOCH IS CERTAINLY NECESSARY. THE WATERSHED APPROACH ENABLES US TO DEVELOP THE COLLECTIVE CONSCIOUSNESS NECESSARY TO ACCOMPLISH OUR WORK. WE ARE ALL OF US, IN SPACE AND IN TIME, UPSTREAM AND DOWNSTREAM, INTERDEPENDENT ONE WITH ANOTHER. WITHOUT A LITTLE CONSIDERATION FOR ONESELF AND OTHERS AROUND US, WE DON'T OFTEN EVEN DO OUR OWN HOUSEKEEPING. SO LET'S, ALL OF US TOGETHER, DO THE HOUSEKEEPING, PUT OUR AFFAIRS IN ORDER, IMPROVE THE

PLACES WHERE WE LIVE AND CONTEMPLATE THE RESULT OF A USEFUL AND LONG TERM WORK, HAVE THE SATISFACTION KNOWN BY ALL THOSE WITH A HEALTHY SPIRIT. IN APPEALING TO THE COLLECTIVE CONSCIOUSNESS OF INDIVIDUALS, ACTION ST-FRANÇOIS AIMS TO ESTABLISH A SENSE OF LOCAL AND PLANETARY RESPONSIBILITY. IT IS THIS BASE THAT MAKES POSSIBLE AN ECOLOGICAL PARTICIPATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR TERRITORY INCLUDING THE RESTORATION OF HUNDREDS OF AQUATIC SITES. TOGETHER, WE ARE IN A POSITION TO BUILD AND MAINTAIN ACTION ST-FRANÇOIS UNTIL THIS PROJECT IS ACCOMPLISHED.



## VARIATIONS ON A SPECIES WHICH HAS DISAPPEARED FROM THE WATERSHED

ON THE MAP IN THE ACTION ST-FRANÇOIS PAMPHLET, WE FIND THE NAME "RIVIÈRE ASCOT / ASCOT RIVER" DESIGNATING AN IMPORTANT WATERWAY IN THE MASSAWIPPI SUB-BASIN. THE OFFICIAL NAME IDENTIFYING THIS RIVER IS "RIVIÈRE AUX SAUMONS" OR "SALMON RIVER". EASY TO CONFUSE IT WITH THE OTHER SALMON RIVERS IN THE BASIN FOR MANY WATERWAYS HAVE OR HAVE HAD THIS NAME OR VARIANTS THEREOF.

IN ORDER TO CLARIFY REMEMBER THAT: THE BIG SALMON RIVER (RIVIÈRE AU SAUMON) JOINS THE ST-FRANÇOIS RIVER NEAR WEEDON; THE LITTLE SALMON RIVER (ASCOT RIVER) EMPTIES INTO THE MASSAWIPPI RIVER AT THE SOUTHERN LIMIT OF LENNOXVILLE; SALMON CREEK / RUISSEAU AUX SAUMONS (RIVIÈRE AU SAUMON) IS ANOTHER

TRIBUTARY OF THE ST-FRANÇOIS RIVER JOINING IT AT MELBOURNE, BETWEEN RICHMOND AND WINSOR.

TOPONYMICAL SPECIALISTS KNOW ALSO THAT THE CHESHAM RIVER, A SMALL TRIBUTARY OF THE BIG SALMON RIVER, WITH ITS SOURCE AT NOTRE-DAME-DES-BOIS WAS KNOWN AS SALMON RIVER. THE MOE RIVER A TRIBUTARY OF THE LITTLE SALMON RIVER WHICH DRAINS A PART OF THE COMPTON COUNTY ALSO CARRIED THE NAME SALMON RIVER. REGARDING THE LITTLE SALMON RIVER, WE FIND A NUMBER OF VARIATIONS ON THE SAME THEME IN FRENCH AS WELL AS ENGLISH I.E. SALMON RIVER, RIVIÈRE DES SAUMONS, RIVIÈRE SALMON AND RIVIÈRE AU SAUMON. WHAT WE LEARN FROM THIS IS, OF COURSE, THE ABUNDANCE (FORMER) AND IMPORTANCE

(ALSO FORMER) OF THIS FISH SPECIES IN THE ST-FRANÇOIS RIVER BASIN BEFORE THE TURN OF THE CENTURY - DURING THE SETTLEMENT OF THE REGION. IN FACT, IF WE THINK OF OUR ANCESTORS WHO COLONIZED THE REGION AND DEPENDED GREATLY ON SALMON - PICKLED AND/OR SHOKED TO SURVIVE WINTER AND EARLY SPRING AND THEN THINK OF THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE FISH THEN PERHAPS WE CAN GAIN SOME INSIGHT AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE NEED FOR ACTION TO PRESERVE AND RESTORE THESE AND OTHER REMARKABLE SPAWNING STREAMS AND GROUNDS OF THE ST-FRANÇOIS BASIN. WE WILL TAKE THE TIME THEN TO REFLECT ON THE RECENT PAST... IN THE NEAR FUTURE.



## THE CREEK NEAR YOU DOES IT HAVE A NAME?

DURING THE SUMMER OF 1989 IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LEU-NOXVILLE, PROPERTY OF 46 ACRES WITH A STREAM RUNNING THROUGH IT WAS CLEAR-CUT. THE VEGETATION ALONG THE CREEK WAS COMPLETELY DESTROYED. SUCH AN EVENT HAS OCCURRED THOUSANDS OF TIMES IN THE ST-FRANÇOIS RIVER WATERSHED AND USUALLY ENGENDERS LITTLE INTEREST EXCEPT FOR SOME FEELINGS OF OUTRAGE, BUT ON THIS OCCASION, THOSE CITIZENS WHO HAD FOR YEARS BEEN FREQUENTING THE AREA WERE MORE THAN OUTRAGED BY THE BRUTALITY OF THE ACT. THEY SPONTANEOUSLY CREATED A COMMITTEE TO EXPRESS, TO THE RELEVANT AUTHORITIES, THEIR CONCERN ABOUT THE FUTURE QUALITY OF THE ENVIRONMENT OF THEIR MUNICIPALITY. THE COMMITTEE, WISHING TO PREVENT FUTURE ACTS OF SIMILAR VIOLENCE, ADDRESSED ITSELF TO THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL ASKING FOR EXPLANATIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS. THE FIRST THING LEARNED BY THE CITIZENS WAS THAT THIS CLEAR-CUT WAS IN PERFECT HARMONY WITH THE MUNICIPAL REGULATIONS, THE REGULATIONS OF THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITIES OF THE COUNTY (M.R.C.), AS WELL AS WITH THE PRO-

VINICIAL GOVERNMENT'S LAWS CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT. DISMAYED, THEY ASKED IF THERE WERE A LAW PROTECTING RIPARIAN VEGETATION. THEY LEARNED OF THE EXISTENCE OF A POLICY TO PROTECT WATERCOURSE BANKS; A POLICY DEVELOPED BY THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT FOR THE USE OF MUNICIPALITIES AND M.R.C.'S. THEY LEARNED ALSO THAT A POLICY IS NOT A LAW BUT AN OUTLINE TO GUIDE MUNICIPALITIES AND M.R.C.'S IN THEIR PROTECTION OF THEIR WATERWAYS. THEY ALSO LEARNED THAT THE M.R.C. OF SHERBROOKE, OF WHICH LEU-NOXVILLE IS A PART, AND THE MUNICIPALITY ITSELF HAVE THE POWER, GIVEN TO THEM BY THE LAW CONCERNING LAND USE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT, TO REGULATE CUTTING ALONG THE WATERWAY BANKS IN THEIR TERRITORY. WHY, THEN, IS THE CLEARCUT LEGAL? THEY LEARNED WHY. THE REGULATIONS APPLY ONLY TO WATERCOURSES THAT HAVE BEEN OFFICIALLY NAMED. IN OTHER WORDS, IF A STREAM CREEK, POND, LAKE OR RIVER HAS NO NAME, THEN THE VEGETATION ON ITS BANKS HAS NO PROTECTION, IN LAW, FROM BEING CUT. PURSUING THEIR EFFORTS TO

PROTECT THEIR ENVIRONMENT THE CITIZENS, THROUGH THE MUNICIPALITY, OBTAINED FROM THE QUEBEC COMMISSION OF TOPONOHY, AN OFFICIAL NAME FOR THE CREEK: "FIDDLEHEAD CREEK". THE PROCEDURE TOOK TWO YEARS, THAT IS THE TIME IT TOOK FOR THIS ADMIRABLE GROUP TO SEE TO IT THAT A WATERCOURSE BE PROTECTED. IN THE CASE OF "FIDDLEHEAD CREEK", THE CITIZENS HAD THE COLLABORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY. WITHOUT THIS SUPPORT, THE GROUP WOULD HAVE HAD RECOURSE TO ANOTHER LEGAL MECHANISM CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF RIPARIAN VEGETATION UNDER THE ACT OF LAND USE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT. THE CITIZENS CAN ASK THE MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT TO MODIFY A MUNICIPAL ZONING REGULATION AND IF THE MINISTER THINKS, "TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE PARTICULARITIES OF THE SITE", THAT THE MUNICIPAL REGULATION IS NOT ADEQUATE, HE CAN "IF HE JUDGES IT TO BE TIMELY", BY SUMMARY NOTICE ASK THE MUNICIPALITY TO MODIFY IT. IF AT THE EXPIRATION OF SUCH A NOTICE, THE MUNICIPALITY HAS NOT COMPLIED, THE MINISTER CAN ENACT IT HIMSELF.



**ACTION  
ST-FRANÇOIS**

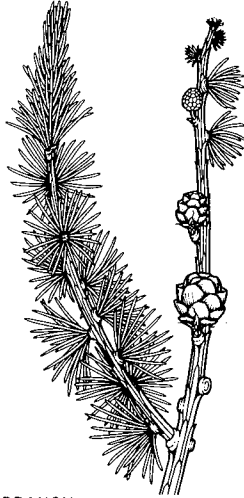
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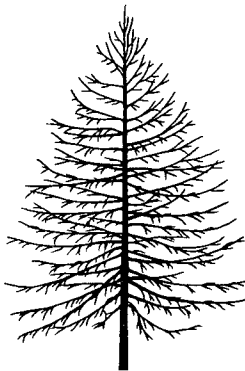


## THE TAMARACK



BRANCH

- LATIN NAME:** *LARIX LARICINA* - PINE FAMILY (PINACEA)  
**COMMON NAME:** HACKMATAK - EASTERN LARCH - RED SPRUCE  
**TAMARACK:** FROM THE ALGONQUIAN LANGUAGE  
**HACKMATAK:** FROM ALGONQUIAN AND ABEENAKI "AKEHANTAK" (SNOW-SHOE WOOD).  
**HEIGHT:** 12 - 25 METERS  
**DIAMETER:** 0.30 - 0.60 METER  
**HABITAT:** MOIST GROUND, PEAT SOILS, SWAMPS, BOGS - ALSO IN DRIER UPLAND LOAMY SOILS.  
**HARDINESS:** ZONE ONE - DOES NOT TOLERATE CITY POLLUTION.  
**LIGHT REQUIREMENTS:** FULL SUN  
**FOLIAGE:** PALE GREEN NEEDLES, SOFT AND SUPPLE. GROWING IN TUFTS OF FROM 10-20 NEEDLES ON SPURS AS WELL AS INDIVIDUALLY AND ALTERNATELY ON YOUNGER WOOD. NEEDLES TURN A MAGNIFICENT GOLDEN YELLOW IN THE AUTUMN BEFORE FALLING.  
**BRANCHES:** HAIRLESS, DELICATE AND SUPPLE.  
**CONES:** SMALL, ROUND AND PALE BROWN.



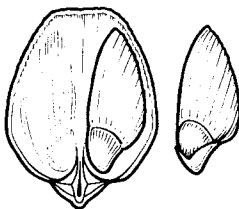
SILHOUETTE

THE TAMARACK, OUR ONLY CONIFER THAT LOSES ITS NEEDLES IN AUTUMN, IS FOUND FROM THE NORTHERNMOST FORESTS TO THE DECIDUOUS FORESTED AREAS AROUND THE GREAT LAKES. IT DOES NOT TOLERATE SHADE BUT CAN SURVIVE WELL IN WET OR DRY SOIL. IT FOLLOWS THE HEATHERS AND PRECEDES BLACK SPRUCE IN THE EVOLUTION OF A PEAT BOG, IT TOLERATES FLOODING, HAS SHALLOW SUPERFICIAL ROOTS AND ACTS AS A GOOD WIND BREAK.

AS WELL AS FOR ITS HORTICULTURAL USES, THE TAMARACK HAS IN THE PAST SERVED US IN MANY WAYS. THE BARK AND RESIN FOR SOOTHING ULCERS, KIDNEY AND LUNG PROBLEMS AS WELL AS FOR BURNS. THE NEEDLES CAN BE USED AS A TISANE AND AN ANTISEPTIC.

THE AMERINDIANS USED THE ROOTS FOR SELLING THEIR BIRCH BARK CANOES, AND THE WOOD FOR SNOWSHOES. SOME EARLY BOATBUILDERS USED THE ROOTS FOR SECURING THE TIMBERS TO THE RIBS SOME OF WHICH WERE CURVED AS MUCH AS 90° LIKE A KNEE. IT'S DURABLE, HARD AND ROT RESISTANT WOOD, EVEN IN THE WATER, WAS OFTEN USED IN HOUSE FRAMING, RAILROAD TIES, STAKES AND POSTS. IT IS ALSO A SOURCE OF PULPWOOD.

FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE CENTURY, THE LARCHES NUMBERS HAVE DECREASED SIGNIFICANTLY DUE MAINLY TO THE SAWFLY, FORESTRY OVEREXPLOITATION AND FOREST FIRES. HAPPILY, HOWEVER, ONE CAN STILL CONTemplate AND ADMIRE THESE MAGNIFICENT TREES, IN APPRECIABLE QUANTITIES, IN SEVERAL AREAS OF THE ST-FRANÇOIS RIVER BASIN.



SEEDS

SOME PLANTS ACCOMPANYING THE LARCH IN THE PEAT BOGS:  
 BLACK SPRUCE (*PICEA MARIANA*) • CEDAR (*THUYA OCCIDENTALIS*) • BUTTERWORT (*PINGUICULA VULGARIS*)  
 CRAWBERRY (*VACCINIUM MACROCARPON*) • SNAKE MOUTH (*POGONIA OPHIOGLOSSOIDES*)  
 LABRADOR TEA (*LEDUM GROENLANDICUM*) • BOG ROSEMARY (*AUDROHEDA GLAUCOPHYLLA*)  
 PORCUPINE SEDGE (*CAREX HYSTERICIUA*) • WHITE-FRINGED ORCHIS (*HABEUARIA BLEPHARIGLOTTIS*)

FOR BIRDS LOVERS AND WATCHERS HERE SOME THAT WE MAY SEE THERE:  
 OLIVE SIDED FLYCATCHER • YELLOW BELLED FLYCATCHER • RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET • GREY JAY  
 FOREST WREN • HERMIT THRUSH • CEDAR WAXWING

SOURCES: THE AUDUBON SOCIETY FIELD GUIDE TO THE NORTH AMERICAN TREES - EASTERN REGION - ELBERT L. LITTLE  
 FLORE LAURENTIENNE - FRÈRE MARIE-VICTORIN • ARBRES DU CANADA - JEAN LAURIAULT