



MEETING OF PARTICIPATING MEMBERS

ACTION ST. FRANÇOIS' FIRST MEETING OF PARTICIPATING MEMBERS WAS HELD APRIL 12TH, AT THE SHERBROOKE C.E.G.E.P.. IT PROVED TO BE A VERY SUCCESSFUL EVENT, ANIMATED BY OUR PROJECT DIRECTOR, WILLIAM LUCY, WHO WAS AT THE SAME TIME BOTH DYNAMIC AND RELAXED IN HIS LEADERSHIP.

PRIOR TO THE MEETING, OUR TELEPHONE COMMITTEE HAD CONTACTED APPROXIMATELY 500 OF THOSE MEMBERS WHO HAD EXPRESSED A WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR OPERATIONS. OUR GOAL WAS TO OBTAIN 15 NAMES FOR EACH OF THE FOUR PROJECTS SLATED FOR THE COMING SEASON - JACK STREAM IN ASCOT, AND THIBAUT STREAM IN LENNOXVILLE, IN MAY, FOLLOWED BY TWO OPERATIONS ON DORMAN STREAM IN FLEURIMONT, IN JUNE. THIS WAS SUCCESSFULLY DONE.

SIX OF OUR MEMBERS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN PARTICIPATING IN THE PUBLICATION OF THE NEWSLETTER, SEVEN IN PROOFREADING, AND FOUR IN TRANSLATION. FIFTEEN PEOPLE WERE WILLING TO DISTRIBUTE THE NEWSLETTER AND ONE PERSON STEPPED FORWARD TO ASSIST WITH SECRETARIAL WORK.

IN THE FIELD OF RESEARCH, TEN MEMBERS AGREED TO HELP MAKE AN INVENTORY OF RUBBISH ON THE CLEAN-UP SITES. SIX OF THESE MEMBERS WOULD BE ASSIGNED TO FINDING OUT WHO OWNED THE PROPERTIES BORDERING THE STREAMS.

EVEN MORE IMPORTANT, THE MEETING WAS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR THE 30 MEMBERS WHO ATTENDED TO GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER, AND TO EXPERIENCE A SENSE OF SOLIDARITY AS A WORKING GROUP.

THE MEETING LASTED TWO HOURS AND WE COVERED A LOT OF GROUND, DISCUSSING, IN A LIVELY WAY, VARIOUS TOPICS RANGING FROM DIFFERENT STAGES OF THE CLEAN-UP OPERATIONS TO GARBAGE DISPOSAL, COOPERATION WITH THE MUNICIPALITIES AND GRANTS.

THOSE IN ATTENDANCE WERE VERY ENCOURAGED BY THIS MEETING AND LOOK FORWARD TO A SECOND SEASON OF CLEAN-UP WORK. ELEVEN PEOPLE SHOWED UP TO ASSIST WITH OUR FIRST OPERATION ON JACK STREAM AND 25 ON THIBAUT STREAM. THIS PROVES TO US THE EAGERNESS OF OUR GROUP TO PARTICIPATE.

WE WILL MEET AGAIN THE AUGUST 24TH AND HOPE YOU COME TO JOIN US THEN. OUR TELEPHONE COMMITTEE WILL BE IN TOUCH TO LET YOU KNOW THE HOUR AND PLACE.



THE CREEK NEAR YOU DOES IT HAVE A NAME? YES!

AS NOTED IN THE JUNE '93 NEWSLETTER, THE REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO THE PROTECTION OF RIVERINE VEGETATION ARE CONTAINED IN THE LAWS CONCERNING URBANISM AND LAND USE. THESE REGULATIONS COVER DESIGNATED WATERWAYS I.E. A STREAM, BROOK OR RIVER THAT HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY NAMED.

ON THE 7TH OF FEBRUARY 1994, ACTION ST. FRANÇOIS ASKED THE COMMISSION DE TOPONYMIE DU QUÉBEC TO OFFICIALLY NAME A SMALL TRIBUTARY OF THE ST. FRANÇOIS RIVER.

AT ITS MARCH 31ST AND APRIL 15TH 1994 MEETINGS, THE COMMISSION RESPONDED FAVORABLY TO OUR DEMAND IN OFFICIALLISING THE TOPONYM "RUISSEAU DES VÉRÀ-TRES" THAT NOW REFERS TO THIS STREAM THAT MEMBERS OF ACTION ST. FRANÇOIS CLEANED OF 2.9 TONS OF DEBRIS IN THE SUMMER OF 1993. (SEE REPORT OF THIS OPERATION IN THE DEC. 93 NEWSLETTER) THE "RUISSEAU DES VÉRÀ-TRES" DRAINS APPROXIMATELY 5 KM² OF SHERBROOKE'S TERRITORY. A BRANCH OF THIS STREAM HAS ITS

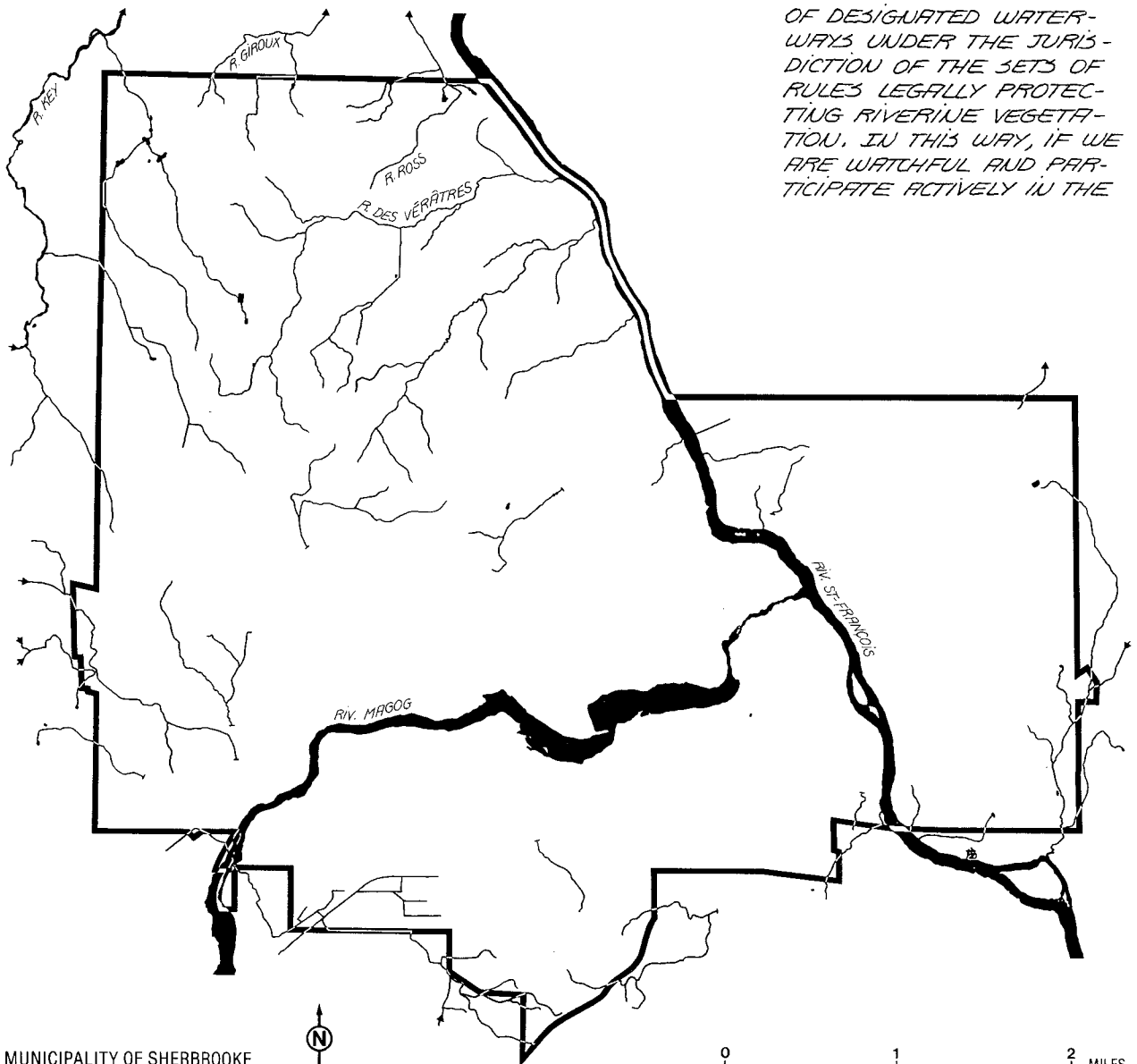
SOURCE IN THE VICINITY OF THE CORNER OF MC CREA AND PRICE, TWO OTHERS START IN THE WETLANDS AT THE HEIGHT OF HIGHWAY 55 AND 10'S PASSOVER; A FOURTH BRANCH DRAINS A SECTOR BETWEEN MC CREA, PRICE AND DUVERNEY. THE MAIN COURSE OF THE STREAM FOLLOWS HIGHWAY 10, CROSSES DUVERNEY, 143 RD AND THE RAILWAY BEFORE ENTERING THE ST. FRANÇOIS RIVER. IN OBTAINING FROM THE COMMISSION DE TOPONYMIE THE OFFICIALISATION OF THE TOPONYM "RUISSEAU

DES VÉRÂTRES" (AMERICAN HELLEBORE), ACTION ST. FRANÇOIS. ON BEHALF OF ITS MEMBERS, SEEKS TO SEND A MESSAGE THAT UNDERLINES, IN ALL USAGES, TEXTS AND GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS, THE SOCIAL AND ECOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE OF

INDIGENOUS RIVERINE VEGETATION. IN THIS REGARD, THE CHOICE OF VERATRUM VIRIDE APPEARS OPPORTUNE TO US, BECAUSE THE LIVELY GREEN OF VERATRUM VIRIDE IN THE SPRING PRESENTS AN UNFORGETTABLE VISUAL ASPECT ALONGSIDE

THIS SHERBROOKE STREAM. WE HOPE THAT THE TOPOONYMY OF THE TOWN WILL FIND ITSELF ENRICHED IN MEANING BY THIS NEW NAME AND THAT THE "RUISSEAU DES VÉRÂTRES" WILL BE A REMINDER OF THE RICHNESS OF RIVERINE VEGETATION OF ALL STREAMS IN THIS AREA.

NOW THAT THE "RUISSEAU DES VÉRÂTRES" HAS AN OFFICIAL CERTIFICATE OF EXISTENCE, ITS NAME CAN BE INSCRIBED ON THE LIST OF DESIGNATED WATERWAYS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE SETS OF RULES LEGALLY PROTECTING RIVERINE VEGETATION. IN THIS WAY, IF WE ARE WATCHFUL AND PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN THE



MUNICIPALITY OF SHERBROOKE

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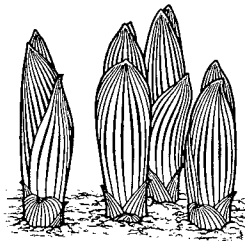
DECISIONS CONCERNING URBANISM AND LAND USE, THE FATE OF SMALL STREAMS MIGHT BE DIFFERENT THAN THAT OF "RUISSEAU DES VÉRÂTRES" NEIGHBORS, CANALISED OR BURIED TO

FLOW UNDERGROUND IN CEMENT PIPES. THE QUALITY OF WATER DEPENDS ON THE TREASURE OF FLORA AND FAUNA ALONGSIDE WATERWAYS. THIS IS THE MESSAGE OF

ACTION ST. FRANÇOIS. THE WILLINGNESS OF THE CITIZENS TO PRESERVE THIS COLLECTIVE RICHNESS IS THE FIRST STEP TOWARD A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE IN OUR COMMUNITIES.



THE AMERICAN WHITE HELLEBORE



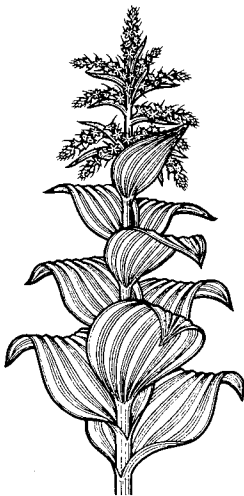
YOUNG GROWTH

LATIN NAME: *VERATRUM VIRIDE*
 COMMON NAME: AMERICAN WHITE HELLEBORE - DEVIL'S BITE - INDIAN POKE - ITCH WEED
 VER: AT THE BEGINNING OF SPRING
 ATRUM: DEADLY, FEARSOME (BECAUSE OF ITS TOXICITY)
 VIRIDE: GREEN

STEM: 60 TO 200 CENTIMETERS - DOWNY - WELL LEAVED
 LEAF: NO PETIOLE AND WRAPPED AROUND STEM - PLEATED - STRONGLY VEINED - LOWER LEAVES LARGELY OVAL, CHANGING TO LANCEOLATE OR LINEAR NEAR TOP OF THE PLANT.

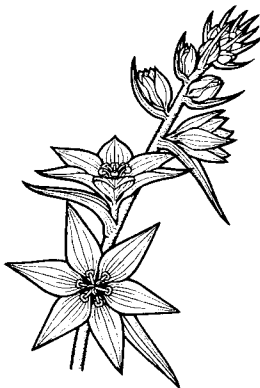
FLOWER: STAR - YELLOWISH GREEN - SHAPED IN DROOPING PYRAMIDAL PANICLES - HERMAPHRODITIC - SPRING
 FRUIT: WINGED SEED IN A THREE LOBED CAPSULE
 ROOT: A THICK, FLESHY RHIZOME FROM WHICH DEVELOP LARGE WHITISH ROOTS

HABITAT: MOIST WOODS AND MEADOWS - SWAMPS - OFTEN IN SIGNIFICANT QUANTITIES - COMMON IN QUEBEC EXCEPT IN THE GASPE, NORTH COAST AND ANTICOSTI ISLAND - RARE NEAR MONTREAL - NORTHERN LIMIT UNKNOWN.



PLANT IN FLOWER

PROPERTIES AND USAGES: CONTAINS A SERIES OF ALKALOIDS (EG.) VERATRINE) THAT CAN CAUSE VOMITING, STOMACH CRAMPS, DIARRHEA, CONVULSIONS, PARALYSIS AND EVENTUALLY DEATH IF TAKEN IN SUFFICIENT QUANTITY. CONTACT CAN CAUSE SKIN IRRITATION IN SUSCEPTIBLE INDIVIDUALS. THE RHIZOME HAS BEEN USED TO SLOW DOWN THE HEART RATE AND TO LOWER BLOOD PRESSURE (WARNING: DO NOT TRY IT). IT HAS ALSO BEEN USED AS AN INSECTICIDE.



FLOWERS

THE VÉRÂTRE IS A PERENNIAL HERB OF THE LILY FAMILY (LILIACEA) CERTAIN OF WHOSE MEMBERS ARE WELL KNOWN: DAY LILIES (HEMEROCALLIS), TRILLIUMS, GARLIC (ALLIUM) AND LILY-OF-THE-VALLEY (CONVALLARIA) TO NAME JUST A FEW. IT USUALLY GROWS IN AREAS WHERE THE SOIL HAS BEEN FORMED BY ALLUVIAL DEPOSITS LAID DOWN BY ANNUAL FLOODING. SPRING PRESENTS US WITH A PRIVILEGED MOMENT TO OBSERVE THE SEEMINGLY CONSCIENTIOUS UNFOLDING OF ITS LEAVES AND THE PLAY OF SUNLIGHT HIGHLIGHTING THE ACIDIC GREEN THAT CHARACTERIZES IT. IF YOU MISSED THE SPECTACLE THIS YEAR, YOU HAVE PLENTY OF TIME TO LOCATE A CHOICE SPOT FOR NEXT SPRING...



FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE BUSINESS SECTOR

WE HAVE DISCUSSED THE GOALS OF ACTION ST. FRANÇOIS WITH A GREAT MANY PEOPLE DURING THE COURSE OF OUR MEMBERSHIP DRIVE. ONE THING HAS BECOME CLEAR AS A RESULT OF THIS FEEDBACK AND THAT IS WHETHER OR NOT WE SHOULD ACCEPT FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY NEEDS TO BE CLARIFIED.

OUR FOUNDING MEMBERS REMIND US THAT, AS WE EXAMINE THIS ISSUE, WE SHOULD TRY NOT TO LOSE SIGHT OF OUR ORIGINAL PHILOSOPHY AND THE SPIRIT IN WHICH ACTION ST. FRANÇOIS WAS FOUNDED. CONCRETE ACTION AND DIRECT INVOLVEMENT

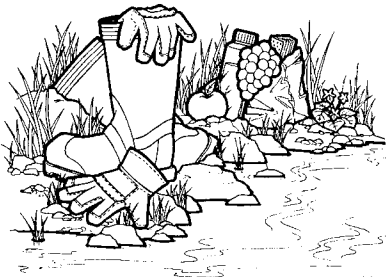
ON THE PART OF CONCERNED CITIZENS, IN A SPIRIT OF COOPERATION WITHIN THE COMMUNITY, IS THE BOTTOM LINE FOR OUR GROUP. THE \$25.00 CONTRIBUTION FROM OVER A THOUSAND MEMBERS CREATES A SUBSTANTIAL BASE FROM WHICH TO FUNCTION AND BY THEIR GENEROSITY MEMBERS PARTICIPATE IN THE REHABILITATION AND PRESERVATION OF THE AQUATIC SYSTEMS OF THE REGION. THIS WOULD SEEM TO US TO INDICATE THE POTENTIAL POWER OF COMMUNITY COOPERATION.

INSTEAD OF HELPING IN A FINANCIAL WAY, THE BUSI-

NESS WORLD COULD BETTER CONTRIBUTE BY SPENDING MONEY ON CLEANING UP THEIR PRODUCTION AND WASTE DISPOSAL METHODS WHICH OFTEN HAVE A DIRECT IMPACT ON THE QUALITY OF THE WATER. WE ALSO QUESTION WHETHER THERE MIGHT NOT ARISE A CONFLICT OF INTEREST FOR BUSINESSES. FOR THIS REASON, ACTION ST. FRANÇOIS PREFERENCES TO REMAIN INDEPENDANT OF THE BUSINESS WORLD AND NOT ACCEPT CONTRIBUTIONS FROM IT. HOWEVER, ACTION ST. FRANÇOIS IS ALWAYS MORE THAN HAPPY TO ACCEPT DONATIONS FROM PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS.



LETS DO IT



OUR SEASON OF CLEAN-UP OPERATIONS HAS BEGUN. SINCE MAY 14, 1994, FOUR TONNES OF DEBRIS HAS BEEN REMOVED FROM TWO STREAMS. THIRTY SIX PEOPLE, GENEROUSLY AND ENTHUSIASTICALLY, PARTICIPATED. WOULD YOU ALSO LIKE TO PARTICIPATE? USUALLY, THE CLEANUPS TAKE PLACE ON SATURDAYS BETWEEN 9 A.M. AND NOON. A PAIR OF BOOTS, WORK GLOVES, A LIGHT SNACK AND LOTS OF ENERGY IS ALL YOU NEED TO HELP RESTORE A WATERWAY TO ITS PREVIOUS BEAUTY. IN ORDER TO FIND OUT THE KINDS AND SCHEDULES FOR FUTURE OPERATIONS AND SIGN-UP FOR THOSE WHICH INTEREST YOU, CONTACT THE ACTION ST. FRANÇOIS OFFICE AT (819) 563-5362. WE WILL BE HAPPY TO ANSWERS YOUR INQUIRIES. SEE-YOU SOON!



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AUGUST 1992 SAW THE BIRTH OF ACTION ST. FRANÇOIS, A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION BRINGING TOGETHER CITIZENS WHO ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE QUALITY OF OUR ENVIRONMENT. THE MAIN GOALS OF OUR ORGANIZATION ARE TWO-FOLD: FIRSTLY, TO REHABILITATE AND RESTORE, TO THEIR NATURAL STATE, THE WATERWAYS, BANKS AND FLOODPLAINS OF THE ST. FRANÇOIS RIVER WATERSHED AND SECONDLY, TO CONSERVE AND PROTECT SAID ECOSYSTEM. WE HAVE BEGUN A STREAM CLEAN-UP PROGRAM AND WILL BE INITIATING A PROGRAM OF EROSION CONTROL. WE WILL ALSO BEGIN TO REPLANT THE BANKS AND FLOODPLAINS WITH INDIGENOUS SPECIES ENCOMPASSING THE RANGE OF PLANT LIFE NATIVE TO THE REGION WHEREVER POSSIBLE. IN THE AREA OF CONSERVATION, OUR GROUP IS HOPING TO MOTIVATE AS MANY RESIDENTS AS POSSIBLE TO TAKE PART IN THE PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF THIS PRECIOUS WATER SYSTEM. OUR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE IS \$25.00 AND PLEASE DON'T HESITATE TO CALL US AT (819) 563-5362.