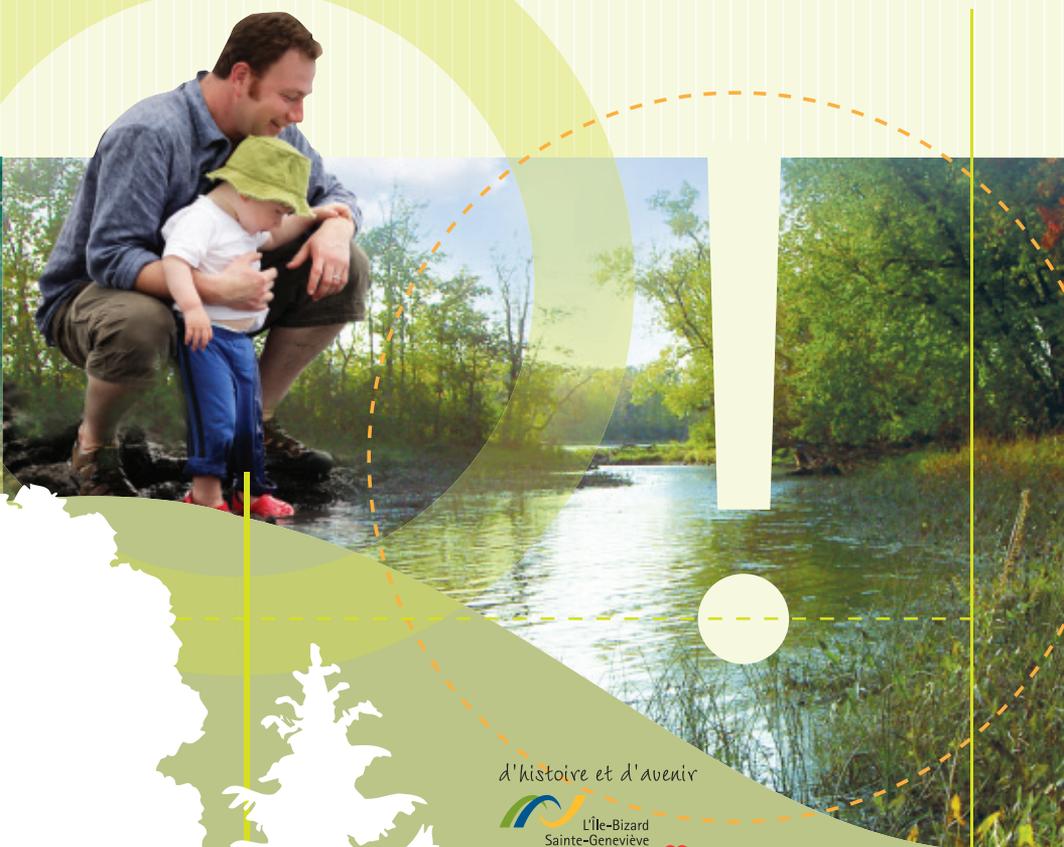


# Keeping our **Distance** *Protecting our shores*



d'histoire et d'avenir

  
L'Île-Bizard  
Sainte-Geneviève  
**Montréal** 



# The Borough of L'Île-Bizard – Sainte-Geneviève:

- › Six islands
- › More than 500 waterside properties
- › Close to 35 km of shoreline
- › Over 350,000 m<sup>2</sup> of waterside land to be protected.

Mindful of the need to protect the environment, the Borough of L'Île-Bizard–Sainte-Geneviève enforces the laws and regulations governing the protection of watercourses.

**But we can't do it without you.**





Photo : Yves Leblanc

Lakes, rivers and streams have always attracted humans, who settled waterfronts first for practical reasons of transport and domestic requirements. Later, a quest for quiet, space and nearness to nature also drew people to the waterside.



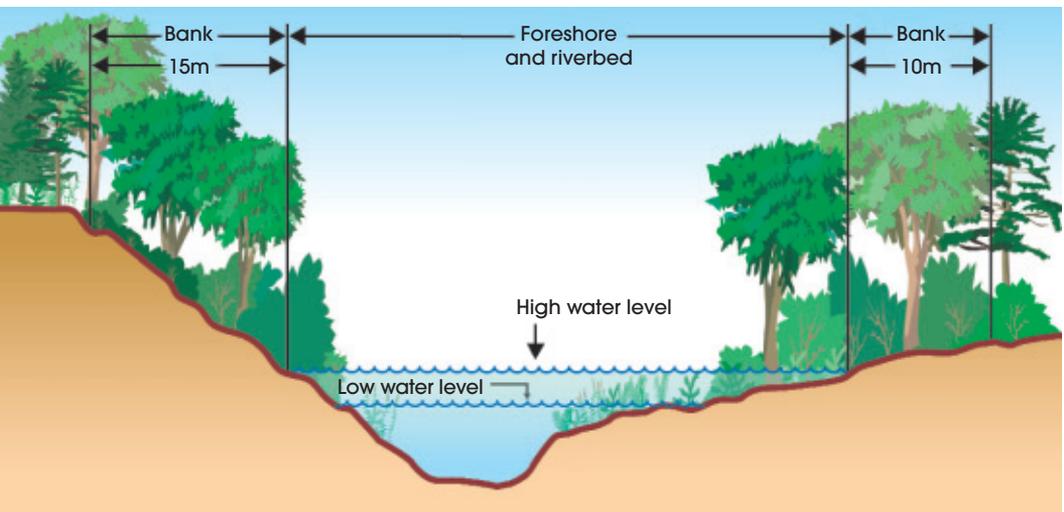
### Actions hostile to nature:

- › shores and banks were cleared, filled in, grassed over, and even walled
- › artificial beaches were created
- › wastewater was discharged into the water.

### Harmful consequences

- › deterioration and premature aging of bodies of water
- › excessive proliferation of algae
- › degradation of water quality
- › hazards to health
- › ongoing erosion of riverbanks
- › decrease in market value of properties





## The bank and foreshore of rivers and lakes work for you!

### **1 Natural windbreak:**

Waterside vegetation protects your home from wind damage.

### **2 Landscape effect:**

Waterside vegetation along imparts natural beauty to the landscape and helps increase the value of your property.

### **3 Regulator of water levels:**

By retaining and evaporating a part of rainwater and snowmelt, waterside vegetation also reduces flood risk.

### **4 Solar screen:**

Trees shade the water against excessive heating, limiting algae growth.

### **5 Pollution filter:**

The vegetation traps some of the fertilizers, pesticides and sediments present in runoff water, preventing premature aging of bodies of water.

### **6 Bulwark against erosion:**

The vegetation stabilizes banks and shores, keeps sand from covering spawning grounds, and prevents loss of land.

### **7 Agent of biological diversification:**

Lakes, streams and rivers provide wildlife with habitat, food and shelter. They constitute a valuable heritage for observing nature, and for fishing and hunting.

## A few definitions:

### Foreshore:

That part of lakes and watercourses defined as below the high water line.

### Bank or shore:

Band of land 10 to 15 metres wide along lakes and watercourses immediately above the high water line.

### High water line:

Line delimiting the boundary between the foreshore and the shore or riverbank, where a predominance of aquatic plants gives way to a predominance of terrestrial plants.



## Before doing work, enquire!

The official policy of the Provincial Government on the protection of banks, shores, foreshores and flood plains was adopted with the purpose of protecting and restoring bodies of water. It covers all lakes and watercourses, large or small, of permanent or intermittent flow, artificial or natural, and all ditches draining more than two lots.

This policy, enforced through the application of municipal bylaws, prohibits the building of structures or works or doing work on shores, banks or the foreshore, with certain exceptions.

Before undertaking any work that might destroy or modify the vegetative cover of banks and shores, that would bare the soil or affect stability, or that would encroach on the foreshore, authorization must be obtained from the *Direction de l'aménagement urbain et des services aux entreprises*. It is important that you check which municipal bylaws apply to your property.

Other laws and regulations may also govern development alongside bodies of water and require additional authorizations, such as the Act Respecting the Conservation and Development of Wildlife under the jurisdiction of the *Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune*.

**Be sure to obtain the necessary authorizations**

## On banks, shores and foreshores

### You are permitted:

- ✓ to create an access to a watercourse, provided the following restrictions are observed:
  - when bank has a low slope, an opening width not exceeding 5 metres
  - when the bank has a steep slope, a stairway at an angle to the embankment, and a visual window in the screen of vegetation not exceeding 5 metres
- ✓ to build a floating wharf or one on posts or piles
- ✓ to undertake stabilization works.

### You are not permitted:

- ✗ to create a channel, or to dig or infill
- ✗ to build dams or dykes
- ✗ to erect any structure or execute any works
- ✗ to undertake any filling or excavation work
- ✗ to fell trees
- ✗ to add sand
- ✗ to make a vehicular lane or a boat slipway.

## Improvement of river and stream quality doesn't take rocket science!

› Plant shrubs and trees or seed with plants. However, it is even better to let nature take its course.

### **Lawns are banned.**

› Leave a few dead trees; they give shelter and sustenance to animals and birds.

› Stabilize degraded banks using vegetative construction techniques.

› Maintain the natural state of the bank or foreshore without recourse to fertilizers and pesticides.



Source: Québec *Ministère du Développement durable, Environnement et Parcs*

For more information , please contact the *Direction de l'aménagement urbain et des services aux entreprises* of the Borough at **514 620-6607**, or visit our Website:

 [ville.montreal.qc.ca/ibsg](http://ville.montreal.qc.ca/ibsg)

You may also visit the Website of the Québec *Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs*:  
[www.mddep.gouv.qc.ca](http://www.mddep.gouv.qc.ca)



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