



# David Graham

Summer 2017

Member of Parliament for Laurentides—Labelle

*FROM HERE, FOR HERE*



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/daviddegraham

*No stamp is needed to send mail to any federal Member of Parliament*

## AT YOUR SERVICE

My team and I are **at your service!** You are always welcome at one of our **three offices**. Do not hesitate to contact us, to send us your questions or comments.

There are many ways we can help:

- **Employment Insurance**
- **Canada Child Benefit**
- **Citizenship and Immigration**
- **The Canada Pension Plan**
- **Guaranteed Income Supplement**
- **Any other federal file or service**

We are also available to help citizens connect with the government, support **community initiatives**, and celebrate special anniversaries and civic acts or honorable mentions.

See you soon!

## RURAL ISSUES

Shortly after becoming your Member of Parliament, I got to work on rural issues. I founded the National Liberal Rural Caucus which today has over fifty paid-up Liberal Members of Parliament from all across rural Canada. We meet weekly to discuss rural issues so that we can unite our voices to be heard at the national level. I recently traveled to Sept-Îles and Baie-Comeau to continue bringing together rural riders and to discuss the issues we share with local business and community leaders. Internet access and cellphone service are among the most significant issues across all of rural Canada. Our government is making substantial investments in upgrading those services. Last fall, I had an opportunity to discuss rural issues with the Prime Minister, at the end of which I offered him a dozen eggs from our family's chickens:



"Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the member for Laurentides—Labelle ... for his tireless work on rural issues."

- Rt Hon. Justin Trudeau

Question Period, April 12th, 2017

## A WORD FROM DAVID

This summer, Canada is celebrating the 150th anniversary of our confederation. It does not mark the beginning of our history, nor come close to covering everything that has happened in our country, but it does give us an opportunity to reflect on what we have.

Our environment is, of course, of utmost importance. Without it, not much else matters. In our region, this is best exemplified through water management. While Internet access and cell phone service remain the number one priority for me and my team, protecting our lakes and waterways is number two, within the larger frame of protecting our environment.

Jurisdiction over our waterways is very complicated. Navigable water comes under federal responsibility. Non-navigable does not. What is man-made in water is generally federal. What is natural in the water is generally provincial. The shoreline is municipal or regional, and provincial up to the high-water mark. A vessel bypassing municipal controls at the shore and getting into the water becomes federal. Enforcement is almost entirely provincial, however municipalities can also assume some of that responsibility, although generally at great expense. Most of this division of jurisdiction is laid out in the constitution. On top of that, going back to Confederation, federal policy has been based, not on protecting the water, but on protecting navigation. Thus, the two pieces of federal legislation that affect our lakes and rivers are the Canada Shipping Act and the Navigation Protection Act, putting water under Transport Canada rather than Environment Canada. Bringing sense to this is the main thrust of my interventions on this subject.

The net result of this complex system is that it is up to us, collectively, to take care of our waterways. In the Laurentians, environmental awareness is well-established. Our residents understand how important it is to take care of and respect nature. Lake associations, watershed groups and municipalities all take on an active, even proactive, role in this, and I thank all of you who are involved. According to Anne Léger, the executive director of the Laurentian regional environment council, our region boasts one of the greatest concentrations of active lake associations in Quebec. This is not surprising given the great number of lakes that have been studied and followed through provincial programs to evaluate and monitor lakes such as the RSVL (Réseau de surveillance volontaire des lacs). See the note at the bottom of page 3 for more information.



*Like many Lake Associations, the one on Lac-des-Îles is working hard to ensure people are aware of Eurasian Watermilfoil*

While some communities have succeeded in getting through the arduous process of implementing regulations, for most, we are on what can best be described as the honour system. There are three things you can do on your own initiative:

First, please ensure that everything that goes in the water, from the smallest kayaks and pedal boats to the largest yachts, and even seaplanes, are **thoroughly cleaned** – including inside any ballast tanks – **before going in the water** and when moving from one waterway to another. Milfoil – explained in depth on page 4 – transfers too easily: a small chunk the size of a dime is sufficient. There is no known cure once it is in a lake.

Second, ensure that **any boat used in a given lake or waterway is used appropriately**. For example, according to current research, wake boats are fine if they are kept from creating wakesurf within 300 metres of shore or in water less than 5 metres deep. Within those ranges, though, they contribute significantly to washing away the shoreline and turning up lakebed sediment, both of which cause significant and sometimes irreparable damage to the greatest asset we have in our region: our lakes and waterways.

And third, if you are on or near a lake, **join your lake association** if there is one, and, if not, start one.

Together, we can ensure that our lakes and waterways, and the tourist industry that depends on them, is there for the next generations to enjoy.

*Background image courtesy: Association de protection du Lac-des-Îles*

## A TEAM DEDICATED TO THE COMMUNITY

Hugo Paquette Chloée Alary Luc Lefebvre Cristina Lapaz Jules Chiasson



**DAVID GRAHAM, DÉPUTÉ**  
LAURENTIDES — LABELLE

*Ce bulletin est également disponible en français*



## CELEBRATIONS IN THE RIDING

There are many events across the riding to mark the 150th anniversary of Canadian Confederation and Canada Day. I invite you to get involved and celebrate the work of numerous volunteer organisations!

- *Canada Day*: July 1st; Place Lagny in Sainte-Agathe-des-Monts
- *Canada Day*: July 1st; Beaven Creek Park (2 Chemin du Village) in Arundel
- *Canada Day*: July 1st; La Macaza Town Hall
- *Canada Day*: June 30th to July 2nd; Tremblant Resort
- *Manitou Festival*; July 14th to July 16th; Domaine St-Bernard in Mont-Tremblant (celebration of Indigenous cultures)
- *Unveiling of a Canada 150 mural* during the Mont-Tremblant Half Marathon on August 13th
- *Unveiling of a historic mural* at Gilles-Paiement Park in L'Ascension (autumn)
- *Celebrating Canada's 150th* on the Aerobic Corridor Park September 15th and 16th (Huberdeau—Arundel—Amherst—Montcalm)

The Government of Canada is a partner in many of these events. Heritage Canada is contributing a total of \$205,415.

## A CONSTITUENCY FULL OF INSPIRING PEOPLE!

You know about inspiring people and projects in the community.  
Share your admiration! Tell us about them!



School visits to Canada's parliament and museums in the national capital are always worthwhile. On May 10th, students from 4th, 5th, and 6th grades at *Mgr Ovide-Charlebois* elementary school in **Sainte-Marguerite-du-Lac-Masson** impressed me very much with their attention and curiosity. It was with great pleasure that I was able to welcome them into the House of Commons chamber, thanks to the support of the Lac Masson Optimist Club.

*Centre Block, the building we know as Parliament, will close for several years for major renovation work starting in 2018.*



*La Popote roulante (Meals on Wheels)* is a meaningful service that delivers meals to seniors in their homes. These deliveries also offer a chance to share news. Passionate volunteers, as in this photo, prepare and deliver balanced meals each week. I had the privilege of participating as a driver on March 28th at the **Centre d'Action Bénévole Laurentides** in Sainte-Agathe-des-Monts.



The *Cercles des Fermières* play an important role in the preservation of our cultural and craft heritage. Our riding has eight such groups. I salute the work, dynamism, and passion of the *Cercles des Fermières du Québec*, represented here by the **Saint-Faustin-Lac-Carré** chapter.



Last fall, La Minerve inaugurated **Le Petit musée et Galerie d'Art (the Little Museum and Art Gallery)** in the former Caisse Populaire building, intended to preserve local history. Congratulations to La Minerve residents and the instigator of the project, Linda Durand, for this cultural attraction!

**Ronald Labonté**, Saint-Sauveur's parish priest, has been in that post for 50 years. On May 7th, in honour of the anniversary of his ordination and to recognise his contribution to the community, there was a lunch celebration. Labonté has been involved in many things including bringing in Syrian refugees. I had the pleasure here of being with both Father Labonté and René Bourgeault, president of the Saint-Sauveur parish.



This May, **Notre-Dame-du-Laus** opened its new town library. I had the opportunity to tour it with these three fabulous volunteer librarians: Sylvie Huneault, Guylaine Longpré, and Jacqueline Dessureaux, ahead of the town's 6th Book Fair, which saw over 1,300 visitors!



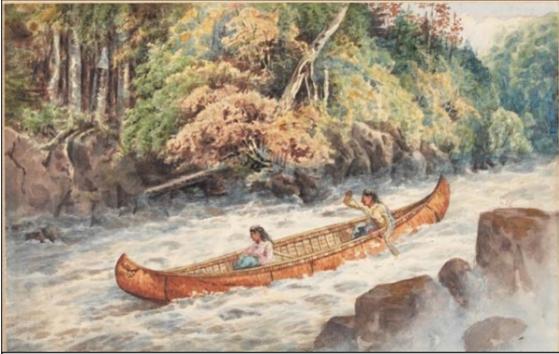
In February, **Kiamika** held a pleasant breakfast to raise funds for sports facilities in the town. I salute this type of initiative that contributes to the quality of life in our community!

Conscious of the plight of the planet's poorest, many citizens are members of **Development and Peace**. On the 12th of February in Mont-Laurier, there was a community spaghetti lunch with Monseigneur Paul Lortie to celebrate 50 years of this Catholic movement. The organisers provided over 400 postcards to the Prime Minister signed by citizens calling on us to act on climate change and world starvation.



## KNOWING OUR REGION: *OF LAKES AND RIVERS*

There is an old adage that goes: *we need to know where we come from to know where we are going*. I love my country and am passionate about discovering the origins of places and the people who made them. So I invited my father, local historian **Joseph Graham**, to tell us a bit about the history of our region. Over the next few years you will receive many more of this type of communications and as often as possible I will include a section on our history. If you have any historical subjects that you would like to learn more about, let us know! Enjoy the read!



**Traveling in a birchbark canoe**  
Source : John B. Wilkinson / LIBRARY and ARCHIVES Canada / C-150276

Open waters and fish have been central to our lives back to the earliest inhabitants of the multitude of rivers that served as transport routes from Quebec City to Lake Huron.

Trout were plentiful in the lakes, rivers and streams here, and many of our lake names commemorate their varieties. Following the current, the Weskarinis, the indigenous people of the region, came across the ouananiche, part trout, part salmon, as they neared the larger waterways. The Lièvre, Rouge, Petite Nation and North rivers served as their transport routes as well as an important source of protein. In fact, the principal protein in the Wendat (Huron) diet was fish, not meat.

When European settlers spread into the area, they used the rivers to float logs down, originally for the navies and then for mills. The logs came from pine forests, nurtured and inhabited for centuries by the Weskarinis and their ancestors. Farmers moved up the rivers establishing themselves on the fertile banks, maintaining open fields, changing the water flow. The river beds were disturbed, but the fish survived and sports fishing began. In 1884, the government declared that any land ceded for farming along minor waterways had to respect a servitude of three chains (about 60.3 metres) from the high water mark to allow access for this new sport.

At the same time, mills were built along the rivers, and dams to control the flow of water were stopping the free passage of fish. In his History of Argenteuil, Cyrus Thomas recounted how in the 1820s a Mr. Clark drowned while waiting for the mill in Lachute to grind his grain. He “went to fish for salmon, which were then to be had below the dam...” Each successive generation has adjusted to new norms of reduced fish, as though stepping down a staircase one generation at the time.

Dr. Edmond Grignon, author of the 1912 history of Ste. Agathe, alerted us that the mills were partly responsible for the disappearance of the abundant fish and that the region’s reputation as a fisherman’s paradise was at risk. Minnows of other varieties, he continued, brought in as bait fish, escaped into the waters and consumed trout eggs.

Canada’s first airline, Laurentian Air Services, subsequently Wheeler Air, began by flying fishermen and hunters out of Lake Ouimet in St. Jovite in 1929. The fisherman’s paradise was already moving to the farther reaches. Fred de Leeuw, who joined the firm in 1957, described flying into a string of camps all the way to James Bay. Motorboats were also beginning to ply the waters, bringing along a new kind of skiing. Lakes had become the centrepiece of the Laurentian Playground and the larger ones drew people from the world’s capitals.



**Lac des Sables, Sainte-Agathe-des-Monts in 1955**  
Source : BANQ; Fonds ministère de la Culture, des Communications et de la Condition féminine; E6,S7,SSI,D205939 À 205946

Today, the mills are gone and the ouananiche are forgotten. Many have tried to clean things up, but each generation takes a single step of that staircase, wanting the river to be put back to the way it was when they were younger. The top step is too far back for anyone to remember. Today, few dams serve an economic purpose and the forests are coming back in protected waterfront areas. We can look back up the staircase to the top and imagine the gigantic pine forests and rivers teeming with trout while we work together to decide what we want our children and grandchildren to inherit.

- Joseph Graham

### THE HEALTH OF OUR LAKES ACCORDING TO THE LAURENTIAN REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL (CRE)

What is the state of health of the lakes in our region? This is a question without a simple answer. There are many factors to consider before we can come to any clear conclusions. Fortunately, our territory is under careful monitoring by volunteers who collect a lot of data in order to resolve this mystery. There are 165 lakes in the area that are actively followed, mainly by lake associations, in the *Réseau de surveillance volontaire des lacs* (RSVL), or the Volunteer Lake Monitoring Network, in the provincial department of Sustainable Development, Environment, and the Fight Against Climate Change (MDDELCC). More than 60% of lakes tracked in the Laurentians and around one quarter of all lakes tracked in Quebec are in our riding.

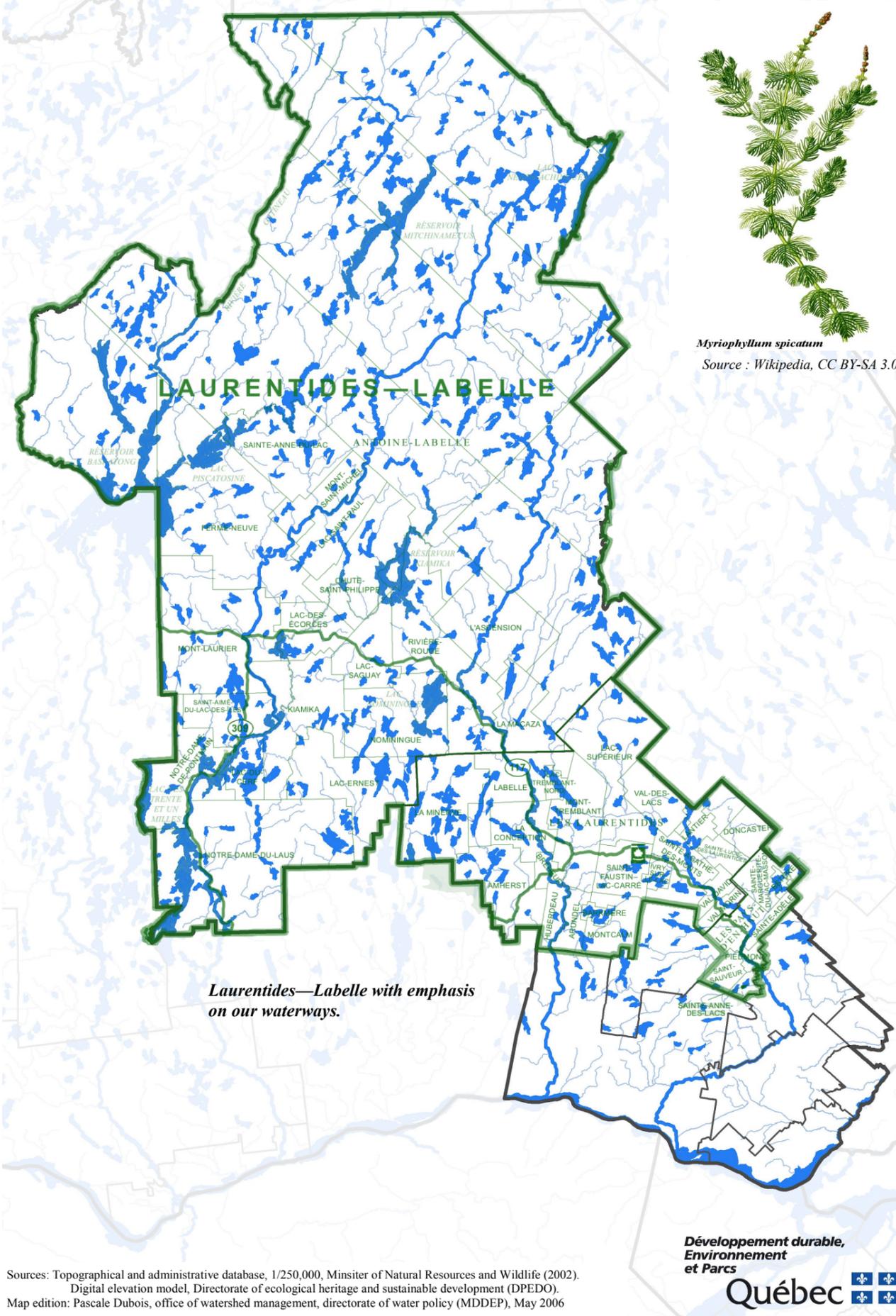
This information helps create a global picture, and these lakes are generally in good enough health. However, many indicators show degradation around the lakes mainly due to human activity. These lakes are just beginning to be evaluated via new tools created by RSVL and the Regional Environment Council (CRE), among others. Do not underestimate the significance of plants and algae as an indication of lake aging. Our lakes are not immune to the introduction of exotic or invasive species. According to the Laurentian CRE, around 40 lakes in the riding have been infected with eurasian watermilfoil, an exotic invasive plant that is causing great concern. It is a problem that requires a great deal of attention and is an issue to follow.

- Anne Léger, Executive Director, CRE Laurentides

# A RIDING RICH WITH THOUSANDS OF LAKES AND RIVERS

How many lakes are in the 43 municipalities and the non-organised territories of Laurentides—Labelle? It is hard to say exactly. According to the Regional Environment Council (CRE), the administrative region of the Laurentians has 8,133 lakes larger than 0.01 km<sup>2</sup>, or one hectare, excluding those in the non-organised territories. In the Antoine-Labelle MRC, responsible for most of the non-organised territories, there are an estimated 4,500 lakes and rivers. As these non-organised territories represent roughly half the riding, we can extrapolate that there are between 5,000 to 10,000 lakes in the riding!

According to several sources, including the Laurentian Lake Atlas, a reference tool developed by the CRE's team, the ten biggest lakes in the riding are: Basketong reservoir, between Ferme-Neuve, Mont-Laurier, and Grand-Remous at 413 km<sup>2</sup>; Mitchinamecus reservoir in the non-organised territory of Lac-Oscar at 66.7 km<sup>2</sup>; Lac du Poisson-Blanc in Notre-Dame-du-Laus at 52.8 km<sup>2</sup>; Kiamika reservoir between Chute-Saint-Philippe, Rivière-Rouge, and Lac-Saguay at 52.1 km<sup>2</sup>; Lac des 31 Milles between Notre-Dame-de-Pontmain and Sainte-Thérèse-de-la-Gatineau at 49.7 km<sup>2</sup>; Lac Piscatosine between Ferme-Neuve and Sainte-Anne-du-Lac at 36.2 km<sup>2</sup>; Grand Lac Nomingue in Nomingue at 22.1 km<sup>2</sup>; Lac des Îles between Saint-Aimé-du-Lac-des-Îles and Mont-Laurier at 16.3 km<sup>2</sup>; Lac Tremblant between Mont-Tremblant and Lac-Tremblant-Nord at 9.7 km<sup>2</sup>; and Lac Labelle in La Minerve and Labelle at 7.9 km<sup>2</sup>.



Sources: Topographical and administrative database, 1/250,000, Minsiter of Natural Resources and Wildlife (2002).  
Digital elevation model, Directorate of ecological heritage and sustainable development (DPEDO).  
Map edition: Pascale Dubois, office of watershed management, directorate of water policy (MDDEP), May 2006

## EURASIAN WATERMILFOIL: AN INVASIVE SPECIES

Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) is a strong plant; that is, one that, once present, survives in the ecosystem and returns year after year. It reproduces by fragmentation; one small piece of only five centimetres can produce a 1.2 metre plant in just one season. In a few short years, a single plant can produce 250,000,000 new plants!

The fragmentation of the plant can happen naturally, but it is principally caused by human activity. It is impossible to completely eradicate this plant, but it is possible to slow down its growth. In our riding, many groups working to protect our water are investing time and money in this fight. Besides installing burlap cloth on affected lakebeds, marking infected areas with buoys and conducting operations to rip out the plants by their roots, it is raising awareness and prevention that are most common, most importantly through warning of the **importance of washing boats** before putting them into a lake.

Being realistic is not alarmist; eurasian watermilfoil poses a threat to our lakes. What will happen to our lakes if it continues to spread? What will the impact be on our activities and our quality of life, not to mention on property values?

It is why prevention is the best option, and collaboration is the best prevention!

### THE NAMES OF OUR LAKES

According to the Lake Atlas, there are, in the Laurentians, among others:

Lac Brochet ( <i>Pike Lake</i> ) .....	7
Lac Rond ( <i>Round Lake</i> ) .....	6
Lac Clair ( <i>Clear Lake</i> ) .....	6
Lac à la Truite ( <i>Trout Lake</i> ) .....	6
Lac Long ( <i>Long Lake</i> ) .....	4
Lac Croche ( <i>Crooked Lake</i> ) .....	3

### SPECIES UNIQUE IN THE COUNTRY

In Lac des Écorces, in a municipality of the same name, there is the only known population of **Spring Cisco in Canada!** This lake offers a habitat favourable to this particular threatened fish species. The *Lièvre River Watershed Committee* (COBALI) has documented this and created informational tools in collaboration with Environment Canada.



Image: Fisheries and Oceans Canada

### COMMENTS ON OUR WATERWAYS OR OTHER SUBJECTS

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
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### WATERWAY MANAGEMENT

Do we need to do more to control boats on our waterways?

YES       NO

Are you concerned about Eurasian watermilfoil in our lakes?

YES       NO

*Thank you for your input. Please note that while I personally read every comment, with the volume of correspondence received it is not always possible to respond individually. Thank you!*  
- David

*No stamp required*

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In order to protect the confidentiality of your responses, you may also put this response card in an envelope without a stamp or address, marked simply:  
**David Graham, MP**