



Forillon  
National Park

Parc national  
Forillon



## 2016 Year in Review



Parks  
Canada

Parcs  
Canada

Canada



# Full Speed Ahead

It's been a year to remember at Forillon National Park—surging attendance, massive infrastructure investments, new interpretive activities, popular events, renewed partnerships with groups in the community, and much more.

We at the park threw ourselves mind, body, and soul into our shared tasks—safeguarding the natural and cultural treasures you've entrusted to us, providing authentic and uplifting ways to experience the park, boosting attendance, and joining actively in the forward progress of this beautiful area.

And so it gives me great pleasure to present you with this overview of our plans, projects, and successes of 2016 at Forillon National Park.

Thank you for coming out to the park in such numbers this year. To us that means we're appreciated. It gives our work real meaning.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to wish you all the best of the holiday season, on behalf of all of us at Forillon! Health, love, good times, and joy in 2017!

Happy reading!

Stéphane Marchand, Director



CANADA 150

**Did you know?  
Admission to  
Canada's national  
parks will be free  
in 2017!**

Parks Canada invites you to join us in celebrating the 150th anniversary of Confederation in 2017! Admission will be free at all of Canada's national parks, historic sites, and marine conservation areas—all year long. If you're looking for adventure, family fun, or a just a break from the daily grind, you'll find it at over 200 amazing places from sea to sea!



# Priorities for 2016

# 1.

## Protecting the treasures we share



### Restoring Cap-des-Rosiers Beach

A new kind of project carried out in close collaboration with Université du Québec à Rimouski (UQAR), not just to bring back the beach for swimming and recreation but also to restore coastal habitat for all kinds of wildlife and vegetation.

It's the first time researchers have studied what happens after shoreline riprap is removed. Little Canadian or global documentation currently exists at all on such projects.

Positive effects are already showing up, as in our capelin spawn monitoring. Capelin is an important forage fish—numerous fish and seabird species depend on them for food. In the part of the beach now cleared of riprap, the natural beach profile has returned and the capelins have returned to spawn. The capelin roll was back in 2016 as the fish deposited their eggs on the beach. Great news!



### Forillon and Erosion

If you still have any doubt about climate change, check out *Forillon tackles the challenge of coastal erosion* and *Forillon adapts to coastal erosion*, two new videos on our website, [pc.gc.ca/forillon](http://pc.gc.ca/forillon).

You'll see the effect climate change is having on Forillon National Park and learn about Parks Canada plans for protecting our coastal environments so everyone can continue to benefit from them for a long time to come.





## Bats Below the Radar

Things are getting desperate for bats in Canada. Populations of three species are currently in dramatic decline: the little brown bat, the long-eared bat, and the tri-coloured bat.

Bats play a key ecological role because of their voracious appetite for bugs. They control the number of insects (including the ones that bite you) so farmers can reduce their use of chemical insecticides, which reduces soil and water pollution.

This year we conducted a bat count in the park. The ultrasound sensors we used could do more than just find bats, they could usually even tell us what species they were. Estimates of the number of species and how active they are can help us assess the status of bat populations in the park.

If you see a bat in the park, please report it to a member of the park staff or call 1-888-773-8888.



## Healthy Bird Colonies

Seven different seabird species nest in Forillon's cliffs, and the park's black-legged kittiwake colony is the biggest in Eastern Canada.

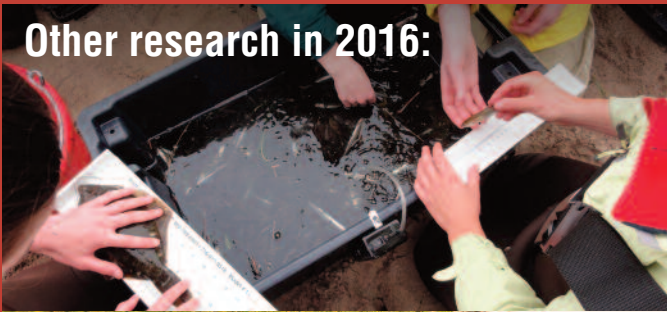
This year we conducted a seabird count. We do this twice every five years together with the Canadian Wildlife Service. It lets us track the status of our colonies of black-legged kittiwakes, razorbills, common murres, black guillemots, double-crested cormorants, herring gulls, and great black-backed gulls.

The results? Although we found fewer nesting pairs of black-legged kittiwakes, numbers for razorbills, cormorants, common murres, and herring gulls are either stable or rising. On the whole, our experts judged Forillon's seabird colonies in fine fettle. Just what we like to hear!





## Other research in 2016:



- **Ecological Integrity Monitoring Program:** The program consists of surveys to track carnivore populations, fish communities, benthic invertebrates, river and stream temperatures, eelgrass beds off Penouille, commercial lobster fishing, forest stand composition, and more.



- **Ongoing black bear population study:** Last year we undertook a joint study with UQAR (Université du Québec à Rimouski) to test out new population survey methods. The results should give us an estimate of how many black bears we have in the park. The two methods we're testing and comparing are hair snagging with DNA tests and camera trapping. Stay tuned!
- **Identity test for Maritime ringlets:** The Maritime ringlet is a small, endangered butterfly species found in salt marshes. It's very difficult to be sure that a given butterfly really is a Maritime ringlet because it has a near-twin, the common ringlet. But we'll find out for sure if the butterflies we have are Maritime ringlets with DNA testing..

## CULTURAL TREASURES



## Protecting the Fort Peninsula Heritage Site

Fort Peninsula is an emotionally charged remnant of the former navy base at Gaspé, a key Canadian military stronghold during the Second World War. It's the only fully intact Second World War shore battery in Quebec that's open to the public.

The Gaspé naval base opened in May 1942 and was tasked both with escorting Allied ships in the St. Lawrence and protecting Gaspé Bay, which had been designated as a refuge for part of the Allied fleet if ever Great Britain fell to Nazi Germany. The whole military complex included the naval base proper—HMCS Ramsay—with three shore batteries (Fort Peninsula, Fort Haldimand, and Fort Prével), an enormous anti-submarine net to keep German submarines out of Gaspé Bay, and a fleet of 19 warships.

Work to fix up Fort Peninsula began this year with a budget of \$1.3 million and will include wooden and concrete wall reinforcement, surface touch-ups, and trail improvements.



## Fascinating Archaeological Finds

Archaeologists worked in various parts of the park as part of our investment projects. Preventive research was conducted at Penouille, Fort Peninsula, Route 132, Petit-Gaspé campground, and of course Cap-des-Rosiers Beach.

They dug trial trenches and supervised ongoing work to ensure that infrastructure works will not disturb or damage material of archaeological interest.

Among their findings were pre-Columbian artifacts on Penouille, such as blank flakes and tools fragments.

Cap des Rosiers yielded human bones and eight complete skeletons near the Irish monument. It's still too early to know if they're connected to the 1847 wreck of the Carricks, but the skeletons will be comprehensively analyzed in the hope of finding out. Watch for further developments.



## Five Second-World-War Shipwrecks

This year we hosted a team from the Interdisciplinary Centre for the Development of Ocean Mapping (CIDCO) for the *Experience the Battle of the St. Lawrence through Shipwrecks* project. They were here to pinpoint the locations of five merchant ships torpedoed by German submarines off Forillon in September 1942. The recollections of Guy Sainte Croix, a retired fisher from Cap-des-Rosiers, were a great help to researchers in finding two of them. Thank you, Mr. Sainte Croix, for your assistance!



### Torpedo Attacks off the Coast of Cap des Rosiers

Our new video, *The Battle of the St. Lawrence at the Doorstep of Forillon* recounts this little-known episode in the history of our area. Two eye witnesses, Gérald Giasson and Guy Sainte Croix, tell us how they remember it all. Don't miss it! [pc.gc.ca/forillon](http://pc.gc.ca/forillon)



# Awesome experiences

## Two new VIP Adventures

Our VIP Adventures are available on reservation to groups of up to 10 looking for a more in-depth experience of a particular wonder of Forillon. Our moose adventure, a four-hour hike through moose country, was such a hit on its trial run in fall 2015 that we brought it back this year along with two more adventures along the same lines:



***The Dance of the Birds***  
(Bal des oiseaux, French only): An introduction to Forillon's sea and forest birds in a three-hour adventure. Held in June to take advantage of the season when Forillon's birds are at their most active.

***Paddle by Moonlight*** (Pagaie au clair de lune, French only): Exploring Penouille's marine environment by night on a paddleboard that glows. A two-hour experience—all equipment supplied—with a certified guide and an enthusiastic park interpreter. Paddles by Moonlight were held in partnership with Écorécréo, in July and August.



## 2.

## Attracting more visitors



## New talks and learning activities



- *Fisherfolk, Unite!* (*Pêcheurs, unissez-vous!*, in French): Join us as the fishers lay siege to the Hyman & Sons store to demand better prices for their catch.
- *The Ocean Knows, the Devil Might Guess—or Not!* (*La mer le sait, le diable s'en doute... ou pas!*, in French): Hot on the success of our two new traditional campfire tales, Forillon brought a third to the evening program this summer.
- *The Blanchette's Barn Gets Going* (*La grange Blanchette s'anime*, in French): A rollicking blend of songs, traditional music and theatre to celebrate the wealth and zest of Gaspé heritage. A little square dance with that?
- *The Humpback Whale's Harrowing Adventure* (*La périlleuse aventure de la baleine à bosse*, in French): A new talk on the life and travels of a humpback whale and her calf in the course of a year.
- *Forillon Under the Stars* (*Forillon sous les étoiles*, in French): The absence of light pollution makes Forillon an ideal place for contemplating the splendours of the heavens.
- *Battle of the St. Lawrence Shipwrecks* (*Les épaves de la Bataille du Saint-Laurent*): Recent soundings have revealed the position of five wrecked ships torpedoed by German submarines off Forillon during World War II.

## Milk and Bone at Sunrise

An audience of 700 were out on the Cap Bon Ami cliffs at 5 a.m., August 14, falling under the spell of Laurence Lafond-Beaulne and Camille Poliquin's lush voices and hypnotic melodies.

The sunrise concert was presented in partnership with Festival Musique du Bout du Monde and played to a sell-out crowd again this year. This event has become a Festival flagship and a fixture on every music-lover's summer schedule. Something everyone should experience once (at least) in their lives!







## First running of the Ultra-Trail du Bout du Monde

The Forillon Ultra-Trail du Bout du Monde trail race, presented in partnership with Land's End Expedition Racing, took place on September 23 and 24. Nearly 250 runners from Quebec, the Maritimes, and the United States took part. There were six courses—for families as well as for beginning, intermediate, and expert runners.

The verdict was unanimous—Forillon is a fantastic place for trail running! Trails featured nice changes in elevation with spectacular views of seashores, woods, meadows, and cliffs. See you next year!

## The most beautiful classroom around

We welcomed over 400 school kids this year from Gaspé, Rivière-au-Renard, L'Anse-au-Griffon, Belle-Anse, and even Caplan.

Our budding explorers had a blast getting to know Forillon—from forest wildlife to prehistoric fossils and archaeological remains—with the help of our enthusiastic interpreters. Talk about it with any teachers you know.



## Penouille Through Time

We finished installing the *Penouille Through Time* modules at the end of the peninsula by the service building. They highlight Penouille's fascinating history with a focus on three periods: pre-Columbian times, the cod fishery of New France, and 19th-century whaling.





## Also new in 2016

- **Yoga, aquafit, and other new aquatic activities** took place at the recreation centre pool.
- Over on Penouille, Écorécréo had **electric scooters** and single and double **sit-on-top kayaks**. There was even “**Happy Hour SUP**” for people to take out a stand-up paddleboard to watch the sunset.
- Also on Penouille, we set off **two special kitesurfing areas**. The popularity of kitesurfing just keeps going up, and Gaspé Bay is the ideal place for it.
- Did you make it to Dutch artist Hanne van der Woude’s moving Emmy’s World at Grande-Grave for the **Gaspésie International Photography Festival** (Rencontres internationales de la photographie en Gaspésie)?

## Room for all



### Micro-Cube, mega comfort!

Parks Canada tested several new types of accommodations all across the country in summer 2016.

And so the Micro-Cube made its debut at Forillon National Park. **Micro-Cubes** are miniature hotel rooms, each with a double bed, two chairs, and a table—in the middle of the woods.

Have you tried one? Let us know what you thought. Your comments help us keep improving the accommodations we provide.

The demand for “ready-to-camp” options continues to grow, and Forillon still has its **15 oTENTik tents** available—eight at Des Rosiers Campground (basic plan) and seven at the Petit-Gaspé oTENTik Campground (all inclusive).

### More convenient

- Parks Canada changed its reservation system so you can **make reservations further in advance**. Now you can plan your trip to Forillon in January. Reserve early for the 2017 season!

- Loup A of Petit Gaspé Campground now has **bigger, reconfigured spots** for RVs over 10 metres. Work is also underway on **sites with water and electrical hookups**.



# More visibility!

## Putting Gaspé and Forillon on the map

We continued this year with our Go Gaspé–Forillon campaign, designed and rolled out with the Chamber of Commerce and Tourism of Gaspé (CCTG) to promote Gaspé and Forillon and its many attractions as a travel destination. It's a partnership that together with partnerships with Gaspésie Tourism, Québec maritime, and Escalpe Gaspésie will really beef up the area's promotional muscle.

All that teamwork multiplies the promotional forums we have and the materials we can put out while extending their reach. We now have TV and print ads, video vignettes, an Internet and social media presence, a mobile app, posters in the Montréal subways and buses, and a presence at numerous trade fairs and special events.

We've also collaborated on ways to extend the tourist season, such as the Your Land's End All-Inclusive package, the Explore the Gaspé in Fall campaign, and a contest on Radio 105.7 Rythme FM Montréal.



## Reaching out in new ways

Our urban outreach brigade took part in **88 festivals, events, and public gatherings in the Greater Montréal Area**, spreading the word about Forillon's marvels to over **65,000 people!**

We also played host to **26 reporters, columnists, and specialty bloggers** from all over Canada, the United States, and Europe as well as **15 film crews** shooting movies, reports, programs, and vignettes showcasing the wonders of Forillon—more than twice as many as last year.

We're of course maintaining our active social media presence. So follow us and share your own greatest hits of 2016!

f ForillonNP  
t @ForillonNP

## Also in 2016, we...

- Updated our **image bank (photo and video)** with the cooperation of the Chamber of Commerce and Tourism of Gaspé, Gaspésie Tourism, and Québec maritime.
- **Produced targeted promotional activities** for young families, outdoor enthusiasts, birders, and others
- Helped develop the Saint Lawrence **Virtual Scavenger Hunt and a mobile game**, Destination Forillon, to let families know the wonders of the St. Lawrence River: [destinationstlaurent.ca](http://destinationstlaurent.ca)
- Produced three **educational articles** on harbour seals, moose, and bats for the Young Naturalists Circles' magazine *Les Naturalistes*.



## Conclusive results!

- Our 346 campsites were sold out 19 nights in 2016, up from 5 in 2015.
- In 2016 the occupancy rate was up 21% for our traditional campsites, and 31% for the oTENTiks.
- We also logged big increases in the number of people taking part in interpretive activities (+24%) and in traffic at our interpretive centre (+25%) and heritage sites (+25%).
- We played host to 1,286 cruise ship passengers at the park in 2016 through our partnership with Escale Gaspésie, 663 of whom took part in a guided activity.



### News from our concession holders:

We had so many whales and such good weather this year that **Croisières Baie de Gaspé** decided to keep going all the way to October 13.

And **Écorécréo** traffic was up 18% as well. (Pssst... 200 campers and more than 250 Gaspé residents were reintroduced to Penouille this summer with discounts available through Écorécréo. How about you?)

Our partners, **Plongée Forillon** (freediving), **Cap Aventure** (sea kayaking), and the Petit-Gaspé **recreation centre**, all had great seasons as well.



*My best travel memory. We were absolutely overwhelmed! Wonderful staff & the seals were a hoot. Plus all kinds of amazing sea creatures down on the bottom—you should have seen this gigantic lobster!*

Mireille D. on TripAdvisor enthusiastically describing her **Plongée Forillon** experience





# 3.

## Working with you

### Operation Spring Cleaning

Forillon National Park partnered again this year with Green Brigade and the City of Gaspé to get the public out for Operation Spring Cleaning on May 21.

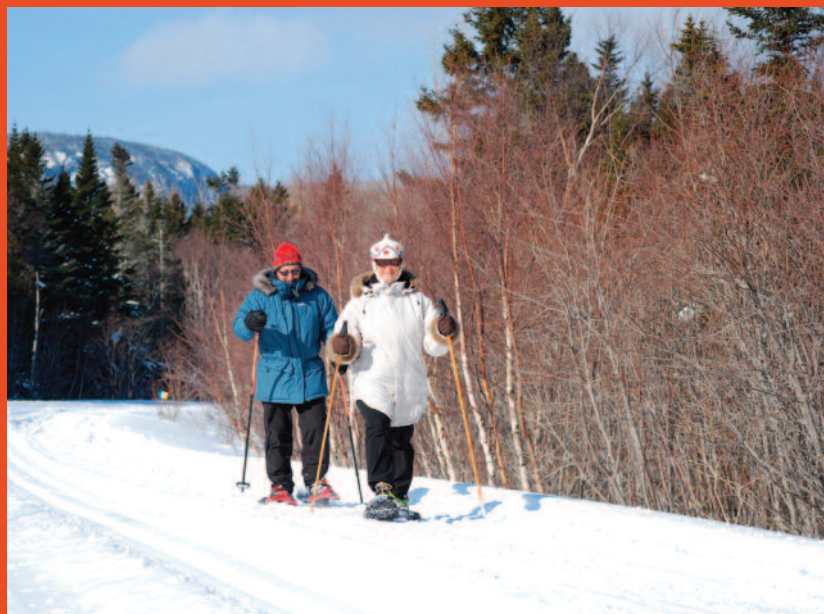
We organized shoreline cleanup in the Penouille area and met with participants in downtown Gaspé to talk about shoreline protection. And what a great feeling it is to really do something together for the health of the world we live in!

### Winter partnership with Le Griffon Cultural Centre

For the past few years, the Greater Gaspé community has had the opportunity to enjoy winter in Forillon, thanks to our partnership with Le Griffon Cultural Centre for the maintenance of the Le Portage and La Vallée cross-country ski and snowshoe trails.

Under the agreement the park gives free access to its trails, lends out trail grooming equipment, plows parking lots, and maintains service buildings and sanitary facilities for skiers and snowshoers. Trails are set and groomed by a team of volunteers with Le Griffon as coordinator. It sells day passes (\$6) and season tickets (\$60 for adults, \$30 for teens, and \$120 for families) to cross-country skiers to cover its costs.

Whether you ski or snowshoe, have a great season!







## Other partnerships in 2016

- **Special events and athletic challenges** with local organizations, such as the Gran Fondo Forillon and TDLG's Gaspé ski, snowshoe, and foot treks.
- Penouille **striped bass and rainbow smelt sampling** project directed by the Mi'gmaq Maliseet Aboriginal Fisheries Management Association in cooperation with Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs du Québec.
- Work on preparing the Côte-de-Gaspé RCM **2016–2017 Family Planner**
- Ongoing collaboration with the **Mi'gmaq Community of Gespeg**
- Ongoing collaboration with the City of Gaspé and a number of **regional organizations**, including Chamber of Commerce and Tourism of Gaspé, Escale Gaspésie, Gaspésie Tourism, Festival Musique du Bout du Monde, Association of Persons Expropriated from Forillon and Their Descendants, to strengthen community ties and provide a wide range of original and inspiring experiences

## One happy camper!

Quebec's popular television *Wheel of Fortune* show stopped by Forillon this summer. It was loyal camper Andrée-Claude Fournier of Gaspé who spun the wheel and walked off \$50,000 richer. Congratulations!





# 4.

## Upgrading our infrastructure

Forillon National Park gets more awesome every day! Big investments are being made to protect our shared treasures, upgrade our infrastructure, and enhance your experience of the park. Like a trip to the fountain of youth!!

Here are the main projects underway:

Project	Investment	Scheduled completion
Penouille sustainable development project	\$4.8 million	Completed
Upgrades to Loop A at Petit Gaspé Campground	\$724,000	Fall 2016
Rehabilitation of Fort Peninsula	\$1.3 million	Fall 2017
Inspection of bridges and foot bridges and repairs as necessary	\$700,000	Fall 2017
Reconstruction of Route 132	\$22.7 million	Spring 2018
Reconstruction in Cap-des-Rosier Harbour – Phase 2	\$6.6 million	Fall 2018
Cap-des-Rosiers Beach restoration	\$7.1 million	Fall 2018
Reconstruction and Upgrading of the Interpretation Centre	\$7.2 million	Winter 2020
Restoration of the Heritage Infrastructures Used by Visitors	\$2.4 million	Winter 2020
Reconstruction of the Operational Centre	\$10.4 million	Winter 2020

We make every effort to keep all this work from adversely affecting your Forillon experience. Temporary interruption of certain services and activities may however occur. Please check our website for anything that might interfere with your Forillon plans.





## Brought to you by the Forillon dream team!

Day in, day out, Forillon's dedicated staff put their knowledge and know-how to work protecting and showcasing our common heritage.

Forillon National Park's 96-member team is bolstered by an additional 53 students during the main season. Together they are the cornerstone of our organization and its number 1 asset.

Hélène Beaulieu,  
Luc Beaulieu, Claude Bilodeau, André Blanchette,  
Anne Bouchard, Sylvain Bouchard, Diane Boulay,  
François-Marie Boulay, Sophie Boulay, Ubald Boulay, Anthony Bourgaize,  
Dany Boutin, Louise Braun, Josée Breton, Nadia Brodeur, Serge Brodeur,  
Maxime Cabot, Jean-François Caron, Bobby Carrier, Anne-Marie Cauvier,  
Jean-Martin Chamberland, Marianne Chouinard, Stéphane Chouinard, Chantal Chrétien,  
Marise Cloutier, Denis Comeau, Roxane Cormier, Antonin Côté, Mathieu Côté,  
André Couture, Gratien Curadeau, Nancy Cyr, Norbert Denis, Mylène Després, Émilie Devoe,  
Josée Dion, Lina Dufresne, Valère Dufresne, Collin Dumaresq, Jean-David Dupuis,  
Geneviève Durocher, Luc Élément, Christian Ferland, Kerry Foley, Mathieu Fournier, Yvon Fournier,  
Simon Francoeur-Pineault, Benoît Gagnon, Hélène Gagnon, Alain Gallant, Lucie Gallant, Daniel Guay,  
Solange Huard, Louise Huet, Candide Jalbert, Steve Jean, Laurent Jeannotte, Pierre Jeannotte,  
James-Alexander Keays, Charles Labbé, Yves Lacasse, François-Olivier Lalonde, Claire Lebel,  
Éric Leblanc, Mario Lemieux, Serge Lucas, Richard Malouin, Stéphane Marchand, Julie Mercier,  
Sébastien Nadeau, Bruce O'Connor, Hugues Packwood, Pierre Paradis,  
Murielle Pichoir, Gerry Pipon, Yannick Poirier, Cléo-Véronique Prince,  
Steve Pronovost, Michel Queenton, Gilles Raymond, Marc-André Raymond,  
Lucie Roy, Frédéric Sainte-Croix, Daniel Sigouin, Michelle Sinnett,  
Frédéric Ste-Croix, Éliane Synnott, Isabelle Tailleux, Katry Tapp,  
Danielle Tremblay, François Tremblay, Yannick Tremblay,  
Marie-Claude Trudel, Marion Trudel, Igor Urban,  
Joseph Vignola



Want to join the team? Many opportunities will arise in 2017!

Visit [www.jobs.gc.ca](http://www.jobs.gc.ca)