



Sherbrooke, Cité des Rivières is enthusiastic of the arrival of the sculpture named *Vaisseau lunaire*, a piece of art by artist Louis Chavignier, originally created for the Montréal World Fair in 1967 which will, from now on, be offered to the appreciation of people passing by the promenade on the south bank of the Nations' Lake, since the piece will be installed in the Magog River, downstream from the black bridge.

The sculpture represents a boat, which inspired the piece's name: *Vaisseau Lunaire*. The boat hull is made of stainless steel square tubing and the sail structure, of cylindrical tubing also in stainless steel. The sails are represented by stainless steel chains. It is a colossal piece, literally, measuring 22 feet long by 15 feet high by 3 feet wide, typical of lively art realised by several artists belonging to the Visual arts research group in Paris at the end of the 1960's.

Originally, the piece was installed on the surface of the water, between the France and Québec pavilions. It was then a piece of lively art whose front to back movement, representing a ship rolling with the waves, was ensured by a driving mechanism made of various gears actuated by an electric motor. At the time of its first installation, the pitch of the ship ensured a back-and-forth movement of the sail creating a particular sound effect. Once the sculpture is installed on the surface of the water of the Nations' Lake in Sherbrooke this sound effect will be assured by the wind engulfing in the sails. The piece is now static, its mechanism and electric motor have been removed because they were now obsolete.

The original piece was removed from the Montréal World Fair site soon after the complete dismantling of the site's installation. It was never part of another exhibition before Sherbrooke. Yves Robillard, the owner of the *Vaisseau Lunaire*, donated the piece to the City of Sherbrooke.