



During the summer of 2005, Sherbrooke, Cité des Rivières and the City of Sherbrooke started the construction of the Passerelle des Draveurs. The completion of this infrastructure finalizes the 3.5km loop of the promenade du Lac-des-Nations, thus increasing the beauty and the security of this exceptional site located in the heart of the city. Sherbrooke, Cité des Rivières proceeded to the inauguration and official opening of the Passerelle des Draveurs on Thursday, September 9th, 2005 in the presence of several dignitaries.

The erection of the Passerelle des Draveurs started in March 2005 and was completed in September of the same year. This new structure allows Sherbrooke, Cité des Rivières and the City of Sherbrooke to promote the Promenade du Lac-des-Nations as a great destination for Sherbrooke residents and tourists. The objective of the works was to complete the 3.5km loop so the path, linking the north and south banks, would be safer while keeping the beauty of the Promenade du Lac-des-Nations.

Characteristics of the Passerelle des Draveurs:

- Length: 166 meters
- Width: 4013 mm

Height of the top of the slab from the water: ±1.60 meters

Materials used:

- Steel pickets and concrete pile of 762 mm and 914 mm diameter, drilled into rock
- Precast slabs of prestressed concrete
- Structure of the gazebo made of steel and concrete
- Weight of the structure: deck, approximately 500 tons
- Maximal length of the piles: 16.6 meters
- Maximum depth of the water: 7.5 meters
- Height of the weathercock: 1.05 meters

The name, Passerelle des Draveurs, was given because this part of the Nations' Lake was used for log-driving between 1830 and 1910. "In the 19th century, the Cherry and Magog rivers were used for driving wood cut at Mont Orford. Each year since 1859, a raft loaded with timber is driven by the log driver along the Cherry and Magog rivers up to the actual Nations Lake. The logs are then cut up, sawed and shipped by Grand-Tronc railway to Portland, then to the West Indies. This practice disappeared between 1905 and 1910.

Remains of this era can still be seen today as the retaining device is still on the surface of the Nations Lake, along the south side of the Montcalm Bridge. The device was used to prevent the logs from going down the Magog Gorge", says Gérard Côté, member of the toponymy committee of the City of Sherbrooke

