



## PEATLAND ECOLOGY RESEARCH GROUP (PERG) – *GROUPE DE RECHERCHE EN ÉCOLOGIE DES TOURBIÈRES (GRET)*

### General description

The Peatland Ecology Research Group (PERG), also called in French “Groupe de recherche en écologie des tourbières”, has been founded in 1992 by Line Rochefort, professor at Université Laval (Québec, QC). PERG is the leader in ecological peatland restoration in Canada and one of the pioneers in the world in this field. The group, which is still very active, retains a core of researchers from several Canadian universities with complementary expertise (ecology, botany, hydrology, biogeochemistry, pedology). Its mission is to contribute to societal choices on the use and conservation of peatlands through education and a better understanding of these ecosystems.

### Overview

**Establishment:** 1992

**Founder and Director:** Line Rochefort, professor at Université Laval, Québec, Canada

**Main location:** Department of Plant Sciences (Département de phytologie), Université Laval, 2480 boul. Hochelaga, Québec, QC, G1V 0A6, Canada

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### Publications related to restoration and reclamation

#### Publications in refereed journals

1. Blier-Langdeau, A., M. Guéné-Nanchen, S. Hugron & L. Rochefort. (In press, 2021) The resistance and short-term resilience of a restored extracted peatland ecosystems post-fire: an opportunistic study after a wildfire. *Restoration Ecology*; <https://doi.org.acces.bibl.ulaval.ca/10.1111/rec.13545>.
2. Gutierrez-Pacheco, S., R. Lagacé, S. Hugron, S. Godbout & L. Rochefort. 2021. Estimation of daily water table level with bimonthly measurements in restored ombrotrophic peatland. *Sustainability* 13(10), 5474; <https://doi.org/10.3390/su13105474> (MDPI).
3. Drapeau Picard, A.-P., M. Larivée, M.J. Mazerolle & L. Rochefort. 2021. Impact of pool design on spider and dytiscid recolonization patterns in a restored fen. *Restoration Ecology* 29(5): e13384; DOI: 10.1111/rec.13384.

4. Pouliot, K., L. Rochefort, M.-C. LeBlanc, M. Guéné-Nanchen & A. Beauchemin. 2021. The Burial Under Peat Technique: an innovative method to restore *Sphagnum* peatlands impacted by mineral linear disturbances. *Frontiers in Earth Science (Biogeoscience)* 9: 658470; doi: 10.3389/feart.2021.658470.
5. Lemmer, M., L. Rochefort & M. Strack. 2020. Greenhouse gas emissions dynamics in restored fens after in-situ oil sands well pad disturbances of Canadian boreal peatlands. *Frontiers in Earth Sciences* 8: 557943; doi.org/10.3389/feart.2020.557943. (Section Biogeoscience)
6. Guéné-Nanchen, M., N. D'Amour & L. Rochefort. 2020. Adaptation of restoration target with climate change: the case of a coastal peatland. *Botany* 98: 439-448; dx.doi.org/10.1139/cjb-2020-0050.
7. Bravo, T.G., M.E. Brummell, L. Rochefort & M. Strack. 2020. Effect of invasion by birch on the growth of planted spruce at a post-extraction peatland. *Mires and Peat* 26(Article 14): 1-9; DOI: 10.19189/MaP.2019.OMB.StA.1807.
8. Alshehri, A., C. Dunn, C. Freeman, S. Hugron, T. G. Jones & L. Rochefort. 2020. A potential approach for enhancing carbon sequestration during peatland restoration using low-cost, phenolic-rich biomass supplements. *Frontiers in Environmental Science* 8(Article48): 1-8; https://doi.org/10.3389/fenvs.2020.00048.
9. Elliott, J. & Price, J. 2020. Comparison of soil hydraulic properties estimated from steady-state and transient field observations through simulating soil moisture in regenerated *Sphagnum* moss. *Journal of Hydrology* 582, 124489. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhydrol.2019.124489.
10. Gaffney, P.P.J., S. Hugron, S. Jutras, O. Marcoux, S. Raymond & L. Rochefort. 2020. Ecohydrological change following rewetting of a deep-drained northern raised bog. *Ecohydrology* 13(5): e2210; https://doi.org/10.1002/eco.2210.
11. Hassanpour Fard, G., E. Farries, V. Bérubé, L. Rochefort & M. Strack. 2020. Key species superpose the effect of species richness and species interaction on carbon fluxes in a restored minerotrophic peatland. *Wetlands* 40: 333-349; https://doi.org/10.1007/s13157-019-01176-5.
12. Hugron, S., M. Guéné-Nanchen, N. Roux, M.-C. LeBlanc & L. Rochefort. 2020. Plant reintroduction in restored peatlands: 80% successfully transferred – Does the remaining 20% matters? *Global Ecology and Conservation* 22(e01000); https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gecco.2020.e01000.
13. Nugent, K.A., I.B. Strachan, N.T. Roulet, M. Strack, S. Froliking & M. Helbig. 2019. Prompt active restoration of peatlands substantially reduces climate impact. *Environmental Research Letters* 14: article 124030; https://doi.org/10.1088/1748-9326/ab56e6.
14. González, E. & L. Rochefort. 2019. Declaring success in *Sphagnum* peatland restoration: Identifying outcomes from readily measurable vegetation descriptors. *Mires and Peat* 24, Article 19: 1-16; DOI: 10.19189/MaP.2017.OMB.305.
15. Guéné-Nanchen, M., S. Hugron & L. Rochefort. 2019. Harvesting surface vegetation does not impede self-recovery of *Sphagnum* peatlands. *Restoration Ecology* 27(1): 178-188; doi: 10.1111/rec.12834.
16. Lefebvre-Ruel, S., S. Jutras, D. Campbell & L. Rochefort. 2019. Ecohydrological gradients and their restoration on the periphery of extracted peatlands. *Restoration Ecology* 27(4): 782-792; doi: 10.1111/rec.12914.
17. Bérubé, V. & L. Rochefort. 2018. Production and decomposition rates of different fen species as targets for restoration. *Ecological Indicators* 91: 105-115.

18. Bourgeois, B., M.-A. Lemay, T. Landry, L. Rochefort & M. Poulin. 2018. Seed storage behaviour of eight peatland pool specialists: Implications for restoration. *Aquatic Botany* 152: 59-63.
19. Bourgeois, B., L. Rochefort, V. Bérubé & M. Poulin. 2018. Response of plant diversity to moss, *Carex* or *Scirpus* revegetation strategies of wet depressions in restored fens. *Aquatic Botany* 151: 19-24; <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0304377018300226>.
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21. Gagnon, F., L. Rochefort & C. Lavoie. 2018. Spontaneous revegetation of a peatland in Manitoba after peat extraction: diversity of plant assemblages and restoration perspectives. *Botany* 96: 779-791.
22. Gaudig, G., M. Krebs, A. Prager, S. Wichmann, M. Barney, S. J.M. Caporn, M. Emmel, C. Fritz, M. Graf, A. Grobe, S. Gutierrez Pacheco, S. Hogue-Hugron, S. Holzträger, S. Irrgang, A. Kämäräinen, E. Karofeld, G. Koch, J.F. Koebbing, S. Kumar, I. Matchutadze, C. Oberpaur, J. Oestmann, P. Raabe, D. Rammes, L. Rochefort, G. Schmilewski , J. Sendžikaitė, A. Smolders, B. St-Hilaire, B. van de Riet, B. Wright, N. Wright, L. Zoch & H. Joosten. 2018. Sphagnum farming from species selection to the production of growing media: a review. *Mires and Peat* 20, Article 13, 1-30; DOI: 10.19189/MaP.2018.OMB.340.
23. Gauthier, M.-E., L. Rochefort, L. Nadeau, S. Hugron & B. Xu. 2018. Testing the moss layer transfer technique on mineral well pads constructed in peatlands. *Wetlands Ecology and Management* 26(4): 475-487; doi: 10.1007/s11273-017-9532-4.
24. Gauthier T-L., McCarter, CPR, Price, JS. 2018. The effect of compression on *Sphagnum* hydrophysical properties: Implications for increasing hydrological connectivity in restored cutover peatlands. *Hydrological Processes* 11, e2203 DOI: 10.1002/eco.2020
25. Hugron, S. & L. Rochefort. 2018. *Sphagnum* mosses cultivated in outdoor nurseries yield efficient plant material for peatland restoration. *Mires and Peat* 20, Article 11, 1–6; DOI:10.19189/MaP.2018.OMB.358
26. Lazcano, C., Robinson, C., Hassanpour, G., Strack, M. 2018. Short-term effects of fen peatland restoration through the moss layer transfer technique on the soil CO<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>4</sub> efflux. *Ecological Engineering* 125: 149-158.
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28. Nugent, K.A., Strachan, I.B., Strack, M., Roulet, N.T., Rochefort, L. 2018. Multi-year net ecosystem carbon balance of a restored peatland reveals a return to a carbon sink. *Global Change Biology* 24: 5751-5768, doi: 10.1111/gcb.14449
29. Rankin, T., Strachan, I.B., Strack, M. 2018. Carbon dioxide and methane exchange at a post-extraction, unrestored peatland. *Ecological Engineering* 122: 241-251, doi: 10.1016/j.ecoleng.2018.06.021
30. Bérubé, V., L. Rochefort & C. Lavoie. 2017. Fen restoration: defining a reference ecosystem using paleoecological stratigraphy and present-day inventories. *Botany* 95: 731-750.
31. Brown, C. M., Strack, M., & Price, J. S. 2017. The effects of water management on the CO<sub>2</sub> uptake of *Sphagnum* moss in a reclaimed peatland. *Mires & Peat* 20, Article 5.
32. Brummell, M.E, Lazcano, C., Strack, M. 2017. The effects of *Eriophorum vaginatum* on N<sub>2</sub>O fluxes at a restored, extracted peatland, *Ecological Engineering* 106, 287-295.

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37. Rochefort, L. & R. Andersen. 2017. Global Peatland Restoration after 30 years: where are we in this mossy world? *Restoration Ecology* 25(2): 269-270; doi: 10.1111/rec.12417.
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39. Emond, C., L. Lapointe, S. Hugron & L. Rochefort. 2016. Reintroduction of salt marsh vegetation and phosphorus fertilisation improve plant colonisation on seawater-contaminated cutover bogs. *Mires and Peat* 18, Article 17, 1-17; doi: 10.19189/MaP.2015.OMB.209
40. Evans, C., Renou-Wilson, F., Strack, M. 2016. The role of waterborne carbon in the greenhouse gas balance of drained and re-wetted peatlands, *Aquatic Sciences*, 78, 573-590, doi: 10.1007/s00027-015-0447-y.
41. Granath G, Moore PA, Lukenbach MC, Waddington JM. 2016. Mitigating wildfire carbon loss in managed northern peatlands through restoration. *Nature Scientific Reports* 6: 28498, doi:10.1038/srep28498.
42. Rochefort, L., M.-C. LeBlanc, V. Bérubé, S. Hugron, S. Boudreau & R. Pouliot. 2016. Reintroduction of fen plant communities on a degraded minerotrophic peatland. *Botany* 94(1): 1041-1051; doi:10.1139/cjb-2016-0023.
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46. Bussières, J., L. Rochefort & L. Lapointe. 2015. Cloudberry cultivation in cutover peatland: Improved growth on less decomposed peat. *Canadian Journal of Plant Science* 95(3): 479-489; doi: 10.4141/cjps-2014-299.
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### **Conference participation**

Since 1992, the PERG researchers, as well as their graduate students, have presented at several hundred conferences of local, national or international scope, on peatland restoration and management, for example at the International Peatland Congresses, the Society for Ecological Restoration conferences, the Society of Wetlands Scientists meetings, the European Geophysical Union meetings, the annual Canadian Land Reclamation Association conferences. The regular PERG researchers are regularly invited as keynote speakers.