

**Spring-Summer 2017**

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## A group of Orford citizens acquires a piece of nature



Marie-José-Auclair and Mélanie Lelièvre from Appalachian Corridor with Bertrand Larivée from Conservation lac à la Truite Orford at the recognition event for donors

Appalachian Corridor helped a group of Orford citizens protect a parcel of 18.6 hectares in perpetuity. Its great ecological value, importance for the preservation of water quality, and proximity to Parc national du Mont-Orford were all reasons behind this decision. Another crucial factor was the extraordinary involvement of a group of citizens from the Lac à la Truite sector of Orford. "We were so convinced of the indisputable ecological value of this property that we created a precedent and bought it. We commend the efforts of all the people who got involved, especially Mr. Bertrand Larivée, who worked relentlessly to collect the funds needed to purchase the property" says Mélanie Lelièvre, Executive Director at Appalachian Corridor.

### Citizens take matters into their own hands

In May 2015, the Association des riverains du Lac à la Truite contacted Appalachian Corridor to discuss a possible change affecting a neighbouring lot. Worried about the situation, they wanted to

purchase the property in order to conserve it. Appalachian Corridor coached the group and provided technical expertise to fast-track the project while members of the association, headed by Bertrand Larivée, raised a large part of the funds needed for the purchase. This was an unprecedented involvement from the community. "I was highly motivated to buy this lot because a proposal came forward to build a road linking the land to a municipal access road. This project would have required crossing the main wetland connected to the lake. In order to protect the water quality of our lake, I decided to try and convince the residents to pool resources to buy this land and protect it in perpetuity. Almost a hundred donors responded and we were able to raise 75% of the purchase price" said Bertrand Larivée.

## A rich natural environment on the periphery of the Parc national du Mont-Orford

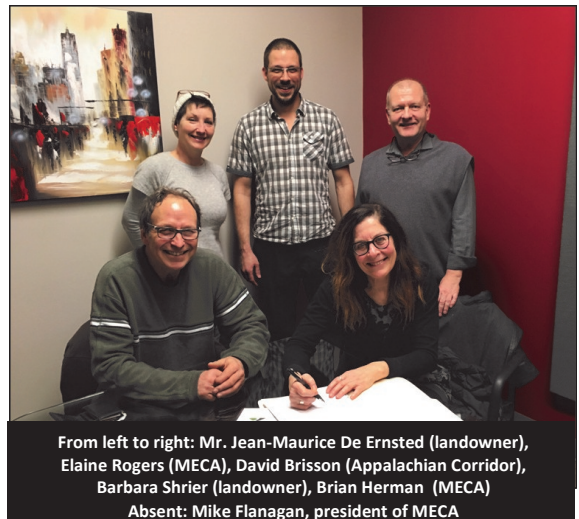
Located on mountainous terrain, the new protected area is home to several species at risk: the Eastern Wood-Pewee, Pickerel Frog, and Northern Dusky Salamander. In addition, its proximity to the protected Parc national du Mont-Orford allows wide-ranging mammals such as Moose, Fisher and Bobcat to roam beyond the Parc's boundaries. The protection of this property is part of the plan to preserve the periphery of the Parc national du Mont-Orford, implemented by Appalachian Corridor in January 2016, in cooperation with the SÉPAQ and the Fondation de la faune du Québec. The protection of this area was made possible by local donors and with the financial support from several partners, including Environment and Climate Change Canada, Nature Conservancy Canada, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife, Alderbrooke Marsh Land Trust, Fondation de la faune du Québec, SÉPAQ and the municipality of Orford.

## NATURE PROTECTED FOREVER

*Appalachian Corridor works closely with landowners and partners to conclude conservation projects. We thank owners and financial partners (p. 4) for their precious involvement in the creation of new protected areas.*

## Another 9 hectares protected in Sutton: A big thank you to the owners!

Thanks to a generous gift from Ms. Barbara Shrier, 9 hectares (over 22 acres) of natural habitats of great ecological value were added to the 13,000 hectares already protected on the territory of action of Appalachian Corridor. In partnership with MECA (Mount Echo Conservation Association), it took only 9 months to complete the land donation process and protect this area in perpetuity. Ms Shrier explains that "donating this piece of land to MECA is our way of teaching our children, in a very concrete way, that nature does not belong to any one person but to all of us. And that each and every one of us is responsible for its protection. By conserving this land, we ensure the perennity of our forest, our streams and our wildlife. Not just for us but for all future generations to come." The new protected area is located in Sutton, near the Réserve naturelle des Montagnes-Vertes. MECA remains very active and already has other projects in the works for this area.



From left to right: Mr. Jean-Maurice De Ernsted (landowner), Elaine Rogers (MECA), David Brisson (Appalachian Corridor), Barbara Shrier (landowner), Brian Herman (MECA)  
Absent: Mike Flanagan, president of MECA

## NATURE PROTECTED FOREVER

### When a gift leads to another: The inspiring story of two neighbours united by the love of nature

For a long time, Onil Faucher dreamt of protecting the land he has lived on for more than 40 years. In 2009, he contacted Conservation des vallons de la Serpentine (CVS) to start conservation proceedings. At that time, he wished to establish a conservation servitude so he could retain ownership and pursue certain activities on his property but, unfortunately, there was no dominant land owned by CVS in the area.

A generous ecological gift from Ms. Anna Brzeski, a neighbour living downstream, changed everything. Ms. Brzeski's property could serve as a dominant land, thus allowing Mr. Faucher to protect his own property under the terms of a conservation servitude. The Secretary of CVS, Ms. Françoise Bricault, explains: "Onil sat on the Board of CVS in 2009-2010 and so immediately believed in our approach, wishing to protect his land and the forest he is so attached to ever since." His friendship with Anna Brzeski makes this servitude and her donation for the dominant land even more special. Both properties have great ecological value and allow the preservation of an important ecological corridor between mounts Chagnon and Orford. They are also home to two species at risk, namely the Wood Turtle and Pickerel Frog, and are located at the heart of CVS's territory of action, in an area particularly coveted by property developers. "We live in a natural environment, the Appalachian corridor, that possesses tremendous ecological value and great biodiversity, as evidenced by the stunning beauty of its landscapes. By subjecting our land to a conservation servitude, we contribute to the conservation and sustainability of this precious habitat. My wife and I are happy and proud of that commitment" explained Mr. Faucher.

Ms. Brzeski had her own reasons to make this generous gift. "Since my childhood, I have had an intimate relationship with nature. The wilderness, fauna and flora, and all that lives in the forest, never cease to inspire me and to feed my soul. I think that if everyone could connect with nature every day, the world would be a more peaceful and happier place. This donation is a gesture of solidarity with all those who work assiduously to conserve our precious and magical environment. It's also a show of gratitude to my father, who bequeathed this land to me knowing that it is close to my heart and that I shall protect it forever. It is the future Olek-Brzeski Nature Reserve."



From left to right : Caroline Daguet (Appalachian Corridor), Françoise Bricault (CVS), Anna Brzeski, Onil and Georgette Faucher (landowners) and Mélanie Lelièvre (Appalachian Corridor)

## WORKING WITH MUNICIPALITIES

### Working with municipalities to make room for wildlife



Over the years, we entered into many conservation agreements with private landowners. Although this type of agreement remains central to our activities, we wish to go further by involving municipal and regional authorities, who are key stakeholders with respect to land use planning and development.

We undertook a tour of municipalities and regional county municipalities (RCMS) to stress the importance of taking ecological factors into account when it comes to land use planning. Our presentation is based on the exemplary practices described in the *Make Room for Wildlife* brochure published by the Wildlife Conservation Society, which we translated and adapted to the Quebec context (Cohabiter

avec la nature). In cooperation with municipal representatives, we identified the sensitive areas of their territories and outlined a number of practices to ensure housing developments have a lesser impact on natural habitats and various species.

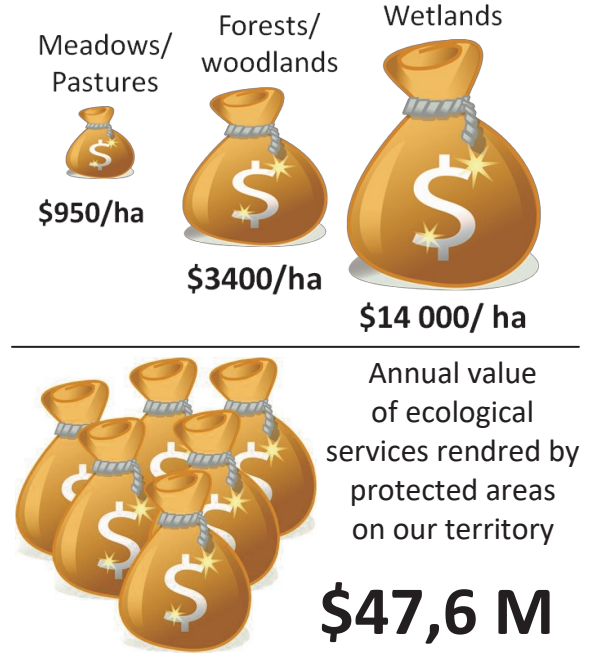
Since the inception of this project, we met with **ten** municipalities on our territory of action (Frelisghburg, Austin, Saint-Étienne-de-Bolton, Bolton-Est, Bolton-Ouest, Saint-Denis-de-Brompton, Sheffort, Eastman, Granby and Waterloo) and three RCMS (Memphrémagog, Brome-Missisquoi, Haute-Yamaska). We also organized conferences during the Montreal Ecosphere Fair, the Forum sur le développement durable at the University of Sherbrooke, and at the Workshop on the conservation of natural habitats. Finally, we intend to share this vision with the Association des aménagistes régionaux du Québec and the Association des urbanistes du Québec. Visit the Information page of our Website and click on Publications to download our brochure: [www.appalachiancorridor.ca](http://www.appalachiancorridor.ca)

**Nature works hard for us. Let's protect it!**

Although we are not always aware of it, natural habitats provide us with great services. Whether filtering air and water, preventing flooding, storing carbon or simply giving us breathtaking scenery to admire, nature has a lot to offer. To demonstrate the economic value of services provided by Mother Nature, Appalachian Corridor asked a Master's degree candidate at the Département des sciences naturelles of the Université du Québec en Outaouais, under the supervision of Professor Jérôme Dupras, to produce a study assessing the economic value of these ecological services on its territory of action, and to show how they benefit local communities.

This study covered thirteen services according to habitats: forests and woodland, meadows and pastures, and wetlands. The following ecological services were also assessed: regulation of the global climate, air quality, water supply, processing of pollutants, erosion control, pollination, promotion of biodiversity, biological control, nutrient cycling, prevention of disasters, food production (fodder), landscape esthetics and recreational activities. Using market price, replacement costs and benefit transfer costs calculations, the study attributed an annual value of more than \$14,000 per hectare of wetlands, \$3,400 per hectare of forests and woodlands, and \$950 per hectare of prairies and meadows.

The study concluded that the ecological services rendered by protected lands on Appalachian Corridor's territory of action represent a total annual value of 4,6 million dollars. This shows that, by protecting natural habitats, we can achieve important savings on infrastructures and contribute actively to the economic health of local communities.



**PROTECT NATURE'S ASSETS**

**Endangered protected areas: Our major campaign to the rescue!**



Appalachian Corridor joined the SOS Mount Hereford coalition with Nature Québec, the Réseau de milieux naturels protégés and the Conseil régional de l'environnement de l'Estrie. The coalition is fighting a major battle for the future of conservation on private land so that the integrity of protected areas is respected. A government decree in favour of the route proposed by Hydro-Québec would degrade a protected area of more than 5,300 hectares, which forms part of the most important donation for conservation purposes in the history of Quebec, and would set a dangerous precedent. Our mission is to contribute to the creation and development of new protected areas. It is not our role to police land

that has already been acquired and protected in perpetuity! However, we cannot let this situation create such a prejudice and undermine the credibility of conservation tools and the work of organizations who create protected areas on private land.

If you wish to help:

1. Sign the support campaign: [www.sos-hereford.org](http://www.sos-hereford.org)
2. Make a donation (Bridging Loan and Safeguard Fund) on [campagne.corridorappalachien.ca](http://campagne.corridorappalachien.ca) or send a cheque with the coupon below.

**Thanks for your support!**

**Protecting Our Collective Heritage**



Nom/Name

Adresse/Address

Ville/City

Province Code postal/Postal Code

Téléphone/Telephone

Courriel/Email

- Je désire que mon nom et mon don soient connus.  
*I want my name and the amount of my donation made public.*
- Je désire que seulement mon nom soit connu.  
*I want my name only made public.*
- Je désire demeurer anonyme.  
*I want to remain anonymous.*

**Je fais un don unique de :**  
**I make a single donation of:**

- 50 \$
- 100 \$
- 250 \$
- 500 \$
- Autre/Other \_\_\_\_\_ \$

**Je m'engage pour une période cinq ans :**  
**My pledge over 5 years:**

- 250 \$ (5 versements de 50 \$ in 5 installments)
- 500 \$ (5 versements de 100 \$ in 5 installments)
- 1000 \$ (5 versements de 200 \$ in 5 installments)
- 2500 \$ (5 versements de 500 \$ in 5 installments)
- Autre/Other \_\_\_\_\_ \$  
( \_\_\_ versements de/installments of \_\_\_\_\_ \$)

- Paiement par carte de crédit/  
*Payment by credit card*
- Paiement par chèque (ci-joint)/  
*Payment by cheque (enclosed)*
- Visa
- Mastercard
- American Express

Nom sur la carte/Cardholder

N° de la carte/Card number

Date d'expiration/Expiration Date

Code de vérification/CSC (3 chiffres au verso de la carte)

Signature

### Protecting natural habitats in Lake Memphremagog's watershed for 50 years



Appalachian Corridor wishes to highlight the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Memphremagog Conservation Inc. (MCI). This non-profit organization mission has been to protect the environmental health and natural beauty of Lake Memphremagog and its watersheds since 1967. With the help of volunteers and the support of its members, MCI works diligently to ensure that all area residents, whether permanent or seasonal, on the waterfront or inland, can benefit from a healthy lake. Located in the southern part of the Eastern Townships and crossed by the Canadian-American border, Lake Memphremagog is the largest body of water in the area. More than 170,000 people, the population of Sherbrooke, Magog, Omerville, Deauville, Saint-Élie and Lennoxville, get their drinking water from the lake.

Appalachian Corridor is proud and happy to count MCI as one of its Affiliate Members. A solid partnership was formed between the two organizations when MCI added a *land protection* component to its range of interventions, to which Appalachian Corridor contributed its expertise in the fields of GIS analysis, ecology and conservation biology. Whether the need is to develop a portrait of natural habitats, delimit wetland areas or conduct ecological evaluations, Appalachian Corridor makes it a duty and a pleasure to help MCI achieve a common goal, namely to preserve natural habitats and biodiversity within Lake Memphremagog's watershed.

To find out more, go to [www.memphremagog.org](http://www.memphremagog.org)

## RNMV

### Warning!

Singer's trails will be closed during the freeze and thaw periods, from mid-April to mid-May, depending on weather conditions. Please look for the exact dates on our website: [www.rnmv.ca](http://www.rnmv.ca). Thanks!



## FOCUS ON A SPECIES AT RISK : Green Mountain Maidenhair



*Adiantum viridimontanum*, also called Green Mountain Maidenhair, is a typical and very rare, plant species typical of the Appalachians. It is only found in a few rich maple stands of southern Québec and in the American North-East (Maine and Vermont). This soft green, medium-sized forest fern can reach a width of 60 cm and a height of 30 to 60 cm. Its fronds feature beautiful finger-like blades that spread almost as horizontally as those of the Maidenhair Fern, which it resembles. The Green Mountain Maidenhair is a serpentine plant, which means it is found only on outcrops of serpentine, a green rock particularly rich in magnesium. Green Mountain Maidenhair is a plant species likely to be designated as endangered or vulnerable in Québec. We must protect it and avoid picking it.

## WE WERE THERE!

- January 25: Conservateurs – SÉTHY Foundation
- March 16, 17, 18: 2016 Conservation Workshop, Saint-Paulin, 2017
- March 22: Information session on the Northern Pass Project in Coaticook
- March 29: Press conference in Montreal for the launch of SOS Mont Hereford
- April 19: Information session with Coalition SOS mont Hereford in Sherbrooke

Appalachian Corridor is a non-profit organization with a mission to protect natural habitats and the biodiversity of the Appalachians of Southern Quebec, in collaboration with private landowners, local conservation groups as well as regional, national and international partners.

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Visit our website at [appalachiancorridor.ca](http://appalachiancorridor.ca)

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