



Press release

For immediate distribution

The Nature Conservancy of Canada and Appalachian Corridor partner to protect more than 148 acres (60 hectares) in the Glen–Foster forest

Saint-Étienne-de-Bolton (Eastern Townships), October 20th, 2017 – The Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) and Appalachian Corridor have announced that a protected area in the Green Mountains is expanding. Over 148 additional acres (60 hectares) in the Green Mountains are being conserved. It is one of the last regions in southern Quebec where extensive tracts of relatively untouched wilderness can still be found. The property is located around thirty kilometres west of Magog in the township of Saint-Étienne-de-Bolton, on the eastern slope of Mont Saint-Étienne. Protecting these lands will help preserve the region's biodiversity and natural heritage.

A key conservation area

The property is situated within a large undisturbed tract of forest of more than 10 km² that represents a key conservation area for the Green Mountains Natural Area. The forests that cover 90% of the lands, along with many permanent and intermittent streams, are home to many at-risk species.

The streams provide prime habitats for northern dusky salamander, a species likely to be designated threatened or vulnerable under the Quebec Act Respecting Threatened or Vulnerable Species (ARTVS). It is also home to spring salamander, a species designated as threatened according to Canada's Species at Risk Act (SARA) and vulnerable according to ARTVS.

Protecting the streams, which are located within the watershed of the Northern Missisquoi River, will help maintain water quality for one of the most significant populations of wood turtle in Quebec, a species that is threatened according to SARA and vulnerable according to ARTVS. American black duck and wood duck also depend on the area's high-quality wetland and aquatic habitats.

In addition to its natural wealth, the property is strategically located between two large forest tracts. It connects with Mounts Glen, Foster and Gauvin to the core conservation area of Mont Chagnon, located south of Mont Orford.

Acknowledgments

The Nature Conservancy of Canada and Appalachian Corridor would like to thank the following partners who made the protection of this property possible: the Government of Canada's Natural Areas Conservation Program, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act program (which supports work to conserve neotropical migratory birds in the United States, Canada, Latin America and the Caribbean), the Open Space Institute, the Sweet Water Trust, the Echo Foundation, the *Fondation de la faune du Québec*, as well as a generous donor from Saint-Étienne-de-Bolton who wishes to remain anonymous.

A winning collaboration

NCC and Appalachian Corridor worked hand in hand to realize this important project, which extends the network of protected areas in the southern Quebec Appalachians.

"NCC managed to secure this magnificent territory thanks to the significant collaboration of Appalachian Corridor and the generosity of individuals, foundations and government agencies on both sides of the border, all united for the same cause. We are proud to have helped preserve this jewel of biodiversity!" states Joël Bonin, associate vice-president of the Nature Conservancy of Canada in Quebec.

"Appalachian Corridor is particularly proud to have collaborated with the Nature Conservancy of Canada and numerous financial partners to preserve this property at the heart of a core conservation area. Strategically adding to the network of protected areas ensures connectivity that is essential for the survival of several species on our territory, notably wide-ranging mammals such as moose, black bear, lynx and fisher. The creation of this new protected area strengthens our transborder conservation strategy by linking some of Green Mountains' natural features," states Mélanie Lelièvre, Executive Director at Appalachian Corridor.

"On behalf of my colleague Catherine McKenna, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, I congratulate Appalachian Corridor, the Nature Conservancy of Canada and their partners for the conservation of more than 60 additional hectares of forest at Saint-Étienne-de-Bolton. Climate change has repercussions on wildlife species and their habitats throughout Canada and around the world, and protected areas such as these are essential for conserving biodiversity. Through the Natural Areas Conservation Program, our government works closely with organizations to conserve and protect Canada's natural spaces," states Denis Paradis, MP for Brome-Missisquoi.

About

The Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) is Quebec's leading not-for-profit private land conservation organization, working to protect our most important natural areas and the plants and animals they sustain. Since 1962 NCC has helped to protect more than 2.8 million acres (1.1 million hectares) across the country, including 98,800 acres (40,000 hectares) in Quebec. It is by securing and protecting these natural environments that they can be made accessible to this generation and those to come. To learn more, visit www.natureconservancy.ca.

Appalachian Corridor is a non-profit conservation organization founded in 2002 with a mission to protect natural areas in the Appalachian region of Southern Québec. Through the implementation of a transborder conservation strategy, Appalachian Corridor works with local communities to maintain and restore a way of life that respects the ecology of the region from a perspective of sustainable development. www.corridorappalachien.ca

The **Government of Canada's Natural Areas Conservation Program (NACP)** is a unique public-private partnership to accelerate the pace of land conservation across southern Canada. The Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) manages the program. Federal funds are matched by contributions raised by NCC and its partners. Habitat conserved under the NACP enhances natural corridors and other protected areas.

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