

TOGETHER, FOR NATURE AND COMMUNITIES!



ACTIVITY REPORT
2018-2019



Corridor appalachien
Appalachian Corridor

HAPPY 15th Anniversary

CORRIDOR APPALACHIEN!



Appalachian Corridor is 15 years old! For the occasion, our partners, elected members, volunteers, and private donors got together to visit some of the most inspiring sites on our territory. From Bolton Pass to Mt. Orford and Austin, we admired the natural gems that inspire us every day. The celebrations ended with a festive cocktail where everyone got to celebrate and realise how far we've come.



A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT



Appalachian Corridor is 15! Since the beginning, we've been preserving biodiversity, but we've especially been working with and for the communities. We collaborate with forest producers, municipalities, government instances and, in the case of Mount Foster, real estate promoters. This year, we accompanied the Université de Sherbrooke and the Ville de Sherbrooke in their nature reserve project.

We've also been working with municipalities to ensure a greater consideration of natural areas in their land-use planning. All these collaborations have led us in expanding our range of action. Thanks to our 17 affiliate members and all our partners, Appalachian Corridor has become a leader in conservation. The government of Québec has promised, according to the Aichi goals, to protect 17% of its territory. Reaching this target in the Green Mountains is a dream and vision for Appalachian Corridor and the communities sharing the territory. Together, let's make every efforts to make it a reality!

Happy reading!

Marie-José Auclair, president of the Board of Directors

A WORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



15 years! This wonderful adventure is only beginning! Since 2002, the extent of protected areas on Appalachian Corridor's territory has gone from 400 to over 13 637 ha.

Between conservation, influencing land management, our increasing public awareness activities, our wildlife passages on either side of Highway 10 and all our other projects, we can certainly say that Appalachian Corridor is ever-growing! Of course, nature is at the heart of our mission. But it is first and foremost for the people who live in this exceptional territory, that we protect the natural areas in the region.

Thank you for working with us for the past 16 years towards protecting our natural gem.

Mélanie Lelièvre, Executive Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Marie-José Auclair, President

Louise Gratton, Secretary

Luc Dumouchel, Treasure

Gilles DuSablou, Board Member

Robert Benoit, Board Member

Françoise Bricault, Delegate for Eastern Affiliate Members

Marie-Claire Planet, Delegate for Western Affiliate Members

Photo credits: Appalachian Corridor, unless otherwise stated.

PROTECTING AND ENHANCING NATURAL HABITATS IN SOUTHERN QUÉBEC

At Appalachian Corridor, we support owners who want to preserve biodiversity on their land. We help a network of local conservation groups by sharing our expertise in science, management and implementation of conservation programs.

» In 2018-2019, Appalachian Corridor was actively involved in the conclusion of **6 notarized projects** and added 345.7 hectares of protected areas to its territory of action. The total now summing up to **13 637 ha of protected areas on private land over our territory.**

- One **acquisition** by Appalachian Corridor: Mount Foster- SIFISA AMÉRIQUE (94.3 ha) at the heart of a connective network in St-Étienne-de-Bolton.
- One **acquisition** by Conservation Espace Nature Shefford (40.9 ha) in the Brome-Shefford ecological corridor in collaboration with Appalachian Corridor (CENS Entre-monts protected area)
- One **land and easement donation** with the Mount Brome Conservation Society (83 ha)
- Two **easement donations**: Mount Foster sector (35.9 ha) and Mount Brome sector (5.6 ha)
- Conclusion of the Mansville **Nature Reserve** in the Brome Lake sector (2.9 ha)
- Three projects of Nature Conservancy Canada (NCC) for a total of 119 hectares: in the Mount Brome area (17 ha) and two projects in the Missisquoi North area (102 ha)
- **6 nature reserve** applications filed with the ministère de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques in the areas of Mount Brome, Mount Pinnacle, Eastman, Granby, Shefford and Sherbrooke for a total of 486.7 ha.

» More than 20 other conservation projects are well on their way: we're projecting 6 to 7 new conclusions during 2019-2020.



Mohawk blessing on Katanontanohna' protected area



Cens Entre-monts protected area announcement



PROTECTED AREA STEWARDSHIP

Not only do we work with our affiliate members through each step leading to the conclusion of their conservation project, Appalachian Corridor also ensures the stewardship of many protected areas.

- Management, maintenance and monitoring of five properties owned by Appalachian Corridor
- Monitoring of 27 properties for 8 affiliate members
- Management and monitoring of the Montagnes-Vertes Nature Reserve (7000 ha) owned by Nature Conservancy Canada

MOUNT SINGER TRAILS: MANAGEMENT AND ENHANCEMENT

At the heart of the natural habitats providing refuge for hundreds of animal and plant species, Mount Singer's 20.5 km trail network is part of a greater network of 135 km accessible for hikers' delight! We climb atop one of Quebec's highest peaks, Mount Singer, culminating at 805 m. Here are some of the many actions brought into realization this year:

- Increasing efforts from the volunteer patroller
- Spring Cleaning initiative
- Trails improvement:
 - Replacement of three walkways and one culvert
 - Crafting and installation of four benches
 - Replacement of interpretation signs
- New webpage dedicated to the Mount Singer's trail network



Volunteers regularly patrol the Mont Singer trails



Gilles DuSablon, member of the Board, enjoys a well-deserved break on a benche he designed and built on a volunteer-basis

MONT FOSTER'S PROTECTED AREA – SIFISA AMÉRIQUE

Located at the very heart of Mount Glen and Foster forests, the Mont Foster-SIFISA AMÉRIQUE protected area is a priority identified in the Appalachian Corridor conservation strategy. The protection of 94.3 ha contributes directly to the safekeeping of quality non-fragmented natural habitats, as much for mammals with large home range as for meso and micromammals, birds, amphibians and reptiles. It is, so far, the greatest acquisition led by Appalachian Corridor.



Signature of notarial acts for the protected area Mont Foster-SIFISA AMÉRIQUE

ACQUIRING AND SHARING KNOWLEDGE OF THE TERRITORY'S ECOLOGY

Acquiring knowledge is at the heart of the Appalachian Corridor initiative. An experienced team of biologists, along with bio-ecology technicians, conduct ecological surveys and monitor species at risk. The GIS department supports this work through analyses to target priorities.

- » 17 ecological assessments on as many properties in order to guide the owner's conservation efforts
- » Monitoring of species at risk including: Peregrine Falcon, Bicknell's Thrush, Chimney Swift, Golden-winged Warbler (in partnership with the Brome-Missisquoi Ornithology Club), Monarch butterfly and Wood Turtle
- » Efforts towards the recovery of several populations of species at risk
- » Monitoring of the turtle passage beneath route 245 around Peasley Pond
- » Surveys, protection and awareness activities for the Chimney Swift in North Hatley and Frelighsburg
- » Participation in two species recovery groups
- » New collaboration with Conservation Chauves-souris des Cantons-de-l'Est
- » Ecological portrait and conservation strategy for Mount Brome Conservation Society territory
- » Identification of natural corridors for the municipality of Orford
- » Prioritisation strategy of the conservation targets in the monarch butterfly reproduction habitat



An agreement with the Brewery Dunham protects the Chimney Swift



Little brown bat



Monarch

SUPPORTING LOCAL DRIVING FORCES IN CONSERVATION

Appalachian Corridor continues to strengthen conservation initiatives within its territory of action by providing leadership along with technical, communication, scientific and financial support to 17 affiliate members, all committed to protect the region's natural habitats. We also work closely with our national partner Nature Conservancy Canada (NCC).

- » 19 meetings with 13 of our 17 affiliates
- » Participation in 8 of our affiliated member's Annual General Meetings (AGM)
- » Participation in several meetings and AGM of other organizations (municipalities, SETHY Foundation, Réseau des milieux naturels protégés)
- » Support to the Université de Sherbrooke and City of Sherbrooke in the Mont Bellevue natural reserve project, including guidance in terms of public affairs when seeking mediation with diverse user groups and stakeholders
- » Partnership with the West Bolton Collectif, notably in considering biodiversity in a forestry context and implementing presentations on varied subjects of interest
- » Participation in the steering committee of the Staying Connected Initiative, a transborder project that acts on issues regarding connectivity and natural corridors
- » Organization of an open space to address issues of finding successors for boards of directors of conservation organisations and affiliated members
- » Mentoring the Laurentian Eco-Corridor organization
- » Pursuing work on the problematic surrounding municipal taxation of privately owned protected areas

FUNDING AND CONSULTATION MANDATES

- » 29 new grant applications sent to federal and provincial governments as well as private foundations and others
- » Administration of over thirty financing agreements with financial partners particularly for the conclusion of conservation projects, for the monitoring of endangered wildlife or for the development of our trails at Mount Singer
- » Over 20 consultation mandates with municipalities, affiliate members and partners, in line with our mission



Discussion between affiliate members
at the open space

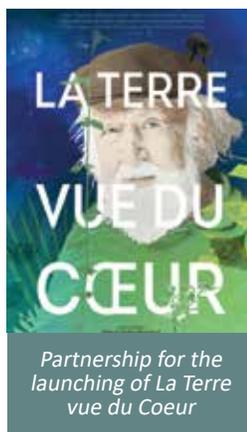


Funding from the TD Friends
of the Environment Foundation

RAISING AWARENESS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE NATURAL HERITAGE

Through its extensive work, Appalachian Corridor informs individuals, groups and organizations about the importance of protecting natural areas. Appalachian Corridor positions itself as a major actor in conservation and road ecology. Even more so, the organization shines on the provincial and national scenes, especially when it comes to wildlife crossings, social acceptability and protection of biodiversity.

- » 35 articles mentioned Appalachian Corridor in national and regional media; 5 press releases issued; 7 radio interventions including on Le Québec maintenant with Paul Houde (98,5) and coverage on Les Années lumière (ICI Première); 3 interviews on television including a story on La Semaine Verte (ICI télé).
- » Publication of 5 articles written by Appalachian Corridor's team in different specialized periodicals
- » Two paper editions of Appalachian Corridor's Newsletter distributed in 11 000 households, plus 1000 e-mail subscribers
- » Event planning: press conferences for announcements, recognition events in partnership with Nature Conservancy Canada, 15th anniversary event, etc.
- » 15 presentations in symposiums, forums and conferences, including two presentations in the USA for the Northeastern Transportation & Wildlife Conference
- » Nature activities: migrating bird celebration, interpretation hikes, endangered species conferences, Earth Day yoga, etc.
- » Educational activities: raising awareness amongst the youth through more than 20 activities in a dozen day-camps
- » Partnership with the Jupiter Production Company for the launching of the documentary La Terre vue du Coeur starring Hubert Reeves
- » Production of educational content on biodiversity in collaboration with the school publisher Kinésis





Le Naturaliste canadien, special 2019 edition, presenting the acts of The Conference on Road Ecology & Climate Change Adaptation held in 2017:

- 6 major themes from engineering of wildlife passages to aquatic connectivity to community engagement
- Seventeen articles
- Truly innovative projects and results from the latest research
- One of the rare publications in Quebec on roadway ecology, an emerging science

MARIE-JOSÉ AUCLAIR RECEIVES THE PEOPLE OF ACTION CERTIFICATE FROM THE SOCIÉTÉ PROVANCHER

Well known for her immense implication in the field of conservation, Marie-José Auclair, president of the Appalachian Corridor Board of Directors was the 2018 recipient of the People of Action Certificate from the Société Provancher. This prestigious recognition underlines the important contribution of people acting towards the protection of natural areas, working to create educational activities or promoting knowledge acquisition. Congratulations Marie-José: a well-deserved distinction!



PROMOTING NATURAL AREA CONSERVATION AND INFLUENCING LAND-USE PLANNING

One of our most important objectives is to encourage increasing consideration of biodiversity in land-use planning. Among other things, we wish to promote ecological networks in regional land-use and development plans, as well as town plans, in order to decrease the pressures and threats weighing on the natural areas on our territory of action.

- » Representations for implementing a new funding program for conservation of privately-owned land
- » Participation in a Canadian working group on creating a federal funding program
- » Multiple meetings with concerned M.P.s and Ministers on federal and provincial levels
- » Continuation of the Corridor project in collaboration with Université de Sherbrooke, Concordia University, the Ministère des Transports and the Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs:
 - Planning a research project in cooperation with Concordia University on roadway collisions with small and medium sized wildlife
 - Supervising volunteer trackers for data collection
 - Meeting municipalities and regional county municipalities to ask for support to the project and to plan the next steps in our continued partnership



Meeting with Catherine McKenna, minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada

HAND IN HAND WITH MUNICIPALITIES

We have created tight bonds with the municipalities on our territory. This year, we invited elected officials from Austin, Magog, Bromont, Shefford and Saint-Étienne-de-Bolton to visit three out of four wildlife corridors on either side of Highway 10. We also went paddling down the North Missisquoi River in order to raise awareness for natural area protection, connectivity and impact of their decisions in terms of land-use planning.

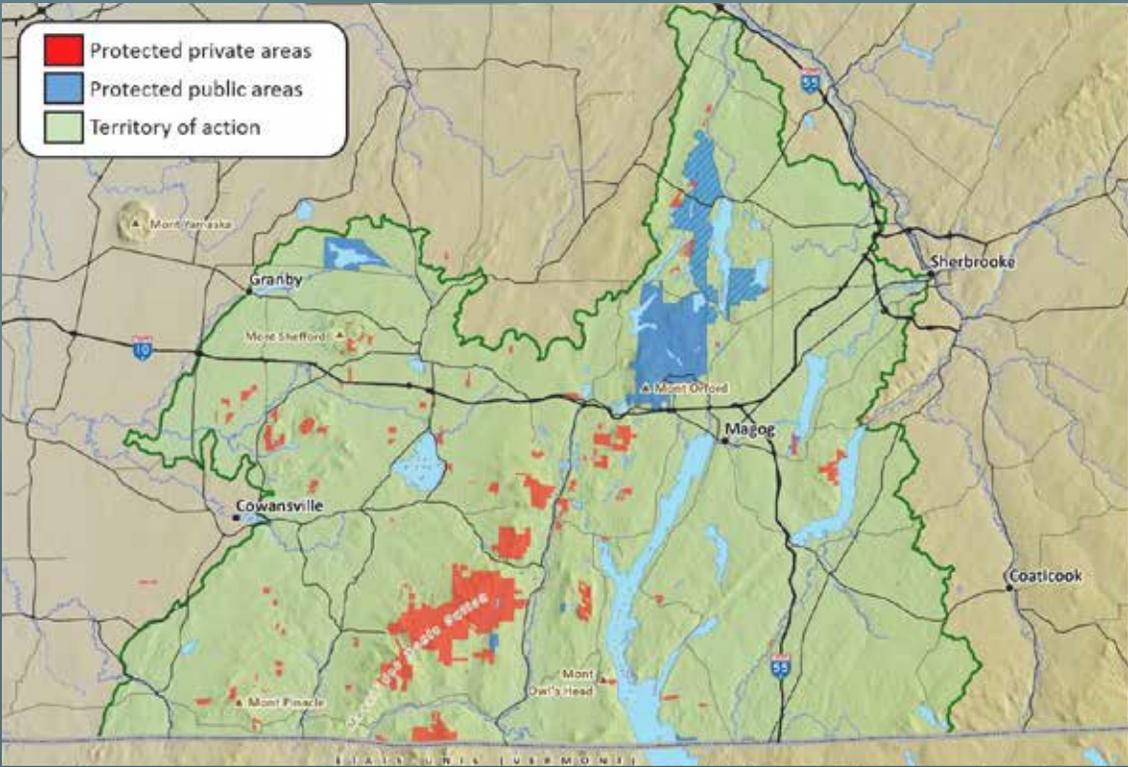
GIVING BACK MOUNT FOSTER TO THE COMMUNITIES

Appalachian Corridor achieved huge milestones towards the perpetual conservation of this crucial site. The organization has been mandated by the town of West Bolton to work on a conservation plan in partnership with the real estate promoters. Obviously, Appalachian Corridor would have preferred no development at all! However, this was not possible while negotiating the offer of purchase. Still, we have been able to secure some net gains:

- Protection of three quarters of the targeted zone: 217 ha at the heart of the forest massif
- Access to hiking trails and the Tour des Scouts
- Consolidation of a vast transborder conservation initiative deployed between Vermont and Mount Orford
- Resolution of a long-standing conflict between real-estate development and conservation of natural areas

We believe the communities will benefit tremendously from these gains!

PROTECTED AREAS ON THE APPALACHIAN CORRIDOR TERRITORY



Protected areas on private land
13 637 ha

Protected areas on public land
11 795 ha

Total percentage of protected areas on our territory of action
7,4 %

APPALACHIAN CORRIDOR'S TEAM



Employees of Appalachian Corridor: Mélanie Lelièvre, Véronique Thibault, Martine Ruel, Mélanie Frenette, Patrice Pineault, Mylène Alarie, Victor Grivegnée-Dumoulin, Clément Robidoux, Samantha Stoddart, Anthony St-Jean, André Champoux, David Brisson

NETWORK OF AFFILIATE MEMBERS



NATIONAL PARTNER



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