



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### *Thanks to three landowners, 210 more acres are protected in the Massawippi Valley*

*For immediate release*

**Eastman, July 9, 2015** – Massawippi Conservation Trust and Appalachian Corridor are pleased to announce the addition of three properties protected in perpetuity in the Massawippi Valley. Three landowners came together for this ecogift totalling 210 acres: the Webster property, North Hatley Club property and Wilcox property. These properties bump the amount of protected land to 722 acres in the Massawippi Watershed area and to 30 270 acres on Appalachian Corridor's territory of action. Mélanie Lelièvre, Appalachian Corridor's Executive Director said: "We would like to extend our thanks to the landowners who allowed the protection of their lands, in very sought-after areas. Thanks to them, natural areas as well as biodiversity of the beautiful Massawippi Valley will be protected in perpetuity. It's probably in terms of water quality that these projects will have the greatest impact. Maintaining these lands in their natural state plays a key role for Lake Massawippi's water quality. These projects required four years of unrelenting work but it was absolutely worth the effort." Margot Heyerhoff, Chair of the Massawippi Foundation, is thrilled with this transaction: "These three owners, as neighbours, came together to create a single large conservation package on a very important section of the ridge, which includes the iconic Black Point, and we thank them so much for their visionary co-operation".

The first property spreads on 86 acres and belongs to the Webster family, long settled in North Hatley. As landowner Norman Webster explains: "These woodlands are rare—much of them have never been logged, and they maintain a significant diversity of plant and animal life that is harder and harder these days to find—and to protect. Conserving this land ensures that future generations can enjoy their natural beauty as we have. It gives us great satisfaction to be stewards of this land into the future, and to leave this legacy to Massawippi Conservation Trust and Appalachian Corridor."

The second property belongs to the North Hatley Club and covers 106 acres. Susan Keller, President of the North Hatley Club, declared: "The membership of the North Hatley Club was pleased to join the other landowners to conserve the Club's land at Black Point. It is an important step towards the protection of all the land on the point, to ensure that its beauty will be enjoyed for generations to come".

Finally, the Wilcox property is located in a key sector and covers 18 acres. “Our family has loved and stewarded this property for six generations. We are thrilled to be part of a movement that will protect it and other uniquely beautiful properties for endless generations to come” said Thomas Wilcox, landowner.

### Numerous species

The presence of numerous wildlife species was confirmed on these lands, including Beaver, Porcupine, Red Fox, White-tailed Deer and Coyote. Black Bear and Moose are also likely to be occasional visitors. Wetlands aquatic habitats are home to Northern Spring Pepper, lungless salamanders including Northern Two-lined Salamander and Northern Dusky Salamander, American Toad, Green Frog and Wood Frog. Finally, numerous bird species were recorded including Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Ruffed Grouse, Wood Thrush, Ovenbird, Eastern Wood Pewee, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Chestnut-sided Warbler. A visit from Appalachian Corridor’s Biologists revealed the presence of Maidenhair Fern (*Adiantum pedatum*), Two-leaved Toothwort (*Cardamine diphylla*) and Large-flowered Bellwort (*Uvularia grandiflora*) which are all listed as vulnerable to over-harvesting in Quebec.

These projects were concluded by the Massawippi Conservation Trust, who is working actively in the watershed to conserve land adjacent to Lake Massawippi and its tributaries, and ensure adequate stewardship in perpetuity. Appalachian Corridor provided essential support to the Trust; its scientific and technical expertise was crucial for the conservation of these properties. The Trust has been an affiliate member of Appalachian Corridor since 2011.

- 30 -



**From left to right:** Guy Lizotte, Conservation Advisor, Appalachian Corridor; Norman and Pat Webster, Donors; Susan Keller and Tom Wilcox, Donors; Margot Heyerhoff, Chair, Massawippi Foundation; Mélanie Lelièvre, Executive Director, Appalachian Corridor.



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