



COURTESY OF MATHIEU DUPUIS, SÉPAQ

## PRESERVING HABITATS AROUND THE PARC NATIONAL DU MONT-ORFORD

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**D**uring this past winter, Appalachian Corridor, in partnership with Sépaq (Société des établissements de plein air du Québec), has put in place a project to protect the periphery of the Parc national du Mont-Orford. The goal is to make landowners in this area more aware of the importance of preserving lands with important ecological values because, among other reasons, they are located close to a huge protected area. Biodiversity does not know administrative boundaries created and imposed by humans. Mammals move in and around the park, birds fly over it and nest there, and plants flourish in the whole region.

It is important to slow the increasing development in areas around the park to minimize land uses that could work against the mission of provincial parks: to preserve our natural and cultural heritage in these parks. To do this, it is important to permanently maintain and perpetuate the habitats essential to animal and plant populations, and also to make sure that species are not confined within the park. Under this project, a peripheral zone was delineated so that organizations and landowners of large properties (more than 5 ha) could participate in the conservation of natural habitats. The municipalities and the RCMs will also take part in the project. They will take into account the periphery in their land use planning tools for the region.

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## What is a “peripheral zone”?

This is the zone within which legal activities could have a major impact on conservation in the park, on its biodiversity, its environment and the visitor experience, and inversely, within which the presence of the park has a positive influence on the community that lives there, from an environmental, social and economic development perspective.



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