



Appalachian Corridor Appalachen ACA

SUMMER 2007

OUR COORDINATES

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A TRANSBORDER CONSERVATION STRATEGY

Appalachian Corridor (ACA) is a non-profit conservation organization whose mission is the protection of the natural areas of the Appalachians.

Through the implementation of a transborder conservation strategy, ACA provides local communities with the means to maintain and restore a way of life that respects the ecology of the region in a perspective of sustainable development.

ACA offers technical assistance, advice and expertise to conservation organizations and other contributors who share its vision. As well, ACA organizes various conservation awareness activities for landowners, conservation groups and the general public.

NATURE PROTECTED FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Giving back to nature

On May 2nd, Kathy LePoer and John Fowles donated a conservation servitude on 15 acres of their property to Nature Conservancy Canada. Conservation of this property located at the foot of Singer Mountain in the municipality of West Bolton will consolidate the already protected 16,000 acre core conservation area in the Sutton Mountains Massif. The property harbors diverse forest communities, wetlands, 233 species of flora, 47 species of nesting birds and several species at risk, including the Northern Dusky salamander.

"I am thrilled to put our land under the protection of the Nature Conservancy to conserve its rich biodiversity" states Kathy LePoer. "It is my legacy to future generations of humankind, wildlife and plants." John Fowles has been a bird enthusiast since the age of nine. He feels that his donation of a conservation servitude is a way

of giving something back to his feathered friends who have given him such great pleasure over the years. "I also wanted to protect our wetlands and our beavers since these creatures are so important in the creation of wetlands that are so essential to us all".



Photo :
Jacinthe Caron

CONSERVATION INITIATIVES

Patrollers in the Sutton Mountains

Appalachian Corridor and Les Sentiers de l'Estrie are actively patrolling conservation areas protected by Nature Conservancy Canada to ensure that rules of conduct are respected. Teams of patrollers are covering the protected territory to sensitize users to the importance of protecting unique natural areas and fragile ecosystems that characterize the Sutton Mountains.

The main objective of the patrollers is to inform people on authorized uses and current regulations that apply to this privately protected area. This initiative will provide increased security for

hikers and other users and increased protection for flora and fauna found on the territory. ACA representatives on these protected areas also note any infractions to the rules and regulations pertaining to the conservation of natural resources on this private property.

Appalachian Corridor and Les Sentiers de l'Estrie hope that the presence of patrollers in the Sutton Mountains will raise awareness in its users to respect this magnificent environment.

DISCOVERIES IN THE APPALACHIANS

A couple of Peregrine Falcons settles in the Bolton Pass

The Peregrine Falcon, famous for its near disappearance from North America in the 1960s, seems well ensconced in the Bolton Pass rock cliffs of West Bolton. Slightly larger than a crow, there is no mistaking a falcon when it dives, hitting speeds of up to 200 kilometers per hour and killing its prey instantly in full flight. Clément Robidoux, ACA's biologist, has observed the Falcon alone, with a partner and with a nestling over the past few years. This year, he confirmed that a couple is circling the skies over the region's forests and wetlands.



Photo : Joe Kosack

The Falcon highly appreciates this sector for its abundant hunting ground, almost undisturbed by humans. A large forested area, rock faces and wetlands provide choice habitat. However real estate development, logging or any other disturbances would drive it away from the region.

Even if Peregrine Falcon populations are in full expansion since measures have been taken to ensure their recovery, this bird of prey is still considered vulnerable in Quebec and threatened in Canada. This underscores the fact that it is imperative to pursue every effort to protect its habitat.

The Appalachian Corridor team extends its deepest sympathy to Raymond Tétreault's wife and family. Mr. Tétreault, president of Cliff Lake's Fishing Club, passed away on May 12th, following an ATV accident near de La Falaise road in Sutton. Cliff Lake is contiguous to Nature Conservancy's property located in the Sutton Mountains.

We wish the family courage during this difficult time.

CONSERVATION INITIATIVES

Working together- a new affiliate member joins ACA

ACA is proud to announce that Conservation des vallons de la Serpentine has joined its affiliate members' network. The membership now totals twelve local conservation organizations working with ACA towards the implementation of its trans-border conservation strategy in the Appalachians.

Created in 2006, Conservation des vallons de la Serpentine (CVS) has taken on a prodigious mission that aims to protect 32 square km of natural areas in the Serpentine Brook watershed encompassing the foothills of Mount Chagnon and Mount Place located in the municipalities of East Bolton, Eastman and Austin. CVS also organizes conferences on nature conservation to raise citizen awareness.

Local organizations such as CVS often make the first contact with landowners of prime conservation properties. "Our current members

own approximately 25% of our targeted territory", states François Ducharme, the organization's president. "As residents who are aware of this region's ecological wealth, we are in the best position to sensitize our neighbors".

ACA's team collaborates with affiliate members to lead landowners to concrete conservation actions. The rallying motivation for all these organizations is the rewarding knowledge that the work done by each of them provides an undeniable ecological contribution. Every new protected property is another step towards the conservation of a vast natural corridor in the Appalachians.

Conservation
des vallons
de la Serpentine



A PRECIOUS CONTRIBUTION

Cowboys Fringants contribute to the protection of the Appalachian corridor



Photo : Valérie Dupras

The musical group 'Les Cowboys Fringants' have dedicated funds from last fall's tour to the protection of three new properties in the Sutton Mountains region, including land in the Missisquoi North River located in the foothills of these mountains. The conservation of these 90 acres (36 ha) of land ensures the perpetual protection of a rich diversity of forest and aquatic habitats in the Appalachian corridor.

The financial support of the Cowboys Fringants ensures the protection of new natural areas for the benefit of flora, wildlife and humankind.

See : www.cowboysfringants.com/fondation/

CONSERVATION PLANNING TOOLS

The benefits of split receipting

If you are contemplating the sale of a piece of land that has ecological value (forests, wetlands or other natural features), yet would like to ensure its perpetual protection and cannot afford to donate it outright to a conservation organization, you might want to consider the benefits of "split receipting".

Since most conservation organizations have limited buying power, the concept of split receipting introduced by Canada Revenue Agency in 2002 can be beneficial to both landowners and conservation groups. Split receipting, also referred to as "bargain sale", allows the landowner to sell his property to a charitable conservation organization at a price lower than the Fair Market Value (FMV) and receive a charitable receipt for the remainder of the FMV of the property. The FMV must be determined by a chartered appraiser and approved by Environment Canada and the Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs in the context of the Ecological Gifts Program.

For example, if the FMV of your property is \$100,000, you could receive \$50,000 in cash and a charitable receipt for the donation of the remaining \$50,000. The federal Income Tax Act allows the conservation organization to issue this donation receipt provided that the advantage received in return (i.e. money) does not exceed 80 per cent of the fair market value of the transferred property. In the above mentioned example, the landowner could not receive more than \$80,000 in cash, the remaining portion being a donation.

Another advantage to split receipting is that the landowner also benefits from some capital gains exemptions.

For more information on split receipting, you can consult your tax specialist and visit the Ecological Gifts Program website at www.qc.ec.gc.ca.



Summer activities

Help us protect the territory while enjoying nature!

We are seeking volunteers to hike with patrollers in the Sutton Mountains. Patrols are generally active from Thursday through Sunday as well as holidays. Find out more from ACA.

Information workshops for natural area owners

Two workshops will be offered by ACA between August and October. Dates and locations are yet to be determined.

- **Understanding your woodlot for better management.** A series of workshops for forested area owners.
- **Discover the wealth of wetlands.** Are wetlands present on your property? Find out more about the natural treasures of these milieus and the many services rendered by wetlands.

Communicate with ACA to be part of our invitation mailing.