



Appalachian Corridor Appalachen

ACA

Appalachian Corridor News

WINTER 2007



A TRANSBORDER CONSERVATION STRATEGY

OUR NEW ADDRESS

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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

An Ecological Gift in Sutton ...

In December 2006, Lynette Enevoldsen, Len and Catherine Gale donated part of their Sutton property to the Mount Echo Conservation Association (MECA) in order to ensure the protection of this wooded lot in perpetuity. 'I feel the gift of our property will allow wildlife more forest cover to cross from one valley to another', states Mrs Enevoldsen. 'I hope this inspires more landowners to protect woodland corridors on their property.' MECA is proud to accept this donation, and of the fact that their conservation organization now owns two pieces of land in the Sutton Mountains region. 'Donations like this one are precious to us all' says Charles Weldon, MECA's president.

"This land is given to present and future generations and it is hoped that others will be encouraged by this generous gesture to pursue the conservation of natural spaces that they value through donations of land or conservation servitudes".



...And the first Nature Reserve in Lac-Brome

More than a year ago, Marcel Gaudreau and Monique Vermette considered their options to protect part of their property in Dunham. Supported by ACA through the process, these landowners signed an agreement with the *Ministère du Développement Durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs* in January 2007 to protect approximately 10 acres of land in perpetuity through the establishment of a private nature reserve. 'We wanted to protect a precious natural area on our property, without giving it away', explains M. Gaudreau. 'Since there is no conservation organization who owns land in close proximity to which we could donate a conservation servitude, this seemed like the ideal solution'.

A mature hardwood forest is found in the Reserve where some trees are over 90 years old. Its proximity to the Yamaska South-East river also favors biodiversity. Inventories performed by biologists located nearby habitats favorable to species at risk, including the Wood Turtle.

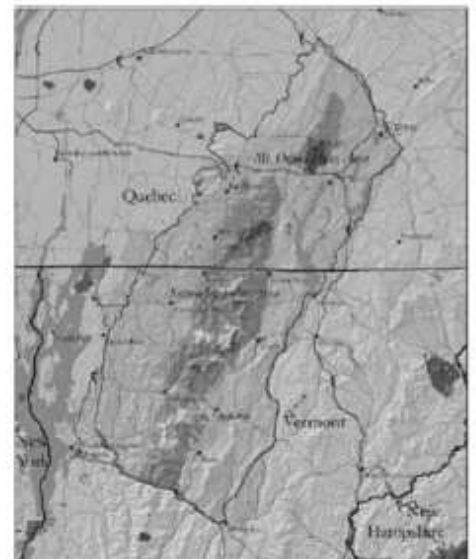
CONSERVATION INITIATIVES

A Quebec/Vermont collaboration on a transborder conservation strategy

On December 13th, a dozen organizations from both Quebec and Vermont worked hand in hand to pursue the development of a conservation strategy for the Green Mountains range which spans Canada and the United States. In Quebec, this portion of the Appalachians corresponds to the territory targeted for conservation by ACA. The survival of animal and plant communities inhabiting this segment of the Appalachian corridor depends on collaborative conservation efforts on the part of surrounding communities. The transborder conservation strategy is based on a real partnership between Quebec and Vermont organizations which will undoubtedly contribute to the protection of the remaining large unfragmented forests of our region.

This alliance between Canadian and American organizations is therefore excellent news for the protection of natural areas in the

Green Mountains. As partners in conservation, these organizations will pool together scientific expertise, understanding of local communities, promotional tools as well as human and financial resources. In order to pursue this initiative, a second meeting is foreseeable in the spring.



Map by Charlie Bettigole

ACA joins the Regional Commission on natural resources

Born of recommendations issued by the Coulombe commission, the *Commission régionale de l'Estrie sur les ressources naturelles et le territoire* officially begins its work in February 2007.

Its mission is to support and promote sustainable development of forests. Acting as advisory committee for the regional conference of elected officials in the Eastern Township, the commission is made up of 16 members that represent organizations who use or are associated with the exploitation of the region's natural resources.

ACA's executive director, Francine Hone, has just been recruited by the Commission as a representative of the environment and

conservation sector. A well-known conservation biologist, ACA's representative will help identify regional objectives for the conservation and ecosystemic development of forests. A section of ACA's website will feature briefs and press releases related to the new Commission's ongoing work.



photo : Annie Goyer

The forest challenge on private land

Louise Gratton and Francine Hone, ACA board member and executive director respectively, have published an article on the challenge of reconciling the many uses possible in highly coveted private forests. The article points out the many conservation and socio-economic benefits associated with forestry planning in keeping with conservation principles. The authors expound on the importance of southern forests, tools for sustainable forestry and the positive impact of conservation and development planning at a landscape scale.

According to Ms Hone and Ms Gratton, developing a sustainable economy must be based on a diversity of activities to meet the needs of the community and individuals while ensuring the protection and maintenance of the natural capital. The new challenge facing communities rich in privately-owned natural areas will certainly be to combine different possible uses of the forest which could include forestry operations, conservation and the emergence of tourism

activities associated with natural areas. Since these diverse activities may first appear to be in conflict, the authors suggest the exploration of new avenues, such as private stewardship, forest conservation servitudes, forestry certification, diversification of products and services as well as ecotourism. These avenues at least reconcile two much sought-after activities.

According to the authors, only the sustainable development of natural resources that takes into account socio-economic needs and conservation principles at a landscape scale will allow communities to live in harmony with biodiversity.

You can read the article in the fall 2006 issue of the journal *Téoros*, or look for it on the ACA website.

CONSERVATION PLANNING TOOLS

Nature Reserves on private land- a conservation alternative

A landowner interested in protecting his property needs to evaluate the available conservation options in terms of his personal objectives. If one wishes to retain land ownership, there are two possible options for a landowner to choose from: the conservation servitude and the nature reserve on private land. According to Quebec's Civil Code, conservation servitudes can only be granted by landowners whose properties have an ecological link to a property (dominant land) owned by either a conservation organization or a governmental agency. If these criteria cannot be met, the establishment of a private Nature Reserve is a viable alternative.

The Natural Heritage Conservation Act states that any private property having significant biological, ecological, wildlife, floristic,

geological, geomorphic or landscape features that warrant preservation may be recognized as a nature reserve upon application by the owner to the *Ministère du Développement Durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs*. Landowners can apply directly or through a conservation organization. The terms of this agreement are similar those of a conservation servitude and restrict certain uses on the property that are incompatible with conservation objectives. The Nature Reserve also provides certain tax benefits such as school and municipal tax rebates.

The conservation servitude and the Nature Reserve ultimately pursue the same goal: the protection of natural areas. It's up to the landowner to choose what best suits his needs. Find out more about this option by contacting ACA.

In brief

ACA opens its new office in Lac-Brome (Knowlton)

The year 2007 brings ACA's team to a new office located on Knowlton Road in Lac-Brome. Since its inception in 2002, the organization has greatly expanded in scope and size. Its creation has also been instrumental in increasing protected areas in the Appalachian corridor from several hundred hectares to over 7000 hectares by 2006. Many new local partners have also rallied around ACA's strategy, leading to a notable expansion of its original territory. Given the increase in employees, volunteers and partners, ACA decided to move closer to the heart of this territory. The head office is now more accessible to its 12 affiliate members and its many collaborators from Estrie, Montérégie and Montreal.

ACA makes recommendations on the municipality of Sutton's urban plan

The municipality of Sutton held a public hearing on its regulations proposal in the framework of its urban plan. ACA presented its comments in a written memorandum. The memorandum and details of ACA's recommendations are available on our Website (www.apcor.ca)

An activity not to be missed!

Understanding your woodlot for better management

Saturday, March 10th, from 1pm to 5pm, 101, Place de la mairie, South Stukely
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