

## Winter 2010

Appalachian Corridor (ACA)  
277, Knowlton Road  
Lac-Brome (Quebec) J0E 1V0  
(450) 242-1125 • info@apcor.ca  
www.apcor.ca

ISSN 1708-1645 • Legal registration :  
Library & Archives Canada  
Bibliothèque et Archives nationales Québec

## 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, Appalachian Corridor 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. Appalachian Corridor offers technical assistance, advice and expertise to conservation organizations and other contributors who share its vision. In addition, ACA organizes various conservation awareness activities for landowners, conservation groups and the general public.*

## NATURE PROTECTED FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

### The turtles are dancing for joy in the Tomifobia Valley!

In November 2009, Tony Kemp and his wife Andrée donated a conservation servitude on 6.5 ha (16 acres) of their land to Memphremagog Wetlands Foundation. "We bought our property in the Tomifobia Valley 40 years ago and the need to protect the valley's



© Corridor appalachien

*From left to right: Guy Lizotte (ACA), Andrée and Tony Kemp (MWF) and Judy Hopps (MWF)*

diverse ecosystems soon became evident" says Tony. "With 80% of the meandering Tomifobia River in a designated flood zone, repeated flooding has created dozens of wetlands that are habitat to many species of which 30 are designated on the provincial or federal lists".

In 1992, Tony and Andrée had met Stewart Hopps, founder of the Memphremagog Wetlands Foundation (MWF), at a local meeting of residents who were opposing a proposed dump site nearby. Tony recalls fondly that it was the beginning of a "long and lasting friendship with this ardent defender of the environment who lost no time in convincing us of the importance of protecting wetlands in the Eastern Townships where eighty percent have already disappeared". His daughter, Judy, has been carrying the torch since he passed away in 2005. Now Vice-President of the Foundation, Judy Hopps adds: "the Tomifobia Valley represents a unique and fragile ecosystem that is

habitat to a number of threatened and vulnerable plant and wildlife species". Plant species at risk recorded by Appalachian Corridor biologists on the Kemp property include Maidenhair Fern, Ostrich Fern and Butternut, the latter being designated Endangered in Canada.

Only a month after Tony and Andrée's donation was completed, Mr. Jean-Luc Navert, owner of a land further upstream, also donated a conservation servitude to MWF. The wetland on Jean-Luc's property provides a very suitable habitat for Wood Turtle and Pickerel Frog, two species at risk recorded in the valley. Tony Kemp, now MWF Director, points out that "so far, the Foundation, with considerable help from Appalachian Corridor, has protected a total of 75 acres (over 30 ha) in the Tomifobia Valley including 32 acres (13 ha) on both our farm and Jean-Luc's property nearby." Judy Hopps confirms that "these wetlands, along with the Knight property already under protection of the Foundation, form an important eco-corridor that has a direct impact on the health of the Tomifobia River, Lake Massawippi and the St. Francis River basin."

Tony concludes that "conserving wetlands is a win-win formula for a sustainable environment: The two new servitudes will help protect these vulnerable species and their habitat for future generations and, as an added bonus, reduce concentrations of both phosphorus and suspended matter plaguing the Lake Massawippi watershed. Our work continues!"



© Patrice Lavigne

*Wetlands in the Tomifobia valley represent a haven for many mammals, birds, amphibians and reptiles, including the Painted Turtle.*

### One more step for MECA and double benefits for the landowners

In July 2009, Pierre Tourigny and Elisabeth Kuhn-Kuhnenfeld signed a conservation servitude on their property in favour of Mount Echo Conservation Association (MECA) thus protecting just over 10 ha (25 acres) of mature forest in the Mount Echo sector.



© Corridor appalachien

*Spring Salamander.*

The forest on the Tourigny property is particularly rich in terms of biodiversity, which motivated the owners to go ahead with the conservation project.

"The presence of rare

or sensitive species bears witness to the extraordinary quality of this environment. Knowing there was a seldom disturbed forest on our

land, we felt a responsibility to protect this jewel for the benefit of future generations." Indeed, eleven species at risk in Quebec or Canada were recorded on the property, including Wild Ginger, Closed Gentian and Butternut, as well as Spring and Northern Dusky Salamanders.

Mr Tourigny admits that tax credits made the project twice as interesting. He encourages citizens to follow in their footsteps, adding that "natural habitats need to be protected, particularly in Canada seeing as it is one of the last places on earth where ordinary people like us are in a position to make a difference towards the conservation of biodiversity."

The protection of this property adds another piece to the network of protected areas in the region. Furthermore, this land is adjacent to a 4 ha property also protected by MECA while another one protected by Nature Conservancy Canada (NCC) is located a mere 200 m away. Altogether in this area, over 4,000 ha of natural habitats are now protected in perpetuity by the two organizations!



## CALENDAR

**Symposium on Conservation and Forestry** – February 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> 2010. Read our article on page 2 and visit [www.apcor.ca](http://www.apcor.ca) or phone (450) 242-1125 for more info.

**Fondation de la faune du Québec, 2010 calendar** – The Fondation de la faune du Québec invites you to discover its 2010 calendar published under the theme of the International year of Biodiversity. [www.fondationdelafaune.qc.ca/aide/calendrier/](http://www.fondationdelafaune.qc.ca/aide/calendrier/)

## A first for Conservation des vallons de la Serpentine

During her career as a tenured professor at the School of Social Work at the Université de Montréal, Mrs Ann Pâquet-Deehy acted for the protection of women and children's rights. Now retired, she is taking practical steps for the protection of natural habitats! To this



Front row: Ann Pâquet-Deehy et Me Sylvain Lavallée  
Back row: Guy Lizotte (Corridor appalachien), Michel Cordeau (CVS), Françoise Bricault (CVS) et François Ducharme (CVS)

effect, she signed at the end of November 2009 a land donation of 6.8 ha (16.7 acres) of her property to Conservation des vallons de la Serpentine. Mrs Pâquet-Deehy is a founding member of this charitable conservation organization and according to her "Nature is of critical importance to human beings. We need to take practical action in order to bequeath this invaluable heritage to future generations."

Mrs Pâquet and her late husband Mr Patrick Deehy, both nature lovers, had bought the property in 1972. This 80 ha (almost 200 acres) retreat located in East-Bolton features a number of small streams and wetlands. The diversity and integrity of its natural habitats give an undeniable ecological value to this property. Several species at risk were recorded, including Wild Ginger, Ostrich Fern and Northern Dusky Salamander. The location of this property within a large forest core contributes to maintaining vast areas of suitable habitats for wide-ranging mammals such as Moose and Black Bear.

What does the future hold for Mrs Pâquet? "Sign a conservation servitude on another part of my land!" She explains that a trip to Costa Rica was a trigger: "I saw what happens when nature isn't protected and I think we need to find ways to ensure that humans can enjoy nature without destroying it. We also need to keep some areas completely wild because nature is sensitive."

This donation enables Conservation des vallons de la Serpentine to own its first dominant fund to which it will now be possible to attach numerous conservation servitudes. Many thanks to Mme Pâquet and congratulations to the organization for this achievement! This project was made possible thanks to the financial contribution of the Partenaires pour la nature program from the ministère du Développement Durable de l'Environnement et des Parcs and the Caisse Populaire Desjardins du Lac-Memphrémagog.

## Hot off the press!

As this newsletter was about to go to press, we learned that the signature of a land donation of just over 6 ha (15 acres) towards the Ruitter Valley Land Trust (RVLT) was imminent. Indeed, a signature is scheduled at the notary's office on December 9<sup>th</sup> 2009 so that Mr Jon Breslaw can complete this legal donation for the protection in perpetuity of his land. The property, adjacent to Lake Sopala in the Township of Potton, includes a wetland as well as several streams and mature forest communities. A number of species



Jon Breslaw on his land.

at risk have also been recorded by Appalachian Corridor biologists, among which are the Two-leaved Toothwort and Ostrich Fern, both designated Vulnerable in Quebec.

Mr Breslaw is proud to have taken action for conservation: "My wife, Caroline and I love this land. It's amazingly beautiful and hasn't been logged in 100 years. Now that we're getting older (and better), we thought about how we could conserve it, so that others could enjoy it as much as we have. We took our inspiration from Montreal – think how much poorer Montreal would have been if Mount Royal had been developed. What is really rewarding is how positively both our children view this project. I guess the bottom line is that gifting this land to the RVLT was absolutely the right thing to do."

## CONSERVATION INITIATIVES

### Symposium and workshop on forestry and conservation

How can we ensure the forest occupation of a property is maintained, without being converted to other uses or subdivided, while taking into account biodiversity conservation objectives? Here is the central question around which discussion will take place during this symposium, which will be held in Orford on 18th-19th February 2010. Led by Appalachian Corridor and funded by the Programme de mise en

valeur des ressources du milieu forestier (Volet II) of the ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune, this symposium is overseen by an organising committee that includes representatives from the Agence de mise en valeur de la forêt privée de l'Estrie, the Conférence Régionale des Élus de l'Estrie, Nature Conservancy Canada and the Syndicat des producteurs de bois de l'Estrie. Visit [www.apcor.ca](http://www.apcor.ca) or phone (450) 242-1125 for more info.

## GENEROUS DONATIONS . . .

### 8,708 times "Thank you!"

Appalachian Corridor gratefully celebrated the engagement of its partners in the protection of 8,708 hectares of natural habitats on private land, during a special event held in West Brome on November 2<sup>nd</sup> 2009. The achievement is colossal since the surface area of protected land in private ownership has been multiplied six-fold between 2002 and 2009, now reaching 8,708 ha protected in perpetuity!

During this event, Stansje Plantenga, a pioneer in conservation on private land in Quebec, as well Victor and Elizabeth Allistone who were among the first landowners to make a land donation for conservation in the region, shared their experiences during vibrant and heartfelt speeches. This was followed by presentations from Louise Gratton and Terri Monahan, cofounders of Appalachian Corridor together with Francine Hone, who shared their passion for nature conservation. Representatives from Nature Conservancy Canada and the Fondation Hydro-Québec pour l'Environnement also attended the



© Mario Paquet  
Victor et Elizabeth Allistone, Stansje Plantenga, Louise Gratton et Terri Monahan

event and confirmed their continuing support towards Appalachian Corridor and its conservation actions throughout its territory.

Appalachian Corridor wishes to extend its deepest gratitude to its numerous partners including all the dedicated landowners, Nature Conservancy Canada, the 12 affiliated local conservation organizations, funding agencies, including governments and several foundations such as the Fondation Hydro-Québec pour l'environnement and, of course our loyal family of generous donors, volunteers, members of the Board and the staff.

In order to steer conservation actions in the right direction, Appalachian Corridor recently published a Strategic Plan, which was officially launched during the same event. Titled *Protecting the Future*, this plan aims to increase the amount of protected areas on private land up to 10,000 ha over the next four years, thus reaching a proportion of protected land in private ownership equal to 4% of Appalachian Corridor's territory. Visit [www.apcor.ca](http://www.apcor.ca) to download this plan.

Appalachian Corridor benefits from the financial support of the Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk of the Canadian Government, the ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs, the Fondation de la faune du Québec, the Fondation Hydro-Québec pour l'environnement, Wildlife Habitat Canada, the Programme de mise en valeur des ressources du milieu forestier (Volet II) of the ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune, the Agence forestière de la Montérégie, the Regional development fund of the Conférence régionale des élus de la Montérégie-Est, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and of several foundations.