

An Ecogift of 46 ha to Consolidate our Transborder Strategy

A land of 46 ha (114 acres) located in Eastman close to the Parc national du Mont-Orford and Lake D'Argent is now protected in perpetuity. This ecogift from Mr. Louis Rousseau and Mr. Normand Lacharité was made to Conservation des vallons de la Serpentine (CVS). Located in a key area, this protected land features numerous elements of ecological interest and contributes to our transborder connectivity efforts, aiming to protect large mammals in the Green Mountains corridor. Mr. Lacharité had much to say about the reasons behind this ecogift: "*Homo sapiens* is a very invasive species. It requires and conquers always more territory, which means that habitats for other species are progressively shrunk or eliminated. Mr. Rousseau and I tend to think spontaneously of this ecogift as a goodwill gesture towards other species. However, reflection and common sense are taking us further: it is in our own interest to set aside large blocks of land undeveloped where resources and living things are as close as possible to the original state called NATURE."

Appalachian Corridor and CVS extend their warmest thanks to Mr. Rousseau and Mr. Lacharité for this ecogift located in a hotspot and sought-after area, and extending over a large surface area. "We are happy and touched by the outcome of this conservation project that staggered over many years. We first met with the landowners about ten years ago. We took the time needed to accompany them and to progress together towards a conservation agreement. This ecogift is invaluable and perfectly consistent with our conservation strategy. We are truly grateful to Mr. Rousseau and Mr. Lacharité" said Mélanie Lelièvre Executive Director at Appalachian Corridor.

The property is located between Mount Orford and the Green Mountains range (Foster, Sutton, Singer, Glen, Echo): a critical place for wildlife movements. Françoise Bricault from CVS explains: "The Orford area is home to many large mammals like White-Tail Deer, Black Bear, Moose and Coyote. By protecting this land, we ensure habitat connectivity for these species in need of vast natural areas." We would like to thank the municipality of Eastman for their contribution to this project.



Appalachian Corridor's team visits the protected land with Mr. Lacharité.

NATURE PROTECTED FOREVER

Appalachian Corridor works closely with landowners and partners to conclude conservation projects. We thank owners and financial partners (p. 4) for their precious involvement in the creation of new protected areas.

A Trail Accessible to the Public in the Scowen Park

In a collaborative effort between the Scowen Family and the municipalities of North Hatley and Canton de Hatley, both municipalities donated a 34-acre property known as Scowen Park to Massawippi Conservation Trust.



The land is protected in perpetuity and provides recreational space for local citizens and visitors alike. Margot Heyerhoff, Chair of Massawippi Foundation, declared that "Massawippi Conservation Trust is honoured to be the new owner of this lovely property where, with easy access, people will be able to explore its ecological diversity." Canton de Hatley Mayor Martin Primeau added that "transferring Scowen Park to Massawippi Conservation Trust will allow the Scowen Family as well as both municipalities to reach two shared goals. i.e. to ensure the protection of the park as a green space for the future and to make it accessible to the public through trail development. Moreover, the cession supports another goal for the municipalities regarding public safety, since the area includes one acre along the public road where a future fire hall could be built". The park already boasts a 1,5 km natural and easy hiking trail so that all age groups may enjoy the variety of life within this beautiful forest. A 1km loop will be added in Spring 2017 and an official opening event will take place next summer.

The Scowen family is also thrilled about this new recreational mission. About 30 members of the family met Saturday, October 8th, and led a walk with some 50 citizens. Martha Maksym who represented the Scowen Family in the discussions, had these words: "The Scowen Family is so grateful to the Massawippi Conservation Trust for making our father/grandfather's dream come true for Scowen Park as a recreational area benefiting the people of North Hatley and Canton de Hatley. Our thanks also go to both municipalities for agreeing to donate the land. A win-win for everyone involved."

WORKING WITH MUNICIPALITIES

A New Rotunda for Austin in a Natural Corridor



Photo Credit: Patrick Raymond

Appalachian Corridor collaborated to the development of interpretation panels around the wrought iron rotunda installed by the municipality of Austin in the small park alongside Road 112, between the forest blocks of Mount Chagnon and Mount Orford.

The rotunda is adorned with lines from Alfred Desrochers’s poems on the inside, whereas the outside is covered with illustrated panels providing descriptions of the rich historical and natural heritage of the area. This work of art from Créations Têtro builds on Austin’s heritage tour. The project was partly funded by the Fonds de développement des territoires of the MRC Memphrémagog.

THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE

Climate Change: Conservation to the Rescue

It’s no surprise and the scientific community has been saying it out loud and clear for quite a while: the next decades will experience climate change at a much faster pace than what the planet has known to date. Just like us, animal and plant species as well as natural and developed ecosystems will have to adapt. How can we contribute to this adaptation without compromising the natural balance of evolution? This is the major challenge the conservation community is gearing up to face.

As meetings, events and other summits unfold where experts from all sectors wonder about what measures we should take to fight climate change, the conservation community’s efforts to protect the most fragile and strategic natural areas initiated a long time ago stand out even more. Conserving natural areas contributes to absorb and stock carbon, save typical samples of biodiversity and landscapes, protect exceptional or vulnerable habitats and enable species migration to more suitable habitats.

In 2016, Appalachian Corridor and its conservation partners protected over 12,700 ha on private land in the Appalachian region of Southern Québec. Everywhere in Québec, local, regional and provincial groups work in partnership within various and well established networks including non-profit, citizens, government stakeholders and elected representatives. According to the Réseau des milieux naturels protégés (RMNat.org), 60,000 ha of natural areas are protected in perpetuity throughout in the province by conservation groups. First and foremost, we owe private landowners for these tangible results but also acknowledge the key role played by organizations that provide tools and guidance through the conservation process. In the end, it benefits the whole community. This is the conservation community’s greatest strength: well-established ramifications and a low-cost structure, flexible and facilitating allowing everyone to get involved now to protect natural areas to the benefit of all. The conservation network thus contributes to reach the governmental targets in terms of natural protected areas and makes our adaptation to climate change easier. What if adaptation to climate change was already well underway and if the intensification of our conservation efforts could shift it into the next gear? Let’s act now, ahead of tomorrow’s change!



A New Member Joins the Team



Patrice is our new G.I.S Technician. He is responsible for the production of numerous maps used at different stages of each conservation project, the maintenance and improvements of geographical databases, the use of spatial analyses and modeling, and the production of statistics related to the Appalachian Corridor’s territory of action. He is developing tools allowing the automation of a number of tasks and contributes to I.T. support. His position at Appalachian Corridor allows him to combine his knowledge on natural habitats, his interest for I.T. as well as his values regarding the protection of natural areas and the environment. Welcome to the team Patrice!

Mélanie Lelièvre is Back, Martine Ruel is Appointed Operations Manager!

Mélanie came back to work in August with her usual contagious enthusiasm and a head full of new ideas. “I come back recharged, motivated and very keen to undertake new projects that will allow Appalachian Corridor to innovate and to stand out as we pursue our work of protecting natural areas on our territory of action. I had the opportunity to spend a wonderful year traveling with my family. I now have the privilege to come back and work every day as part of an inspiring organization aligned with my values. Moreover, it’s great news that Martine can stay with us: it strengthens the team and will bring new opportunities.” Martine Ruel, who was Acting Director during her absence, is officially joining the team as Operations Manager. Board President Marie-José Auclair welcomes these changes, saying that “we are thrilled to see Mélanie take back the torch, and are confident that Martine’s official position within the team will benefit all aspects of its operation”. Welcome back Mélanie, best of success Martine!



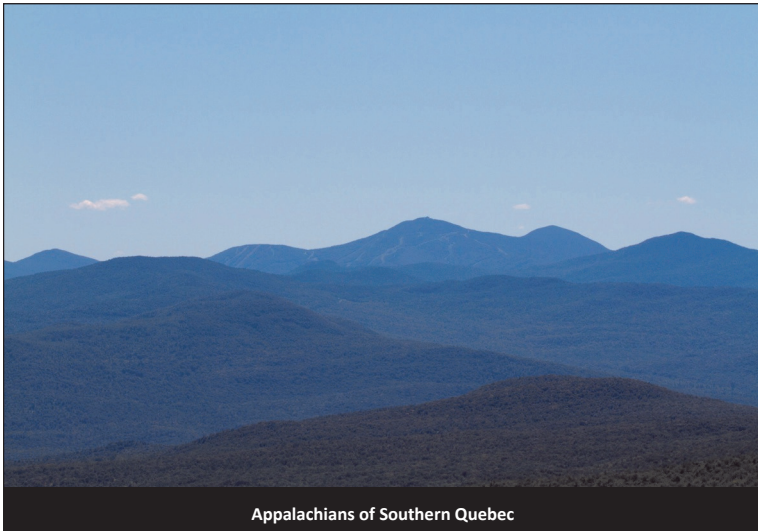
Mélanie Lelièvre and Martine Ruel

Good news: Government to Recognize Connectivity as a Measure to Face Climate Change


Appalachian Corridor applauds the New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers for signing a resolution that recognizes the value of forests and waterways and calls for collaboration across state, provincial, and international borders to ensure they remain connected. Forests are essential to the vitality of the region’s native wildlife and plants, as well as its human communities, livelihoods, economies, and quality of life. Keeping them connected, particularly within the context of climate change, protects all of these values by bolstering resilience and fostering adaptation.

A Significant Resolution for the Appalachians of Southern Québec

The Appalachians of Southern Québec, where a large part of Québec’s biodiversity is found, are particularly sensitive to disturbances and fragmentation. This resolution is highly relevant as it recognizes the importance and urgent need to protect connectivity between large forests tracks and, therefore, natural corridors. "This is great news and we look forward to seeing how this resolution will be implemented on our territory of action and on a larger scale. Since climate change is a top priority at the ministère du Développement durable, de l’Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques, connectivity as a measure of adaptation to face climate change is finally recognized. While maintaining connectivity, we make sure to protect healthy and interlinked natural areas in order for wildlife to better adapt to climate change. Working together will ensure that we achieve successful results in protecting our landscapes" said Mélanie Lelièvre, Executive Director at Appalachian Corridor.



Appalachians of Southern Quebec



RÉSERVE NATURELLE
MONTAGNES VERTES

Warning! Our trails will be closed during the hunting season:

- from October 29 to November 13, 2016 inclusively;
- from November 19 to November 27, 2016 inclusively.

For your own safety, it’s forbidden to access our trails during hunting season. Thanks!



A FINAL EFFORT FOR THE MAJOR FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

Our Major Fundraising Campaign is almost over but there is still time to contribute!

Make a donation online at campagne.corridorappalachien.ca or fill the form below. Appalachian Corridor is a non-profit charitable organization (No. 854117488RR0001). Donors will receive a charitable receipt for all donations of \$ 20 or more.

Thanks for your generosity!

Nom/Name

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Ville/City

ProvinceCode postal/Postal Code

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☐ Je désire que mon nom et mon don soient connus.
I want my name and the amount of my donation made public.

☐ Je désire que seulement mon nom soit connu.
I want my name only made public.

☐ Je désire demeurer anonyme.
I want to remain anonymous.

✂

Je fais un don unique de :
I make a single donation of:

☐ 50 \$
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☐ 500 \$
☐ Autre/Other _____ \$

Je m'engage pour une période cinq ans :
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☐ 250 \$ (5 versements de 50 \$ in 5 installments)
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☐ 1000 \$ (5 versements de 200 \$ in 5 installments)
☐ 2500 \$ (5 versements de 500 \$ in 5 installments)
☐ Autre/Other _____ \$
(____ versements de/installments of _____ \$)

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☐ Visa
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Nom sur la carte/Cardholder

N° de la carte/Card number

Date d'expiration/Expiration Date

Code de vérification/CSC (3 chiffres au verso de la carte)

Signature

Envoyer votre don/Send your donation : Corridor appalachien, 37 rue des Pins Sud, Eastman (QC) J0E 1P0

HONOURING AN AFFILIATE MEMBER: CVS

Conservation des vallons de la Serpentine celebrates 10 years!



By a beautiful summer day, over a hundred people celebrated the 10th anniversary of Conservation des vallons de la Serpentine (CVS). The celebration paid tribute to donors, volunteers and members of this dynamic organization. CVS gathers residents well-aware of the area's ecological wealth and sensitive to the environment, who got together to ensure the fragile natural areas on its territory are protected in perpetuity.

By François Ducharme, Communications Officer, CVS

The organization from the Bolton-Est, Austin and Eastman area mobilizes residents and stakeholders and successfully protected in perpetuity over 273 ha on its territory. CVS started in 2006 with informal meetings of residents from the area, bringing together vital strengths to better understand environmental issues and find the best means to protect natural areas. Over the years, CVS organized awareness conferences, built tracking teams trained by Faune sans frontière, worked with three municipalities for its various projects and became a reference for mobilizing volunteers towards for conservation, a cause that is more and more valued for future generations.



FOCUS ON A SPECIES AT RISK: the Wood Thrush



The Wood Thrush is a medium-sized songbird, about 20 cm (8 inches) long – slightly smaller than the American Robin and similar in shape. These birds are generally rusty-brown on the upper parts with white under parts and large blackish spots on the breast and sides. Males and females are similar in appearance, and juveniles look similar to adults but have tawny streaks and spots on the back, neck, and wings. The Wood Thrushes live in mature deciduous and mixed (conifer-deciduous) forests. They seek moist stands of trees with well-developed undergrowth and tall trees used as singing perches. The Wood Thrush forages for food in leaf litter or on semi-bare ground. Its prey includes larval and adult insects as well as plant material.

Interior Forest Birds

The Wood Thrush is an interior forest bird along with the Pileated Woodpecker, American Redstart, Eurasian Wren, Barred Owl and several birds of prey. These species need large unfragmented forest blocks offering various habitats, food, refuge and breeding sites. What you can do to help the Wood Thrush :

- Avoid disturbing birds and nests : keep your distance and observe them from a far distance;
- Don't feed the squirrels: they could eat the thrush's eggs;
- If you are a landowner, maintain a good forest cover on your land.

WE WERE THERE

- August 4 to 7: Correspondances d'Eastman
- August 27: Nature Conservancy Canada's Recognition Cocktail in Sutton
- September 17: Townshippers Day in Brome
- September 11-14: *Northeastern Transportation and Wildlife* Conference in Lake Placid (over 300 delegates)
- September 24 and 25: Écosphère 2016 in Magog
- October 1st: Eastman en couleurs, family nature rally
- October 3rd: *Blanding's and Wood Turtle Conservation* Symposium in Westborough, Massachusetts (over 150 delegates)
- October 13: Assises sur les Montérégiennes (Monteregians meeting)
- Octobre 13 and 14: 71st congress of the Association forestière du Sud du Québec

Appalachian Corridor is a non-profit organization with a mission to protect natural habitats and the biodiversity of the Appalachians of Southern Quebec, in collaboration with private landowners, local conservation groups as well as regional, national and international partners.

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Visit our website at appalachiancorridor.ca

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