



## PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

### **Appalachian Corridor helps Orford Citizens Acquire a Piece of Nature**

**Eastman, February 17, 2017** – Appalachian Corridor is pleased to announce that a parcel of 18.6 hectares will be protected in perpetuity in Orford, QC. For the first time in its 15 years of existence, Appalachian Corridor directly purchased a tract of land. Its great ecological value, its importance for the preservation of water quality, and its proximity to the Parc national du Mont-Orford were all reasons behind this decision. Another crucial factor was the extraordinary involvement of a group of citizens from the Lake À la Truite sector of Orford. “We were so convinced of the indisputable ecological value of this property that we created a precedent and bought it. We commend the efforts of all the people who got involved, especially Mr. Bertrand Larivée, who worked relentlessly to collect the funds needed to purchase the property. Without his tireless efforts, this transaction would most likely have been impossible and the land would have remained unprotected,” says Mélanie Lelièvre, Executive Director at Appalachian Corridor.

#### **A transitional role**

Once the Orford group has completed the steps to become a legally recognized conservation organization, Appalachian Corridor will transfer the newly protected area to them. Marie-José Auclair, Chair of Appalachian Corridor’s Board of Directors, declared that “long ago, the Board agreed that we could not miss opportunities to protect natural environments such as this one. We created an Acquisition & Conservation Fund to be able to seize such opportunities. We are delighted to be able to support citizen involvement while consolidating our conservation strategy around the Parc national du Mont-Orford.”

“On behalf of the Honourable Catherine McKenna, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, I would like to extend my congratulations to Appalachian Corridor and thank the numerous donors who contributed in making this announcement today, said Denis Paradis, Brome-Missisquoi MP. “ The Government of Canada is proud to support their efforts, thanks to the Natural Areas Conservation Program, as part of its commitment to protect major wildlife habitats in Québec and Canada.”

#### **Citizens take over to preserve water quality in the lake**

In May 2015, the Association des riverains du Lac à la Truite contacted Appalachian Corridor to discuss a possible change affecting a neighbouring lot. They were worried about the situation and wanted to purchase the property for conservation purposes. Appalachian Corridor coached the group and provided technical

expertise to fast track the process, while members of the association, headed by Bertrand Larivée, raised most of the funds needed for the purchase. This was an unprecedented effort from the community. In the end, this endeavour led to the conservation of 18.6 hectares of natural habitats. “I was highly motivated to buy this lot because a proposal came forward to build a road linking the land to a municipal access road. This project would have required crossing the main wetland connected to the lake. In order to protect the water quality of our lake, I decided to try and convince the residents to pool resources to buy this land and protect it in perpetuity. About a hundred donors responded and we were able to raise 75% of the purchase price” said Bertrand Larivée.

### **A rich natural environment on the periphery of the Parc national du Mont-Orford**

Located in mountainous terrain, the new protected area is home to several species at risk in Quebec or Canada: Eastern Wood-peewee, Pickerel Frog, and Northern Dusky Salamander. It also features interior forest birds like the Scarlet Tanager. In addition, its proximity to the Parc national du Mont-Orford allows wide-ranging mammals such as Moose, Fisher and Bobcat to roam around a wider territory. The protection of this property is part of the plan to preserve the periphery of the Parc national du Mont-Orford, implemented by Appalachian Corridor since January 2016 in cooperation with the SÉPAQ and Fondation de la faune du Québec.

The protection of this area was made possible by local donors and thanks to the financial support from several partners, including Environment and Climate Change Canada. Appalachian Corridor also wishes to thank Nature Conservancy Canada, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife, Alderbrooke Marsh Land Trust, Fondation de la faune du Québec, SÉPAQ and the municipality of Orford Township.

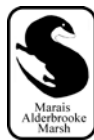
– 30 –

Ce projet a été réalisé avec l'appui financier de :  
This project was undertaken with the financial support of:



Environnement et  
Changement climatique Canada

Environment and  
Climate Change Canada



For more information, please contact :

Mylène Alarie  
Communications Coordinator  
Appalachian Corridor  
450 297-1145  
mylene.alarie@corridorappalachien.ca  
[www.appalachiancorridor.ca](http://www.appalachiancorridor.ca)



**Photo**

© Lise Latrémouille

Protecting Boisé du lac à la Truite helps conserve the water quality of the lake



**Sign**

Sign posted at the entrance of Boisé du lac à la Truite