



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Over 70 ha protected for biodiversity thanks to a third donation from a Bolton-Est landowner

Bolton-Est, Friday February 16th, 2018 – The conservation groups Conservation des vallons de la Serpentine (CVS) and Appalachian Corridor are pleased to announce the protection in perpetuity of a 70-hectare property in Bolton-Est. This new protected area is the third ecological gift from Ms. Ann Pâquet, and CVS will now be its sole owner. Over the years, Ms. Pâquet developed lasting relationships based on mutual trust with both conservation organizations, which led her to protect a total of 80.6 ha in an area of high ecological value. Ms. Pâquet explains: “all these people have inspired me confidence and over the years I developed a great interest in nature; therefore, I now give 70 hectares to CVS for their protection in perpetuity”. Gilles Gagnon, Vice President, Communications for CVS adds that “it is a great privilege to have worked with Ms. Pâquet over the last ten years to protect the biodiversity of her land and we are most grateful. This new protected area features numerous elements of ecological interest and brings the network of natural areas protected by CVS to 340 ha (850 acres)”.

A donation to safeguard connectivity

Appalachian Corridor and CVS thank Ms. Pâquet wholeheartedly for this land donation in a strategic and highly sought-after area. “This is an invaluable gift that fits perfectly with our conservation strategy. Owing to its location, it contributes to connectivity efforts for wildlife protection in the Green Mountains linkage from Vermont to Quebec. We hope that the mutual trust highlighted with this third donation will inspire new donors and initiate other projects” said Mélanie Lelièvre, Executive Director at Appalachian Corridor. The land is located between Mount Orford and Mount Place where wildlife movements abound. The protection of this property will ensure quality habitats are safeguarded for various species representative of the natural region, including the Northern Dusky Salamander, a species at risk in Quebec (likely to be designated as threatened or vulnerable under the *Loi sur les espèces menacées ou vulnérables*).

A landowner who makes all the difference

It should be noted that conservation actions in the Mont Chagnon area started almost a decade ago thanks to Ms. Pâquet. Indeed, the generous property-owner made a first land donation in 2009, which represented the first dominant land for the local conservation group (CVS). With this first ecogift, CVS was

then able to protect many other natural habitats in the surrounding area by way of conservation servitudes.

“On behalf of my colleague, Catherine McKenna, I congratulate Conservation des vallons de la Serpentine, Appalachian Corridor and their partners for the conservation of 70 hectares of important habitat in Bolton-Est. Through the Natural Areas Conservation Program and the Ecological Gifts Program our government is working with partners to protect and conserve species at risk, and preserve Canada’s biodiversity for future generations” said the Honourable Denis Paradis, MP for Brome-Missisquoi.

Appalachian Corridor and CVS wish to thank the following partners for their financial support: Environment and Climate Change Canada through the Natural Areas Conservation Program, the Ecological Gifts Program, the Nature Conservancy of Canada, the US Fish & Wildlife Service, the Open Space Institute, the Fondation de la faune du Québec, the Echo Foundation, Quebec’s ministère du Développement durable, de l’Environnement et de la Lutte contre les Changements climatiques and the municipality of Bolton-Est. In addition, a portion of this project was donated to CVS under the Canadian government’s Ecological Gifts Program, which provides enhanced tax incentives for individuals or corporations donating ecologically-significant land.

Ce projet a été réalisé avec l’appui financier de :
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Environnement et
Changement climatique Canada

Environment and
Climate Change Canada



About

Conservation des vallons de la Serpentine (CVS) is a charitable conservation organization created in 2006 by a small group of landowners along Bellevue Road in Bolton-Est. These neighbors were concerned about increasingly pressing environmental issues and convinced that by joining their skills and energy they could have a lasting impact on their community. Beyond their convictions, some of them took direct action by giving CVS a portion of their properties or by granting conservation servitudes in perpetuity. Today, 340 hectares are protected on CVS’ territory of action for future generations. www.conservationserpentine.org

Corridor appalachien is a charitable conservation organization created in 2002, with a mission to protect natural habitats and biodiversity in the Appalachians of southern Quebec. By implementing its transborder conservation strategy, Appalachian Corridor provides local communities with the means to maintain and restore a living environment that respects the ecology of the region, in a perspective of sustainable development. www.appalachiancorridor.ca



Nature Conservancy Canada is Quebec and Canada's leading land conservation organization, protecting natural habitats as well as the plants and animals they shelter. Since 1962, NCC and its partners have helped to conserve more than 1.1 million hectares of ecologically significant land from coast to coast, including 40,000 ha in Quebec. By acquiring and protecting these natural habitats, NCC ensures they can be accessible to present and future generations. For more information, visit www.natureconservancy.ca

The Government of Canada's Natural Areas Conservation Program is a public-private partnership aiming to accelerate land conservation in southern Canada. The Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) administers the program. Through matching contributions, NCC and its partners enhance federal funding. Protected habitats under the Natural Areas Conservation Program consolidate the protection of natural corridors and other protected areas.



Ray of light on Ann Pâquet protected natural area

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