

Citizens unite to protect 13 hectares in Orford

A group of citizens wanted to protect a large property to safeguard its natural habitats. Aware of the ecological importance of this area and sensitive to the aspirations of this group of citizens, Appalachian Corridor accompanied them throughout this interesting project. "We are proud to see our expertise benefitting both the ecology and citizens! We warmly thank the project's initiators, donors, and Mr. Collins who made a generous ecogift. Together, they chose to make a positive difference in protecting our forests and their biodiversity. We have an exceptional community that is truly committed to protecting the natural environment" said Mélanie Lelièvre, Executive Director at Appalachian Corridor.

Serge Collins and Maryse Bisson added: "Making an ecological gift – what a wonderful way to protect and make this beautiful enchanted forest live forever, an ancestral land that over the years led to so many wonderful memories. We are grateful to all these extraordinary beings who supported us in this ecological and biological project. A big thank you to all the donors of Le Havre and to the whole team at Appalachian Corridor!" The donors, represented by Raymond Lalonde, stated "we are strong advocates of the environment and ecology, we live next door to this new protected land. We wanted to extend the réserve naturelle du lac Bran-de-scie, an existing protected area. Together, these adjacent areas represent approximately 32 hectares (c. 79 acres). We wanted to act concretely to increase protected areas in Quebec and especially those adjacent to the parc national du Mont-Orford. This will help maintain free wildlife movements in the area, and promote the protection and sound stewardship of our native species." Congratulations and thanks to these committed citizens!



Donors from the Collins-Havre d'Orford protected area along with Orford's municipal Council members including Mayor Marie Boivin and Appalachian Corridor team met for a hike

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



Françoise Bricault (Conservation des vallons de la Serpentine), Ann Pâquet (donor) and Clément Robidoux (biologist, Appalachian Corridor)

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 towards CVS. 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 (almost 200 acres) 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". Françoise Bricault, on the Board of Directors at CVS adds that "it is a great privilege to have worked with Ms. Pâquet over the last ten years to protect 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)". It should be noted that conservation actions in the Mont Chagnon area started almost a decade ago thanks to Ms. Pâquet. "This is an invaluable gift that fits perfectly with our conservation strategy. Owing to its location and its ecological wealth, it consolidates the network of protected areas in this region. One more step was thus taken to safeguard a natural corridor between the Sutton Mountain range and Mount Orford, a crucial linkage to maintain the region's wildlife species. We hope that the mutual trust highlighted with this third donation will inspire new donors" said Clément Robidoux, Biologist at Appalachian Corridor.

NATURE PROTECTED FOREVER

The Parc des Sommets takes shape!

Appalachian Corridor congratulates people and organizations who joined forces and invested time and energy to create the Parc des Sommets in Bromont. First and foremost, these include members of Protégeons Bromont as well as Bromont City Council who did an extraordinary job to support their community. We take this opportunity to applaud the Société de conservation du Mont Brome and Nature Conservancy Canada, as well as Les Amis des sentiers de Bromont, for their contribution to this project. Appalachian Corridor is also very proud to have played various roles in this issue, especially at the first stages of the project as early as 2013. "With this project, all parties win: biodiversity, communities and, in a broader perspective, all Quebecers who will have access to this Park and enjoy the benefits of protected natural habitats. This outcome really brings hope" said Mélanie Lelièvre, Executive Director at Appalachian Corridor. Again, congratulations to the people of Bromont for their strong and inspiring mobilization and thanks to the Government of Quebec.



The Mayor of Bromont, Louis Villeneuve, with representatives from organizations who made this larger-than-life project possible, including Mélanie Lelièvre, Exec. Dir. at Appalachian Corridor

ECONOMICS AND ECOLOGICAL SERVICES

Federal and provincial budgets: major investments in nature



Appalachian Corridor greets the Governments of Canada and Québec's commitment to nature conservation. Throughout Canada, critical conservation work is being done on local and regional scales by organizations like Appalachian Corridor. Support by governments through is an essential factor to conduct our work and create protected natural areas in communities across the country. "We welcome the commitment of the Governments. Thanks to the sums injected, we will be able to protect even more natural areas in the Green Mountains: one of the last places in southern Quebec where there are still vast areas of relatively intact and wild forest. Let's not forget that conservation is one of the main climate change adaptation measures: it is crucial to devote our efforts to future generations" stated Marie-José Auclair, President of the Board of Directors at Appalachian Corridor.

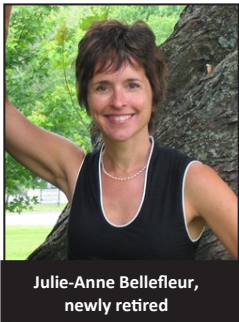
THROUGH THE GRAPEVINES

Appalachian Corridor visits summer day camps to raise awareness among kids



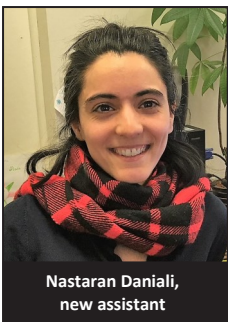
Throughout the summer, we will visit day camps on our territory to raise awareness among kids about the protection of natural areas. We want to help create a generation that is more sensitive to the environment and more particularly the importance to look after our natural areas. On the agenda: nature rallies, hikes and DIY as well as outdoor games that will help kids discover our wildlife, all made possible thanks to funding from TD Friends of the Environment Foundation. To receive our animation team in your community, please contact mylene.alarie@corridorappalachien.ca

It buzzes in the team!



Julie-Anne Bellefleur, newly retired

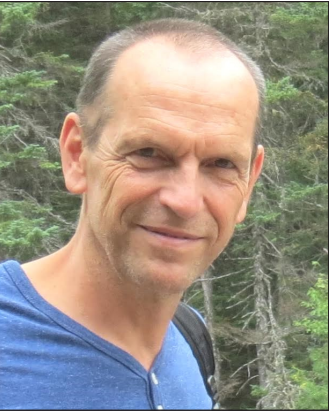
Summer is a time of great excitement here! It is the main season for our team to conduct fieldwork including ecological surveys, protected areas stewardship and management, awareness activities and carry out species monitoring. Fortunately, this year, five interns will come to help us! And last but not least, our dear Julie-Anne Bellefleur, who served as Executive Assistant for the last 10 years, has retired. Nastaran Daniali rose to the challenge and will now take the position within our team. Happy retirement Julie-Anne, all the best Nastaran!



Nastaran Daniali, new assistant

Giving your land, a gesture for the future

By André Champoux, Conservation Advisor



What ties someone to their land is a very powerful bond. Buying or inheriting a land can become a life plan, a place for healing, fulfillment and health. Generations come and go yet, often, all continue to cherish this piece of family land where children and grandchildren play, explore and learn so many important things in life. Knowing this, why do landowners keep contacting Appalachian Corridor and its affiliates to donate their land? The EcoGifts Program offers the opportunity to protect nature and pass on a legacy to future generations. It also means donors can get certain services and benefits in return, including tax incentives. Many landowners I have met protect their land and want their actions to have a lasting impact. They want their forest or wetland to remain protected forever. They want to leave a healthy land and make sure it stays there forever. Note that giving is not the only way to protect your land, other options are available: conservation servitude, nature reserve or donation for part of the value or donation of the land itself while retaining a number of uses over a period of time, etc. We shall explore these and other options in another article. Donating your land or adding an legal protec-

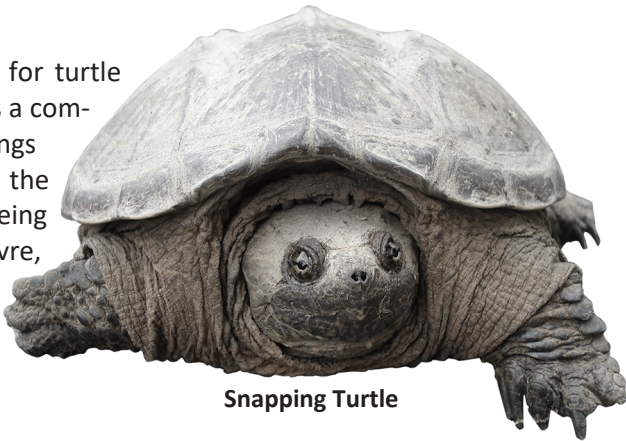
tion status to it is a way to leave your mark and ensure that future generations can also enjoy this land we care for, our temporary home. Do you want to find out more? We can help you navigate through the process at no charge or simply inform you about the options available. Contact us at 450 297-1145.

ROAD ECOLOGY : TURTLES

New Passage under Route 245 in Bolton-Est

We are proud to have contributed to install a crossing structure for turtles and other small animals on the section of road 245 that crosses Peasley Pond in Bolton-Est, in partnership with Quebec’s ministère des Transports, de la Mobilité durable et de l’Électrification des transports (MTMDET) and ministère de la Faune, des Forêts et des Parcs. This is the first crossing of the kind developed by the MTMDET in Quebec.

This area had been documented by Appalachian Corridor as a hotspot for turtle collisions, including species listed as threatened in Quebec or Canada. "As a community, we can be proud to be the first in Quebec to set up wildlife crossings like these. The installation of this crossing is a major achievement for the recovery of turtle populations. We warmly thank the MTMDET for agreeing to collaborate on this outstanding innovative project," said Mélanie Lelièvre, Executive Director of Appalachian Corridor. Fences were installed on both sides of the road to direct turtles towards the crossing. The MTMDET took advantage of a scheduled culvert rehabilitation to integrate this wildlife passage with the road infrastructure.



Snapping Turtle

Turtle hotspot

Peasley Pond is a key habitat for turtles: the Missisquoi Nord River as well as surrounding wetlands and terrestrial habitats used as nesting sites are nearby. During turtle egg-laying season in late spring and early summer, females move further away from the water in search of a sandy or gravelly place to bury their eggs. Unfortunately, our roadsides and their gravel shoulders are popular places for females looking to lay eggs, often resulting in injuries to or death of those females following collisions with vehicles. "Wetlands and aquatic habitats on either side of the road at Peasley Pond are particularly important for turtles including the Painted Turtle and Snapping Turtle. It takes many years before turtles reach sexual maturity, and females lay their eggs only once a year. The death of each adult female thus represents a major threat to turtle populations. A significant decline can occur in affected populations, even leading to local extinction," explained Clément Robidoux, biologist and conservation coordinator at Appalachian Corridor. Clément Robidoux is a member of the Quebec Turtle Recovery Team, a group working to implement a recovery plan for turtle populations in Quebec, and is therefore well aware of the situation faced by turtle species in Quebec.



Road 245 in Bolton-Est crosses Peasley Pond, an important habitat for turtles

HONOURING AN AFFILIATE : the SCCNRS

A New Strength for the Société de conservation du corridor naturel de la rivière au Saumon



The Société de conservation du corridor naturel de la rivière au Saumon (SCCNRS) has been an Affiliate Member of Appalachian Corridor since 2005. Its mission is to protect and conserve in perpetuity the environmental heritage and natural habitats of high ecological value on the territory of the Salmon River watershed in the townships of Orford and Melbourne. This 290 km2 territory is part of the Appalachians Natural Region and is a natural extension of Mount-Orford National Park. Founded in 2003 and very active in its early days, SCCNRS saw its activities decline after a few years, due to cuts in government programs and a lack of succession on the Board of Directors. The organization even considered ceasing its activities due to lack of resources. At the same time, in 2016-2017, citizens wanted to found new conservation organizations in Orford. Appalachian Corridor brought together these driving forces and SCCNRS invited them to its AGM. The operation was a success: all seats are now filled on the SCCNRS Board! Congratulations to this group renewed its CA with experienced officers! For info: www.sccnrs.ca



RÉSERVE NATURELLE
MONTAGNES VERTES



New Benches at Beaver Pond

Gilles DuSablon, member of Appalachian Corridor’s Board of Directors, put his cabinet making skills at the service of the Montagnes-Vertes Nature Reserve (RNMV). He crafted benches onsite, and hikers can now rest while admiring the magnificent beaver pond. Thank you Gilles!

WANTED: PATROLLERS FOR THE RNMV

We established a new volunteer patrol program and want to include community members to walk the trails and protected areas managed by Appalachian Corridor. Join our team for a dynamic and rewarding experience immersed in nature!

Do you have the makings of a patrol officer? It may be so if you are:

Interested in the nature protection * an enthusiastic hiker * comfortable and self-sufficient outdoors, in the forest
a keen observer * willing to help * available at least 6 days per year

If you wish to take part in our program, contact david.brisson@corridorappalachien.ca

COMING SOON

- **May 26th, starting at 10am:** Inaugural walk of the Village-Montagne Trail, departure in front of Sutton School, 19 Highland Street, Sutton. In case of pouring rain, the hike will take place the next day. www.parcstutton.com
 - **May 27th, 10am to noon:** Hike and DIY: Birds these great travelers, Île du marais de Katevale www.journeesdelanature.com
 - **May 27th, 4pm:** PENS Annual General Meeting, Auberge Montagnard, 264 Maple Street, Sutton www.parcstutton.com
 - **June 2nd, 10:00 am:** RNMV, come and enjoy a friendly trail cleanup experience in the Singer area of the Reserve. Meet at the parking lot on Ruiter Brook Road. www.rnmv.ca
 - **June 3rd:** Birdwatching outing at Mount Pinnacle in Frelighsburg with the Club des ornithologues de Brome-Missisquoi (COBM). Information and reservation with Philippe Blain at (450) 812-7774. www.cobm.ca
- Every Saturday in July: Accompanied walks in the RNMV - Daily access required \$ 6 (free for Estrie Trail members) for details and

Appalachian Corridor is a non-profit organization with a mission to protect the natural habitats and 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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