



## PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

### **An important ecogift of 46 ha (114 acres) in Eastman**

**Eastman, Tuesday September 27, 2016** – Conservations des vallons de la Serpentine (CVS) and Appalachian Corridor are proud to announce the protection in perpetuity of a 46 ha (114 acres) of land located in Eastman close to the Parc national du Mont-Orford and lake D'Argent. An ecogift from Mr. Louis Rousseau and Mr. Normand Lacharité, this protected area has numerous elements of ecological interest. Located in a key area, it contributes , to our transborder connectivity efforts to protect large wildlife in the Green Mountains Corridor.

Mr. Lacharité had a lot 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 habitat of other species is progressively shorten or eliminated. Mr. Rousseau and I tend to think spontaneously of this ecogift as a goodwill gesture toward other species. However, reflection and common sense are taking us further: it is in our own interest to plan large blocks of land undeveloped where resources and living things are in a state as close as possible to the original state called NATURE."

#### **A Very Valuable Gift**

Appalachian Corridor and CVS extend their warmest thanks to Mr. Rousseau and Mr. Lacharité for this ecogift in a hotspot and sought-after area, especially considering the significant size of the land. "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 our time to accompany them and to progress together toward a conservation agreement that will, in the end, benefit everyone. 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.

#### **In the peripheral zone of the Parc national du Mont-Orford**

"The area protected thanks to Mr. Rousseau and Mr. Lacharité is located near Parc national du Mont-Orford. Other conservation projects in the outskirts area are ongoing and we trust this generous ecogift will raise other conservation projects in the short to medium term" continued Mélanie Lelièvre. It should be recalled that Appalachian Corridor implemented a large conservation and awareness project in the peripheral zone of the Parc national du Mont-Orford at the beginning of 2016 and that this project is still ongoing.

## An Ecogift that ensures connectivity for wide-ranging mammals

The land is located between Mount Orford and the Green Mountains range (Foster, Sutton, Singer, Glen, Echo): a place where wildlife travels a lot. 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 connectivity for these species in need of large spaces to travel." Appalachian Corridor's biologist, Clément Robidoux, added that "the protection of this land will maintain high-quality habitats for many species native to the natural area, including, possibly, the Wood Turtle, a species at risk both in Québec and Canada."

Appalachian Corridor would like to thank its financial partners: the municipality of Eastman, the Echo Foundation, The Open Space Institute, the Fondation de la Faune du Québec and Eco-Action.



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### From left to right :

Mr. Lacharité, donor ; Sonia Lacasse, Notary ; M. Rousseau, donor ; Martine Ruel, Appalachian Corridor; Françoise Bricault, Conservation des vallons de la Serpentine.



Ferns in the forest



Wetland

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