



News from Appalachian Corridor

Winter 2018-2019

Available online:
appalachiancorridor.ca

15 years of conservation and innovation

Follow us on



Happy 15th Anniversary Appalachian Corridor!



Visiting Onil Faucher's property in Bolton-Est, protected in perpetuity by way of a forest conservation servitude.

This fall, Appalachian Corridor celebrated its 15th anniversary. For the occasion, partners, elected officials, volunteers, donors and funders gathered and toured some of the most inspiring sites on our territory. From Bolton Pass to Austin and Mount Orford, we admired the natural jewels that inspire us every day. The celebration ended at Au Vignoble d'Orford with a festive cocktail party where we all took the time to celebrate as well as measure the progress made.

The story of a great vision

At the origin of the organization, three nature lovers – ecologist Louise Gratton, conservation biologist Francine Hone and the late Terri Monahan, project manager. These three women created and implemented an ambitious conservation project to protect the natural corridor in the Appalachians of southern Quebec. What was then called the Appalachian Corridor Project came to being in response to growing pressures on the territory. At the time, already, the implementation of a global conservation strategy was

needed to minimize the impacts of human activities and preserve sufficient forested areas to maintain biodiversity. Since then, with unwavering support from its partners, Appalachian Corridor has pursued the vision of its founders. One conservation project after another, pieces of the puzzle fall into place to make this initial vision come true and connect the Mount Sutton Range to Mount Orford.

A word from Mélanie Lelièvre, Executive Director

Appalachian Corridor is 15 years old! And this beautiful adventure is far from over! Our efforts are focused on creating protected areas and maintaining their connectivity. Since our inception, the area protected on private land has expanded from 400 ha (990 acres) to more than 13,300 hectares (32,900 acres). Between conservation actions, our work with municipalities, influencing role in land use planning, multiplying outreach activities, our major project of a wildlife crossing over Highway 10 and everything else, we can say that Appalachian Corridor continues to evolve and expand at a steady pace! Over the last 15 years everything has grown: the number of Affiliate Members, the number and extent of protected areas on the territory, our mission, our responsibilities and our risk tolerance! Our results are made possible thanks to our conservation partners as well as the generosity of many landowners driven by the desire to protect nature and leave a healthy legacy for future generations. With experience comes the realisation that, on a territory largely under private tenure and where development pressure is enormous, we cannot protect everything everywhere. To truly succeed in preserving biodiversity we need to work with others. Like nature, we network! We are therefore collaborating with a growing number of stakeholders: foresters, municipalities, government agencies, universities, trail managers and even, as in the case of Mount Foster, with real estate developers. Our American partners also help us consolidate our strategy across the border. All these collaborations allow us to extend our scope of action, a scope that is also growing. In all humility, in 15 years Appalachian Corridor has become a conservation leader in Quebec. The provincial government adopted the Nagoya Protocol and Aichi Biodiversity Targets, thus committing to protect 17% of terrestrial ecosystems and inland water. We intend to reach this target and to protect, one day, at least 17% of the Green Mountains of Quebec. Join me in wishing Appalachian Corridor a happy 15th anniversary!



Mélanie Lelièvre, Executive Director and Marie-José Auclair, Chair of the Board, celebrate Appalachian Corridor's 15th anniversary.

NATURE PROTECTED FOREVER

Katanontanohnha’ protected area: 92 ha of natural areas added to network

In early fall, Appalachian Corridor announced the protection of 92 ha (227 acres) in Saint-Étienne-de-Bolton. This new protected area features many elements of ecological interest. "We are thrilled to announce the acquisition of this property. It is a key element in our conservation strategy aiming to connect the Sutton Mountain Range to Mount Orford and ensure the connectivity of large forest blocks as critical habitats for biodiversity” said Marie-José Auclair, President of the Board at Appalachian Corridor. "We are most grateful to the previous landowners, Mr. Brisebois and Ms. Surprenant, and thank them for working with us to protect this land of great ecological value" she added. The Mayor of Saint-Étienne-de-Bolton, Michèle Turcotte, greeted sincerely all partners who got together to protect this property: "This is an outstanding initiative and I hope it will have a snowballing effect with other citizens to protect more natural areas of high ecological value throughout our territory." The protected area will be named Katanontanohnha', which means "I keep the mountain" in Mohawk language. With this name the organization wishes to pay tribute to the First Nations who have always had this great concern to protect nature and from whom we have so much to learn. "This land is of great importance to us. In Native American culture a principle states that we must anticipate the consequences of our actions for the next seven generations. By bequeathing this land to Appalachian Corridor we are inspired by this philosophy. This land will now be protected forever; it is a precious gift for generations to come" said Terry Brisebois, former landowner.



WORKING HAND IN HAND WITH MUNICIPALITIES

Together towards the best future for Mount Foster

Appalachian Corridor believes it is possible to make room for wildlife and live in harmony with nature. We promote better consideration of biodiversity in regional planning and maintain close links with the municipalities on our territory of action. We offer them our support and expertise so that development and habitat protection lead to as little land use conflict as possible. The real estate project at Mount Foster in Bolton-Ouest is a good example.



After several years of deliberations and debate on this issue, an agreement aimed at protecting a large part of this site has recently been reached between property developers and Appalachian Corridor. Appalachian Corridor believes the agreement is the best possible compromise. It meets all the requests made by the organization and the population, i.e. to ensure ecological connectivity with surrounding large forest blocks, to achieve the largest possible conservation area, and to offer access to the summit for the community. The project will also allow real estate development on a now limited part of the property and with the lowest possible ecological impact. With this agreement, the project will lead to the securement of 211 hectares of land (521 acres) in

perpetuity, which represents more than three-quarters of the property. "We consider the agreement to be the best possible compromise to protect most of the area's ecological interests. One must remember that the project was already underway before our intervention: a part of the land had already been blown up, roads and residences had been built. Moreover, implementing the project in its latest iteration will prevent another project with greater ecological consequences from coming along because a significant acreage will now be protected in perpetuity. It is now up to the people of Bolton-Ouest to decide whether or not the agreement is right for them" said Mélanie Lelièvre, Executive Director at Appalachian Corridor. "Obviously, from an ecological point of view, the best option would have been to have no real estate development at all in this area ... but that is not possible and unfortunately we cannot go back" she clarified.

Foreseeable resolution of a long-standing conflict

The saga surrounding Mount Foster has been going on for nearly a decade. Initially, the project (owned by another group of developers) relied on the implementation of nearly 70 houses, which raised considerable discontent from both citizens and Appalachian Corridor, considering the great ecological wealth of the area. With the new agreement, a maximum of 20 to 25 houses could be built on the Bolton-Ouest land (including Phase 1). Last year, Bolton-Ouest was favorable to consider the project provided that Appalachian Corridor agreed with promoters. The part of the land located in Saint-Étienne-de-Bolton (more than 120 ha or 296 acres) would be protected in its entirety. One should keep in mind that the conservation and development project is subject to a regulatory amendment by the municipality of Bolton-Ouest. While delineating the boundaries of a vast conservation area, the new plan continues to provide public access to a section of the mountain including the Scouts Tower (Tour des scouts). The municipalities of Bolton-Ouest and Saint-Étienne-de-Bolton will be involved in the public access and low impact recreation aspects of this protected area. Ultimately, communities will greatly benefit from what was gained as part of the negotiation.

CONSERVATION

Protecting nature in the heart of the city: the Parc-du-Mont-Bellevue Nature Reserve



Photo credit : Université de Sherbrooke

Did you know?

- The Parc du Mont-Bellevue extends over 201.82 ha (499 acres).
- The nature reserve project covers 156.88 ha (388 acres) excluding the ski resort.
- The PMB features:
 - about 70 bird species
 - 29 other wildlife species
 - 300 plant species representative of the region
- In addition to cyclists, the area attracts cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, hiking and bird-watching enthusiasts.

Everyone agrees on the importance of protecting natural areas, particularly those in densely populated cities like Sherbrooke. For a year now, Appalachian Corridor has been supporting the University of Sherbrooke and the City of Sherbrooke, both owners, in the process leading to the creation of a nature reserve in Parc du Mont-Bellevue (PMB). The nature reserve project for the PMB aims to maintain its natural habitats in the long term and find a balance and healthy coexistence between the many uses of this land. Since the status of nature reserve would formalize the ban on bicycles on the part of the site belonging to the University of Sherbrooke, the project does not reach consensus among the cycling community. On one hand, mountain bike enthusiasts want more space and miles of trails to practice their sport. On the other, the University wishes to realign this territory with the organization’s teaching and research mission, giving the Mount J.S. Bourque area a stricter conservation vocation. The Mount J.S. Bourque area would remain a more "zen" zone where activities such as research, hiking and wildlife watching would be privileged while the northern portion of the park would continue to accommodate cyclists with its existing network of about 12 km of mountain bike trails. Given the heavy pressure and traffic suffered by the PMB, Corridor fully supports the University and the City of Sherbrooke in their efforts to protect the site. Mount J.S. Bourque is the portion of the PMB that features the largest amount of elements of ecological interest (species at risk, rich plant communities, headwater streams, etc.). It is essential to protect this natural jewel in the heart of the city.

THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE

Marie-José Auclair, recipient of the Gens d'action Award from the Société Provancher

Well-known for her unwavering commitment to the conservation community, Marie-José Auclair is the 2018 winner of the Gens d'action Award from the Société Provancher. This recognition highlights significant contributions from individuals actively involved in nature protection, educational activities and outreach, or the dissemination of knowledge. Marie-José Auclair is President of the Board at Appalachian Corridor. The whole team is very proud of her achievements and well-deserved honour. Bravo Marie-José! The prize was awarded during the Natural Habitat Conservation Workshops held in Quebec City on October 29th and 30th 2018.



Louise Gratton presents the award to Marie-José Auclair

PROTECT NATURE’S ASSETS

There is still time to make your donation to Appalachian Corridor for the 2018 tax year. Our work over the last 15 years, in collaboration with our partners, resulted in the protection of more than 13,300 hectares (32,900 acres) of natural habitats on private lands in the Appalachians of southern Quebec (and we’re not even mentioning all our other successful and promising projects). Thank you!



Nom/Name

Adresse/Address

Ville/City

Province Code postal/Postal Code

Téléphone/Telephone

Courriel/Email

- ☐ 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 \$
☐ 100 \$
☐ 250 \$
☐ 500 \$
☐ Autre/Other _____ \$

Je m'engage pour une période cinq ans :
My pledge over 5 years:

- ☐ 250 \$ (5 versements de 50 \$ *in 5 installments*)
☐ 500 \$ (5 versements de 100 \$ *in 5 installments*)
☐ 1000 \$ (5 versements de 200 \$ *in 5 installments*)
☐ 2500 \$ (5 versements de 500 \$ *in 5 installments*)
☐ Autre/Other _____ \$
(_____ versements de/installments of _____ \$)

- ☐ Paiement par carte de crédit/
Payment by credit card
☐ Visa
☐ Mastercard
☐ American Express
- ☐ Paiement par chèque (ci-joint)/
Payment by cheque (enclosed)

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) JOE 1P0

Online donation: corridorappalachien.ca/en/make-a-donation/

*Charity organization # 854117488RR0001

HOUNOURING AN AFFILIATE: the Fiducie foncière du mont Pinacle



Écoute ta montagne (“Heed the Mountain’s Call”) : in the running for the David Suzuki Foundation’s Prix Demain le Québec

The Fiducie foncière du mont Pinacle was selected from a list of more than 200 candidates. *Écoute ta montagne* offers forest workshops, interpretive hikes, conferences and films, all with the view of fostering a desire to safeguard the ecosystems and biodiversity of our ecological heritage. Aimed at citizens of all ages – decision-makers of today and leaders of tomorrow –the project is the culmination of more than 20 years of practice geared towards strengthening our relationships with ourselves and with the environment, in the face of growing development pressures and the challenges posed by global warming.

The Fiducie is a registered charity dedicated to nature conservation in the Mount Pinnacle area of Frelighsburg. The Trust currently protects 285 ha of land (704 acres) in perpetuity through land acquisition and conservation agreements with landowners keen to preserve natural habitats on their property. Appalachian Corridor is proud to count the Fiducie among its Affiliate Members. Congratulations on this nomination and long live this dynamic organization! For more info: montpinacle.ca



RÉSERVE NATURELLE MONTAGNES VERTES



Following the recognition event, donors took part in an interpretive walk on the hiking trails managed by PENS in Sutton

Donors united to protect the Green Mountains

More than 100 donors came together for a recognition event organized by the Nature Conservancy of Canada and Appalachian Corridor on Sunday, October 14th in Sutton. Recognition panels were unveiled, bearing the names of more than 400 donors in Quebec’s Green Mountains, starting with the first land acquisition in 1993. "Thank you to everyone who joined us in celebrating and protecting this wonder of biodiversity! Together, we are contributing to the protection of a vast unfragmented territory of 133 km² in Quebec’s Green Mountains, extending south to Vermont” said Marie-José Auclair, ambassador for the event and President of the Board at Appalachian Corridor.

Many thanks to our volunteers!

Thank you to all our Summer 2018 volunteer patrollers who attended and participated in maintenance work within the Montagnes-Vertes Nature Reserve: Noémie Robidoux, Raymond Gagnon, Francisco Ruiz, Peter Blatter, Crystelle Fournier and Yoanna Poisson (in order of appearance on the photo). Finally, a special mention to our volunteers who, by lending their all-terrain vehicle, helped us complete major restoration work: Paul-Émile Caron, Daniel Lincourt and Peter Blatter. From the bottom of our heart, thank you!



Thanks to our volunteer patrollers

WE WERE THERE

- September 9-12: Northeastern Transportation & Wildlife Conference in Amherst, Massachusetts. netwc.org
- October 29th-30th : RMN’s Natural Habitat Conservation Workshops, Quebec City. ateliersmilieuxnaturels.org
- Novembre 15-16 : Conference of the Association des biologistes du Québec, Victoriaville, abq.membogo.com

COMING SOON

- January 30th 2019, noon: *Stop Carcasses!* Webinar: Using the iNaturalist application to collect and share animal roadkill data with your mobile phone or directly on the internet. rmnat.org/webinaires/
- May 3rd 2019: Carboneutral Symposium: Environmental Education Training. carboneutre.csdessommets.qc.ca/colloque-2019/

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.

Appalachian Corridor
37 des Pins Sud
Eastman (QC) J0E 1P0
Tel: 450 297-1145 • Email: info@corridorappalachien.ca
ISSN 1708-1645 • Legal registration: Library & Archives Canada and Bibliothèque et Archives nationales Québec

Visit our website at appalachiancorridor.ca

Appalachian Corridor would like to thank the following partners for their essential support: The Government of Canada through the Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk (Canada's National Conservation Plan) and Canada Summer Jobs, Open Space Conservancy Inc. (an affiliate of the Open Space Institute), the Fondation de la faune du Québec, Echo Foundation, Sweet Water Trust, the Woodcock Foundation, Quebec’s gouvernement through the Climate Change Action Plan 2013-2020 (funded by the Fonds vert) Quebec’s ministère de l’Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques, Quebec’s ministère des Transports, Quebec’s ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs, The Ensemble pour la nature project via The Nature Conservancy Canada, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Mountain Equipment Co-Op (MEC), Bird Protection Quebec, TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, the Brome-Missisquoi RCM through the Sustainable Forest Management Program, the RCM Memphrémagog through its fund for territory development