

News from Appalachian Corridor

SPRING-SUMMER 2019

AVAILABLE ON LINE : APPALACHIANCORRIDOR.CA



Exceptional results

Our efforts are paying off as we recently completed six new conservation projects. In total, 115 hectares (284 acres) were added to the network of 13,593 hectares (33 589 acres) already protected by Appalachian Corridor and its partners this Spring.

CONSOLIDATION OF NATURAL CORRIDORS

Three of these conservation projects consolidated connectivity in the high-priority natural corridors that link Mont Brome to Mont Shefford, and Mont Chagnon to Mont Orford. We had targeted these properties in order to improve the connectivity of natural habitats, as links are essential to the migration of species. Mammals with large home ranges, for instance, need vast non-fragmented or linked wooded areas to complete their life cycle, reproduce, feed and find refuge. "We launched some of these projects several years ago and are really happy to take concrete steps to protect these important corridors. The process leading to the protection of private property requires some serious considerations. Owners sometimes need several years to mull over their decision; we try to support them and help them make the most informed decision possible," said our executive director Mélanie Lelièvre.

LARGE FOREST TRACTS NOW PROTECTED FOREVER

Another important facet of our strategy is to preserve forest tracts large enough to ensure the survival of species that are representative of the natural habitat, and to protect all ecosystems. The conservation of the three properties mentioned above is another step towards the preservation of unfragmented quality natural habitats, for mammals with



The connectivity of natural environments favors the migration of plant species and the movement of Wide-Ranging Mammals.

large home ranges as well as for small and medium-sized mammals, birds, amphibians and reptiles. "In the case of these properties, we worked with conservation tools that allow certain uses, such as forest easements and personal servitudes. We strive to give owners options that meet their needs," added the Executive Director.

Appalachian Corridor wishes to thank warmly the landowners that made these projects possible: Brazeau-Brochu Family, Lisa Merovitz, Michel VanTieghem and René Cloutier.

To learn more about conservation options, visit: www.corridorappalachien.ca/en/conservation-options/

Our newsletter sports a new look

We are proud to present a new, colourful version of our newsletter. After many years of producing a black and white format, we decided that colours would better showcase the spectacular photos of the natural habitats found in our territory of action. The newsletter is distributed to 11,000 households and we hope you will enjoy it.

If you have comments or suggestions, feel free to share at info@corridorappalachien.ca.

Happy reading!

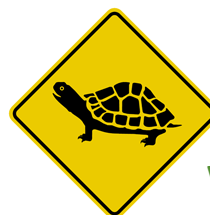
A much-appreciated turtle passage

In May 2018, Appalachian Corridor announced the installation of passages for turtles and other small animals in East Bolton, in partnership with Québec's ministère des Transports and ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs. Appalachian Corridor had identified this area as a hotspot for collisions between cars and turtles, some of which are threatened species (in Quebec or Canada).

All summer, motion sensor cameras captured images of terrestrial and aquatic passages under Route 245. The analysis of thousands of photos revealed a nice surprise! In addition to the snapping and painting turtles, we observed many other species: American beavers, racoons, river otters, mink, hooded mergansers, amphibians, snakes, micromammals and more. It seems this passage was a must for many species.



Snapping turtle getting ready to use the passage under route 245.



Turtle spotting
on the roadside?
Please notify

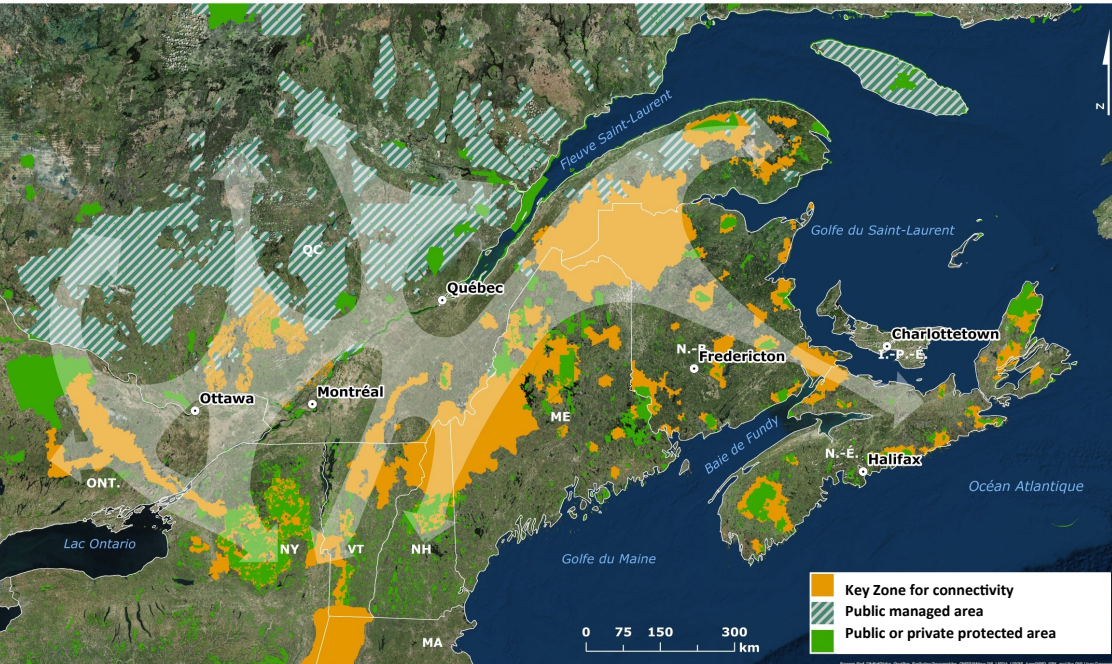
www.carapace.ca





Connecting forests in Southern Quebec

A STRATEGY TO ADAPT TO CLIMAT CHANGE



There is no denying it, the climate of our planet is changing faster than ever before. And like us, plant and animal species have to adapt. Appalachian Corridor is part of the *Ecological Corridors: a strategy to adapt to climate change* (2017-2020) initiative to rally and involve regional stakeholders to maintain connectivity within their territories. The connectivity of natural areas helps the absorption and the storage of carbon, the conservation of representative samples of biodiversity, the preservation of vulnerable or exceptional habitats, and the facilitation of species migration towards better habitats.

tats. Let’s not forget that it also protects a variety of landscapes! Nature Conservancy (NCC) manages this major undertaking. Indeed, the conservation movement keeps doing important work by protecting the most fragile or most strategic natural habitats. If you wish to actively contribute to our connectivity project, participate in Stop Carcasses! Details in the article below.

The Ecological Corridors’ project: a climate change adaptation strategy project is financed by the Fonds vert of the government of Québec. The Woodcock Foundation, the ECHO Foundation and the Fondation de la faune du Québec and other financial partners also contribute by sponsoring specific activities in each connectivity area.

Stop Carcasses!

A CITIZEN SCIENCE PROJECT IS SPREADING ALL OVER SOUTHERN QUEBEC

Thanks to the growing presence and ease of use of information technologies, citizen science projects are becoming more popular everywhere. Québec is no exception and the Stop Carcasses! project allows everyone to contribute. Largely inspired by the Wild Paths project of the Cold Hollow to Canada organization in Vermont, Stop Carcasses! has now spread through six regions in Québec: the Eastern Townships, the Laurentians, the Outaouais, the Centre-du-Québec, the Lower St. Lawrence, and the Gaspé area.

Stop Carcasses! asks citizens to share animals roadside sightings (dead or alive) in order to help analyze the impact of road networks on wildlife. It helps determine which areas have the highest animal mortality, which species are most affected, and when. Shared on the iNaturalist platform, the information will allow specialists to recommend improved security measures for road users and wildlife.

How to participate

While on foot, on a bike or in a car, if you see a dead animal on the side of the road or a live one crossing it, share your observation on the platform iNaturalist (www.inaturalist.ca/projects/stop-carcasses) using your smartphone or your computer. The iNaturalist app is free and available on iPhones and Androids.



A volunteer photographs a dead amphibian on the road, using keys to show the scale.
Photo credit: Sinton Edwards

SAFETY FIRST!

Your safety and everyone else’s is a priority! Never stop your car on a highway. On secondary and municipal roads, make sure that stopping your vehicle does not endanger anyone.

Remain visible and, if possible, wear a reflective jacket.

The management of the Stop Carcasses! projects throughout the province is part of a greater endeavour: Ecological corridors: a climate change adaptation strategy project, coordinated by Nature Conservancy Canada in Quebec and its many partners.





Partners of the transborder initiative Staying Connected (SCI) met at Jouvence on May 7 and 8, 2019. Issues regarding connectivity and natural corridors were on the agenda. Appalachian Corridor is a member of the Steering Committee and has been a partner of SCI for over 5 years. To learn more, go to: www.stayingconnectedinitiative.org

Two natural reserves in Stukely-Sud: kudos ACNSS!

Appalachian Corridor would like to congratulate South Stukely Conservation Association (ACNSS) who announced the creation of two natural reserves on two properties. The Lake Brousseau and Kingfisher reserves are located in the village, on both sides of road 112, and are on both sides of the origins of Quilliams creek. The protected area of approximately 17 acres, which will form the spine of an eventual network of properties in the four watersheds in



South Stukely, brings to 150 acres of land protected forever by ACNSS landowners working with the association. ACNSS was founded in 2004 with the mission to protect fragile wetlands and other strategically located tracts of lands and forests on its territory. ACNSS is one of the earlier members of the 17-member Appalachian Corridor network of local conservation associations. www.acnss.ca

The Mount Singer Trails

Did you know? In addition to being active in the conservation community, Appalachian Corridor also manages a trail network. Why not take advantage of the summer days to visit the Mount Singer Trails in the Réserve naturelle des Montagnes-Vertes (RNVM)? Three hiking loops of varying levels await you. At the heart of a protected territory home to several hundred wildlife and plant species, 20.5 km of trails are open to the public since 2008. The Mount Singer rises to 805 m. HOW TO GET THERE? From Exit 106 on Highway 10, take Route 243 South. When arriving at Potton, make a right on West Hill Road for 6 km, then turn right on Ruiter Brook Road for 4.5 km. Parking is just before the end of Ruiter Brook Road, on your right. Happy hike! To learn more and to buy your access: corridorappalachien.ca/singer



Fullerton Pond in Mount Singer Trails

A totally natural gift

On Earth Day, April 22, Stéphanie Brault from Divya yoga organized a yoga and meditation session outdoors and donated all profits to Appalachian Corridor. Thank you for this thoughtful and sensible gesture Stéphanie! Appalachian Corridor has also held a shinrin-yoku (forest bathing) walk with a certified coach, combined with a yoga and meditation session. We aimed to become aware of nature through all five senses. Thanks to ParticipACTION who made this event possible! We hear more and more about how being connected with the forest benefits our physical and mental health: better blood circulation, increased energy, stress reduction, a stronger immune system and a sharper mind are all side effects that have been observed. Other events aiming to connect humans and nature are planned soon. Follow us on Facebook to be informed of all our activities!



Meditation for Earth Day





Honouring an affiliate



Congratulations to Conservation Espace Nature Shefford (CENS), an affiliate member of Appalachian Corridor, for concluding an important conservation project of 41 hectares in Shefford Township this spring. The acquisition of the Gosselin-Thibault property will help maintain the connectivity of ecosystems by protecting forested and wetland areas in the middle of the corridor allowing wildlife dispersion between Mont Brome and Mont Shefford, two Monteregian hills separated by Highway 10. The conservation of this site represents a significant step towards this natural corridor protection.



The Board of Directors of Conservation Espace Nature Shefford

Established during the summer of 2010, CENS aims to protect the natural habitats of Shefford Township. This mission involves landscapes protection, land acquisition for protection purposes and the respectful development of pedestrian access to the mountain and parks. www.censhefford.ca

Let a bat out, safely!

Bats don't usually intrude in our living quarters, but sometimes they get trapped by mistake. Although less than 1% of bats have rabies, we must avoid all physical contact with them.



Safety first

- Make sure no one or pet touches the bat
- Confine it to a single room by closing the door
- Wear thick gloves when trying to capture the bat
- Close the door and all access to the room.

How to let a bat out:

- Restrict the bat to a single room by closing the door(s).
- Open all windows and remove screens.
- Turn off the lights.
- Leave the room and shut the door behind you.
- Wait until the bat leaves the room.
- If that fails, catch it in a safe manner while wearing gloves.
- **Summertime:** Free the bat outside so it can fly away whenever it's ready. Simply make sure no one or no pets can disturb it in the meantime.
- **Wintertime:** please bring it at the Granby Zoo Refuge or get in touch with conservationchauvesouris.com
- Disinfect your gloves afterwards!

If ever you touched the bat with bare hands, communicate with Info-Santé (811). **Let's not forget that bats play a key role in our ecosystems. Efficient predators, they provide free pest-control!** Want to know more? Check out the Neighbourhood Bat Watch @ chauve-souris.ca

COMING SOON

JUNE 19
Webinar: Ecological Corridors: a strategy to adapt to climate change presented by Kateri Monticone, Nature Conservancy Canada
Noon till 1PM – FREE
Register: rmnat.org/webinaires

WE WERE THERE

APRIL 9
Nature Day
Parliament Hill, Ottawa

MAY 3
Environment and education Seminar by Carbo Neutre
Odyssée High School, Valcourt

MAY 4
Journée de l'environnement forestier, Mont Orford

MAY 9
Association pour la protection de l'environnement du lac Saint-Charles General meeting, Quebec

MAY 31
Réseau de milieux naturels protégés General meeting, Drummondville

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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ISSN 1708-1645 • Legal registration: Library & Archives Canada and Bibliothèque et Archives nationales Québec

Visit our website at appalachiancorridor.ca

Thanks to the following partners for their support: The Government of Canada through the Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk, Quebec's gouvernement through the Climate Change Action Plan 2013-2020 (funded by the Fonds vert), The Ensemble pour la nature project via The Nature Conservancy Canada, the ministère des Affaires municipales et de l'Habitation (Fonds de soutien au rayonnement des régions – Estrie). US Fish & Wildlife Service, the Fondation de la faune du Québec, Echo Foundation, TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, and municipalities of Bolton-Est, Eastman and Austin.

Printed on **Enviro 100** recycled paper

