



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**For immediate release**

### **Mount Pinnacle Land Trust and Appalachian Corridor add another 79 hectares for conservation in Frelighsburg**

**Frelighsburg, April 30 2020** – Mount Pinnacle Land Trust and Appalachian Corridor are pleased to announce the protection in perpetuity of nearly 79 hectares located on the Canada-U.S. border in Frelighsburg.

The protection of this natural area is made possible by its owners, Louise and Robert Sactouris, as they donate a conservation easement to the Mount Pinnacle Land Trust on a portion of their property, in order to ensure its protection in perpetuity.

This agreement brings the area protected by Appalachian Corridor and its partners to over 14,400 hectares. According to Mélanie Lelièvre, Executive Director of Appalachian Corridor, « Borders do not apply to wildlife, obviously. That's why a cross-border strategy has always been part of our vision and our projects. This project was led by the Mount Pinnacle Trust Land, a long-standing partner and affiliated member of Appalachian Corridor. It is part of this strategy to allow animals and plants to disperse freely over the territory. There are protected areas on both sides of the border in the Green Mountains. It is very inspiring to be part of this vast initiative.»

The addition of this area is of great ecological value to the region's network of protected areas. Its strategic location, the size of its wetlands and the presence of several species of special concern in Quebec and Canada increase its importance in terms of ecology.

#### **Commitment of private owners and conservation**

The achievement of this project could not have been possible without the generosity and commitment of the Sactouris family. The easement was chosen as the privileged conservation option, since the family remain the owner of the land and some of their activities may carry on, while ensuring the protection for future generations.

This type of project is recognized by the Government of Canada's Ecological Gifts Program, which provides significant tax benefits to landowners who take concrete actions to protect biodiversity. This

is a great example of how conservation initiatives may benefit private landowners as well as the natural areas, biodiversity and the environment in general. “After being involved in the founding and management of a forestry group to promote forest management in the region for 25 years, the Sactouris family is happy to contribute to protecting our environment.” commented the family.

“We are very pleased with this project, which will ensure the integrity of an exceptional natural environment in our region today and for future generations,” said Danielle Dansereau, President of the Mount Pinnacle Land Trust.

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*Appalachian Corridor thanks the following partners: Fondation de la faune du Québec through the Protecting Wildlife Habitats Program, Environment and Climate Change Canada through the Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (NMBCA), and the Echo Foundation.*



Fondation de la faune du Québec

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**ECHO**

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### **Mount Pinnacle Land Trust**

Founded in 1991, the Mount Pinnacle Land Trust is a charitable organization dedicated to nature conservation in the Mount Pinnacle area of Frelighsburg. The Trust currently protects 364 ha (900 acres) of land in perpetuity, including two deeded properties and ten conservation easements negotiated with private landowners to protect natural environments for future generations. As part of its “Écoute ta montagne” program, the organization regularly offers outdoor educational activities to regional school groups as well as to the general public. The Trust also organizes, in conjunction with other local organizations, film screenings and conferences during the “Soirées des possibles”.

### **Appalachian Corridor**

Appalachian Corridor is a non-profit conservation organization founded in 2002 with a mission to protect natural areas in the Appalachian region of Southern Québec. Through the implementation of a cross-border conservation strategy, Appalachian Corridor works with local communities to maintain and restore a way of life that respects the ecology of the region from a perspective of sustainable development. [appalachiancorridor.ca/en/](http://appalachiancorridor.ca/en/)

### **About the Fondation de la faune du Québec’s Protecting Wildlife Habitats Program**

This program supports initiatives to protect rich wildlife habitats through legal agreements with private landowners. Its three main objectives are: to sustainably protect exceptional wildlife habitat on private land, to maintain species at risk habitat on private land and to foster connectivity between exceptional wildlife habitats.

### **About Environment and Climate Change Canada’s (ECCC) Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk**

The Habitat Stewardship Program (HSP) was established in 2000. It provides funding for projects that contribute directly to the recovery objectives and population goals of species at risk listed on Schedule 1 of the Species at Risk Act (SARA) and prevent others from becoming a conservation concern.



View of Mount Pinnacle, from the property.

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From left to right: Mr Robert Sactouris, landowner. Mr David Brisson, Protected Areas Management Coordinator, Appalachian Corridor. Ms Louise Sactouris, landowner.

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