

# News from Appalachian Corridor



Corridor appalachien  
Appalachian Corridor

SUMMER 2020

AVAILABLE ONLINE : APPALACHIANCORRIDOR.CA



## Mount Foster: protected forever!

WITH YOUR HELP, WE CLIMBED A MOUNTAIN!

THE PROTECTION IN PERPETUITY OF 215 HECTARES (531 ACRES) ON MOUNT FOSTER WILL ALLOW FUTURE GENERATIONS TO ENJOY THE INCREDIBLE BEAUTY OF ITS NATURAL HABITATS.

Mélanie Lelièvre, Executive Director of our organization, points out that “the team worked very hard to achieve optimal conservation gains. We rolled up our sleeves to complete the financial package and we would like to thank all our funding partners and donors who supported the project all the way through.”

### AN UNPRECEDENTED COMMITMENT

This project generated a true commitment from surrounding communities. Nearly 250 donors contributed directly – an unprecedented mobilization in the history of the organization. The timeline was very tight but communities responded quickly, generously and enthusiastically. Appalachian Corridor thanks wholeheartedly all those who made this project possible.

### REVIEW OF THE PROJECT’S ROCKY BEGINNINGS

The initial real estate project projected on Mount Foster raised the ire of local citizens and angered Appalachian Corridor, considering the high number of residences planned for construction, the ecological wealth of the site and its strategic location. However, after several years of negotiation to protect the property, Appalachian Corridor reached an agreement in September 2018.

### SENSITIVE SPECIES AND HABITATS

Located in the heart of the Northern Green Mountains, this protected area represents an additional step towards the preservation of unfragmented natural habitats. It is home to wide-ranging mammals (moose, bobcat, black bear, fisher, etc.) as well as other mammals and many species of birds (53 species confirmed), amphibians and reptiles.

#### SOME SPECIES AT RISK PRESENT ON SITE:

- |                             |                      |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| - Spring Salamander         | - Canada Warbler     |
| - Northern Dusky Salamander | - Wood Thrush        |
| - Pickerel Frog             | - Eastern Wood-Pewee |



Mount Foster

#### THE TRAILS OF MOUNT FOSTER ARE CLOSED FOR SUMMER 2020

This site is precious, fragile. Appalachian Corridor is committed to making it accessible to the community, with the help of the municipalities of West-Bolton and Saint-Étienne-de-Bolton. And we are working hard to do so!

However, we want to do things right. Facilities must be sustainable and safe.

To do so, the trail system will be completely re-evaluated. For your safety, the Scouts’ Tower is currently closed, as it requires various interventions.

Planning and work on the trails has begun. The team is doing its very best to optimize access and safety to this invaluable site and to limit the closure period.

We ask everyone to respect the closure period and sincerely thank you for your patience and cooperation.

#### Thank you!

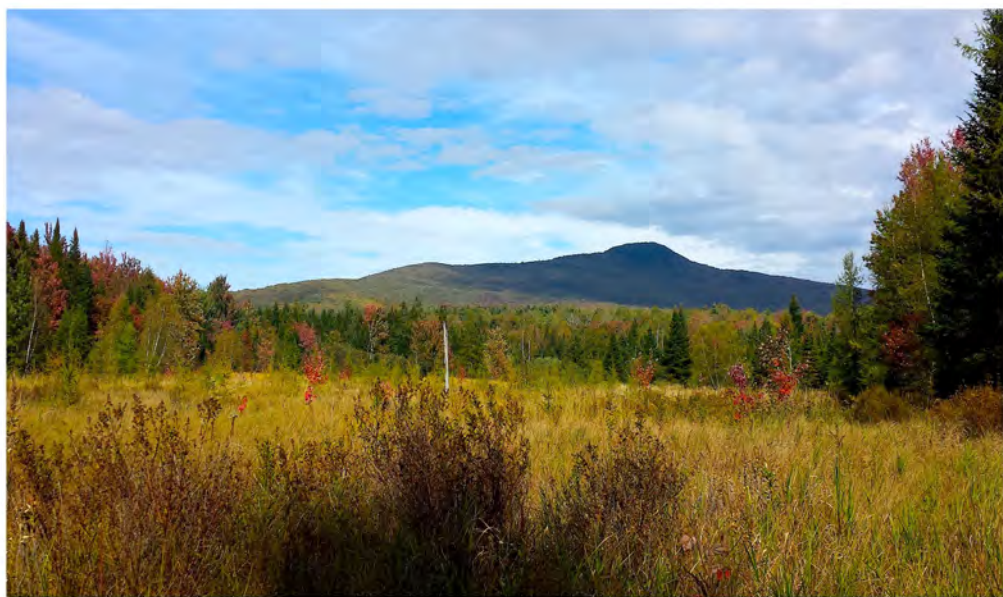
This conservation project was made possible thanks to funding from the **Ministère de l’Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques** to **Nature Conservancy of Canada’s “Ensemble pour la nature” (PEPN)** project. The **Government of Canada** helped finance the project through its **Natural Heritage Conservation Program (NHCP)** funded by the **Canada Nature Fund** and the **Land Trust Conservation Fund**. Appalachian Corridor also highlights the contributions of the following funding partners: **US Fish and Wildlife Service**, **Echo Foundation**, **Fondation de la Faune du Québec** and **Sweet Water Trust**. Let’s not forget the municipalities of **Saint-Étienne-de-Bolton** and **West-Bolton**!







## Protection in perpetuity of 79 hectares in Frelighsburg



View of Mount Pinnacle, from the Sactouris land

Mount Pinnacle Land Trust and Appalachian Corridor are pleased to announce the protection in perpetuity of nearly 79 hectares (195 acres) 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.

The addition of this land 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 at risk in Quebec and Canada increase its

importance in terms of ecology. Also, many bat species have been confirmed on the property, such as the hoary bat, the red bat, the big brown bat and the little brown bat.

In this project, the servitude was chosen as the preferred conservation option, since the family retain ownership of the land and some of their activities may carry on while ensuring habitat 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 actions to protect biodiversity.

This project is a great example of how conservation initiatives may benefit private landowners as well as natural areas, biodiversity and the environment in general.

The protection of Mount Foster, in addition to the Frelighsburg servitude, brings the total area protected by Appalachian Corridor and its partners in the region to more than 14,400 hectares (35 583 acres) and 365 hectares (902 acres) for Mount Pinnacle Land Trust

## Peregrine Falcon monitoring by Appalachian Corridor: Going strong for 13 years!

### ENCOURAGING RESULTS

Although the population of peregrine falcons is increasing in Quebec, the species is still at risk and remains listed as such.

This crow-sized bird of prey is mainly threatened by specific chemicals, and by a number of human activities during its nesting period (rock climbing for instance). Close monitoring of the species makes it possible to follow its evolution and take the necessary actions to ensure its conservation.

When a nesting site is identified, it becomes even more relevant to follow it over time, as the peregrine falcon is known to return to the same nesting site year after year. This is why Appalachian Corridor has monitored various nesting sites on its territory annually for 13 years now.

Since 2007, a dozen different sites have been monitored by our team of biologists. Last year, we were able to confirm the use of two nesting cliffs by falcon pairs.

Fingers crossed for 2020!



The Peregrine Falcon is known to be the fastest bird in the dive world.  
Photo credit : Michel Pilon

### WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET INVOLVED?

You own a land on which peregrine falcons nest and would like to take action to protect the species or share your sightings?  
Are you an amateur ornithologist interested in getting involved in the monitoring of this bird of prey?

Contact us at 450-297-1145 or [info@corridorappalachien.ca](mailto:info@corridorappalachien.ca)







Envoyer votre don/Send your donation : Corridor appalachien, 37 rue des Pins Sud, Eastman (QC) J0E 1P0





« Northern Green Mountains: Planning for the Protection and Recovery of Species at Risk »  
An unprecedented project in our region

This large-scale project will allow us to improve our knowledge, adapt our actions to make them even more effective and inclusive, and make significant progress on the situation of species at risk in our region.

PROTECTION OF THREATENED AND VULNERABLE SPECIES

Submitted in March 2019 to Environment and Climate Change Canada’s (ECCC) Canada Nature Fund, the project officially took off in the fall of 2019.

The project, which will run over a 4-year period, targets more than 15 species at risk including Wood and Snapping Turtles, Spring Salamander, Chimney Swift, Wood Thrush, Common Nighthawk, Eastern Pipistrelle, Northern Long-eared Bat and Southern Flying Squirrel.

A SPECIES-SPECIFIC ACTION PLAN

In order to maximize tangible, positive impacts, the project will tackle both planning measures as well as actions directed to each species or group of species targeted. The primary goal is to promote species’ protection or recovery.

CONNECTIVITY IN MUNICIPALITIES

Another initiative directly related to the project will be the launch of a web-based tool that will specifically address ecological connectivity for

municipalities. It will be accessible to all municipal representatives across Quebec, who will be able to refer to it when the time comes to initiate actions on connectivity as well as responsible land-use planning and management of their territories.



The Wood Turtle is one of the species targeted by the project.

AN UNPARALLELED EXPERTISE

Such a vast action, benefiting so many species on such a large territory would not be possible without appropriate expertise. In addition to our 17 Affiliate members who hold an in-depth knowledge of their respective territories, eight other major partners are involved:

- Nature Conservancy Canada
  - Zoo de Granby
  - Organisme de bassin versant de la Yamaska (OBV Yamaska)
  - Conseil de gouvernance de l’eau des bassins versants de la rivière Saint-François (COGESAF)
- Fondation pour la sauvegarde des écosystèmes du territoire de la Haute-Yamaska (FSETHY)
  - Conservation Chauves-souris des Cantons-de-l’Est
  - Regroupement QuébecOiseaux
  - Réseau de milieux naturels protégés (RMN)



From January 1, 2010 to today, the total number of new protected areas forever protected by Appalachian Corridor and its affiliated members is ...



The actions instigated by Appalachian Corridor continue and even accelerate! The conservation and protection of the rich biodiversity of our region is constantly increasing!

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  
Dépôt légal :  
Library & Archives Canada and  
Bibliothèque et Archives  
nationales Québec

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Thanks to the following partners for their support: The Government of Canada through the Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk and the Community nominated priority places for species at risk Program, Quebec’s government through the Climate Change Action Plan 2013-2020 funded by the Fonds vert, the Programme d’aménagement durable des forêts (PADF), the Programme de soutien à la mise à niveau et à l’amélioration des sentiers et des sites de pratique d’activités de plein air (PSSPA) and the Projet de partenariat pour les milieux naturels (PCPN) via Nature Conservancy Canada, Quebec’s 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, Bird Protection Quebec, Wildlife Acoustics, Rando Québec and municipalities of Bolton-Est and Austin.

