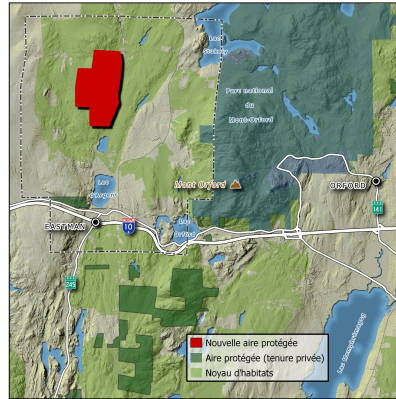


DONOR PROFILE

Family of Louis-Charles and Marguerite Simard



KEY FACTS

- Acquisition by Appalachian Corridor of 442 hectares spread over two adjacent lots in Eastman and belonging to the Family of Louis-Charles and Marguerite Simard as well as Charles Simard.
- Project valued at \$ 2.8M with a \$ 500 000 donation from the family to contribute the project.
- Transaction completed in April 2021.
- Largest acquisition by Appalachian Corridor in its history.

Photo: Mr. Charles Simard shows the map of the two lots to the Appalachian Corridor staff as part of a guided site visit in preparation for the perpetual protection of the area.

Interview with Charles Simard.

WHAT'S THE HISTORY OF YOUR LAND

My father, Louis-Charles Simard, bought the first lot of 420 hectares from Mr. Tousignant on January 9, 1963. When my father died, the land was bequeathed to my mother, Marguerite Simard, who in turn bequeathed it to her 12 children upon her death in 2004. I bought the second plot of land covering 45 hectares in 1990.

Wood has always been an important resource for Quebec farmers. In addition to providing for the family in times of need, the forest provided a significant financial contribution to ensure financial sustainability. My father saw the purchase of the land as a type of insurance policy for him and his sons should hard times hit. During financial downtime or when there would be a lack of employment, we could always make ends meet by chopping wood.

Since the purchase of the land, activities have always been linked to forestry and also for pleasure with deer and eventually moose hunting.



There were two pivotal moments on the largest lot: strong winds which occurred around 1998 caused immense damage and forced us to salvage the wood spilled over several hundred hectares, and when we sold 24

hectares of land to one of our neighbours for maple production.

WHAT MAKES THIS LAND UNIQUE AND ECOLOGICALLY VALUABLE?

During the ecological assessment, I was happy to note that the logging carried out during all these years did not impact the quality of the land and that it has retained an undeniable ecological value. I was also pleasantly surprised at the magnitude of the flora and fauna that abound on throughout, and more particularly the avifauna.



The purple salamander is one of the species present on the land.

HOW DID THE IDEA TO PERPETUALLY PROTECT THE LAND EMERGE?

Before formally putting our land up for sale, we first approached potential buyers who seemed to us as being able to perpetuate the vocation of the land, whether for forestry or maple syrup production.

The protection of this territory by an organization such as Appalachian Corridor turned out to be an interesting avenue that went in the direction of our aspirations for the future of the lots. We contacted Appalachian Corridor to verify their interest and were happy to see discussions move forward with them.



The lots are rich in ecological habitats and biodiversity. They represent an essential link in maintaining ecological connectivity between the Mont-Orford National Park and the Monteregian hills, located further west.

HOW RECEPTIVE WERE YOUR FAMILY MEMBERS TO PROTECTING THE LAND IN PERPETUITY?

This idea was very well received and unanimous.

By mutual agreement, we concluded that we must remain faithful to the land out of personal conviction and to perpetuate in some way the succession as our parents and predecessors had done before us. We are convinced that our mother who kept this land in the family would agree with our choice.

TELL US ABOUT THE PROCESS TO ACHIEVE THE PERPETUAL PROTECTION OF THE LAND?

The most amazing step was discovering the impressive number of organizations and volunteers from various organizations working to protect the territory.

Unlike the usual situation where the seller negotiates directly with the buyer, as part of a conservation effort with an organization like Appalachian Corridor, we had to collaborate with them to ensure that they were able to carry out exchanges with all the donors who provided the necessary funds for the transaction.

HOW DO YOU SEE THE FINAL RESULT?

The closing of the sale ends a family affair that spanned just under 60 years. For us the story is over. For Appalachian Corridor, it begins.

WHAT ADVICES DO YOU HAVE FOR OTHER OWNERS CONSIDERING A SIMILAR ACTION?

Selling land for ecological purposes is an unusual and laborious process. Long lead times are to be expected at all stages of the sales process given the complexity of financing and the high number and demands of financial contributors.

We would like to highlight the exceptional work carried out by Appalachian Corridor and we would like to thank the managers and professionals who worked on the project with great transparency and cordiality. All the efforts deployed made it possible to reach this point.

Contact us to discuss your conservation project!
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