

PROTECTING OUR REGION'S NATURAL HABITATS

Essential for biodiversity and communities today and tomorrow

In spite of the **15,264 hectares (37,718 acres)** of privately-held natural habitats protected in perpetuity on our territory, the pressures on nature remain a concern. Our region is experiencing rapid real estate growth, increase in human infrastructures, densification, as well as a general increase in activities on our territory. These human activities have led to a loss and fragmentation of natural habitats. In parallel, ecosystems are undergoing major disruptions and many species are having to migrate at an unprecedented rate in order to find habitats more suitable to their needs as a direct impact of climate change.

NATURE: AN ESSENTIAL SERVICE!

Natural habitats provide highly valuable services to humans. For example, healthy ecosystems offer access to quality drinking water and air, and also serve as mitigators against climatic events such as floods and windstorms. In addition, nature offers vitality to our communities by providing venues for outdoor sports and activities, thus contributing to the physical and mental health of those who enjoy it. Ecosystems also offer sustainable economic benefits and deliver natural solutions to capture greenhouse gases.



©Charles Dion

PROTECTING NATURAL HABITATS IN PERPETUITY: A CITIZENS' MOVEMENT

Since 2002, Appalachian Corridor, its 17 Affiliate members, and the Nature Conservancy of Canada have been working tirelessly to create a network of natural areas protected in perpetuity. At the heart of these efforts are citizens and landowners who participate willingly in our conservation activities for the future of their property. This movement is gaining momentum, and each new site protected, large or small, leaves a natural legacy for the health and well-being of communities.

DID YOU KNOW?

The planet is currently experiencing its **6th MASS EXTINCTION**

For the past two centuries, on average

2 SPECIES OF VERTEBRATES



HAVE DISAPPEARED EVERY YEAR.

41% of the world's amphibians



and 25% of mammals



are threatened WITH EXTINCTION.

Protected areas represent

8% of our territory of action



The **international target** is aiming for

30% by 2030



60% of species at risk listed in Canada continue to decline

Sources : Sources: WWF Living Planet Report, IUCN Red List, PLoS Biology, Proceedings of the US National Academy of Sciences, CBD, TEEB, The Living Planet Canada 2020 Report.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE LARGEST PROJECT OF OUR YOUNG HISTORY



Biodiversity-rich wetland on the Khartoum-Simard property.
©Appalachian Corridor

In May 2021, Appalachian Corridor announced the protection in perpetuity of an ambitious conservation project: the Khartoum-Simard protected area, which covers **442 hectares (1,092 acres)**.

This project leaves an indelible mark on the region and enables us to exceed 15,000 hectares (37,066 acres) of private land protected on our territory of action.

The property is comprised of forest, aquatic and wetland habitats, and represents an essential link to maintain the ecological connectivity between the Mont-Orford National Park and the Monteregian Hills. This linkage is critical to the movement of wide-ranging mammals such as the moose and the black bear. The land's protection is also beneficial to vulnerable species including amphibians such as the Northern dusky salamander, the spring salamander and the four-toed salamander, in addition to several species of bats, as well as declining birds such as the Eastern Wood-Pewee and Barn Swallow.



Barn Swallow ©Robert Côté

This project was made possible thanks to a generous donation from members of the Simard family as well as significant financial contributions from the Government of Quebec (Projet de partenariat pour les milieux naturels - PPMN) and the Government of Canada (Natural Heritage Conservation Program - NHCP) through the Canada Nature Fund. Appalachian Corridor also wishes to thank: the Municipality of Eastman, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, donors to Appalachian Corridor's major fundraising campaign, the Fondation de la faune du Québec, the Weston Family Foundation and Nature Conservancy of Canada.

Thanks to this project,

7% of the MUNICIPALITY OF EASTMAN is **PROTECTED IN PERPETUITY**

Banner photo : Landscape from the top of Owl's Head by our partner, photographer Charles Dion. More details on this partnership on the last page.



PRIVATE LANDOWNERS: CONSERVATION VISIONNARIES

Establishing a vast territory of protected land withing the Appalachian Mountains of southern Quebec is no small task. Each year, dozens of landown-ers in our region choose to participate in this movement by donating all or part of their land. Thanks to them, our rich land and the species that inhabit it benefit from healthy natural habitats in perpetuity.

JOHN HABERL AND FAMILY

October 2021 | Donation of 4.4 hectares (11 acres) in Mansonville, Quebec

"It was my daughter, Louise, who initially brought to my attention the opportunity to participate in the Ecological Gifts Program for the land adjacent to the property where I live with my wife, Murielle. Our family enjoyed that land for 30 years and we all very much cherish nature. The idea of protecting this property in perpetuity, immortalizing our mem-ories, and giving back to nature appealed to us immediately. By doing so, I was also able to enjoy tax advantages with a positive impact on my retirement. But the economic benefits were secondary to the great satisfaction we felt in protecting the land forever. I am grateful for the professional guidance offered by the teams at Appalachian Corridor and the Ruiter Valley Land Trust who helped me realize this dream."



Left to right: Marie-Claire Planet and Stansje Plantenga (RVLTL), Louise Haberl (donor's daughter), Clément Robidoux (Appalachian Corridor), Murielle Parkes (donor's wife), Guy Langevin (RVLTL), John Haberl (donor), Marie-José Auclair (Appalachian Corridor), Jennie Stonier (donor's neighbor).

LOUIS-CHARLES AND MARGUERITE SIMARD FAMILY, AND CHARLES SIMARD

May 2021 | Participation in the Khartoum-Simard transaction of 442 hectares (1,092 acres) including a donated parcel of 46 hectares (113 acres) in Eastman, Quebec

"My father, Louis-Charles Simard, bought the first woodlot with an initial area of 420 ha (1,037 acres) in 1963. Upon his death, the land was passed on to my mother, Marguerite Simard. She passed away in 2004 and left the land to her 12 children, including me. In 1990, I had decided to buy the adjacent 46 ha (113 acres) woodlot. By mutual agreement, our whole family agreed to remain faithful to the integrity of the entire land out of personal conviction and to perpetuate the tradition initiated by our parents and predecessors. The protection of this territory by Appalachian Corridor proved to be an avenue in line with our aspirations for the future of this land."



Mélanie Lelièvre, Executive Director of Appalachian Corridor, accompanied by Mr. Charles Simard, representative of the Simard family, donor of part of the Khartoum-Simard property.

A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITIES

Take part in our growing conservation movement

In conservation, every action, large or small, is a gain for the environment and the community! Whether it's a contribution of land, money, time, or even expertise, every action provides benefits to natural habitats in our region and helps to grow the number and size of protected areas on our territory. Want to participate? Surely, one of the forms of contribution listed below will meet your values, desires and possibilities:

- Make a full or partial donation of land;
- Retain ownership of your land while adding a conservation servitude on it;
- Make a monetary donation to Appalachian Corridor to support our conservation activities. There are no small donations! Monthly donations can also be an excellent way to get involved;
- Include Appalachian Corridor as a beneficiary on your life insurance policy. Your monthly premium payment can be a source of tax credit and considered a donation;
- Make a donation of securities or shares to Appalachian Corridor;
- Establish a bequest in your will so that Appalachian Corridor can honor your memory by implementing conservation activities in perpetuity;
- Get involved as a volunteer in a local or regional conservation organization by giving back your time and expertise;
- Be an ambassador for the cause by telling your friends about the movement and encouraging them to get involved too.

Visit us or contact us at info@corridorappalachien.ca to discuss your contribution goals!



FREE VIDEOCONFERENCE

PROTECTING YOUR LAND IN PERPETUITY AND RETAINING OWNERSHIP: IT'S POSSIBLE!

Wednesday, December 1, 2021
3 to 4 p.m.

Do you own land? Are you considering a conservation project, but are concerned about possible use limitations?

Many landowners mistakenly believe that achieving a conservation project will prevent their regular activities on their land. However, it is possible to undertake a voluntary conservation project and still own and enjoy your land!

Register today at
corridorappalachien.ca/conferences



SCIENCE: AT THE HEART OF OUR CONSERVATION ACTIONS

Since its foundation in 2002, Appalachian Corridor has anchored its actions in science. Science is what provides a thorough understanding of the natural environment on our territory of action. Through this scientific lens, we can draw an objective portrait of the issues affecting nature in our region and target tangible actions to ensure its short and long-term health. As we continuously acquire the most up-to-date scientific knowledge, our planning and actions are constantly evolving and improving.

Science to guide our conservation strategy

Three elements make up the ecological network identified on our territory and guide our conservation actions: habitat cores, ecological corridors, and sites of high ecological diversity, also called "biodiversity hotspots".

Our teams of biologists carry out detailed field studies to identify the priority natural habitats to be safeguarded. In addition to places that are particularly rich in biodiversity, our overall conservation strategy prioritizes key linkages. It has been proven that vast expanses of natural habitats are the most resilient in the event of a natural disaster (ice storm, windfall, pest invasion, etc.). These large areas also provide representative samples of the different ecosystems and species found on our territory, and contribute to maintain the connectivity essential for the movement of species. The identification and characterization of all these valuable natural habitats on a regional scale and over time help guide our conservation priorities.

Science to adapt to the impacts of climate change

Part of our work focuses on the protection of ecological corridors, which are essential for maintaining current and future connectivity. Preserving natural links between natural habitats on a territory is among the most effective actions allowing ecosystems to adapt to climate change. As part of our knowledge acquisition projects, we compile data to develop a comprehensive view of the ecological corridors used by different species throughout our territory.

Science to help threatened species

As part of our regional scientific efforts, we also monitor species at risk. Monitoring projects aim to better understand species distribution and the pressures and threats they face. We work with various conservation partners to inform recovery plans for species at risk, including wood turtles and bats.

Science to support every conservation project

In addition to our various scientific inquiries throughout our territory of action, every year we carry out more than 20 ecological surveys on private properties targeted for conservation. This process, completed in collaboration with landowners, is critical to guide projects forward is instrumental to determine the ecological value of each site, and justifies where and how conservation measures should be taken. The ecological survey report is also used to support any potential application to the Ecological Gifts Program, which can provide attractive tax benefits to landowners in the case of land or servitude donations.

Science to contribute to collective knowledge



Since its creation, Appalachian Corridor has generated an impressive quantity and quality of data on the species and habitats of our territory of action. Through agreements with various levels of government, conservation partners and even university research groups, we share our data of the region's ecosystems to contribute to the advancement of collective knowledge regarding various environmental issues and the recovery of species at risk.





Our team of biologists conducting an ecological survey.

©Charles Dion

TWO DECADES OF SCIENTIFIC INQUIRY

- **OUR TERRITORY OF ACTION** includes more than **30,000 HECTARES (OVER 74,100 ACRES)** protected in perpetuity on public and private lands. 
- **Since its inception in 2002** Appalachian Corridor has produced over **200** ecological survey reports on as many properties. 

- **In 2021** our biologists spent nearly **2,000 HOURS IN THE FIELD** the equivalent of **5 FULL-TIME BIOLOGISTS** for 4 MONTHS. 
- No less than **80 SPECIES AT RISK** in Quebec or Canada are found on Appalachian Corridor's territory of action. 

BIRD MIGRATION AFFECTED BY CLIMATE CHANGE

A trend has become increasingly clear in recent years for several bird species including the Yellow Warbler, the Chimney Swift, the Tree Swallow and the Catbird. Because temperatures are getting milder in the fall, some species are delaying their fall migration in order to stay longer in our region.

We also note an early return in spring, which would be related to the mild temperatures also occurring earlier. These changes in bird migration habits are likely related to fluctuations brought by climate change.



Tree Swallow ©Robert Côté



Catbird ©Michel Pilon



Yellow Warbler ©Michel Pilon



A PICTURE FOR NATURE BY CHARLES DION

Appalachian Corridor is pleased to announce a partnership with Eastern Townships photographer, Charles Dion. Passionate about nature and a committed citizen with environment protection at heart, the talented photographer will donate some of the proceeds from the sales on his online store to Appalachian Corridor and QuébecOiseaux. Get a head start on your holiday shopping by visiting his store and help nature conservation in the process! www.charlesdionphotographe.com

If your company is interested in becoming a proud partner of Appalachian Corridor, get in touch with us at info@corridorappalachien.ca.



Give a holiday gift that's unique and good for nature! For every purchase of a photo print by Charles Dion, a donation will be made to Appalachian Corridor.

©Charles Dion



ABOUT APPALACHIAN CORRIDOR

Appalachian Corridor is a not-for-profit organization working to protect natural habitats and the biodiversity in the Appalachians of southern Quebec in collaboration with private landowners, local conservation groups, and many regional, national and international partners.

- Founded in **2002**
- Over **15,000 hectares** of natural areas protected in perpetuity on private land to date, in collaboration with the Nature Conservancy of Canada, our affiliate members and other conservation partners
- **17 affiliate members**, namely local conservation organizations, located throughout our territory of action

FOLLOW US!



info@corridorappalachien.ca
appalachiancorridor.ca

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

Pass this newsletter on or recycle after reading!

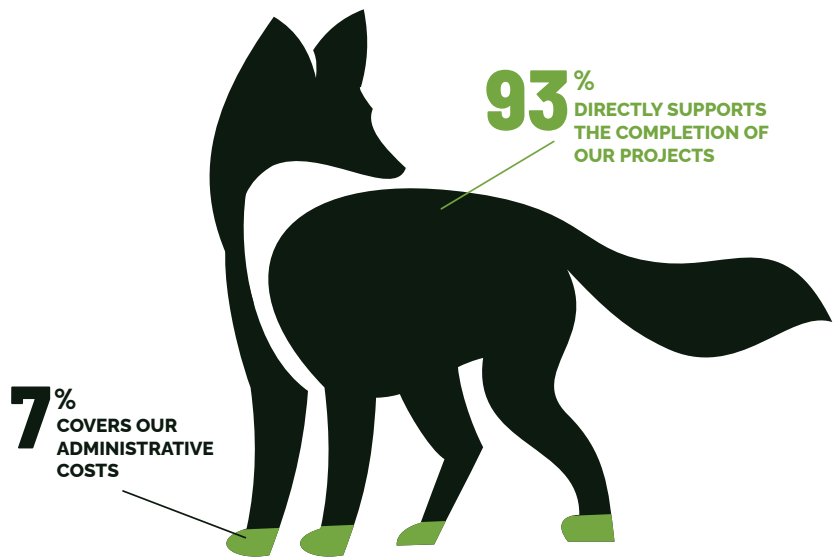
SUPPORT OUR MISSION!

Contribute today to the protection of what is most precious: Our natural environment

Did you know that when you support Appalachian Corridor, each dollar you donate is matched by government and institutional funds by a factor of 50?

November 30 is Giving Tuesday!

Why not take advantage of Giving Tuesday to contribute to our conservation mission in the region? Make a donation on our website at www.appalachiancorridor.ca or complete and mail the form below. Thank you for your generosity!



THANKS TO OUR FUNDING PARTNERS

The Government of Canada: The Natural Heritage Conservation Program administered through the Canada Nature Fund, the Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk, Community-nominated priority places for species at risk (CNPP) and Canada Summer Jobs. The Government of Quebec: Projet de partenariat pour les milieux naturels (PPMN) administered through Nature Conservancy of Canada, Plan d'action 2013-2020 sur les changements climatiques funded by the Fonds d'électrification et de changements climatiques, Programme d'aménagement durable des forêts (PADF), financial support from Quebec's ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs (MFFP), 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), Fonds d'appui au rayonnement des régions (FARR Estrie), the Municipality of Eastman, and the Fondation de la Faune du Québec. Additionally, we thank U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Echo Fondation, Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec, Weston Family Foundation, Protection des oiseaux Québec (POQ), MRC Brome-Missisquoi, Wildlife Acoustics, Rando Québec, ÉcoCanada, Lake Champlain Basin Program, New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPCC), municipalities of Bolton-Est, Bolton-Ouest, Saint-Étienne-de-Bolton and Austin, as well as many private donors.

Name

Address

City

Province

Postal Code

Telephone

Email

I make a single donation of:

☐ 50 \$

☐ 100 \$

☐ 250 \$

☐ 500 \$

☐ Other _____ \$

☐ I want my name and the amount of my donation made public.

☐ I want my name only made public.

☐ I want to remain anonymous.

☐ Visa

☐ Mastercard

☐ American Express

☐ Payment by cheque (enclosed)

Cardholder

Card number

Expiration Date

CSC (3 digits on the back of the card)

Signature