

BULLETIN SPRING 2022



www.appalachiancorridor.ca

APPALACHIAN CORRIDOR TURNS 20 AND CELEBRATES A MOUNTAIN OF GAINS FOR NATURE AND THE COMMUNITY



Members of Appalachian Corridor's dynamic team which includes biologists, conservation experts, stewardship leaders, GIS specialists, and administrators.

The year 2022 marks 20 years since Appalachian Corridor was founded by Francine Hone, Louise Gratton, and Terri Monahan.

Despite humble beginnings, the organization's vision was ambitious from the outset: to create a vast corridor of protected natural areas linking forests from the Sutton Mountain Range to the Parc national du Mont-Orford.

"We founded Appalachian Corridor with the hope that a large-scale conservation project would come to fruition in a region that is both so wild and so close to large urban centers," explains Ms. Gratton who remains involved with the organization's board of directors. "The success of this initiative exceeds all our expectations," she adds.

"What I'm most proud of is that this ambitious vision inspired our affiliate members and partners and that, after 20 years, it continues to motivate an extraordinary team without which this project would never have reached the notoriety it has today," concludes Ms. Gratton.

"Appalachian Corridor is above all a movement that brings people together," says Marie-José Auclair, president of the board of directors and member of the organization since 2003. "Its vision unites people who are passionate about nature and for whom it is imperative to protect what is most precious in our region: natural habitats," she adds. "I'm very proud of how far we've come in the protection of our land, particularly because these gains will last forever. It is a great legacy for present and future generations, and I look forward to celebrating the impact of all these collective actions."

"Beyond its clear vision and experienced team, it is Appalachian Corridor's extraordinary community that makes it what it is today," shares Mélanie Lelièvre, executive director of Appalachian Corridor since 2007. "No other region in Quebec brings together this many conservation organizations and conservation-minded landowners. It is this very strong citizen movement which continues to gain momentum and compels us to action. I have no doubt that the next 20 years will be as fruitful as the first two decades. There is still so much to do and there is no shortage of ideas and energy," she concludes.

SINCE ITS FOUNDATION, APPALACHIAN CORRIDOR, in collaboration with the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC), its 17 affiliate members, and several partners, have contributed to:



Protect in perpetuity more than 15 000 hectares of natural habitats through more than one hundred land acquisitions as well as generous donations from landowners.



Carry out hundreds of ecological surveys with thousands of plant and wildlife data entries in order to draw a better portrait of the ecological diversity of our territory.



Create a network of conservation organizations unique in Quebec with 17 affiliate members dedicated to accelerating and multiplying conservation projects on their respective territories.



Invest more than \$1 000 000 annually to support the conservation activities of our affiliate members.



Document and better understand the populations of a dozen species at risk on our territory of action.



Be an employer of choice for 30 full-time employees and seasonal workers, all dedicated to and caring for the health of natural habitats around us.



VISIONARY LAND DONORS

Since 2002, Appalachian Corridor, its affiliate members, and its conservation partners have joined forces with almost **one hundred private landowners** to carry out voluntary, perpetual conservation projects on as many properties.

Together, these landowners are helping to establish a vast network of protected areas in the Appalachians of southern Quebec. Thanks to these visionary donors who are giving back to nature, our rich territory and the species that inhabit it, as well as present and future communities, benefit from healthy natural environments in perpetuity.

Meet two families who recently completed their conservation projects.



YOLANDE CASTONGUAY AND ROBERT ROBITAILLE

Donors of a 13.75-ha conservation easement in Abercorn, Quebec



"Our conservation agreement will contribute to protect several species of plants, insects, and wildlife, some of which are at risk. For instance, the Sutton River population of the wood turtle, a species listed as vulnerable in Quebec, will benefit from the preservation of its habitat on our land, and it could contribute to its recovery. The idea of protecting our land in perpetuity came from discussions with friends who led by example. They introduced us to conservation organizations that could help us and inspired us do the same as them. We are both proud and happy with the completion of this project, which had been on our mind for several years."

GILLES DESJARDINS

Donor of a 30.19 ha conservation easement in Shefford, Quebec



"I acquired this property 35 years ago. I have always enjoyed spending time on the land, looking at the sights, relaxing, and coming to the property to recharge my batteries. Fifteen years ago, I thought it would be great to keep this land intact and natural. At the time, there was no conservation organization covering my municipality but I still, had it in mind to protect this wealth forever. Eventually, the organization Conservation Espace Nature Shefford (CENS) was established. Through their collaboration with Appalachian Corridor, I became aware of the projects they carried out near my home and, three years ago, I officially began the conservation process for my property. Now that all this nature is protected forever, I can sleep in peace."

WHAT IS A CONSERVATION EASEMENT?

A conservation easement is a voluntary, legal agreement between a landowner and a conservation organization that permanently restricts certain uses to protect the ecological features of a property or a part thereof.

Unlike the sale or donation of a property, a conservation easement **allows landowners to retain ownership** and **maintain many activities** that do not compromise ecosystems, such as hiking or harvesting timber for personal use.



FREE VIDEOCONFERENCE

CARRYING OUT A CONSERVATION PROJECT ON YOUR LAND: WHY AND HOW?

Thursday, May 26, 2022 - 3:00 to 4:00 pm

Are you a landowner who cares about protecting nature? Have you heard about voluntary conservation and are intrigued by this process? Would you like to learn more about the importance of this movement to protect our region's biodiversity and promote connectivity between natural environments to ensure their health and sustainability forever?

Attend this free conference and learn about the benefits of conservation in perpetuity for wildlife, plants, and the community, and the options and steps for implementing such a project on your property. The conference will also highlight the recent experience of a land donor.

Register today!

corridorappalachien.ca/conferences

This conference is supported by Hydro-Québec.





CONSERVATION: BETTER UNDERSTANDING THE CONCEPTS THAT FUEL OUR ACTIONS

WHAT IS AN ECOLOGICAL CORRIDOR?

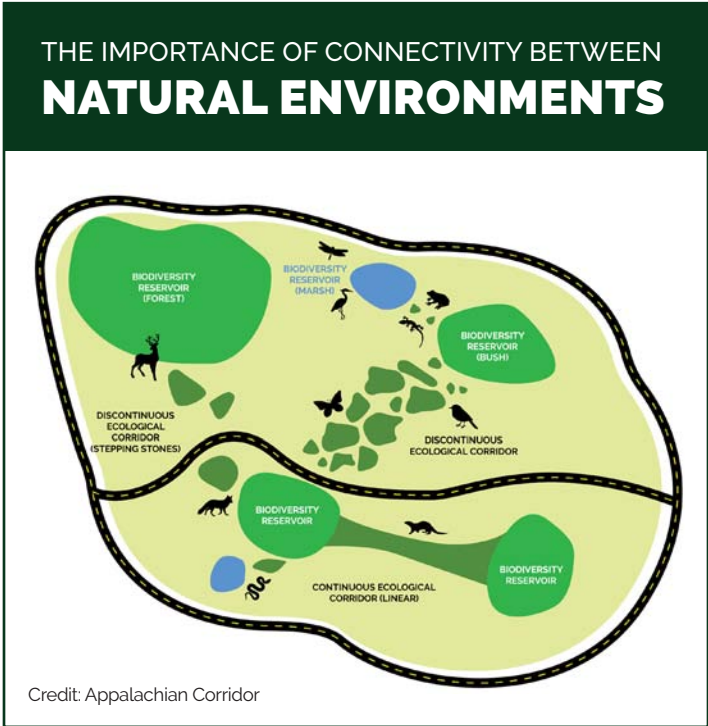
An ecological corridor is a given portion of a landscape, a linkage whose ecological components enable the movement of species, as well as continued ecological processes, between habitat nodes and biodiversity reservoirs. Examples of such corridors can include woodlands, wetlands, watercourses, and their natural riparian strips located between habitat cores. Animals and plants can disperse from one habitat core to another through these corridors.

WHAT IS ECOLOGICAL CONNECTIVITY?

The landscape is composed of a dynamic mosaic of natural habitats and other areas transformed by humans. Over the years, the landscape has been modified and fragmented by human activities.

Ecological connectivity is defined as the degree of connection between the various natural areas within a landscape.

To offset the negative effects of fragmentation and the loss of natural habitats, scientists have highlighted the importance of increasing connectivity between habitats. The conservation of ecological corridors is essential to sustain biological diversity and to ensure nature can carry on providing essential services to the community.



INCREASING CONNECTIVITY TO SUPPORT BIODIVERSITY

The natural corridor of the Green-Mountains is very favorable for wide-ranging mammals. These species need large, unfragmented forest blocks linked together by natural corridors in order to roam and complete their life cycle.

SPECIES	VITAL AREA
FISHER	600 to 4,000 ha
BOBCAT	5,000 ha
COUGAR	4,000 to 9,000 ha
MOOSE	6,000 to 10,000 ha
BLACK BEAR	6,000 to more than 10,000 ha

DID YOU KNOW?

Maintaining and restoring ecological connectivity represents a known and effective strategy for climate change adaptation.

MUNICIPALITIES: ESSENTIAL CONSERVATION ALLIES

As a conservation organization, Appalachian Corridor works with landowners to protect biodiversity and maintain or restore the ecological connectivity of natural areas. In addition to the creation of privately held protected areas, land use planning is another powerful solution for preserving the region's most sensitive habitats.

To amplify these efforts, we have established strategic partnerships with municipalities on our territory of action, given that these stakeholders are best positioned to respond quickly and effectively to local issues resulting from the loss or degradation of natural areas.

Municipalities and MRCs have access to many tools to generate positive outcomes for the environment and can use their regulatory powers to contribute to the conservation of nature.

Municipalities can capitalize on the following levers to foster the health and conservation of natural areas:

- Zoning bylaws
- City or town planning master plan
- Site planning and architectural integration plans
- Conditional uses
- Delivery of permits and certificates
- Municipal works agreements
- Tree planting and tree felling/logging regulations
- Vegetation cutting/mowing bylaws
- Outdoor lighting regulations
- Subdivision bylaws

For instance, municipalities can adopt a nature-friendly approach to land use planning and bylaws, limiting the destruction or the degradation of the most sensitive features on a territory such as summits, steep slopes, or riparian areas. Municipalities can also establish a legal conservation status on properties they own.

Nature conservation can also be taken to a whole new level when neighbouring municipalities work together to develop and integrate a comprehensive and holistic conservation vision.

In addition to supporting the region's municipalities in advancing their projects for the conservation and protection of natural areas, Appalachian Corridor recently launched a guide to support municipalities and MRCs throughout Québec. This guide, structured in the form of two toolboxes, provides guidelines to encourage municipalities and MRCs to foster ecological connectivity and natural area conservation on their territories. These tools were developed as part of the Initiative québécoise Corridors écologiques. For more information about these tools, visit www.connectiviteecologique.com.

AUSTIN: A MUNICIPALITY THAT'S ONE STEP AHEAD

The municipality of Austin was the first municipality in the province of Quebec to integrate ecological connectivity to its bylaws.

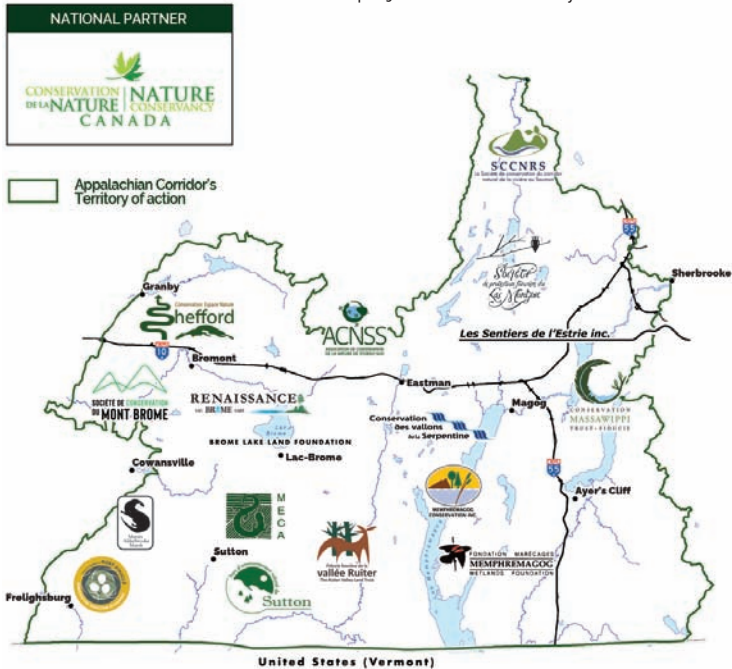


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NETWORK OF 17 AFFILIATE MEMBERS

Working together to propel conservation projects on our territory of action.



ABOUT APPALACHIAN CORRIDOR

Appalachian Corridor is a non-profit conservation organization working to protect natural areas and biodiversity in the Appalachians of southern Quebec, in collaboration with private landowners, local conservation groups and several regional, national, and international partners.

- Founded in **2002**
- More than **15 000 hectares** of natural areas protected in perpetuity on private land to date on our territory of action, in collaboration with the Nature Conservancy of Canada, our affiliate members, and other conservation partners

FOLLOW US!



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HYDRO-QUÉBEC ENERGIZES APPALACHIAN CORRIDOR'S ACTIVITIES FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS



The magnitude of the climate and ecological crisis calls on action from all actors in society to mitigate and even reverse the environmental impacts of our activities. In response to this situation, Appalachian Corridor is pleased to announce a three-year partnership with Hydro-Quebec to accelerate and boost three key programs dedicated to the promotion of natural solutions to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG) and increase GHG capture through the protection of natural areas on our territory of action.

Hydro-Québec's contribution will be dedicated to boosting and expanding three of Appalachian Corridor's projects: a **mobilization program for municipalities and MRCs** committed to protecting natural areas, an **awareness program for landowners** interested in contributing to the vast corridor of protected natural areas, and a **support program for its network of 17 affiliate members**.

THANKS TO OUR FUNDING PARTNERS

The Government of Canada: Natural Heritage Conservation Program managed through the Nature Conservancy of Canada, Community Designated Priority Sites (CDPS) and Summer Jobs Canada. The Government of Quebec: Natural Environment Partnership Project (NEPP) managed through the Nature Conservancy of Canada, Action-Climat Quebec Program, support measures from the Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs (MFFP), 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 Fonds d'appui au rayonnement des régions (FARR Estrie). Fondation de la faune du Québec (FFQ), Maple Cross Foundation, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Fondation Écho, Hydro-Québec, Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec, Weston Family Foundation, Protection des oiseaux Québec (POQ), Brome-Missisquoi MRC, Habitat Faunique Canada, Rando Québec, ÉcoCanada, New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPCC), Lake Champlain Basin Program, Kinesis Education, Learning Through Trees Canada, the municipalities of Eastman, East Bolton, West Bolton, Saint-Étienne-de-Bolton and Austin, as well as many private donors.

SUPPORT OUR ANNUAL CAMPAIGN OF \$200,000 TO PROTECT THE NATURAL AREAS OF OUR REGION FOREVER!

Every dollar you invest in Appalachian Corridor gets us closer to our target of protecting 500 additional hectares of natural areas every year.

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.

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☐ Mastercard

☐ American Express

☐ Payment by cheque (enclosed)

Cardholder

Card number

Expiration Date

CSC (3 digits on the back of the card)

Signature