



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

A SECOND DONATION OF A CONSERVATION EASEMENT OF 3.9 HECTARES BY BROMONT RESIDENT RENÉ CLOUTIER

Bromont, November 22, 2022 – The Société de conservation du Mont Brome (SCMB) and Appalachian Corridor are pleased to announce that Mr. René Cloutier has donated a second ecological gift by means of a 3.86 hectare conservation easement. A resident of Bromont, Mr. Cloutier has made the protection of natural environments a true hobbyhorse in recent years.

He is thus becoming part of the select club of landowners with two conservation projects under their belt. Indeed, Mr. Cloutier is doing it again after concluding a first 5.54 hectare conservation easement project with Appalachian Corridor in 2018. "My motivations behind these two conservation projects are to give back to nature and show people that they can make a difference", explains Mr. Cloutier. "In my opinion, donating land is one of the greatest gifts we can give to humanity! I am very happy to leave this legacy. I sincerely hope that this gift will inspire others to do the same and the awareness of nature's fundamental place in our lives will be carried on!"

A PROJECT RICH IN ECOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS AT NO COST TO THE DONOR

This conservation easement is central to the priorities of the two partnering conservation organizations. According to Camil Poulin, president of the SCMB, "This is another important milestone in ensuring the conservation and ecological connectivity of natural environments in Bromont, as well as maintaining biodiversity and protecting plant and wildlife species". He also points out that this donation will allow the protection of a forested wetland at the head of Wright Creek, an important tributary of Bromont Lake, which contributes to the protection of the water quality of the watershed.

In addition to providing a rich diversity of flora, the new protected area is a prime habitat for species at risk, including the hoary bat, little brown bat, eastern pipistrelle and monarch butterfly.

Appalachian Corridor and its affiliated members are making every effort to ensure that no expenses are required from landowners to support the conservation process, while desired expectations are still achieved.

Appalachian Corridor and the SCMB would like to thank the following funders for their essential contributions to this project: the City of Bromont, Environment and Climate Change Canada's Nature Fund's Community Designated Priority Sites for Species at Risk initiative, the Nature Conservancy of Canada, through its Partenariat pour les milieux naturels, for which the Government of Quebec has granted financial assistance of more than \$53 million, and finally, Canada's Ecological Gifts Program.



For the Mayor of Bromont, Louis Villeneuve, visionaries like Mr. Cloutier have left a priceless legacy for future generations. "The City of Bromont salutes this great Bromontois who supports the cause of conservation and sustainable development so dear to the citizens of Bromont," said Mr. Villeneuve.

"Appalachian Corridor salutes this important contribution to conservation by René Cloutier, as well as the avant-gardism of the City of Bromont in terms of conservation and protection of natural environments," said Mélanie Lelièvre, Executive Director of Appalachian Corridor. "It is extraordinary to think of Mr. Cloutier's conservation journey. The collaboration goes back to the beginnings of the mobilization for the protection of Val 8, in 2013, with the creation of the group Protégeons Bromont. He became a committed citizen and mobilized in action, to be today an ambassador of conservation. Mr. Cloutier is proof of the incredible potential for community mobilization and that every citizen can concretely make a difference in conservation."

MINISTER QUOTE

"Through initiatives such as the Canada Nature Fund's Community-Nominated Priority Places for Species at Risk and the Ecological Gifts Program, we can halt and reverse biodiversity loss and contribute to the recovery of species at risk across the country. I thank René Cloutier for his generosity and commitment to future generations. Protecting nature concerns us all and we are proud to support this conservation project. Together, we are taking action to achieve our goal of conserving one quarter of lands and oceans in Canada by 2025 and 30 percent by 2030."

– The Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change

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ABOUT

Environment and Climate Change Canada's Nature Fund

The Canada Nature Fund supports the protection of Canada's biodiversity through the creation of protected and conserved areas and through initiatives that help to recover species at risk. The Fund is available to not-for-profit and Indigenous organizations, provinces and territories, and others.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change.html>

The **Projet de partenariat pour les milieux naturels (PPMN)** is a four-year grant of more than \$53 million from the Government of Quebec to the Nature Conservancy of Canada. It provides support for voluntary conservation initiatives to ensure the protection of natural areas of interest by establishing financial partnerships with conservation organizations in the province. The PPMN thus aims to develop and consolidate Québec's network of protected areas located on private land.

The **Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC)** is the country's unifying force for nature. NCC seeks solutions to the twin crises of rapid biodiversity loss and climate change through large-scale, permanent land conservation. As a trusted partner, NCC works with people, communities, businesses and government to protect and care for our most important natural areas. Since 1962, NCC has brought Canadians together to



conserve and restore more than 15 million hectares, including nearly 50,000 hectares in Quebec. NCC is a registered charity. With nature, NCC builds a thriving world. To learn more, visit natureconservancy.ca

Canada's **Ecological Gifts Program** provides a way for Canadians with ecologically sensitive land to protect nature and leave a legacy for future generations. Made possible by the terms of the *Income Tax Act* of Canada and the Quebec *Taxation Act*, it offers significant tax benefits to landowners who donate land or a partial interest in land. Recipients ensure that the land's biodiversity and natural heritage are conserved in perpetuity. <https://www.canada.ca/ecological-gifts>

Société de conservation du Mont Brome (SCMB)

Managed by a nine (9) member volunteer Board of Directors, the SCMB is a non-profit organization based in Bromont that is dedicated to the conservation and enhancement of the natural resources and environments of great ecological value of the Mont Brome massif and its surroundings: societeconservationmontbrome.org

Appalachian Corridor is a non-profit conservation organization celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2022. Its mission is to protect the natural environments of the Appalachian region of southern Quebec. Through the implementation of its conservation strategy, Appalachian Corridor provides local communities with the means to maintain and restore a living environment that respects the ecology of the region, from a sustainable development perspective. A total of 17 local organizations are affiliate members of Appalachian Corridor and together they contribute to accelerating and increasing the conservation projects carried out on the territory. Since the beginning of its activities, the extent of the areas protected by Appalachian Corridor and its partners totals more than 16,200 hectares of land protected forever – equivalent to more than the surface area of the city of Granby. www.appalachiancorridor.ca

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PJ : Photo (from left to right)

Pierre Lizotte, Chair of the Project Review Committee - Société de conservation du Mont Brome (SCMB)

Mélanie Frenette, Advisor, Conservation and Special Projects - Appalachian Corridor

René Cloutier, donor

Camil Poulin, President - SCMB

Louis Villeneuve, Mayor of the City of Bromont