



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

DONATION HELPS PROTECT NEARLY 24 HECTARES OF NATURAL ENVIRONMENTS IN BOLTON-EST

Bolton-Est, Québec (February 12, 2024) - Appalachian Corridor and Conservation des vallons de la Serpentine (CVS) are proud to announce the protection in perpetuity of 23.78 hectares (59 acres) of forest, wetland and water environments in the municipality of East Bolton.

A huge thank you to Mrs. Brien Dandurand for her generous ecological donation. This biodiversity-rich environment, located in the heart of a nucleus of habitat not far from Mont Chagnon, is now protected in perpetuity. This area adds to the 445 ha already protected by CVS in the Serpentine stream watershed.

A STORY FOR EVERY CONSERVATION PROJECT

The motivation behind a landowner's decision to protect his or her natural heritage varies greatly from one project to the next. Indeed, each project has its own specificities. Conservation organizations therefore play an essential role in accompanying owners, advising them and responding appropriately to their expectations and questions.

Brien Dandurand's project is no exception. A bond of trust was forged between CVS and the owner over 12 years ago. It was in 2019, however, that the project really got underway. Various voluntary conservation options were evaluated, including a conservation easement, before Mrs. Brien Dandurand, together with her children, chose to transfer full title via an ecological gift to CVS.

UNDENIABLE ECOLOGICAL INTEREST

The new protected area is composed of mature forest environments, as well as wetlands and hydric environments which are ubiquitous, counting nearly 10 hectares (25 acres) of treed swamps and marshes.

Ecological inventory work confirmed the presence of Two-leaved toothwort and Ostrich fern, two species designated vulnerable to harvesting in Quebec. As for wildlife, the property is rich in biodiversity. Mammals such as the American Beaver, White-tailed Deer, Snowshoe Hare, Silver-haired Bat and Hoary Bat have all been recorded. These two winged-mammal species are likely to be designated as threatened or vulnerable in Quebec.



As for avian fauna, 45 species were inventoried. Of these, 13 species are considered priorities by Environment Canada's Canadian Wildlife Service and Climate Change in the Quebec portion of the Northern Atlantic Forest Bird Conservation Region (BCR 14-Qc), as defined by the North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI), including White-throated Sparrow, Northern Parula, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Ovenbird, Northern Flicker and Solitary Vireo.

"Once again, the unique model of collaboration between Appalachian Corridor and its affiliated members, in this case Conservation des vallons de la Serpentine (CVS), has proved its worth. A collaboration that draws on the strengths of each organization and creates a real synergy to maximize conservation gains in the region. We are delighted to have provided our expertise and support to both parties throughout the project, and to have facilitated its completion. We especially salute the remarkable generosity of Mrs. Brien Dandurand, and hope that her gesture inspires other owners to consider conservation for the future of their property," emphasizes **Mélanie Lelièvre, Executive Director of Appalachian Corridor.**

The protection of this environment would not have been possible without the great generosity of Mrs. Brien Dandurand through the Ecological Gift. From now on, the long-term future of the protected area is the responsibility of CVS, which will oversee the ecological integrity of the property. To this end, CVS has set up an endowment fund to finance ongoing management and stewardship expenses. To create this endowment fund and cover all project-related expenses, Appalachian Corridor and CVS would like to thank the following funders for their essential contributions: Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques, de la Faune et des Parcs (MELCCFP) through Projet de partenariat pour les milieux naturels, Fondation de la faune du Québec, Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (NMBCA) program and the Canadian Wildlife Service, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Municipality of Bolton-Est.

The MELCCFP has granted more than \$53 million in financial assistance to the Nature Conservancy of Canada for its Projet de partenariat pour les milieux naturels (PPMN), and the ECCC has granted Nature-Action Québec financial assistance under the Canada Nature Fund and its Défi program.

"Accompanying a property owner in his or her project to protect part of his or her heritage is never an easy task. All scenarios must be studied in order to select the one that best meets the expectations and objectives of the owners and their loved ones. The ties that grassroots organizations like CVS forge with their communities are at the heart of their actions. We are grateful to Mrs. Brien Dandurand for her trust in CVS throughout the process. We will ensure that her commitment to protecting the ecosystems that exist on this land is respected in perpetuity," says **Giuseppe (Joe) Marino, President of CVS.**



On a regional scale, the acquisition is part of a conservation strategy aimed at preserving the rare core habitats of over 10,000 hectares in southern Quebec that are little or not fragmented. It represents a direct contribution to the preservation of a core habitat of over 16,900 hectares in the Appalachian Corridor.

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ABOUT

Conservation des vallons de la Serpentine (CVS) was born in 2006 from shared values and a collective desire to protect an area rich in natural environments and species. Today, more than 75 members support the cause and enable CVS to make its way. This unique commitment translates into recreational and educational activities, open to the public, on the richness of our forests, and an annual celebration - a must, to bring together people sensitive to environmental issues. CVS protects some 469 hectares of land, over 332 of which it owns outright. The remainder consists of conservation easements granted by private landowners. All these lands are protected in perpetuity. conservationserpentine.org

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

For over 37 years, **Nature-Action Québec**, a non-profit organization, has been guiding individuals and organizations in the application of best environmental practices. The organization works with municipalities, businesses, community organizations and citizens to carry out concrete projects that contribute to improving the environment, health, well-being, and quality of life of Quebecers. <https://nature-action.qc.ca/>

The **Nature Fund of Canada** promotes the protection of Canada's biodiversity through the creation of protected and conservation areas, and through initiatives that contribute to the recovery of species at risk. The Fund is open to not-for-profit and aboriginal organizations, provinces and territories, and other stakeholders.

To find out more, click here : <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/nature-legacy/fund.html>

The **Ecological Gifts Program** offers Canadians who own ecologically sensitive land the opportunity to protect nature and leave a legacy for future generations. Under Canada's Income Tax Act and Quebec's Taxation Act, it provides significant tax benefits to landowners who donate land or a partial interest in



land to an eligible recipient organization. The beneficiary ensures that the land's biodiversity and natural heritage are preserved in perpetuity.

For more information, visit : <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/environmental-funding/ecological-gifts-program/overview.html>

The mission of the **Fondation de la faune du Québec** is to promote the conservation and enhancement of wildlife and its habitats. Thanks to the contributions of over a million Quebec hunters, anglers and trappers, thousands of donors and numerous private companies, the Foundation has been supporting over 2,000 organizations throughout Quebec since 1987, creating a veritable wildlife movement. fondationdelafaune.qc.ca

Appalachian Corridor is a non-profit conservation organization which celebrated 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. 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 16,700 hectares of land forever protected. www.appalachiancorridor.ca

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