



ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

LET'S PROTECT biodiversity nature life

MISSION

To consolidate and leave in perpetuity a vast corridor of protected natural areas.

VISION

In response to the climate and ecological crises, to promote global awareness of biodiversity and increase the number of protected areas, by setting the standard for conservation and ecological land-use planning.

**17,600 hectares
PROTECTED IN PERPETUITY**



A WORD from the Board Chair and the Executive Director

The Northern Green Mountains now cover 17,600 hectares (43,490 acres) protected in perpetuity. These protected areas are the result of nearly 25 years of exceptional collaboration between all the conservation organizations working in the region and an impressive number of landowners committed to the cause!

Once again this year, we put a great deal of energy into completing 12 new conservation projects on as many properties. Twelve owners, families or companies, whom, for all kinds of reasons, have chosen to protect their natural areas (forest, wetlands) forever. Each project has its own story, its triggers, its foundations, its pace and its challenges. Whether it's a large-scale project or a smaller one involving a wealth of flora and fauna, the process is the same, and we give it our full attention.

Our team is fortunate to work alongside the community and landowners on this great adventure, ensuring that each project meets the landowner's values and objectives. This approach is a sure guarantee of our success and the trust placed in our organization. One of our key projects of the past year is, without a doubt, the completion of the last phase of Mount Foster protection. Stakeholders from all walks of life joined forces in a constructive dialogue with a common goal: to preserve our natural heritage. *Such an achievement underlines the need to combine our resources, and the cohesion and mobilization of the various players involved towards the ambitious goal of protecting 30% of our natural environment by 2030.*

It is with hope and enthusiasm that the Appalachian Corridor team pursues its conservation mission, caring for, developing and monitoring its protected areas. The climate challenges we are currently facing only serve to confirm the urgency of taking action to preserve our natural environments. Each and every financial support and donation received is essential to building tomorrow's world and ensuring a sustainable and harmonious coexistence between nature and current as well as future generations.

Marie-José Anclair
Board Chair (right in photo)

Mélanie Jélin
Executive Director (left in photo)

PROTECTING MOUNT FOSTER

Reconciling two visions

This year, our team finalized a flagship project, the protection of Mount Foster. Quite a complex and ambitious project, it's been a long haul! The final phase is now completed, thanks to a generous Ecogift of nearly \$1 million from MM. Lussier and Burel. This last

phase adds 6 hectares (15 acres) to what had been protected in 2019, bringing the total protected area to 221 hectares (546 acres). This project marked a turning point from the initial plan to build 70 houses on this ecologically rich mountain, a prospect which had aroused strong opposition from the locals as well as Appalachian Corridor. The local communities' engagement has been crucial, nearly 250 donors contributed financially

in addition to the municipalities of Bolton-Ouest and Saint-Étienne-de-Bolton and all financial partners. The donation has gone through Environment and Climate Change Canada's Ecological Gifts Program, which offers significant tax benefits for the landowners. Mount Foster, located at the heart of the Northern Green Mountains offers free public access to nearly 4.5 km of beautiful hiking trails.

PROTECTED LANDS on Appalachian Corridor's territory

TOTAL SURFACE AREA
ON PRIVATE LAND
17,600 ha (43,490 acres)

ON PUBLIC LAND
13,228 ha (32,687 acres)

NEW PROTECTED
AREAS in 2023-2024
172 ha (425 acres)

NEW CONSERVATION
PROJECTS
12

TOTAL PERCENTAGE
OF PROTECTED AREAS
8,92 %

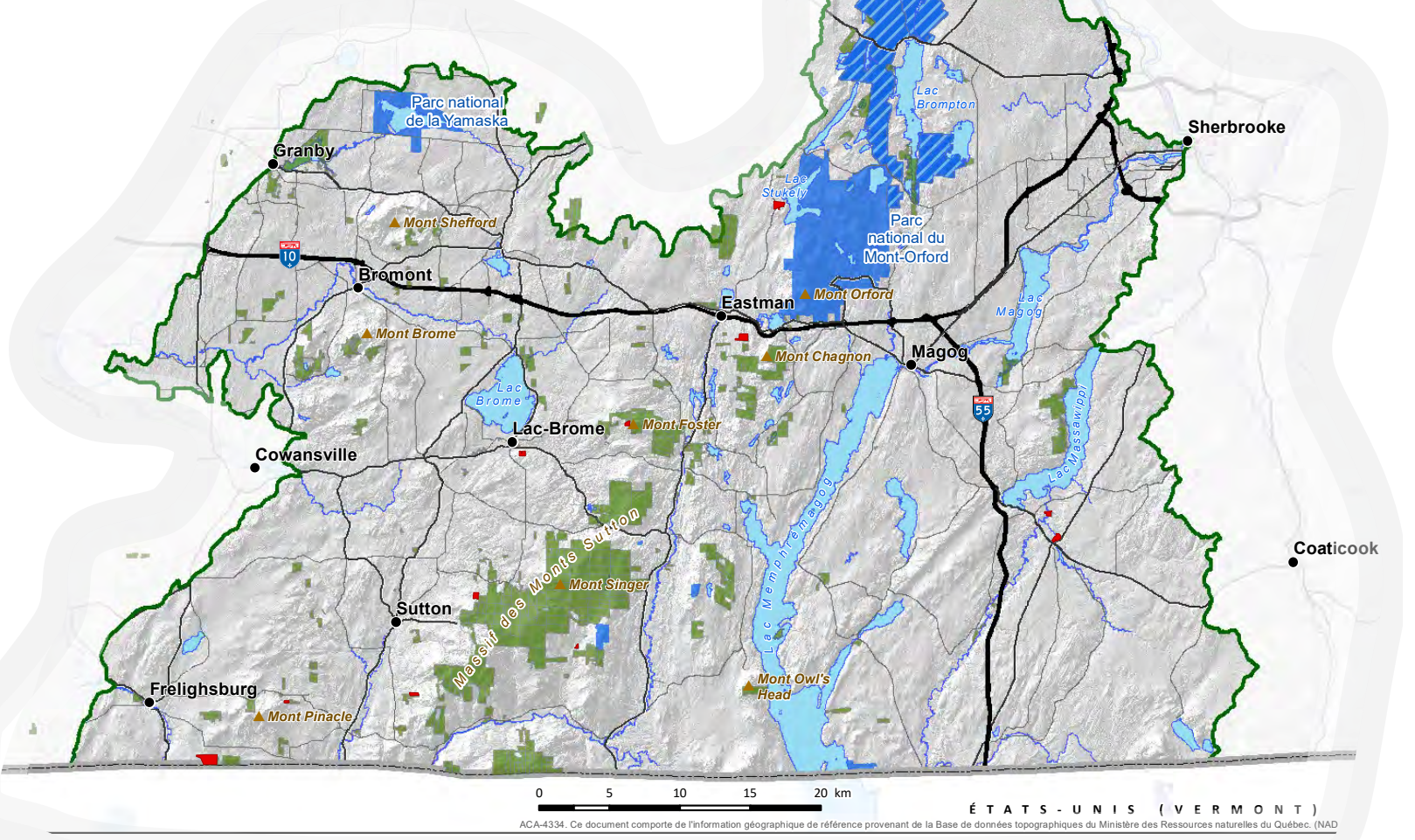
New areas protected
(private land) in 2023-2024

Protected areas (private land)

Protected areas (public land)

Parc national du Mont-Orford
expansion project

Appalachian Corridor's
territory of action



PROTECT
*natural areas
in perpetuity*

The conservation team has completed **12 projects**:

- **2 conservation easements**;
 - **1 nature reserve**;
 - **9 in title acquisitions**.
- Of these 12 projects, 9 were concluded in favour of our affiliated members.
- All these projects represent an additional protected surface area of over 172 hectares (425 acres).
- Serious negotiations are underway with 18 other landowners for the protection of their land.
- More than 60% of Austin's Millington Bog, an important wetland, is now protected.

Over \$350,000 raised for conservation project for Domaine Monbel, Eastman.



Thanks to the Brien Dandurand family for protecting their property in perpetuity. On the photo: Dandurand family, representatives of Conservation des vallons de la Serpentine and Appalachian Corridor.



ACQUIRE
AND SHARE
*knowledge on the
territory's ecology*

The knowledge acquisition team criss-crossed the region to gain a better understanding of biodiversity by carrying out:

- **26** ecological surveys on as many properties;
- **8** knowledge acquisition **projects** on priority species;
- Monitoring **turtle** mortality in the vicinity of the exit 115, Magog;
- Validation of potential **bat** hibernacula;
- Monitoring **Peregrine Falcon** nesting on various rock faces;
- Monitoring of **Bicknell's Thrush** population at the "Round Top" in the Sutton Mountains;
- Monitoring of the **Wood Turtle** population in Missisquoi and Sutton rivers;
- Validation of **Eastern Milksnake** occurrences;
- **Chimney Swift** monitoring;
- Study of **Spring Salamander** population.





INFORM AND EDUCATE

*about the importance
of the natural heritage*

The communications team has also been very busy promoting our organization:

- **2** editions of the **BULLETIN** were distributed to **11,700 households** ;
- **5 ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTERS** were sent to **2,700 recipients**.

MEDIA

- In September, at the Appalachian Corridor offices, in the presence of the Honourable Steven Guilbeault and the Honourable Pascale St-Onge, **Federal funding renewal announcement of Community-Nominated Priority Places for Species at Risk**.
- **4** press releases
- Mentions in **over 60** print media **articles**
- Nearly **20** television and radio **interviews**



Winner at the conservation awards Gala Nature sauvage for the acquisition of the year.

22 CONFERENCES, EDUCATIONAL AND IMMERSIVE ACTIVITIES

- **6** conferences on the theme of **bat conservation** in Quebec.
- **5** lectures on **ecological connectivity** for a variety of audiences (university, municipal, general public).
- **6** lectures or immersive tours on **biodiversity in natural or agricultural environments**.
- **5** awareness-raising activities on other topics.

The first **Appalachian Corridor Open House** was held this year, attracting many people interested in the conservation of natural environments.

Over 1,700 event participants!

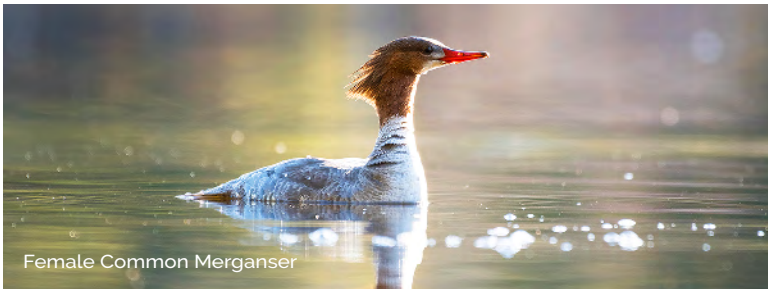
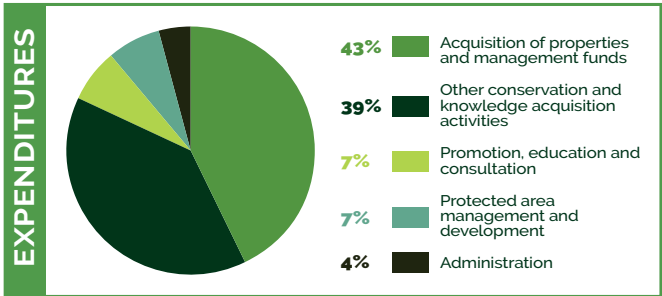
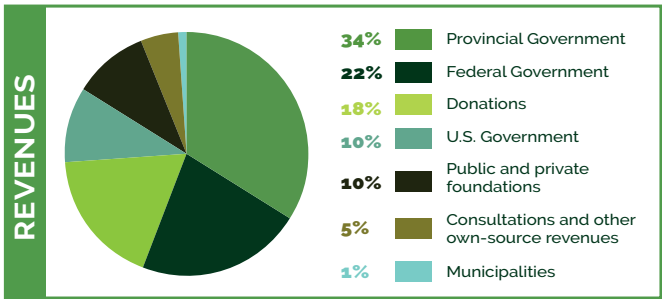


The Appalachian Corridor team it's **21 employees**.



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Operating balanced budget of \$5.1 million



Female Common Merganser



STEWARD AND ENHANCE

selected protected areas

The protected areas stewardship team, accompanied by **20 active volunteers**, criss-crossed the territory's trails and protected areas to ensure the protection of natural environments and their ecological integrity.

110 properties were monitored this year by our team, representing 64% of the private protected areas in our territory.

25 km of trails developed, maintained and enhanced at Mount Singer, Mount Foster and Mount Gale.

Here are a few examples of restoration and maintenance work carried out:

- **Enhanced signage**: nature interpretation and awareness panels.
- **Construction, repair and protection** of footbridges and adjustments to walking areas.
- **Vegetation upkeep**, as well as the installation of water bars and gullies to prevent erosion.





PROMOTE

*the conservation
of natural areas
and influence
land-use planning*

The community relations team organized as well as participated in several meetings and committees with municipalities and MRCs to discuss and address the issues of **maintaining connectivity and protecting natural environments**.

Collaboration focused on the Highway 10 sector, as well as other critical areas. The municipal administration and elected officials are very open to taking these issues into account. Reports and recommendations have been drafted and submitted to municipal authorities.

Organization of a **webinar on the PIVOT project** (on carbon credits) for municipalities. This presentation was organized in collaboration with the Val-Saint-François and Coaticook MRCs and Dany Senay, strategic forestry advisor at Ecotierra.

In collaboration with the Brome-Missisquoi MRC, **training was provided for the Ordre des urbanistes du Québec**.

REPRESENTATION FOR GREATER CONSERVATION

• Appalachian Corridor becomes a **member of the Coalition des montérégiennes** and **sits on the executive committee**. Numerous meetings were held this year, and conservation plans were presented to mobilize key decision-makers.

• **Drafting and presentation of a brief at the public hearings** on the expansion of Parc national du Mont-Orford.

• **Submission of a brief on Bill 16**, amending the Act respecting land use planning and development and other provisions.



SUPPORT

*the community's
strengths in
conservation*

Our affiliated members and conservation partners work with us to create this diverse and effective network of players. This network has led to a number of actions:

• **4 training courses** and communities of practice in protected area management;

• **12 annual planning** meetings to establish major conservation priorities and ensure collaboration during implementation;

• **7 collaboration meetings** with the W8banaki community, including access to properties for traditional activities, as well as 2 aboriginal training sessions;

• **7 annual general meetings** participation of affiliated members;

• **7 agricultural partnership** meetings and participation in the National Consultation on Agricultural Land and Activities.

• **5 meetings** as member of steering committee of Staying Connected Initiative.

• **Collaboration as member** of the Northeastern North America/Turtle Island Connectivity Summit Advisor Committee.

THANKS to our Board of Directors

Marie-José AUCLAIR, Board Chair
Luc DUMOUCHEL, Vice-president
Peter MCAUSLAN, Treasurer
Michèle TURCOTTE, Secretary
Michel BOIVIN, Board member
Jean-François GIRARD, Board member
Danielle DANSEREAU, Delegate for Western
Affiliate Members
Françoise BRICAULT, Delegate for Eastern
Affiliate Members

AFFILIATED members

- Association de conservation de la nature de Stukely-Sud
- Mount Echo Conservation Association (MECA)
- Conservation des vallons de la Serpentine
- Conservation Espace Nature Shefford
- Brome Lake Conservation
- Fiducie Conservation Massawippi Trust
- Ruiter Valley Land Trust
- Mount Pinnacle Land Trust
- Fondation des terres du Lac Brome
- Fondation Nature Memphrémagog
- La Société de conservation du corridor naturel de la rivière au Saumon
- Les Sentiers de l'Estrie Inc.
- Fiducie Foncière du Marais Alderbrooke Marsh
- Memphremagog Conservation (MCI)
- Parc d'environnement naturel de Sutton (PENS)
- Société de Conservation du Mont Brome
- Société de protection foncière du Lac Montjoie

NATIONAL partner



THANKS to our financial partners

- Government of Quebec
- Government of Canada
- Nature Conservancy of Canada
- Ducks Unlimited Canada
- U.S. Government (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service)
- Fondation de la faune du Québec
- Echo Foundation
- Eco Canada
- Hydro-Québec
- Protection des oiseaux Québec (POQ)
- New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPCC)
- Town of Bromont, municipalities of Eastman, Austin, Bolton-Est, Bolton-Ouest
- Sponsors for our Open House: Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton, Bureau de Pascale St-Onge, Bureau de Gilles Bélanger, Sylvestre, Leblond et associés, Proxim Eastman, Dufresne, Savary et associés, DHC Avocats and Monty Sylvestre.
- As well as many private donors.

THANK YOU! Your support has never been more essential.



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