



**PRESS RELEASE**

**For immediate release**

## **THE MASSAWIPPI CONSERVATION TRUST AND APPALACHIAN CORRIDOR ANNOUNCE A GENEROUS DONATION OF LAND**

**Eastman, January 28, 2025** - The Massawippi Conservation Trust (MCT), in collaboration with Appalachian Corridor, is delighted to announce the protection in perpetuity of the Lim Wetlands property, a magnificent 8-hectare parcel located in the municipality of Hatley, near the mouth of the Tomifobia River. This property, made up mainly of aquatic and wetland environments, is of vital ecological importance. Thanks to this initiative, the biodiversity of this precious natural habitat will be protected in perpetuity.

### **A MAJOR ECOLOGICAL INTEREST**

An in-depth ecological assessment of the property was carried out by Appalachian Corridor in the summer of 2022. This parcel is part of a complex of wetlands crucial to conservation upstream of Lake Massawippi. The Massawippi Conservation Trust is committed to protecting these habitats rich in biodiversity, which are home to species at risk or vulnerable to harvesting, such as St John's Wort, Canada Lily, Ostrich Fern, Wood Turtle and four species of bat. In addition, 44 species of birds have been observed, including three species with special status: the Bank and the Barn Sallow, as well as the Eastern Woodpecker. This natural environment, which includes shrub and tree swamps, is an essential carbon reservoir and plays a crucial role in regulating water levels. By helping to reduce the risk of flooding and by filtering water, these unique habitats provide an essential refuge for many species throughout their life cycle.

*"The Appalachian Corridor team is proud to have contributed to the preservation of this property by supporting the Massawippi Conservation Trust. The wetlands on this property guarantee high-quality drinking water for the surrounding communities. Protecting this precious ecosystem was vital because of its remarkable ecological services, which are essential to the local environmental balance"* emphasises Mélanie Lelièvre, General Manager of Appalachian Corridor.

## **A STEP FORWARD FOR CONSERVATION**

The donation of the Lim Wetlands property represents a significant step forward in the conservation strategy of the Massawippi Conservation Trust. Located just 4.3 km from protected areas on the western shore of Lake Massawippi, this property plays a key role in preserving the lake's water quality. The Massawippi Conservation Trust and Appalachian Corridor would like to express their deep gratitude to the owners for their generous donation of land valued at 90,000\$, which will help to protect biodiversity and support local ecosystems.

## **A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR BACKERS**

This project was made possible thanks to financial support from the federal and provincial governments. Among others, through the Nature Conservancy of Canada's (NCC) Natural Environment Partnership Project, a project that received financial assistance from the Quebec government, and also through the Community Designated Priority Sites for Species at Risk initiative of Environment and Climate Change Canada's Canadian Nature Fund. Additional funding was provided by the Massawippi Foundation, which supports the Trust in its conservation mission.

## **ABOUT US**

The **Projet de partenariat pour les milieux naturels (PPMN)** is a four-year grant of more than \$53 million from the Quebec government to the Nature Conservancy of Canada. Through the establishment of financial partnerships with the province's conservation organizations, it provides support for voluntary conservation initiatives aimed at ensuring the protection of natural environments of interest. In this way, the PPMN aims to develop and consolidate Quebec's network of protected areas located on private land.

**The Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC)** is the country's unifying force for nature conservation. Through the ongoing conservation of vast areas, NCC is providing solutions to the twin crises of rapidly declining biodiversity and climate change. As a trusted partner, NCC works alongside individuals, communities, businesses and governments to protect and care for our most important natural areas. Since 1962, NCC has mobilized Canadians to conserve and restore more than 15 million hectares. In Quebec, NCC regularly partners with the Nature Conservancy of Quebec (CNQ), a non-profit organization separate from NCC, to protect Quebec's richest natural environments. Together, they have protected more than 55,000 hectares of natural areas in the province. Visit [conservationdelanature.ca](http://conservationdelanature.ca)

**Environment and Climate Change Canada's Canadian Nature Fund** 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.

**Appalachian Corridor** is a not-for-profit conservation organisation that has been working in the Northern Green Mountains, a segment of the Appalachians in southern Quebec, since 2002. Its mission is to consolidate and leave in perpetuity a vast corridor of protected natural areas. In response to the twin crises of climate change and biodiversity, Appalachian Corridor, with the support of its conservation partners, is deploying a conservation strategy that to date has protected 17,998 hectares of high ecological value. [corridorappalachien.ca](http://corridorappalachien.ca)

The **Massawippi Conservation Trust (MCT)** is a conservation entity created in 2011 that protects, preserves and conserves properties in the Lake Massawippi watershed in perpetuity. The Trust protects land by: acquiring land either through purchase or donation; establishing easements on land; helping landowners learn about ecological and fiscal benefits; and helping landowners understand the potentially disastrous effects of overdevelopment on the overall well-being of the watershed. The MCT is the sister organization of the Fondation Massawippi Foundation. The MCT authorises research activities on its land and has developed public hiking trails offering free access to an outdoor activity. To date, the Trust has protected 546 hectares.

The **Fondation Massawippi Foundation (FMF)** was established in 2011 and is the primary fundraising arm of the Massawippi Conservation Trust (MCT). FMF manages an education program on MCT lands.

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## CONTACTS

Isabelle Stébenne, Director of Communications  
and Philanthropy  
Appalachian Corridor  
**Isabelle.stebenne@corridorappalachien.ca**  
**514 755-4928**

Hélène Hamel, Executive Director  
Fondation Massawippi Foundation  
**direction@massawippi.org**  
**819-679-5081**