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## **Appalachian Corridor wins gold in the « Conservation » category of the Canadian Environment Awards**

**Lac-Brome, 4 June 2008** – Appalachian Corridor (ACA) was awarded first prize in the « Conservation » category of the Canadian Environment Awards presented at the Annual Gala of Environmental Achievements on June 2<sup>nd</sup> in Toronto. ACA finished first ahead of two other finalists from Newfoundland and Labrador: Whale Research Group of Memorial University, Portugal Cove and Ocean Net, shoreline cleanup program of St. John's.



*René Morin, Canadian Environment Awards, Mélanie Lelièvre and  
Marie-José Auclair, Appalachian Corridor*

Created in 2002, the **Canadian Environment Awards** recognize individuals and groups for their hands-on initiatives regarding environmental improvements and the restoration of wild species and spaces. Grassroots environmental actions are honoured through a variety of projects selected by a panel of talented people from various Canadian provinces. ACA's role is in line with this approach, being a catalyst that brings together over thirty landowners and fostering close working relationships with Nature Conservancy Canada, local organizations and municipalities. ACA is also involved in the development of public access to protected areas with an ongoing project in the Green Mountains Nature Reserve and works on the reconciliation of the various forest uses. The collective efforts of ACA and its partners have led to the protection in perpetuity of almost 7,500 hectares (75 km<sup>2</sup>) of forests and wetlands for the benefit of future generations. These are a few examples of ACA's important role in the protection of our natural heritage.

"This award is invaluable to us" emphasized ACA President, Marie-José Auclair. In addition to highlighting the importance of protecting our natural areas, this award makes our initiative known to a broader public. We hope that people get inspired by our work and undertake conservation projects wherever natural areas may be threatened. We also wish to extend this message of congratulations and encouragement to all our partners who work very hard — the majority on a voluntary basis — in order to achieve practical results in conservation: the relevance of our accomplishments is such that we are now recognized throughout Canada!"

"This award represents a stimulating recognition of our mission" says Mélanie Lelièvre, ACA Executive Director. "However, a great deal of work still needs to be accomplished, since only 3% of ACA's territory is protected. This is too little compared with the 8% Provincial target of the Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs du Québec. "

ACA hopes that this 1<sup>st</sup> prize will generate an even greater interest towards community ownership of natural area conservation. First and foremost, it is thanks to the landowners' willingness to take part in conservation initiatives if so many natural areas and wildlife are preserved for ever.

**Appalachian Corridor** (ACA) is a non-profit conservation organization whose mission is the protection of the natural areas of the Appalachians.

*Through the implementation of a transborder conservation strategy, the ACA provides local communities with the means to maintain and restore a way of life that respects the ecology of the region in a perspective of sustainable development.*

**The Canadian Environment Awards program** was founded in 2002 as a partnership between the Government of Canada and Canadian Geographic Enterprises, which manages the program and publishes the magazines. The Canadian Environment Awards is also supported by nine Canadian corporations. Shell Canada is the lead corporate sponsor. For complete details of the Canadian Environment Awards 2008 or to purchase tickets to the Awards Gala, visit [www.canadiangeographic.ca/cea](http://www.canadiangeographic.ca/cea).

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