



# Éco-Corridors Laurentiens

## Newsletter

April 2014

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Éco-corridors laurentiens is pleased to distribute this newsletter all members and supporters.

### The second edition of *Rendez-vous Conservation Laurentides*: a success

There were close to sixty participants from varied backgrounds who attended the 2014 edition of the Rendez-vous Conservation Laurentides, held on March 14 at the Oka National Park. Financed in part by the Laurentian Regional Conference of Elected Officials, it focused on organizations, associations, citizens and groups as well as elected officials and regional municipal managers.

The conference opened with the strategic vision of Éco-corridors Laurentian, which was to "Connect the Oka and Mont-Tremblant National Parks in the Laurentians with a network of eco-corridors and protected areas". Four presentations provided information on the issues, tools and methods relating to the protection and highlighting of natural areas. The event also permitted the participants to share their own interests, concerns and personal projects.



### Eco-instructional capsules

Our Board has decided to enhance its monthly meetings with small eco-instructional capsules, which we will share with you in a new section of our Newsletter. The first capsule will focus on 2013 research results published in the prestigious scientific journal "Biodiversity and Conservation."

We all know that the animal world is complex and diverse. Different species of foxes, butterflies and snakes all have different ecological needs relating to their specific characteristics. So how do we choose the best eco-corridors? U.S. researchers who have conducted wildlife studies on the Great Plains of the United States have attempted to identify critical habitats and ecological corridors. Their results indicate that the connectivity is impacted more by the ease of movement of species rather than changes in the landscape (for example a large waterway or an urban development, constituting a barrier to population movements). Therefore it is difficult to optimize conservation strategies to maintain connectivity for several endangered species at a time. Other researchers who have studied butterflies suggest that to cope with environmental emergencies, it would be better to focus on the protection of the diversity of wildlife habitat rather than targeting particular species.

The science of eco-corridors is evolving, and it will be important for Eco- corridors Laurentian involve experts in the validation process of their proposals. Stay tuned!

## A promotional video for the conservation of natural habitats

The network of protected natural areas (Le Réseau de milieux naturels protégés - RMN) has recently created a video to promote the conservation movement on private lands. It illustrates the generous contribution of owners who have chosen to preserve our natural heritage and details the protected natural areas for your reference. Spread the word!

Link to the video: [rmnat.org](http://rmnat.org)

Link to the directory: [repertoiredesmilieuxnaturels.qc.ca](http://repertoiredesmilieuxnaturels.qc.ca)

## No taxes to pay for the "La Société de protection foncière in Sainte-Adèle"

In the future, there will not be any taxes to pay for the land owned by "la Société de protection foncière in Sainte-Adèle". In January the MRC Pays-d'en-Haut agreed to set their property value at \$0, exempting them from municipal and school taxes. After having paid property taxes for some time, the organization had asked the town to apply "in lieu of taxes" and Sainte-Adèle accepted that the natural reserve has no cash value, relieving the charity of this financial burden.

To our knowledge this is the first town in our area to benefit from this type of consideration.

## In contact with nature!

With springtime finally here, the deer populations start their exodus from their winter confinement areas. This is an opportunity to cross path with these animals near known winter concentration areas around the Laurentians.

The following picture was taken in Mirabel, near the concentration area on Rivière du Nord road. It is a unique and magical place, visited by many local and regional residents.

How about you? Do you know any unique place where you practice magical activities in contact with nature? Sites for wildlife observation or sites to simply admire the landscape? Share these places with us and together we can work together towards protecting them!



Do you have ideas on how to better protect our natural areas? Please let us know!