



NEWS RELEASE
For immediate release
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A Mont-Saint-Hilaire family makes a great gesture for the conservation of the natural environment of the Mont Saint-Hilaire Biosphere Reserve

(Mont-Saint-Hilaire) - The Town of Mont-Saint-Hilaire and the Mont Saint-Hilaire Nature Center have joined forces to become co-owners of an important natural environment in the foothills of Mont Saint-Hilaire. This large plot of 14.8 hectares (36.5 acres) belonged to the Jeannotte family for six generations, since the Seigneurial era.

Very attached to the conservation of this heritage land, the family has chosen to bequeath this jewel of nature to future generations.

Adjacent to the Gault Nature Reserve, the property is located at the very beginning of the Mont Saint-Hilaire Forest Corridor and plays a crucial role for habitat connectivity in the region. It contains an old maple grove, an exceptional forest ecosystem and wetlands. There are also several species of interest, such as butternut (Endangered in Canada under the Species at Risk Act (SARA)), the oval hickory, and several species of bats, some of which are endangered in Canada under SARA.

The protection of this natural environment, located in the foothills of Mont Saint-Hilaire, will allow the expansion of the Piedmont Nature Reserve to continue. Created in 2006, this nature reserve now has more than 90 hectares (222 acres).

The Town of Mont-Saint-Hilaire and the Mont Saint-Hilaire Nature Center are particularly grateful to the Jeannotte family for donating a significant portion of their property. Through this donation, many species at risk will benefit from an environment that suits them, but more importantly, this gesture reminds us that we can all, in our own way, contribute to the protection of natural environments that make the pride of Mont-Saint-Hilaire.

"Congratulations to the Nature Center and the municipality of Mont-Saint-Hilaire for their conservation of an additional 14.8 hectares of wildlife habitat at the Piedmont Nature Reserve. Through the Natural Areas Conservation Program and the Ecological Gifts Program, our government supports Canadians and organizations working together to

make a difference for species at risk and ecologically sensitive areas.” -The Hon. Catherina McKenna, Minister of Environment and Climate Change

This project was funded under the Government of Canada's Natural Areas Conservation Program, which is administered by the Nature Conservancy of Canada. Other major partners have made this historic project possible, including the Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal and the Écho Foundation.

In addition, a portion of the project was donated under the Government of Canada's Ecological Gifts Program, which provides enhanced tax benefits to individuals and businesses that donate ecologically sensitive lands.

- 30 -

For further information

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