

**Hello!** It is a pleasure to announce the official opening of the IAT – Qc office for the year 2009. The office is open from Monday to Friday, from 9 am to 4 pm. We wish to solicit your co-operation for IAT projects as well as to provide fresh information about new developments and current actions.

## New Customer Service Agents Presentation

Unlike the other years, IAT – QC has hired two two customer service agents instead of one. Caroline Desrosiers and Marie-Pier Gauthier will work with Éric Chouinard for the 2009 tourism season. It will be a pleasure for them to cooperate with you. Let them introduce themselves.

### Marie-Pier Gauthier

I enthusiastically accepted to work on IAT – QC projects, large and small. I am here to fulfill my task to the best of my capacities but most of all to learn from those who have known the Trail for more time than I have and who are devoted to it. As well as providing customer service, I will collaborate to the communication tools update, especially for the English version. I am an adventure- and travel-lover (I can speak three languages). Even though I have known the IAT for many years, I hope that the passion of those who believe in this project infectious, becoming an incentive for me to hike through the IAT either in part or in whole.

### Caroline Desrosiers

By collaborating with my co-worker Marie-Pier I also wish to contribute to the progression of IAT –QC. As I am discovering the purpose of this project, my interest is growing and I gladly invest time for it. After I moved to study Anthropology, I realized that I was missing my region. These breath-taking sceneries, the fresh air and the peace of this region are making of it a place we want to come back to. I came back with the project to show the beauties of this natural treasure and I bumped into the IAT. I hope to bring to this project as much as it brings to me and I am happy to work with encouraging and interesting people.



## Membership Renewal Period

An official membership renewal date has been determined. From now on, April 22, Earth Day, will be the date on which either a payment or a non-renewal notice will be expected. This way, it will be easier to update the official member list. To renew your membership, you can reach us either by phone or by email, and send a \$10 payment by mail. We would like to remind you of the importance of becoming a member. To become a member means better trail maintenance. It is a financial support as well as a symbolic support and it allows to dream new dreams. For those who feel concerned and interested, your renewal is greatly needed.

## National Trails Day June 6

On every first Saturday of June, on National Trails Day, hikers across the United States and Canada are invited to join forces for the Trail maintenance. The main goal is to walk the trails, take pictures and fill a report form about the state of the trail. Participants who wish to do light maintenance work are welcomed to do so.

If you want to help on that day or if you would like to become a maintenance volunteer, communicate with IAT – QC Customer Service on 418-562-7885 or by email ([info@sia-iat.com](mailto:info@sia-iat.com)). It is also possible to reach your region representative. The rules and the sectors to cover will then be handed out.

- MRC Avignon : Geneviève Labonté / (418) 865-865-3554 / [natureaventure@gmail.com](mailto:natureaventure@gmail.com)
- MRC Vallée-de-la-Matapédia : Gaétan Roy / (418) 742-3261 / [ga\\_roy@hotmail.com](mailto:ga_roy@hotmail.com)
- MRC Matane : Eddy Pellerin / (418) 562-3018 / [eddy.pellerin@globetrotter.net](mailto:eddy.pellerin@globetrotter.net)
- MRC Haute-Gaspésie : Jean-Pierre Gagnon / (418) 763-7529 / [dijjee@globetrotter.net](mailto:dijjee@globetrotter.net)
- MRC Côte-de-Gaspé : Jean-Marc Hardy / (418) 763-4197 / [hardyjmc@globetrotter.net](mailto:hardyjmc@globetrotter.net)

## 13th AGA

The annual general assembly took place in Mont-Saint-Pierre on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. There were twenty-two participants and it went off smoothly. We want to bring to your attention the departure of Mr. Pierre Desjardins, who was board member since 2005, and the arrival of Marie-Josée Caron on the board. In order to represent the Forillon and de la Gaspésie Parks, as well as the Matane and Chic-Chocs Wildlife Reserves, two board positions were created. The members also accepted a support motion for the Mont-Saint-Pierre Park Village. Finally, the IAT – QC wishes to thank the town of Mont-Saint-Pierre for their hospitality and for lending the room.

### Espace Magazine Outdoor Festival (8th Edition)

The International Appalachian Trail participated to the eighth edition in a row of the Espace Magazine Outdoor Festival in Jean-Drapeau Park in Montréal, from May 22 through May 24, 2009. It is one of the main promotional event for the IAT outside of the region. According to the organizers, there were 35 000 visitors.



### International Council Meeting in Halifax, April 3 and 4

The first meeting of the International Council of the SIA-IAT took place on April 3 and 4, and the Quebec chapter had two representatives: Éric Chouinard and Margaret Kraenzel. Richard Anderson and Will Richard, for the Maine chapter, Ellen Wilcox, Deb Ryan, and Jim Vance, for the Nova Scotia chapter, Paul Wylezol, for Labrador and Newfoundland, Poul Jorgenson, for the New Brunswick chapter, and Denis Dunne, for Prince Edward Island were also present. The friendly atmosphere characteristic of these meetings was not missing and it was possible to launch common projects. This meeting also raised questions about the legal status of the Council.



An official version is available on demand.

Among important matters, it was proposed to create an international tourist information office in Matane, at the same location. Information and sales would continue but it would also be the place for project development, such as the new website and international promotion. This project will be further studied in the development of the new plan of action.

The project to send a delegation to Scotland, Ireland and Wales for a ten-day tour was accepted. This was decided after some contacts were made by Richard Anderson and after we received an invitation from the partners of these countries. To be continued.