

### WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR AND SECRETARY

This newsletter edition follows the annual general assembly, which was held on the 27<sup>th</sup> of May in Matapédia. We have published on our website the different documents that were presented to members (sorry, in French only!):

<http://www.sia-iat.com/administration.html>

This assembly, just like last year, did not have very many members attending (fourteen in total), and we have the challenge of finding ways to increase participation at these meetings even though we are aware that this isn't an event that is very popular, compared to the involvement of many volunteers for maintenance of the trails.

The recruitment of directors is also a challenge and we still have to fill positions to have a total of eleven members on the administration council.

Management of the trail is entrusted to a small number of members, but remember that, at all times, all members are invited to submit to the council any comments or suggestions for the management of the trail or for project development. You can also submit your application to be on the council or a committee (Ex. to organize an event on the trail).

In connection with these challenges and also in follow up to the proposals submitted by Mr. Fred Kirch (IAT-QC member), among the priorities agreed on at the assembly, we put emphasis on the mandate given to the council to form a committee to revise the general rules and to review the nomination process for directors. This committee must be formed in the next month, and will be open to everyone. The committee will have to present propositions to members 30 days before the next annual general assembly, in 2013.

Also noteworthy is the proposition that I made to launch a pilot project to develop new revenues and more services to hikers (guides, transportation...) and which anticipates a greater involvement of the IAT-QC service partners, as subcontractors, for example, the integration of the products currently offered in the name of my company, Absolu ÉcoAventure to the offer of the IAT.

I invite you to read the documents for more details and feel free to contact me or members of the council if you have comments or projects.

A good hiking season to everyone!

**Eric Chouinard**



---

### **MESSAGE FROM JEAN-MARC HARDY**

During the annual general assembly held in Matapédia on May 27<sup>th</sup>, the president Gaéтан Roy and the director Éric Chouinard wished to underline the extremely important contribution of many volunteers in the management and maintenance of the trail. Under the current financial state of the IAT, it's clear that without this contribution, the trail would have closed a long time ago. So, a thousand thanks to all the IAT-QC volunteers!

**Jean-Marc Hardy**

**Vice-president – Gaspé coast committee representative**

---



## NEWS FROM THE GASPÉ COAST

### DECEMBER 2010 FLOODS

We will never forget these unfortunate floods back in December 2010 which affected Point of the Gaspé as well as a part of the Coast region. On this occasion, the trail was affected in various ways: Gullied sections of the trail, bridges washed away by flood waters, the mess was very depressing! Thanks to the efforts of many volunteers and REXFORÊT work teams, the trail had become practicable on the whole Coast section as of early September. There is however a lot of work left to do to rebuild 3 bridges and relocate certain sections in 2012. Thankfully, the Coast committee learned last October that their request for assistance from CRÉ-GIM was accepted for the sum of 25 000\$.

Also, the 3-wall shelter of the *Les Terrasses* campsite that collapsed under the weight of the snow was repaired in September, thanks to the work from volunteers and the help from a work team of the municipality of Cloridorme.

For their ongoing involvement, we would like to thank all the volunteers who worked on the trail, especially Victorien Beaudoin, Pierre Caron, Simon-Philippe Lalonde, Réal Coulombe, Yvan Gagnon, Sylvain Labbé, Gaston Hubert and Daniel Rioux.

### GASPÉ COAST IAT HIKING CLUB

During the 30 different events held by the club in 2011, walkers have been introduced to the IAT as well as other beautiful walking areas around Gaspé and Percé. There has been a good number of participants and the current scheduling plans about 40 hikes for 2012 in all seasons. There are currently 200 names on the invitation to hikes list, which is usually done primarily through emails. In addition, the club acted as a partner of Forillon national park last October in the organisation and animation of a hiking trip listed in the program of the Festival of Colors. Thanks to all our guides without whom we could not perform such elaborate programming. By the way, the club has its own Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/RandoSIACdG>) and its own website. Sylvain Labbé is the person to thank for the development of these modern ways of communication. Thank you, Sylvain!

### WELCOMING JOHN DAVIS AT THE END OF HIS TREK EAST

A dozen people from the hiking club accompanied John Davis for the last kilometres at the end of his trek of 12 000 km in Cap Gaspé on the \_\_. He left from Key Largo, South of Florida in February 2011. Associated with the American Wildlands Network organisation, his goal was to raise funds to carry out projects to improve the connectivity of protected areas, particularly in eastern North America. Those interested in John's trip can go to the Wildlands Network website; [www.twp.org](http://www.twp.org).

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT BY THE CITY OF GASPÉ

The Côte-de-Gaspé IAT committee received official recognition by the Town of Gaspé which will allow them to obtain various services and financial help reserved to organisations having their head office in the Town of Gaspé

### THANKS TO THE SPONSORS AND MEMBERS!

Our team currently consists of 8 trail section volunteer and we would like to thank them for their involvement and contribution in 2011. Ideally, we would need more people. The main task of a trail section volunteer is to regularly inspect sections of the trail. Those interested, please contact Jean-Marc at: 418-368-4197. Thank you to all the members on the Gaspé Coast board committee: Jacques Chartier, Josée Leclerc, Sylvain Labbé, Simon-Philippe Lalonde, Yvon Ouellet and Jean-Marc Hardy.



Sentier International des Appalaches  
International Appalachian Trail  
CP 132  
Matane, Qc, G4W 3N1

Tél. (418) 562-7885 / Fax : (418) 566-2115

[www.sia-iat.com](http://www.sia-iat.com) / [info@sia-iat.com](mailto:info@sia-iat.com)



## First official 2012 hiking group

Group that went on a 3-day/2-night hike from the John Registration Center to the Tombereau Lake in the Matane Wildlife Reserve from May 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> 2012.

We would like to thank them for this picture!

---

## NEWS

[Here are the latest IAT-QC news !](#)

We have received news from the other chapters of the International Appalachian Trail.

To read the article: [http://www.sia-iat.com/images/Upload/news\\_from\\_the\\_iat.pdf](http://www.sia-iat.com/images/Upload/news_from_the_iat.pdf)