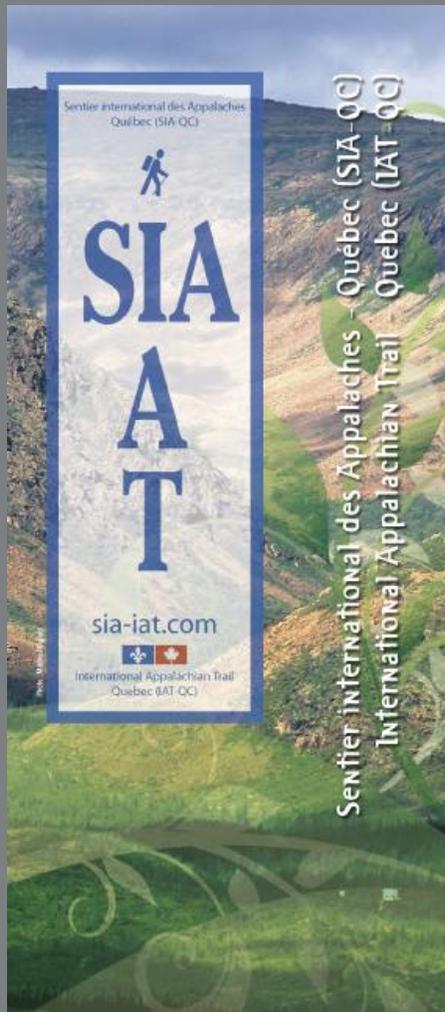


HERE IS OUR NEW BROCHURE:



If you would like one of our brochures, you can communicate with us. Phone: (418) 562-7885

In this brochure you will find general information about the trail as well as a map of the IAT-QC.

Page 1 :

http://sia-iat.com/images/Upload/cartesentier_sia2012_p1.pdf

Page 2 :

http://sia-iat.com/images/Upload/cartesentier_sia2012_p2.pdf

NEWS

Here are the latest news and new press articles about the IAT-QC :

PassionRando (Magazine of the FERP, edition published in March 2012)

Article : Gaspésie, une griffe sur l'Atlantique



To read the article (in French) :

http://www.sia-iat.com/images/Upload/files/passionrando_-_printemps_2012.pdf

NEW IAT-QC HIKING GUIDE

The IAT-QC team is currently working on the new edition of **THE COMPANION** hiking guide. This new version of the guide should be available towards the end of June 2012. A free copy will be available on our website.

IAT-QC HIKING PASSPORT

Note that for the 2012 season, people who purchase a PASSPORT will also receive all the topographic maps, the Matane wildlife reserve topoguide as well as the Companion guide for free.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS – NATIONAL TRAILS DAY

Every year, on the first Saturday of June, all hikers in the United-States and in Canada are invited to do their part in the maintenance of hiking trails: it's *National Trails Day*.

In Gaspésie and in the Bas-Saint-Laurent, the *International Appalachian Trail-Quebec* (IAT-QC) is associated with the *Fédération québécoise de la marche* (FQM) in the organization of the National Trails Day, which will be held this year on June 2nd. Everyone can participate. The main objective is to go walk on the trails to take pictures and to complete a report on their state. At the same time, participants can participate in light labour work if they wish. We invite you to bring your lunch, gardening gloves and, if possible, a pair of shears.

People wishing to participate in this day or who would like to get involved in the maintenance of the trail as volunteers can communicate with IAT-QC customer service at the following number: (418) 562-7885 or send an email to the following address: info@sia-iat.com. It is also possible to contact the person responsible for your region. They will take the opportunity to inform you about the current regulations and the areas that need to be covered.

- RCM Avignon : Geneviève Labonté / (418) 865-3554 / natureaventure@gmail.com
- RCM Vallée-de-la-Matapédia : Gaétan Roy / (418) 742-3261 / ga_roy@hotmail.com
- RCM Matane : Jean-Pierre Harrison / (418) 562-1827 / jipitrail@hotmail.com
- RCM Haute-Gaspésie : Jean-Pierre Gagnon / (418) 763-7529 / djipee@globetrotter.net
- RCM Côte-de-Gaspé : Jean-Marc Hardy / (418) 368-4197 / hardyjmc@globetrotter.net

Please take note that the event may be postponed to a later date, depending on the sector and the availability of members.

This invitation is for all nature and hiking lovers! For more information, don't hesitate to communicate with us. **Thank you!**

WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR AND SECRETARY

The IAT-QC is an organisation that can't survive or develop without the support of numerous volunteers, and the annual general assembly is an opportunity for me to remind you that we are constantly looking for members for the management of certain projects (events, maintenance and improvement of a section, communications, etc...) and to ensure succession within the administration (two positions must to be filled at the moment.)

Such involvement can be adapted to your availability and lifestyle.

Thank you for contacting us if you would like more information or to submit your application.

Eric Chouinard





PROMOTIONAL ITEMS

The IAT-QC now offers a new promotional item, windbreakers, which you can order using the form on our website.

Link: <http://sia-iat.com/en/boutique.html>

-The IAT-QC team

REMINDER – MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

For those who still haven't renewed their memberships, there is still time to do so.

You can consult the application form for more information.

Link towards the online form: http://www.sia-iat.com/images/Upload/files/adhesion_membres_ran donneurs.pdf

Your membership is a huge support which allows us to ensure the maintenance and improvement of the IAT-QC.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank all those who sent us pictures.

Many pictures were used on our website as well as on our new brochure. We would like to specifically thank the following people:

Gaétan Roy
Claude Côté
Mathieu Dupuis
Serge Ouellet
Photopleinciel
Jean-Pierre Gagnon
Joël Pathemore
Geneviève Labonté
Laurent Boiveau
Mikael Swirp



REPRESENTATION – REPORT

Trip to France from the 20th of March to the 1st of April 2012

The IAT-QC was in France to participate in the *Salon du Randonneur de Lyon* (23rd to the 25th) and the *Salon Destination nature de Paris* (20th to the 1st) in collaboration with the *Aventure Écotourisme Québec* (AEQ) association, *Tourisme Québec* and the *Québec Maritime*.

During the same trip, with respect to the projects of partnership with the *Fédération française de la randonnée pédestre* (FFRP), we also had a work meeting with the president and direction of the FFRP, and a field outing to a GR trail.

This trip was very important for the IAT-QC and its network, because it allowed us to confirm the *Fédération française de la randonnée pédestre* (FFRP)'s implication in the networking and extension projects of the IAT international committee, to establish a long distance hiking trail traveling along the geological Appalachian regions everywhere around the Atlantic.

Also, these work meetings allowed us to officialise the launch of the IAT-QC project as first GR trail in America, in connection with the financial support offered by *Economic Development Canada* (EDC) for the next two years.

Follow this link to read the full report :

http://sia-iat.com/images/Upload/iat-qc_report_france_trip_march_20th_to_april_1st.pdf



NEWS FROM MATAPÉDIA

The IAT-QC received an email concerning a new tourist attraction in the Matapédia valley, here we share it with you :

« *Le site des chutes et marais* » is a new tourist attraction in the Matapédia valley. This attraction, already known to people from the region, was transformed during Summer 2011 into a tourist attraction dedicated primarily to Atlantic salmon.

Here is a short explanatory text of the site.

« At the bend of the Causapschal River, a visit to the *Site des Chutes et Marais*, where a few hundred salmon are held in a tank for protection purposes, is indispensable. An exceptional, 100% authentic, natural environment, offers interpretation trails, observation areas, a discovery centre, rest and picnic areas, with or without guided tours. Depending on the time of the year, your visit may be complemented by a majestic jump of *Salmo salar* in the Chutes sector. In the Marais sector, you may see a wink from the one behind the submarine camera whose images are projected on the big screen when water conditions allow it. Only 12km from highway 132. Bilingual services. Schedule: mid-June to mid-September. Every day from 9:00 to 18:00. Admission fees. Reservations preferable for groups. »

Another goal of our site is to promote wilderness activities such as wildlife watching and hiking. As you may already know, a small portion of the IAT runs along the Causapschal River all the way to our site (we are lucky!). Therefore, one of our future projects is to emphasize the IAT portion between the Marais and Chutes sectors. As well as maintaining this portion, there would be guided tours and interpretation panels.

We are hoping that the enhancement of this portion will contribute to bringing more visitors to our site as well as encouraging people to walk on the IAT. We will keep you updated on our ongoing development.

Pascal Lantin

Guide interprète, principal

Manager of the *rivières Matapédia-et-Patapédia* and of *Dunière* wildlife reserves.

462, St-Jacques Nord c.p. 308

Causapschal (Québec) G0J 1J0

Phone: 418-756-6174 / 888-730-6174

Fax: 418-756-6067



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 / info@sia-iat.com

NEW PICTURES

We replaced the pictures on the home page of our website with more recent pictures of the IAT-QC scenery. Here are a few of them:

Link towards the website: <http://www.sia-iat.com/>



Cuve du Diable @ Mathieu Dupuis



Forillon national park - Cap-Gaspé @ Photopleinciel



Matapédia Valley @ Gaétan Roy