



# IAT-QC Member Journal

9<sup>TH</sup> EDITION - JULY 2009

WELCOME MESSAGE, NEW WEBSITE LAUNCHING, LES SENTIERS FONTALIERS CROSSES THE BORDER, ANNUAL MEETING, REMINDER FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE PREVIOUS YEARS, ACTIVITIES AND FESTIVALS



## Welcome Everyone!

Everything was set up to have a season filled with novelty, progress and improvement in the head office in Matane, as well as on the trails.

The atmosphere at the head office in Matane is at its best and projects keep on being created and on growing. Every information tool is thought over so that you, hikers and collaborators, are informed and contented. Please take note of the expanded opening hours for the high season: the customer service agents are available to answer your questions from 9 am to 7 pm on Monday through Friday and from 9 am to 5 pm on Saturday. **Feel free to visit or to contact them!**

As for Trail, hikers seem to like it this year. Many maintenance tasks are taking place in each section and the IAT-QC made a submission to the "Commission nationale des sentiers" (CNS) to receive government founding and is hoping on receiving a \$72 000 subsidy that will be used to raise the trail's standard and to improve the signage and accommodation.

In order to have precise information about its state, please consult the State of the Trail section on the IAT-QC website ([www.sia-iat.com](http://www.sia-iat.com)). The writing of this section was made possible because of the help of volunteers, sponsors and workers who reported on the state of each section of the trail. Their contribution is vital to the well-being of the trail and is greatly appreciated. Frequent updates will be made to keep you informed of any change.

## New Website

It was a great pleasure to collaborate with Kaléidos Multimédia in Matane to the creation of the new IAT-QC website. We are going to work during the whole summer to improve it and make as complete and as representative as possible. New information tools like the distance between the accommodation sites table, the information slips on food drops, and the recently-updated Companion Guide to the International Appalachian Trail were introduced. More tools will be available as soon as they are translated. Moreover, we are developing a section about the adventures of the thru-hikers on the IAT-QC. Under the form of a column, you will be introduced to these persons who wish to share about their adventure, the challenges they encounter, their opinions, and their ambitions. Some of them are hiking on trail at the moment and you can follow their progress via the IAT-QC Internet site and their personal blog.

Even though some additions and modifications need to be done in the French version, all the information is up-to-date. On the other hand, there are still parts that need translation in the English version. This version is asking for a little more effort but it should catch up soon on the French version. If you have any comment or suggestion, feel free let us know. New ideas are always welcome.

Visit the new website at [www.sia-iat.com](http://www.sia-iat.com).

## Les Sentiers Frontaliers Cross the Border

Based in the Eastern Townships, Les Sentiers Frontaliers (literally: The Border Trails) will inaugurate on the 18<sup>th</sup> of August in the area of Chartierville a new 27 kilometers long trail portion that was built during the last fall. With this new portion, Les Sentiers Frontaliers are now an international organization. This new portion going into the New Hampshire, United States, will join the Cohos Trail, the renowned Mount Washington and the no-less-popular Appalachian Trail. Les Sentiers Frontaliers, aside from providing a trail network is also known as the hiking club that organizes the "Expédition des braves randonneurs" (Brave Hikers' Expedition) which consist of an 80 kilometres long trek on the highest peaks of the Eastern Townships and of Mont Mégantic National Park. Even though they no more accept registrations for the "Expedition des braves randonneurs", this is an invitation to all hiking-lovers to meet the challenges of Les Sentiers Frontaliers and to participate to the international inauguration held in August!

To learn more about Les Sentiers Frontaliers, visit their Internet site at [www.sentiersfrontaliers.qc.ca](http://www.sentiersfrontaliers.qc.ca) (in French only).

## Annual International Meeting

All IAT-QC members are cordially invited to the International Appalachian Trail Annual Meeting held on Prince Edward Island on the 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, and 31<sup>st</sup> of October. Your presence would be greatly appreciated, since this is a way to better represent the Quebec Chapter. The purpose of this informal and convivial meeting is to show the achievements of the International Appalachian Trail. Visit the [www.stanleybridgeresort.com](http://www.stanleybridgeresort.com) for more information on the meeting place. The accommodation price is very affordable (even more in double or triple occupancy) and more can be saved by carpooling. Anyone who is interested in coming along should contact the IAT-QC office at (418) 562-7885 or at [info@sia-iat.com](mailto:info@sia-iat.com) before the 15<sup>th</sup> of August. Your participation would be greatly appreciated!

## Reminder for the Members of the Previous Years

This is a little reminder for the members of the previous years who do not have yet renewed their application. Your \$10 contribution is very important since it is invested in the maintenance of the trail. You are invited to renew your member application every April 22<sup>nd</sup>. This is a small donation that turns into big improvements. Your support is always welcome and your donation will be more than helpful, especially this far into the hiking season.

Thanks again for your implication!

## Activities and Festivals

While planning your hike or trip in the Gaspé Peninsula, please enjoy the wide range of activities and festivals that will take place during the summer period. Do not miss the 475<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Gaspé, where you will find a lot of activities spread over the whole summer. Various shows were planned for you: music, singing, acrobatics and shows of many more disciplines. You can also enjoy an aerobatic show with hang-gliders, paragliders and ultra-light motorized vehicles at the Mont-Saint-Pierre Vol Libre Festival from July 25<sup>th</sup> to August 2<sup>nd</sup> 2009. Finally and none the less, why not hike on the International Appalachian Trail-Québec? This is a simple, and yet affordable, way to collect wonderful memories!

On that note, the International Appalachian Trail-Quebec wishes that you have summer filled with sun and happiness!