

## STATE OF THE TRAIL

The International Appalachian Trail - QC is officially opened since June 24th. No major problems have been reported on the state of the Trail.

The IAT-QC would like to thank all the volunteers who participated in the maintenance of the trail.



Photos : Gisèle Bernier / Transmitted by the Gaspé Coast Committee.

## IAT-QC PASSPORT

Until now, the IAT-QC has delivered 16 passports for thru-hikers in 2012. We hope to send along more info about them later in the season.

## GPS TRACKS

Since many years, the IAT-QC has wanted to offer GPS tracks of the trail to hikers. This was made possible by Mr. Jean-Pierre Gagnon (responsible for the Upper Gaspé Section of the trail). **Many thanks to Jean-Pierre!**

We added the GPS tracks on our Website, in the section [The Maps and Sections](#). GPS tracks are now available for all sections of the IAT-QC via our Website.

## THE FQM AND THE FFRP

For those who'd like to know more about hiking federations, we posted a description presenting the *Fédération Québécoise de la Marche* (FQM) and the *Fédération Française de la Randonnée Pédestre* (FFRP) to our Website, in the section [Partners of the IAT-QC](#).

For more information, here's the link to our Website.

Link : [http://www.sia-iat.com/en/partenaires\\_financiers.html](http://www.sia-iat.com/en/partenaires_financiers.html)  
(French link only)

## LE PASSEPORT AVENTURE (ADVENTURE PASSPORT)

\*\*\* Adventure Ecotourism Quebec (French link only)

[http://www.aventure-ecotourisme.qc.ca/nouvelles/lancement-du-premier-passeport\\_137](http://www.aventure-ecotourisme.qc.ca/nouvelles/lancement-du-premier-passeport_137)

Get yourselves the new *Passeport Aventure* for discounts on diverse outdoor activities from companies in 16 regions of Quebec!

Besides giving ideas of entertainment activities for all seasons, the *Passeport Aventure* offers promotions for 60 outdoor activities - excursions or expeditions - grouped in four main categories: Water, Earth, Air and Snow. The 60 coupons of the *Passeport Aventure* add up more than 1 500\$ of reductions applicable at the 55 participating accredited companies including 30 % on day activities and 50 \$ on expeditions including an overnight stay.

For \$35, the *Passeport Aventure*, will be on sale starting the first week of June in the 22 Chlorophylle stores of Quebec.

For more information (French link only):

<http://www.passeportaventure.com/>





## NEWS FROM THE IAT AGM IN ICELAND

Hello Everyone,

Finally after being home for one week, I have time to write a few words on the IAT AGM in Iceland and subsequent travel to south Greenland.

I'd like to begin by thanking everyone who was able to attend and make the event a successful and enjoyable milestone. It is always a pleasure to reconnect with friends and colleagues, as well as meet - and put a face on - email contacts and cyber associates.

In particular I would like to thank United States Ambassador Mr. Luis E. Arreaga and his staff at the U.S. Embassy for kicking off the weekend with a reception for the IAT. Special thanks also to Canadian Ambassador Alan Bones and Norwegian Ambassador Dag Werno Holter for attending and speaking at the event.

I would also like to thank the Iceland Touring Association (ITA) for hosting the Annual General Meeting on Saturday, June 16 at their headquarters in Reykjavik, and all those individuals who presented at the meeting, in particular Appalachian Trail Conservancy's recently retired Executive Director Dave Startzell and Brill Gallery's Director Ralph Brill, whose company is planning to publish a photo book on the IAT.

A special thanks goes out to Mr. Ólafur Örn Haraldsson, President of the ITA and Director of Thingvellir National Park, who on Monday, June 18 gave the IAT delegation a personal tour of the park and Mid-Atlantic Rift, then hosted lunch in the garden of his nearby home. Thanks also to our Monday tour guide Kristian, who made subsequent stops at Kerið volcanic crater, Seltsún hot springs, and Vikingaheimar Viking museum, and to IAT Europe Vice Chair Magne Haugseng's Coast Alive for covering the cost of the tour.

From Iceland, IAT Newfoundland Labrador Vice Chair Arne Helgeland and I traveled to south Greenland for 4 days of hiking and touring around the Eastern Settlement area, beginning at the former Viking site of Brattahlíð.

Thanks very much to Blue Ice Explorer's Birgitte Pedersen for all her help planning the visit and the IAT route in south Greenland.

Back in Iceland for 4 more days, Arne and I would like to thank ITA's Managing Director Páll Guðmundsson for a day-long tour of the Thorsmork mountain range (location of the 2010 Eyjafjallajökull eruption) and the ITA's nearby backcountry huts, as well as a river-crossing lesson on why Icelandic SUV's have 60" tires! My 4-wheel drive Dodge pick-up truck now feels like a Toyota Echo.

Over the coming weeks we will be posting a number of Iceland and Greenland stories to the IAT website (<http://www.iat-sia.com/>), including information on the new IAT routes. If anyone has photos they would like to share, by all means send them along, or send a request for the log-in information to the IAT Flickr account.

Finally, be sure to make a note that next year's IAT AGM will be held in Scotland - where Icelandic Vikings stopped enroute for their "brides" - in either September or October. No doubt it will be as much of an adventure and experience as our visit to Iceland! For those unable to attend this year's event, hopefully we will see you next year.

Oh yes I almost forgot, thanks also to the bartender at the English Pub in downtown Reykjavik who after various attempts over two weeks, finally spun the beer wheel for Arne and won him the maximize prize of 8 beers!

Paul Wylezol  
Chairperson  
IAT / IATNL

<http://www.iat-sia.com/>  
<http://www.iatnl.ca/>