

END OF THE MANDATE OF OUR TWO CUSTOMER SERVICE AGENTS AND OFFICE NEW SCHEDULE.

The two customer service agents who joined the team for the 2012 season have completed their period of employment.

Jennifer Bouchard ended her period of employment on June 30th, 2012 and Patricia Richard will end her period of employment this Friday, August 31st, 2012.

Therefore, beginning in the month of September, the IAT-QC Office will follow a new schedule.

Phone messages and emails will be taken once a week and the production of the newsletter will be reduced and random.

The office is expected to return to a regular schedule starting in April 2013.

NEWS

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE

- World's Best Hikes : Epic Trails
(The IAT has been selected as one of the world's best hikes by National Geographic)

Link :

<http://adventure.nationalgeographic.com/adventure/trips/best-trails/worlds-best-grail-trails/>



Photograph by Serge Ouellet, Gaspésie Hike Nature

NEWS (Continued)

FEDERATION QUEBECOISE DE LA MARCHE

- New WEB SITE

Link (*French only*):

<http://www.fqmarche.qc.ca/>

Note: The next event of the *Federation Québécoise de la Marche* is: **THE 2012 WALKING FESTIVAL**, which will take place at Parc du Mont-Comi, on Sunday, Oct. 7, 2012.



FEDERATION QUEBECOISE DE LA MARCHE

- Newsletter — Le Trekkeur, Summer 2012



Link (*French only*) :

<http://www.fqmarche.qc.ca/uploads/Trekkeur-ete2012.pdf>

ARTICLE - KNOXVILLE NEWS SENTINEL CO.

Appy Trail's next 75 years: 'There's a need for constant vigilance'

Protectors say intrusions will threaten narrow Appalachian Trail

Link :

<http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2012/aug/15/appy-trails-next-75-years-theres-a-need-for/>

ARTICLE - THE REPUBLIC (<http://www.therepublic.com/>)

International Appalachian Trail backers say progress made toward linking 3 continents on trail

Link :

http://www.sia-iat.com/images/Upload/iat_progress.pdf

WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR AND SECRETARY

I would like to thank Patricia Richard and Jennifer Bouchard for the work done during the last months. The challenge of properly informing hikers and members are constantly to be reviewed and improved, but without a doubt, we can say that the quality of the website and information tools has been greatly improved in 2012.

To continue to provide a quality service in the coming months, we are going to offer a day of work per week to Patricia Richard. This will allow us to complete some ongoing projects and initiate the preparation of the 2013 season in advance.

Concerning the maintenance and the management of the trail in 2012, we have been very active in the last weeks and the Fall will be just as busy with the continuation of the maintenance in most sectors and the pursuit of the main issues identified in our action plan.

In brief, the season is well underway and the IAT-QC is doing well.

Eric Chouinard

HIKING SURVEY

A few weeks ago we sent out a survey to hikers who traveled the IAT-QC in 2011 and 2012. We received many positive comments. Hikers mention, among others things:

- That the water sources were in good condition;
- That the accommodation sites were well maintained;
- That they are very satisfied with the services received from the service partners along the trail;
- And that they would recommend the SIA-QC to another person.

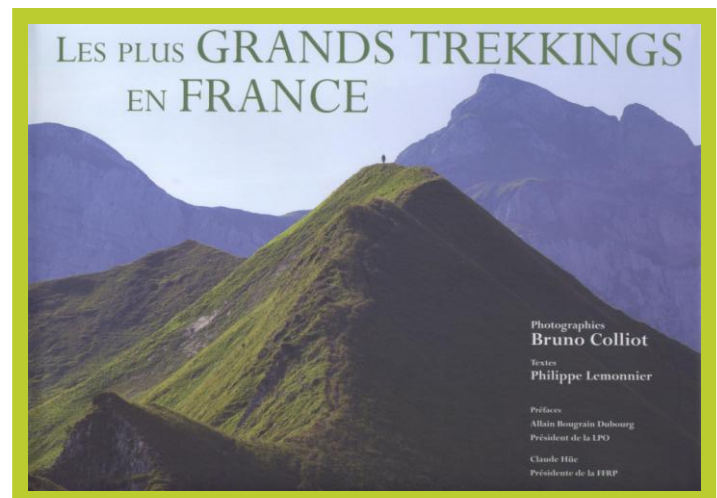
Thanks to all those who completed the survey.

ACCESS TO THE MATANE WILDLIFE RESERVE DURING THE MOOSE HUNTING SEASON

Starting next week, to hike on the territory of the Matane Wildlife Reserve during moose hunting season, it will be necessary to be a member of the SIA-QC or to obtain a free daily access pass, which will include the signature of a discharge of responsibility form.

Complete information on the rules and the details on how to get a free daily access pass will be communicated to you during the next week.

Eric Chouinard
Director - Secretary



We recently welcomed Mrs. Claude Hùe from the *Fédération Française de la Randonnée Pédestre -FFRP* (see the article on the next page). During her visit, she gave us a book on the GREATEST TREKKINGS IN FRANCE (**French** - **LES PLUS GRANDS TREKKINGS EN FRANCE**). If you wish to consult this volume, it is available at the IAT-QC office.

**THE RATIFICATION OF THE IAT-QC AS THE FIRST GR TRAIL IN AMERICA -
1ST VISIT FROM THE FRENCH HIKING FEDERATION (*Fédération Française de la Randonnée
Pédestre -FFRP*) FROM AUGUST 18th TO AUGUST 25th, 2012**

To develop the project for the ratification of the IAT-QC as the first GR trail in America, we welcomed the President of the French Hiking Federation, Mrs. Claude Hüe for a tour of 7 days. Our objective was for her to meet the managers-members of the trail (Co-president, regional Committees) as well as our socioeconomic partners, who, since 1996, have contributed to the development of the trail. While enjoying a few small hikes and a visit of the territory, we were able to give her a better overview of our 650 KM of trail which cross the Gaspésie region.

For the IAT-QC, as a young and small organization, we especially wanted to demonstrate the seriousness of our approach and the support of our socioeconomic environment, in order to develop a partnership with the FFRP, in the medium and long term, in the form of sponsorship.

Overall the trip went well and the objectives were achieved. Mrs. Hüe seemed to enjoy her visit and confirmed, with the partners, the interest and desire of the FFRP to develop the project of the GR ratification to build a partnership with the IAT-QC.

As for the next steps in 2013, we will return to France during the Winter to continue the negotiations in connection with this project and during the Summer season, we will welcome two delegates from the FFRP for a new visit of the territory and for a more technical analysis of the trail.

Ultimately, the inauguration of the first GR trail in America could materialize in 2014.

Eric Chouinard
Director - Secretary

Photo of Mrs Claude Hüe (President of the FFRP) with Mr. Gaëtan Roy (Co-president of the IAT-QC) and Jocelyn Leclerc (member of the Matapédia Valley Committee), at the *Les trois-Sœurs* shelter (Amqui – Seigneurie du lac Matapédia).



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