

Protecting the land, preserving the landscape and continuing the cultural heritage of the Valley is inseparable from its people, whether they live here, work here or just visit for a weekend. Thus, we see the Valley as a living entity. As such, ecological concerns are allied with community concerns and our work focuses on providing a healthy living world for current and future generations.



THE YEAR IN REVIEW

DECEMBER 2022

Dear Friends,

Thanks to you, our friends, supporters and donors, the Massawippi Foundation (**FMF**) and its sister organization, the Massawippi Conservation Trust (**MCT**), have had another exceptional year.

Land Conservation and Trails: MCT has 11 NEW conservation projects in the works with various dates of completion (2023-2025). Together these promise to DOUBLE the amount of protected land in the next 3 years. Along with the regular trail maintenance, Mahicans and the trail building team built another 2+ kms of trail and closed 2+ kms of old forestry roads, on property #9 at the south end of the Massawippi Trail in Sainte-Catherine-de-Hatley. We hope to open the southern end to hikers in the fall of 2023. With the new extension, we will have 14 kms of beautifully made and ecologically designed trails, open year round for the public free of charge. This trail network on the ridge will then be complete.



Ski information: 4vallons.com
Ski email: 4vallons@gmail.com

Local partnership: The **FMF** has joined forces with the Recreation Committee in Sainte-Catherine to ensure the continuation of the Quatre Vallons cross country ski trails. Our trail building team repaired our section of the trails and the foundation will sponsor to 2 staff to groom and ensure the trails are in top shape throughout the season. We have purchased an ATV which will be used in winter on the ski trail and in summer by the trail building team. There will be an opening ceremony in December to honour Gilbert Beauré and his 40 year volunteer commitment the creation and maintenance the trail. We will announce the date on our Facebook page. All are welcome to attend the ceremony and meet the family.

Education and outreach: The **FMF** is proud to announce the completion of the 4 tenets of conservation with the launch of its education program. In the Spring we ran a successful pilot project to test our new education program, run by Jessica Adams from Nature Nerding. In September we officially welcomed our first students from local elementary schools, (Ayer's Cliff, Stanstead, North Hatley and Waterville). The grade 3 and 4 children learned about foliage and the changes in the season.

Thanks to you, our donors, the Massawippi Conservation Trust has been able to accomplish the following:

- Purchase and steward 1200 acres of land which is protected in perpetuity
- Open 8.9 kms of trails on the western ridge of the lake
- Conserve Scowen Park and opened with 2 kms of trails
- Give the public access to a privately owned beach
- Start a primary school education program, offering + 500 visits to children from local schools in 2022-23.

They will come back for two more visits (this Winter and next Spring) in order to experience the changing landscape and animal habitat over the 3 seasons. Feedback included comments like these : " I love Jessica. She is dynamic, interesting and able to captivate the children. I also liked the fact that everything was taken care of (bus, snacks ...). It's a real all-inclusive!!! " and "The students feel like they learned something new! There was one who said she felt reconnected to nature, that the animal in her had come out!"

In order to make the classes as accessible as possible, the **FMF** is paying for the full costs of the outing, including the buses. We would like to recognise and thank the donors who have supported this project. If you would like to donate to the project, please get in touch.

We also held a Mushroom Madness week in September in order to educate and build new friendships among curious adults. Participants were pleased and have asked us to continue to offer more possibilities for adult education in nature.



Continuity: The **FMF** board members held a strategic planning session in August where they strategized about the future of the foundation, our mission and vision. The new 5 year plan is already in the works.

MISSION

- Preserve the Massawippi Valley's unique ecosystem;
- Fundraise and principally, but not exclusively, financially support the Massawippi Conservation Trust in its operations;
- Support community-based initiatives that are ecologically, socially, culturally and/or educationally valuable to the Massawippi Valley.

VISION

Within the next five years, the FMF will become a trusted and publicly recognized leader in the ecological stewardship of the Massawippi Valley. To be successful in its mission, the organization will be defined by the sustainability of its financial operations.

Giving Update: We, the **FMF**, have surpassed our annual giving goal. We have raised 65% of the goal towards our 7,5 million dollar Capital Campaign. We have received grants for education, promises for endowment funds to support new property acquisitions and last but NOT least have 79 first time donors who have given us gifts of \$10 to \$ 5,000. Your annual support for our operating budget and our endowment fund is essential to sustain our ongoing work. THANK YOU!

Wishing you and your family all the best for the holiday season and the New Year.

Handwritten signature of Helene Hamel in cursive script.

Helene Hamel
Executive Director

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*Trustees of the Massawippi Conservation Trust