

Outstanding geological sites and geopark projects in Quebec

PIERRE VERPAELST¹ AND DOMINIQUE RICHARD² - 1. 804-1490 boulevard de l'Entente, Québec G1S 4V3, Canada <verpapi@icloud.com> ¶ 2.
Ministère des Ressources naturelles, 5700, 4e avenue ouest, Québec G1S 4X4, Canada

The geological mapping, research and prospecting carried out for several years throughout the Province of Quebec have given several geological sites of exceptional character. At the beginning of the century, the Quebec earth sciences community became increasingly aware of the importance of Quebec's geological heritage and the threats to this heritage.

Around the same time, the Quebec government tabled its "Strategy for Protected Areas". The Ministère des Ressources naturelles decided to contribute to this strategy by including in its mining act the protection of outstanding geological sites. The Ministry is about to designate legally his first three Outstanding Geological Sites in the coming months and possibly five more sites during this year.

At the same time, communities throughout the province started to look for new ways to promote their area by introducing activities related to their natural environment. And some of them discovered that geoparks constitute an attractive development model for their area. Initiatives from mainly three communities have developed into geoparks projects in the last two years: Charlevoix, Haute-Gaspésie and Percé.

The Charlevoix geopark project focuses on the meteoritic impact that profoundly affected and still gives Charlevoix its typical landscape with a central peak and annular depressions. Impact structures and rocks can also be observed within the astrobles.

The Haute-Gaspésie geopark project highlights the history of the Appalachians from mountain building to the glacial landscaping and erosion processes. The area is blessed with breathtaking landscapes and glacier features that are only present here in Eastern Canada.

The Percé geopark project is built on its landmark landscape that is the Rocher Percé and the Bonaventure Island. The history of the Appalachians will also be highlighted as well as the erosion processes that sculpted the Rocher Percé. The historical heritage will also be developed.

Presented in Theme 4