

November 2001



NEWSLETTER

volume 2, number 1

Annual General Meeting

**Sunday December 2 at 1:30 p.m.
in the Municipal Hall / Library**

Everyone welcome!

Please remember: family memberships have only one vote.

Mont O'Brien Association Board of Directors

Our Board went through some changes early this fall. In October, Dave Early resigned due to his very busy schedule. We thank Dave for all of his work and support over the past few months.

Charlene Scharf has now assumed the role of Municipal Council Director. The Board has also welcomed Harold Emery as a new Community Director. Ed Elliott has agreed to assume the dual portfolio of Secretary-Treasurer.

Presently our list of Board members looks like this:

President
Michele Sura
467-2835
eems@sympatico.ca

Vice-President
Merlin Peck
467-2696
squirrel_72@hotmail.com

Secretary-Treasurer
Ed Elliott
467-2835
eems@sympatico.ca

Our Right-of-Way Road: Progress Report

As most Association members know, a Right-of-Way Agreement was signed this summer with **Parc Miljour Estates**, a building lot development project which lies just to the north of the future Parc Mont O'Brien just off of Route 301. This Right-of-Way gives Association members and visitors to the future Parc permission to cross this piece of private land in order to reach the Mont O'Brien area.

In the spring work started on our Right-of-Way road and we are happy to announce that as of late October the road itself has been completely cut out due to the generosity and hard work of a number of Association volunteers and local small-business owners.

The Mont O'Brien Association would like to thank:

Doug Picard (Douglas Picard)
Robert Newton (Robert Newton)
Roger Johnson (Garage Roger Johnson)
Danny Lalonde (D. Lalonde Cartage)
Neil Lacharity (Neil Lacharity Trucking)
David Tanner (Les Transport David Tanner)
Doug Zacharias (Douglas Zacharias Trucking)
Gilbert Gabie and Jason Gabie
(Camionnage Gilbert Gabie and Sons)
Jim Irwin (Irwin's General Store)

<p><u>Community Director</u> Roy Peck 467-5473</p> <p><u>Community Director</u> Georgia West 467-3249</p> <p><u>Community Director</u> Harold Emery 467-5251</p> <p><u>Municipal Council Director</u> Charlene Scharf 467-3644 cmscharf2000@yahoo.ca</p> <p>At the 2001 Annual General Meeting, three Board positions will be up for election.</p> <p><i>In you are interested in becoming a Board member, please make sure that you attend the AGM on December 2nd.</i></p>	<p>Roy Peck Leonard Heeny Harold Emery Russell Peck Scott Mahoney Edward Elliott Dave Early Jason Emery Robert Rogan James Giroux Renato Livinal Perry Peck Irma Peck</p> <p>If the weather holds this fall, the volunteers will continue to lay gravel down in order to finish the road.</p> <p>Until Parc Mont O'Brien is open in the future, two gates will protect this road. Members of the Mont O'Brien Association will be given a key for the gates only after a Member Responsibility Acknowledgement form has been signed. All members, aged 16 and older, will be asked to sign this form which will govern their use of the Road. There will be a \$5.00 charge per key in order to cover the key cutting costs.</p> <p>The Member Responsibility Acknowledgement form and keys will be available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ from one of the Board Members, and ▪ at the Annual General Meeting <p>If you would like more information about the lots for sale within Parc Miljour Estates, please contact Renato Livinal at (819) 827-5803.</p>
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Mont O'Brien Association Now Part of the Danford Lake Website

We now have a presence on the web -- thanks to Zenon Chmielowski, the webmaster of the main Danford Lake village website.

The address of the website is <http://www.danfordlakevillage.qc.ca>. From the homepage, just click on the Mont O'Brien link located on the left-hand sidebar.

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Mont O'Brien Association to Address MRC Pontiac Council</u></p> <p>At the January 2002 meeting of the Council of Mayors in the MRC Pontiac, the Mont O'Brien Association will be making a brief presentation about the Association and our vision for the future Parc Mont O'Brien. We will be asking the Mayors for a resolution of support of our vision. There are 18 municipalities in our MRC, including our own Alveyn-and-Cawood.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Plans for Mont O'Brien Observatory Taking Shape</u></p> <p>We have initiated a dialogue with the Executive Council of the Ottawa Chapter of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. Some of their Council members have agreed to provide us with information and guidance as we work towards writing a business plan for the observatory, which will hopefully grace the top of Mont O'Brien in the future.</p>
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Our Application to Natural Resources Canada's Sustainable Communities Initiative

As most of you know, the Mont O'Brien Association is in the process of applying to the Sustainable Communities Initiative. (<http://www.sustainablecommunities.gc.ca>)

We should be finished our application form in mid-November and plan to send it off shortly after that. However, it is not too late to let us know if you are interested in being part of our Geographical Information System (GIS) team. If our application is accepted, the Sustainable Communities Initiative will provide us with:

- GIS computer hardware and software, including a GPS (Global Positioning System)
- GIS training for anyone who is interested
- all known geographic information about our community (i.e. from the federal and provincial governments)

The GIS will be available for other people and projects in our community to use as well.

Profolia to Harvest Trees Also - But Outside of Parc Boundaries

Profolia, a forestry company located in Denholm, has informed us that in 2003-2004 they plan to cut trees south west of the boundaries of the future Parc Mont O'Brien.

(Note: Last summer, the Steering Committee of the Mont O'Brien Association reserved 9500 acres of the Mont O'Brien area with the Land Office of the Ministry of Natural Resources in Fort Coulogne.)

Profolia has also told us that they will be accessing their cutting areas from Cawood Road to the south and do not plan to use Gibson Road, which runs through the future Parc area.

This still leaves the Mont O'Brien Association with two forestry companies to negotiate with: Bowater whose local office is in Maniwaki and Louisiana-Pacific, located in Bois Franc.

2001-2002 Agreement Signed with Bowater

We are now into Year 2 of the Ministry of Natural Resources' **Five-Year Forestry Management Plan**. In July 2001 we signed an agreement with Bowater to cover their planned cutting during the winter of 2001-2002. This year Bowater plans to cut south west of Lac O'Brien and O'Brien Creek. If you would like to see a map of their planned cuts, please contact Michele at 467-2835.

December 3rd Meeting Set with Louisiana-Pacific

Louisiana-Pacific has requested a meeting with the Board of Directors in order to present their forestry plans for 2002-2003, 2003-2004 and 2004-2005.

This will be an important meeting since Louisiana-Pacific had previously indicated that they wish to cut trees along the Lac O'Brien Trail from the Gibson Road intersection over to Lac O'Brien. This area is obviously quite an important section of the future Parc.

If any member is interested in attending this meeting at the Ministry of Natural Resources office in Fort Coulogne with some of the Board members, please contact Michele at 467-2835.

Our Participation in the Municipality's 125th Anniversary Celebrations

The 125th Anniversary Celebrations in held in Danford Lake from August 4-6 saw the addition of 35 new family members. This brings our membership total to over 140 family members!

We also held two hikes in the Mont O'Brien area. On Saturday morning 30 people climbed up to the three natural lookout spots on Mont O'Brien and on Sunday morning 17 people hiked over to Lac O'Brien.

The Board of Directors of the Mont O'Brien Association salutes the very hard-working volunteers of the 125th Anniversary Executive Committee for a job done very, very well! **Congratulations!**

Next Important Project: Parc Mont O'Brien's Business Plan

The Board of Directors is presently attempting to put together a business plan for the future Parc Mont O'Brien.

Some of our external partners such as the Ministry of Natural Resources and the CLD believe that this plan must be produced sooner rather than later in order to demonstrate our Association's commitment to establishing Parc Mont O'Brien.

If any member has experience writing business plans, please consider helping us out! This is a crucial time for our development and any assistance will be greatly appreciated.

Mont O'Brien Association to be Mentioned in La Presse and the Montreal Gazette

In early December a special insert highlighting the **Year of the Volunteer in Quebec** will be published in the Montreal Gazette and in La Presse.

In late July the Mont O'Brien Association was asked to submit an article about our work and the future Parc Mont O'Brien and our submission has been selected.

The publication date is presently scheduled for Saturday, December 1, however this date is flexible due to the reporting needs of the two newspapers.

More than a Few Good Volunteers Needed

We have a number of projects and tasks that need to be tackled over the next year. If any Association member can help out in one of the following areas, we would greatly appreciate it:

- newsletter editor and communications person
- community fund-raising organizer
- governmental funding expert (we have a number of grant forms to fill out)
- french translation
- trail cutting

Or, if you area interested in contributing in any other way, please contact a Board Member. The more volunteers we have the better!

**Hope to see you at our 2001 Annual General Meeting
on Sunday, December 2nd at 1:30 p.m. in the Municipal Hall/Library!**

Ce bulletin est disponible en anglais seulement. L'Association n'a malheureusement pas les ressources financières nécessaires pour le faire traduire. Si vous désirez recevoir des renseignements en français sur ce bulletin, veuillez communiquer avec Michèle Thébaud-Borchers au (819) 467-2219 ou par courriel à l'adresse borchers@istar.ca.