



## NEWSLETTER

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### The Mont O'Brien Association Mandate

*To maintain the wilderness environment of the Mont O'Brien area by protecting the numbers and varieties of flora and fauna while providing educational opportunities and recreational access to the forests, lakes, rivers and mountains*

Visit the Mont O'Brien  
Association website:  
[www.danfordlakevillage.qc.ca](http://www.danfordlakevillage.qc.ca)

## THANKSGIVING FAMILY HIKE YOU'RE INVITED!

**Saturday, October 11, 2003**  
**8:30 a.m. – Noon**  
**Meet in Danford Lake Corners**

The Mont O'Brien Association invites you and your family to the annual Thanksgiving family hike to the top of Mont O'Brien. Come and see the spectacular view of the surrounding hills and the leaves in their full colours.

To register for the hike contact **Joe Jamison (819) 459-3933** or by **e-mail [joe@travel-net.com](mailto:joe@travel-net.com)**. Other contacts: Mary Haydon on Danford Lake 467-5514 or Pam Miles on Shea Lake 467-4468 (724-5959 Ottawa).

*Cost: Free (Although, donations to Mont O'Brien Association will be appreciated on hike day!)*

### Membership Update: **Have you purchased your 2003 membership yet?**

Don't forget to purchase your 2003 membership! Plans for the proposed Mont O'Brien park are contingent on support from the community, therefore your membership is important. We are pleased to inform you that 147 memberships have been purchased so far this year which represents over 450 people.

The annual membership fee is \$10 and you can download the membership application form from the website or drop by the Allevyn-and-Cawood Municipal Office in Danford Lake. For more information on how to become a member call Pam Miles at (613) 724-5959 or Kim Villeneuve in the Municipality Office at (819) 467-2941. Corporate memberships are available for \$50.00

All members receive a map and are eligible to receive a key for the lock on the entrance gate off Hwy 301.

*A special thank you goes to Bertha and Chris Kirby for their help in managing the membership database.*

## Forestry Activities: Update on Logging and the MRN's Forestry Management Plans

The Ministry of Natural Resources' (MRN) current Five-Year Forestry Management Plan, which expires in 2005, presently has assigned cutting rights in the Mont O'Brien region to two forestry companies: Louisiana Pacific and Mitigog. Mitigog is a newly formed organization of Kitigan Zibi native band members from the Maniwaki area who are represented at the MRN table by Bowater.

Each year forestry companies are given the chance to submit revised plans for the coming year and then the public is given the chance to comment on these revised plans. This spring we discovered that Mitigog plans to conduct some logging in the southern section of the Mont O'Brien region in 2004. Louisiana-Pacific did not change their cutting plans at all based on the 3-year agreement signed with Louisiana-Pacific in March 2002.

Early in 2003, Louisiana Pacific carried out some of its scheduled logging in the Mont O'Brien region. Visitors to the Mont O'Brien region will have noticed that cutting has been done along the Lac O'Brien Road. Under the terms of our agreement, Louisiana Pacific will be clear-cutting a maximum of 175 hectares between 2002 and 2005, mostly to the north of Mont O'Brien. A site visit with representatives from Louisiana-Pacific and the Ministry of Natural Resources is scheduled for late September in order to review the work done to date by Louisiana Pacific. Under the terms of our agreement, Louisiana Pacific also widened the Lac O'Brien Road to a width of 40 feet. This is now one less job that would have had to have been done by the Mont O'Brien Association road volunteers.

The Ministry of Natural Resources is presently in the process of planning for their 2005-2030 Forestry Management Plan. The Mont O'Brien Association has submitted a letter to this process requesting that the 9500 acres of the future Parc Mont O'Brien be removed from the MRN's cutting allocations. We have not yet received a response to our request.



## Canada Day Weekend Hike June 28, 2003

A few energetic Mont O'Brien Association members were up to the challenge of the hike to the top of Mont O'Brien in celebration of Canada Day. A good time was had by all, including the five canine friends who tagged along!

*Left to right: Joe Jamison, Georgia West, Sheila Higgs, Colleen Cotter, Andrew and Mary Haydon, Al and Joe Noel. Photo by: Pam Miles.*

## Dates to Remember:

- ❖ CPAWS: Protecting Mont O'Brien - Community Workshop Sunday, October 5, 2003
- ❖ Thanksgiving Hike - Saturday, October 11, 2003

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## Mont O'Brien Road Update

Since fall 2003, we have been working to resolve three issues with the Fort-Coulonge office of the Ministry of Natural Resources regarding work that was done on the Crown land section of the Mont O'Brien Road last summer. Now that we have come to a resolution regarding all three problems, we have applied for a new road construction and use permit with the MRN. Once our 2003-2004 permit arrives, we will be able to resume our work at the southern end of the road.

We are very happy to report that recently the section of the Mont O'Brien Road, which crosses private land, was completely graveled and will soon be graded thanks to the generous assistance of the Municipality of Allevyn-and-Cawood. This means that vehicles of all types should be able to drive down the road as far as Ross' Creek. Of course, ATVs, bicycles and your own feet will take you as far as you'd like to go!

The Miljour Estates, a building lot development project, has generously provided members of the Mont O'Brien Association with the right-of-way on this road.

**If you would like more information about the lots for sale within Miljour Estates, please contact Renato Livinal at (819) 827-5803.**

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## CPAWS and Quebec's Protected Areas Strategy

In early 2003, the Mont O'Brien Association initiated contact with the Ottawa Valley chapter of CPAWS (Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society) which is dedicated to protecting Canada's wild spaces and wild species.

The Ottawa Valley chapter of CPAWS had put out a call to hear from local organizations in the Outaouais that were devoted to preserving and protecting Crown land. The previous Parti Québécois provincial government implemented the Quebec Protected Areas Strategy, which set the goal of protecting 8% of Quebec's public forests by 2005. In early 2003, the Ottawa Valley chapter of CPAWS had undertaken the job of putting together a set of recommendations for Crown land protection in the Outaouais. Needless to say, the Mont O'Brien board was extremely interested in working with CPAWS! A meeting with two representatives of the Ottawa Valley chapter was held in January 2003 and at that time the Mont O'Brien Association requested that CPAWS consider adding our future 9500-acre proposed park to its list of areas deserving of protection.

Prior to the spring provincial election, a decision on which sections of Crown land in the Outaouais to protect was set to be made in early 2004. Although the change of government has slowed down the process, the governing Liberals are still committed to the stated goal of protecting 8% of Crown land in the province. However, the government has now stated that public consultations will only be held once the government has come to a decision on the areas that it wishes to protect. The government will be reaching this decision after they hold private consultations with industry groups. CPAWS, along with the World Wildlife Fund Canada, the Union québécoise pour la conservation de la nature (UQCN) and the Réseau québécois des groupes écologistes (RQGE) will be lobbying for a more open and public process to be used.

In order to strengthen our submission to the provincial government, we have arranged to hold a community workshop to discuss the options for the legal protection status of the Mont O'Brien region. Representatives of the CPAWS Ottawa Valley Chapter will be present in order to provide information on the various options available to us. All Mont O'Brien members and all interested community members are encouraged to attend.

### **WHAT: Protecting Mont O'Brien: Community workshop**

**DATE:** Sunday, October 5, 2003

**TIME:** 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** Municipal Hall, 10 Jondee Road, Danford Lake

Refreshments will be served. Please attend and share your opinions about the future Parc Mont O'Brien.

For more information about CPAWS please visit their website at <http://www.cpaws-ov.org>.

## Geographical Information System (GIS): Update

Our GIS, which was acquired thanks to a grant we received from Natural Resources Canada's Sustainable Communities program, continues to play a vital role in the work of the Mont O'Brien Association and the Municipality of Allevyn-and-Cawood.

Over the past few months, Chris Kirby, our GIS volunteer, has spent numerous hours:

- GPSing some of the numerous trails in the Mont O'Brien
- documenting natural landmarks, such as small streams and waterfalls, again using the GPS
- transferring this data to our GIS and thereby enhancing our Mont O'Brien region map
- transferring the Municipality's paper land ownership records to the GIS in order to provide the Municipality's volunteer fire department with a map of all properties and owner contact information.

Many thanks to Chris for all of his time spent on developing and maintaining our GIS.



*The Rt. Hon. Chief Justice of Canada Beverley McLachlin (L) was a guest at the Danford Lake Fire Hall opening celebration in August 2003, along with Chris and Bertha Kirby.*

If any member is interested in learning about our GPS and GIS and would like to help GPS the future Mont O'Brien park area, please contact Michele at (819) 467-2835. This is a great way to become more familiar with the area and enjoy the outdoors at the same time! If any member would like to borrow a GPS, please contact Kim in the Municipal Hall at (819) 467-2941.

## New: Donations to Mont O'Brien Association are now eligible for a charitable tax receipt

Thanks to the Municipality of Alleyn-and-Cawood, the Mont O'Brien Association can issue charitable tax receipts, through the municipality, for gifts of \$25.00 or more.

Your gift will help offset the costs to complete the road to Lac O'Brien, make more trails, maintain our GIS and communicate with our members.

If you are interested in making a donation, please make your cheque payable to:

### Municipality of Alleyn-and-Cawood

And mail it to:

Mont O'Brien Association  
c/o Municipality of Alleyn-and-Cawood  
10 Jondee Road  
Danford Lake, Quebec  
J0X 1P0

For more information contact:

- Pam Miles, Mont O'Brien Association (613) 724-5959
- Kim Villeneuve, Municipal Office (819) 467-2941

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### 2002 Reports Available

Please visit our website ([www.danfordlakevillage.qc.ca](http://www.danfordlakevillage.qc.ca)) if you would like a copy of the Association's 2002 Annual Financial Statement or the 2002 President's Report and Potential Action Plan for 2003.

If you prefer to receive a print copy in the mail, please contact a Mont O'Brien Association Board member.

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### Newsletter production team:

- Pam Miles – Text and Layout
- Michele Sura - Text
- Michèle Thèbaud-Borchers - French translation

## MONT O'BRIEN ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Members and friends of the Mont O'Brien Association are encouraged to contact a director for additional information on the Association and our plans for the future:

Michele Sura, President  
(819) 467-2835  
eems@sympatico.ca

Roy Peck, Vice-President  
(819) 467-5473

Ed Elliott, Treasurer  
(819) 467-2835  
eems@sympatico.ca

Harold Emery, Road King  
(819) 467-5251

Pamela Miles, Secretary and Membership  
(613) 724-5959  
diewmiles@sympatico.ca

Joe Jamison, Hike Coordinator  
(819) 459-3933  
joe@travel-net.com

John Noel, Hike Coordinator  
(819) 459-2479

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## MONT O'BRIEN CRESTS FOR SALE

Cost: \$3.00 each

*Support the Mont O'Brien Association by purchasing a crest.*

They will be for sale at the Thanksgiving Hike otherwise please pick yours up at:

- the Miljour store in Danford Lake
- the Municipal Hall on Jondee Road in Danford Lake ge, Monday to Friday from 8:00 - 4:00.
- or can always call a Board Member.

