



NEWSLETTER

Annual General Meeting Sunday, March 20, 2005 1:00 P.M.

**Fire Hall Meeting Room
(upstairs)
Jondee Road, Danford Lake**

Come out and meet other Association members and hear first hand the status to preserve this beautiful piece of Crown Land for access by the community.

Mayor Joe Squitti will chair the meeting.
For more info, contact a Board member.
(See page two for phone numbers)

Crown Land is for everyone

The trails of Mont O'Brien Association are on Crown Land ("government land" or "terrain public") which all Canadian citizens can use. The hiking trails have been selected and cleared for all to enjoy.

Only the Ministry of Natural Resources has the authority to bar citizens from Crown Land, for example during the rare times when forest fire danger is extremely high. No one aside from an MRN official has the right to bar you from Crown Land.

Members of the Mont O'Brien Association sign an agreement each year allowing their passage over an area of private land onto the Crown Land where the trails are located. If you have any questions please contact a Board Member.

2005 Membership Forms Now Available

Your membership has never been more important. This year the Government of Quebec will be deciding if the Mont O'Brien area will be given protected area status. If this happens, the public (you and me) will have use of this beautiful piece of Crown Land for many years to come.

Please renew your membership and help make the proposed Mont O'Brien park a reality.

The membership fee is \$15 per family (which includes all children 17 years and younger). To receive a key for the gate on the lock at the entrance on Hwy 301, please return a signed acknowledgement form.

Help us build a legacy in the Danford Lake area by becoming a member of the Mont O'Brien Association.

Membership forms are available on the website
www.danfordlakevillage.qc.ca

2004 THANKSGIVING FAMILY HIKE A SUCCESS

Great time had by all!

The fourth annual Thanksgiving Family Hike last October was once again a success – thanks to the many volunteers who made the day special.

This year over 50 people made their way to Lake O'Brien after using the access road enlarged by Louisiana Pacific, the forestry company that presently has the cutting rights in the northern Mont O'Brien area.

The hikers from 4 months to 84 years of age then followed the newly opened trail to Picnic Point, from where they looked back over the lake and up at Mont O'Brien and enjoyed the beautiful seasonal colours.

Thank you!

Over \$700 was donated to the Mont O'Brien Association in 2004 – the most ever! These donations have a huge impact on how much we can accomplish each year. This includes improving and making new roads and installing culverts, breaking new trails and communicating with you. Thank you to all those who made a contribution to the Association.

If you are interested in making a charitable donation and would like a tax receipt, please make your cheque payable to Municipality of Allevyn-and-Cawood and send it to:

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

Otherwise you can send your cheque to:
Mont O'Brien Association
Box 904, Danford Lake, Quebec J0X 1P0

Forest Update

by Paula Dalgaard Armstrong

As a forest biologist, this past year I have been following the cutting operations and further forestry interventions in the 40-square-km Mont O'Brien block of Crown Land.

The Mont O'Brien forests are presently being cut heavily to supply regional mills (Louisiana-Pacific, Mitigog, & Bowater). About a quarter of exploitable forest over age 50, both softwood and hardwood, has been clear-cut in the past five years. Aside from effects on views, this is not a sustainable rate--if continued another 15 years only brush and saplings would remain on much of the land. These heavy harvests, followed by pre-commercial thinning, have the effect of converting forests of sugar maple, oak and beech, with their understory of lillies and other shade-tolerant herbaceous species, to stands composed of poplar trees & fewer native forest herbs.

The Forest Act RNI standards now specify that companies cannot clearcut across registered trails, and we are presently applying to have our trails permanently registered. Also we are trying to get Protected Area status with the Quebec Ministry of the Environment. However at the same time we must try to prevent excessive harvest and stand conversion from continuing, through representation at the MRN public consultation periods in Fort-Coulonge, and at the monthly Table de Concertation on Public Forest Management meetings.

I went to these meetings in early 2005, representing the Mont O'Brien Association. At the Mont O'Brien AGM on March 13 I will give some news regarding harvest cutting plans, and we will display some forest maps that you may wish to study and discuss. Another plant & tree walk will take place this summer.

For more information contact a Mont O'Brien Board Member:

Michele Sura, President (819) 467-2835
Roy Peck, Vice President (819) 467-5473
Pam Miles, Secretary (613) 724-5959
Joe Jamison, Treasurer (819) 459-3933
Harold Emery, Road King (819) 467-5251
John Noel, Member at Large (819) 459-2479
Lindsay Peck, Member at Large (819) 467-4259

Content of this newsletter was prepared by Pam Miles and Paula Dalgaard Armstrong. Thank you to Michele Borchers for preparing the French translation and to Bertha and Chris Kirby for their role in managing the membership database.