

April 2013 Newsletter



The Mont O'Brien Association is a registered non-profit, charitable organisation. It is dedicated to protection of the Mont O'Brien Biodiversity Reserve, to providing responsible public access, hiking trails, nature activities & education, and to developing high-quality ecotourism to help the local economy.

See our Website:

www.montobrienassociation.org

****COME TO THE 2013 AGM****

The 2013 AGM will be held Sunday, May 26, at the Danford Municipal Library (10 Jondee), 1 – 2 p.m.

The Board will report to the membership on activities and progress since early 2012, and on goals for the coming year. Kim Milford will continue as Alleyn-and-Cawood Municipal Council Representative. Michael Walker and Paula Armstrong may be elected to another two-year term. Marie-Thérèse Kazeef and Lindsay Peck continue in the second year of their terms. The board is open to a 6th or 7th board member. A new trails & road map will be available at the AGM.

A major goal for 2013 is improving the road to Lake O'Brien. The Danford municipality has provided a grant to help us with this.

Board meetings are held in Danford on the second Monday evening of each month. Feel free to contact your board members-----See the last page for their co-ordinates.



John Noel and Irma Peck, founding members, at the 2007 Thanksgiving Family Hike. John died May 5, 2012. He and his son Allen found a rare plant, Squaw-root, on Mont O'Brien in 2006, helping us to achieve biodiversity reserve status.

In 2012 at Mont O'Brien:



May 2012 Birding excursion with Daniel St-Hilaire: Beside Kaz Creek, Dan explains how to use his "spotting scope" to look for turtles and birds.



New members on the Thanksgiving Family Hike, October 13, 2012 : Local historian Rick Blanchard talking with Suzanne & Richard Labré-Lamarche. Marie-Thérèse is making coffee.



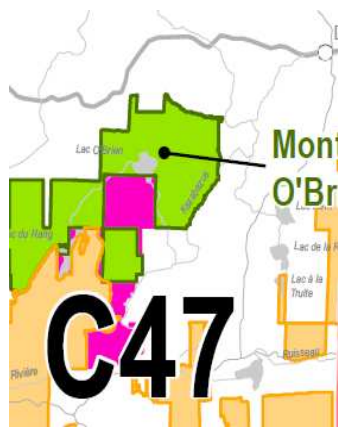
Terrible local drought in the summer of 2012 killed trees on exposed thin soil—this is on a ridge within the Reserve, south of Mont O'Brien and Range Lake.



Some of the members of the "Women's Feel Fit Group" Fall hike: Karen Davies, Muriel Davies, & Monica Dodson. Lunch on the main lookout rock, with the view south to Little Mud Lake between two regenerating clear-cuts.

Public consultations were held on Québec's 12% protected areas goal.

The pink areas were added to the Mont O'Brien Reserve by the MDDEFP (Ministry of Sustainable Development, Wildlife, and Parks), especially to protect the central wetland & Kaz Creek, and to avoid separation into 3 blocks. The Association continues to try to protect the isolated hill of old hardwood forest just above the big "C", to save it from "deer yard clear-cuts", to be part of the official biodiversity reserve. We have not requested any other additions. All of the biodiversity reserve can have licensed hunting, fishing and trapping. We are developing several hiking trails for members, and to attract ecotourism to the area. **The Association contributed a formal brief to this ministry consultation.**



The Spring of 2013 (and what to expect at Mont O'Brien):



New life at Mont O'Brien, blooming again in early May: Trout lily, also known as Dog-toothed violet.



A moose left piles of scat near the "Easy Trail" in 2011; on each pile, and nowhere else, we found a curious mushroom: *Stropharia semiglobata* is found only on aged moose scat or horse dung. The mushroom is said to be edible.

Birding Excursion: 8 a.m. May 19, 2013 with Club des Ornithologues. Bilingual. Free to Mont O'Brien members and their guests. Please call or email a board member to register.



Trees and Plants Identification Excursion this summer—Date to be set at the AGM (see page 1).

Become a Mont O'Brien Member and help to build a legacy in the Danford Lake area!

Membership forms may be downloaded from our website:

www.montobrienassociation.org

The 2013 Annual Family Membership fee includes family members 17 years & younger.

Mail the Membership form, Responsibility form & Annual membership fee (\$15.00) to:

Mont O'Brien Association, P.O. Box 904, Danford Lake, Qc J0X 1P0

You will receive a year 2013 membership card and a new code to the gate lock.

To contact a board member:

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Membership forms and previous newsletters are available on our website:
www.montobrienassociation.org