

# Spring 2014 Newsletter



## Our Mandate

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

See page 2 for free Spring – Summer activities.

By the time you receive your newsletter, you should hear his chirps.... The spring peeper has awakened!



Photo credit: PDArmstrong

## 2014 AGM: Sunday, May25

You are welcome at the 2014 AGM at the Danford Municipal Library, 10 Jondee, 1-2:30 p.m. Plans for the coming year will be presented.

Directors Michael Walker & Paula Armstrong will continue in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of 2-year terms; one position (Chris Salt) would need ratification by the general membership. Marie-Thérèse Kazeef & Lindsay Peck are now at the end of their 2-year terms. Three 2-year terms are therefore open. Kim Milford will continue as Danford Council Representative.

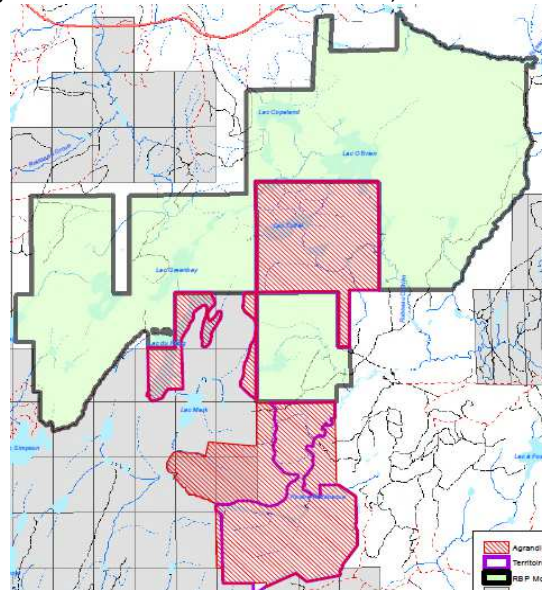
Printed maps of the Mary Haydon Trail to the summit will be available for members. We are registered as a charity with the Canada Revenue Agency; receipts are available for donations of \$20+. Members are welcome to contact board members, and to come to a board meeting. Co-ordinates are on page 3 and our web-site.

## What on Earth is a biodiversity reserve? And why?

Biodiversity reserves are being established in Québec because many species of plants and animals are threatened by industrial activities, logging, new roads, climate change, pollution, and urban expansion. The goal of the government is to protect 12% of public land. In the Outaouais region, the Mont O'Brien reserve is only a small part of that goal, but an important part. Biodiversity is greater & more threatened here than elsewhere in Québec.

In 2005, the Mont O'Brien Association applied for protection of the pale green area (24.1 km<sup>2</sup>) on the map below; the area, with several small lakes, was granted interim protection. Fishing, hunting, and winter trapping are allowed to continue. Road access is maintained by the Association (with some municipal help). Hiking/Nature trails such as the Mary Haydon Summit Trail are registered with the Québec government. Berry & mushroom harvest is permitted. Members may camp overnight (rustically) at Lake O'Brien.

In 2013, protection of the middle & southern blocks with pink fine diagonal lines was added to the Reserve, with MRC Pontiac support.



The Reserve protects plant species such as "squaw-root" that are rare, or at their northern limit. It was home to an entire moose family until the fall of 2012. In 3 years, 87 mushroom species have been identified. Many nesting and migrating bird species have been seen and heard on excursions in May. A broad wetland occupies the central square. "Kaz Creek" runs north along the east side of the Reserve.

To promote a sustainable economy in the Danford community, the Association has brought several groups for hiking and nature observation, with the goal of developing ecotourism in the northern part of the Reserve (Mont O'Brien & Lake O'Brien).

The things we did last summer... and spring & fall:

First someone (guess who) had to deal with a beaver dam flooding the road.



May of 2013 with Club des Ornithologues (Was that a bird or your call of the wild?), exploring the new brulé.



The club identified 37 bird species for us (list available).



During the summer and fall of 2013, edible mushrooms such as the Chicken polypore returned to the trails. A foray with Mycologues Amateurs de l'Outaouais is planned for the fall of 2014. Our members will be informed of the opportunity to participate.

**October 2013:** At the summit, from a look-out-- Eleanor & Audrey practice their yogic head-stand:



### Mont O'Brien Events for Spring - Summer 2014 These events are all free to members

- Spring Ephemerals pre-Mother's-Day Stroll, Saturday, May 10 (no bugs!). Meet at 10 a.m. at the gate. (Highs can vary from 8 to 27 degrees C.)
- Don't forget the AGM at the Danford Library, 1 p.m., May 25—Trail maps will be distributed. Chat with a board member.
- "How to press and dry your own botanical specimen, & label it for framing." Register with Paula—we will set a date in June – July 2014.
- Trees and shrubs identification morning, Saturday, July 19, 9 a.m. Walk to Lake O'Brien.
- Children's Berry-picking Day, Saturday or Sunday, August 16 or 17 (Please call a Board member to verify which day). Plenty of wild blackberries!
- Thanksgiving Family Hike: Saturday, October 11.



**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](http://www.montobrienassociation.org)

The 2014 Annual Family Membership fee includes family members 17 years & younger.

Membership is required for crossing private land; the annual fee is needed for maintaining access roads.

Mail the Membership form, Responsibility form & Annual family membership fee (\$20.00) to:

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

You will receive a family membership card and information.  
Tax receipts are available for donations.

Until about May 5, our access road is closed to vehicles, due to the spring thaw. Membership forms, (and new code to gate lock or new keys) are also available from Marie-Thérèse & Kim. You may obtain a small map of the Mary Haydon Trail & other information in French or English from them. **Please take note of the cautions on the side of the map: Keep children close. The lake is unsupervised. This is a small wilderness, not a park!**

**Volunteers for easy trail- and road-brushing are needed—no previous experience required!  
Do not hesitate to contact a board member with a question or information:**

Michael Walker, President  
(819) 467-2219  
[mhwalker@ca.inter.net](mailto:mhwalker@ca.inter.net)

Lindsay Peck, Vice-president  
(819) 467-4259

Paula Armstrong, Secretary  
[pauladalgaardarmstrong@gmail.com](mailto:pauladalgaardarmstrong@gmail.com)

Marie-Thérèse Kazeef, Membership  
(819) 467-2580  
[marie-theresek@sympatico.ca](mailto:marie-theresek@sympatico.ca)

Chris Salt, Community Representative  
(819) 467-2966  
[SaltedTrooper@gmail.com](mailto:SaltedTrooper@gmail.com)

Kim Milford, Municipal Council Rep.  
(819) 467-4077  
[Milford\\_K@hotmail.com](mailto:Milford_K@hotmail.com)

*This and past Newsletters/Bulletins in colour may be seen at: [www.montobrienassociation.org](http://www.montobrienassociation.org)*

At Mont O'Brien,  
Someone may be watching you....



Photo credit: Dennis Blaedow, in Rivière Coulonge protected area.