



## **MONT O'BRIEN ASSOCIATION: PRESIDENT'S 2002 REPORT and POTENTIAL ACTION PLAN FOR 2003**

### **Winter 2002**

- i. Officers of the Association's first Board of Directors elected and meetings held throughout the year on either a weekly or bi-weekly cycle
- ii. Presentation made to the MRC Council of Mayors; received resolution of support for the Parc Mont O'Brien project
- iii. Summary of the Association's presentation to the MRC Council reported on in the January 30, 2002 edition of *The Pontiac Journal*
- iv. Article entitled "Mont O'Brien Scales New Heights" published in the February 2, 2002 edition of the *The Shawville Equity*
- v. Began our 2002 membership drive at the Danford Lake Winter Carnival organized by the Danford Lake Recreation Association
- vi. Agreement signed with Louisiana-Pacific governing their 2003-2005 cuts (Year 3, 4, and 5 of the Ministry of Natural Resources' Five-Year Forestry Management Plan); as of January 2003, L-P has not carried out their 2003 plan due to a slow softwood lumber industry
- vii. French translation done of most of the Mont O'Brien section of the Danford Lake village website (<http://www.danfordlakevillage.qc.ca>)
- viii. Continued to monitor meeting minutes and agendas from the Integrated Resources Management Discussion Table for the 71-21/71-04 public forest zones, organized by the Ministry of Natural Resources
- ix. Finalized the details of our successful application to Natural Resources Canada's Sustainable Communities Initiative
- x. Attended Municipal Council meetings on an infrequent basis and kept in touch with Mayor Squitti

## **Spring 2002**

- i. Submitted our application to FAPAQ's Forest and Fauna program requesting financial assistance to hire two wildlife technicians and a biologist to conduct a flora and fauna inventory in the Mont O'Brien region and then to establish an integrated resources management plan to govern the development of the future park
- ii. Work on the Right-of-Way road continued through Miljour Estates property
- iii. Proceeded with the acquisition of our Geographical Information System (GIS); retained training and consulting services of GeoSolutions; purchased hardware, software, data, scanner, printer and GPS units; arranged for and held four training sessions; set up our GIS and began work on implementing data
- iv. Article entitled "Mont O'Brien : la naissance d'un parc" published in the Spring 2002 edition of *West Quebec Cottage Living* magazine
- v. Colour poster promoting Mont O'Brien developed and displayed in local stores and businesses (Miljour Store, Irwin's, Danford Lake Hotel, Cindy's Takeout)
- vi. Received a \$1500 grant from the Municipality of Alleyn-and-Cawood
- vii. Renewed our membership in and our support of the ROCP (Regroupement des organismes communautaires du Pontiac / Pontiac Community Organization Collective Group)

## **Summer 2002**

- i. Membership renewal letters and forms sent out
- ii. Summer 2002 Newsletter compiled and sent out
- iii. Concerted effort made to reach cottagers; information distributed to cottages on Big Danford Lake, Little Danford Lake, Shea Lake and Wilson Lake; presentation made during the AGM of the Danford Lake Cottagers' Association
- iv. Extreme difficulty encountered in acquiring insurance for the Association (Board of Directors errors and omissions, general liability and GIS coverage)
- v. Mont O'Brien crest designed and arranged for its production by Bai-Cou Promotions; for sale for \$3.00 each at the Miljour Store, the Municipal Hall and through the website
- vi. Acquired a \$2500 repayable grant from the Municipality of Alleyn-and-Cawood in order to cover the cost of the crests
- vii. Received word that our application to FAPAQ's Forest and Fauna Program was not accepted; no monies given to this particular program by the MRC Pontiac's Selection Committee

- viii. Trail work team started work on improving the Lookout Trail; trail cleared, trees marked and sign posted at start of trail
- ix. Work on the Right-of-Way road continued through Miljour Estates property
- x. Information table set up at the Canada Day Celebrations organized by the Danford Lake Recreation Association
- xi. Information table set up at the Danford Lake Mud Run held by the Danford Lake Recreation Association
- xii. Signage erected; at start of Mont O'Brien Road at Route 301, at the boundary line between the Crown land and the Miljour Estates property, at intersection of Mont O'Brien Road and Lac O'Brien Road, on some of the old and very large pine trees in order to save them from logging activities
- xiii. Site visit to Mud Lake and Lac O'Brien by FAPAQ biologists to check health of frog population; still awaiting report

### **Fall 2002 / Winter 2003**

- i. Trail work team finished with the improvements to the Lookout Trail; trail route altered in order to avoid problem areas; new trail area marked and cleared
- ii. Attended the Community Appreciation BBQ organized by the Danford Lake Recreation Association
- iii. Work on the Right-of-Way road continued through Miljour Estates property; by end of the fall, road widened to its full 40 feet throughout the Miljour Estates property, gravel had been laid along first half of road, road had been graded and numerous repairs had been made
- iv. Mont O'Brien Road gate installed at the start of the Miljour Estates property at Route 301; Member Responsibility Acknowledgement governing use of the right-of-way road through Miljour Estates property finalized; keys available
- v. Met with Municipality's Building and Roads Inspector in order to begin work on the Mont O'Brien section of the Municipality's revised Land Use Development Plan
- vi. Thanksgiving Family Hike held; 48 people enjoyed the trek to the top of the Lookout Trail
- vii. Submitted a Business Plan Funding Proposal to the CLD (Local Development Centre); its Executive met to discuss it and decided that the proposed astronomical observatory should undergo a feasibility study first
- viii. Met with Ministry of Natural Resources in order to find solutions to our outstanding road and permit issues; a) road construction and cutting permits had not been renewed promptly in the spring, b) culvert at Ross' Creek had not been installed correctly c) MRN requesting additional stumpage fees after, in our opinion, incorrectly assessing the

- number of trees that had been cut along part of the Crown land portion of the Mont O'Brien Road
- ix. Article entitled "Mont O'Brien Climbs Higher" published in the December 4, 2002 edition of *The Shawville Equity*
  - x. Communicated with Suzanne Dupuis, MRC Pontiac's Forestry Engineer, regarding our interest in the intra-municipal lots which border the Mont O'Brien region; letter was sent to MRC Pontiac indicating our interest in these lots in April 2002; MRC Pontiac has now established a Multi-Resource Advisory Committee to address intra-municipal lots issue for the county
  - xi. Initiated communication with the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - Ottawa Valley in order to learn more about their activities to promote the Quebec Protected Areas Strategy and to prepare for the identification of new protected areas in the Outaouais
  - xii. Submitted interim GIS report to Natural Resources Canada's Sustainable Communities Initiative
  - xiii. Mont O'Brien webpages on the Danford Lake website updated (<http://www.danfordlakevillage.qc.ca>)
  - xiv. Met with an internal evaluation team from Natural Resources Canada's Sustainable Communities Initiative in order to assist in their internal evaluation of their program
  - xv. Submitted our annual association declaration to the IGIF (L'Inspecteur général des institutions financières)
  - xvi. Continued to keep abreast of the activities of the La Blanche Forest in Mayo which was recently granted ecological reserve status

## **Possible Action Plan for 2003**

### **Winter 2003**

- i. Membership renewals and Winter Newsletter to be sent out - DONE
- ii. Distribution of 2003 membership cards, Mont O'Brien region maps and keys to entrance gate, if required
- iii. Continue to work with CPAWS - Ottawa Valley Chapter to explore possibility of including the Mont O'Brien region in their protected areas proposal to the Quebec Minister of the Environment
- iv. Finish administrative work needed to begin the observatory feasibility study to be carried out by CRAIE (Centre Régional D'analyse Intégrée en Entrepreneurship de l'Outaouais)
- v. Arrange for the 2003 road improvement and tree cutting permits with the Ministry of Natural Resources
- vi. Consider options to develop the Parc Mont O'Brien Business Plan
- vii. Provide Municipality with our contribution to its Land Use Development Plan
- viii. Finalize details for our 2003 Board of Directors, general liability and GIS insurance coverage
- ix. Continue to implement GIS; creation of public vs. private land map for the municipality - DONE
- x. Monitor the development of the intra-municipal lots plan by MRC Pontiac
- xi. Continue to recruit additional volunteers

### **Spring and Summer 2003**

- i. Road work to continue
- ii. Trail cutting and maintenance to begin; arrange for trail maintenance and use permits with the Ministry of Natural Resources
- iii. Visit the La Blanche Forestry Centre in Mayo
- iv. Family Hike to be arranged
- v. Summer or Fall newsletter to be produced