



## **MONT O'BRIEN ASSOCIATION: PRESIDENT'S 2004 REPORT and SUGGESTED ACTION PLAN FOR 2005**

### **Winter 2004**

- i. Officers of the Association's Board of Directors were elected and 14 meetings held throughout the year
- ii. Winter 2004 mailing sent out including Winter 2004 newsletter, 2004 Membership form and Key Acknowledgement form
- iii. Meeting regarding Observatory Feasibility Study held with 2 staff from the Pontiac CLD (Centre local de développement) and 1 from CRAIE (Centre Régional d'Analyse Intégrée en Entrepreneurship de l'Outaouais); report was supposed to be completed by spring 2004 however we are still waiting for it; CRAIE's funding was reduced by new provincial Liberal government in late spring 2004
- iv. Ongoing membership processing; gate keys stamped with "MO" for easy identification
- v. Fundraising Draw drive started and volunteer work begun on handmade hope chest; many thanks to Joe Jamison for all of the skilled hours he spent making and perfecting the chest!
- vi. Attended Danford Lake Winter Carnival; table set up for membership and draw tickets
- vii. Association welcomed a volunteer scientific advisor, Paula Dalgaard Armstrong, a forest biologist
- viii. Submission sent to the Municipality's Land Use Development Plan. Because it forms one unit mostly surrounded by private land, the Board will submit to the MENV that the full 16,000

- acres of Crown land between Cawood Road and Highway 301 receive protected area status
- ix. MRN Road Permit process completed; permit paid for and received for a year (for work done on Crown land portion of road)
  - x. Treasurer Ed Elliott resigned; Joe Jamison offered to assume Treasurer's position; Lindsay Peck joined the Board
  - xi. Ongoing updating of Mont O'Brien website ([www.danfordlakevillage.qc.ca](http://www.danfordlakevillage.qc.ca))
  - xii. Kept in regular touch with Mayor Squitti
  - xiii. Ongoing volunteer French translation of print and web documents

### **Spring 2004**

- i. 2003 Annual General Meeting held on March 28<sup>th</sup>; 21 members attended
- ii. Attended CPAWS-Ottawa Valley Chapter's Public Workshops in Campbell's Bay and Wakefield in March; 5 workshops were held around the Outaouais; resulting submissions and discussions formed basis for CPAWS' Fall 2004 report to the Ministry of the Environment
- iii. Met with representatives from the Outaouais Regional CEDEC (Community Economic Development and Employability Committee) for an information exchange session
- iv. GIS information sharing meeting held with La Peche GIS Society
- v. Temporary lock put on the gate in order to protect the road from motorized vehicles during the spring thaw
- vi. Planning hike held for the summer's Plant Hunt Hike
- vii. Trails on Mont O'Brien marked with arrow stencils
- viii. Mary Haydon Trail dedication held on May 22<sup>nd</sup>; 35 people attended; bannock and tea served at Ross' Creek; Spring Hike followed; signage for Mary Haydon Trail and Mont O'Brien Lookout Trail designed and constructed by Expographiq (located in Hull)

- ix. Local media continued to be supportive of Mont O'Brien Association and its activities: The Low Down to Hull and Back, The Pontiac Journal, The Shawville Equity and CHIP-FM 101.7's "Valley Talk" show all covered the Mary Haydon Trail dedication
- x. An Information package and survey were received regarding the Ministry of Natural Resources' future 25-year planning process; report on O'Brien scenic & cultural values written. Notice was received of a consultation period on modification #6 to the 2004-05 PQAF forestry management plan.
- xi. Paula Armstrong started a comprehensive list of flora in the Mont O'Brien Region
- xii. Mayor Joseph Squitti and Municipal Building and Roads Inspector Rick Courchaine attended Louisiana-Pacific's Annual General Meeting
- xiii. Renewed our membership in and our support of the PCDC (Pontiac Community Development Corporation)
- xiv. Bowater/Mitigog repaired damage done to Clifford's Road during winter cutting and hauling

### **Summer 2004**

- i. Louisiana-Pacific resumed cutting in the Mont O'Brien region (Six 60-acre clear-cut mosaic blocks, north and west of Mont O'Brien)
- ii. Louisiana-Pacific entered into an agreement with Renato Livinal (owner of the private land north of the Mont O'Brien region), the Municipality and the Association to improve the Mont O'Brien Road in exchange for permission to use the road to remove logs; LP installed 6 culverts, constructed the remaining unfinished section between Ross' Creek and Lac O'Brien Road and laid gravel along the private land section of the road; unfortunately the agreement fell apart in December 2004
- iii. Hope Chest Draw held during Canada Day Celebrations; the lucky winner was Irma Peck; \$915 was raised
- iv. Association continued to make excellent use of its GIS (Geographical Information System), which was acquired in 2002 thanks to a grant received from Natural Resources Canada's Sustainable Communities Initiative; GIS data on neighbouring

- municipalities was purchased in order to view the entire expanse of Crown land corridors (please see Appendix 1 for a complete report on GIS projects and uses).
- v. Guide ropes installed on steep sections of trails
  - vi. Number of old logging roads, which are in good shape, in the southern section of Mont O'Brien were assessed, GPSed and marked as future trails, especially with help of Roy Peck.
  - vii. Ongoing information exchange between Ministry of Natural Resources, Louisiana Pacific, Bowater/Mitigog and the Association's scientific advisor, P.D. Armstrong regarding the locations, sizes and types of past and future cuts
  - viii. Mont O'Brien region shown in *Backroad Maps - Southwestern Quebec edition*, published by Mussio Ventures, Burnaby, B.C., 2004
  - ix. Continued to encourage Wakefield insurance broker to obtain price quotes for Errors and Omissions insurance for the Board of Directors, coverage for our GIS and to acquire General Liability insurance for volunteers working in the Mont O'Brien region; severed our relationship with this particular broker in Fall 2004; Board was very disappointed with the low level of client service offered to us
  - x. A very large thanks to the Municipality of Allevyn-and-Cawood for its continued support and assistance with the development and maintenance of the Mont O'Brien Road; in particular the Association is very appreciative of the unwavering support received from Mayor Joseph Squitti and Municipal Building and Roads Inspector Rick Courchaine
  - xi. August 14 Plant Hike up Rocky Face Hill, led by P.D. Armstrong and Joe Jamison, with Lindsay Peck. A beautiful day, interesting and enjoyable

#### **Fall 2004 / Winter 2004**

- i. Paid our annual non-profit organization registration fee to the IGIF (L'Inspecteur général des institutions financières)
- ii. Wrote to the provincial Ministry of the Environment in order to request protected area status

- iii. CPAWS-Ottawa Valley Chapter released their report entitled *Protected Area Proposal for South-western Quebec, Report 1, Results of Community Workshops* which identified over 140 natural areas, including Mont O'Brien, which deserve permanent protection (<http://www.cpaws-ov.org/pap>)
- iv. Fall 2004 mailing sent off including Fall 2004 newsletter
- v. Work on the Right-of-Way road continued
- vi. Thanksgiving Family Hike held, on the rain date, with 55 happy hikers enjoying the views of Lac O'Brien and the fall colours around the newly opened Picnic Point Trail; the day before, in the rain, 11 dedicated trekkers ventured out!
- vii. Received presentation about Pontiac Community Development Corporation from Anne-Marie Vaz, the new Director-General
- viii. Attempted to monitor progress of intra-municipal lots programme at the MRC Pontiac; Association plans to ask for use of the lots which border the Park
- ix. Our Association continues to grow: 2004 ended with 178 paid family memberships and 2 corporate memberships which represent approximately 534 people
- x. 2005 Membership fees debated: family fee remains at \$15; corporate membership category dropped
- xi. Volunteer hours recorded and tallied:

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Volunteer Hours in 2004</b>
Meetings (Board, Road, Special)	meeting times	189
	meeting preparation by President and Treasurer	34
	writing up minutes	15
Annual General Meeting	meeting time	60
	AGM preparation	25
Hikes	hike organization and preparation	42
	leading of and set-up/clean-up on day	50
Trails	locating trails, maintenance, marking	235

	and flora identification	
Forestry administration	Communication with MRN and forestry companies; research, meetings and negotiations both during and outside of consultative process period	94
Membership administration	database updating and membership processing	62
Translation to French		40
Volunteer road work and administration	excludes any paid road work	31
GIS		100
Communications	newsletter preparation, mailings, emails, media interaction, information and membership tables	80
Other administration	insurance, IGIF, CPAWS	13
Fundraising	Hope chest construction and finishing	62
Website maintenance		8
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1140 hours or 142.5 days or nearly 5 months</b>

These figures do not necessarily account for all phone calls and email communication conducted on behalf of the Mont O'Brien Association -- sometimes it's just plain hard to remember to record it! Nor does it cover travel time to and from meetings or travel time into and out of the Mont O'Brien region for road and trail work.

The Association continues to actively work towards its goal of protecting the Mont O'Brien wilderness due to the hard work and dedication of a number of regular volunteers and Board members. Thank you!

## **ACTION PLAN AND POSSIBLE TO-DOs FOR 2005**

### **Winter 2005**

- i. Winter 2005 mailing including Winter 2005 newsletter, 2005 membership form and revised key acknowledgement form - *DONE*
- ii. Temporary "spring melt" lock on Mont O'Brien Road gate in order to protect the road from vehicle traffic during thaw period *DONE*
- iii. Consultation and Conciliation process re 2005-2007 "PQAF" "intervention" plans in AC 71-04 forest with logging companies and MRNFP *DONE*

### **Spring and Summer 2005**

- i. New president (Pam Miles) assumes role
- ii. Volunteer work to continue on Mont O'Brien Road; initial focus will be the hill off of Route 301
- iii. Continue to work with CPAWS - Ottawa Valley Chapter; the Ministry of the Environment will be visiting the Outaouais in May in order to hold an information meeting.
- iv. Final report and invoices to be sent to Natural Resources' Sustainable Communities Initiative; program is winding down and all paperwork must be completed and submitted
- v. Will be finalizing details for our 2005 insurance coverage
- vi. Trail maintenance and family hikes committee continues; second trail committee to continue trail planning and mapping, arranges trail registration with the Ministry of Natural Resources for new and existing trails.
- vii. Spring Family Hike will be held on Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup>; rain date is Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- viii. Plant community data to be entered into the GIS (where possible) and maps produced
- viii. Gate to be installed across Mont O'Brien Road between private and Crown land
- ix. Fall 2005 newsletter to be produced

- x. Thanksgiving Family Hike to be held
- xi. Continue to recruit additional volunteers

*Submitted on March 20, 2005 by Michele Sura  
President of the Mont O'Brien Association from December 2000  
- March 2005*