

Our Purpose:

The Mont O'Brien Association exists (1) to permit residents and visitors to **access** this special 30 km² area of public land in Alleyn-and-Cawood Municipality—the forested hills and valleys, small lakes, creeks and wetlands, wildlife and rare plants—for recreation and nature observation, and (2) to **protect** native biodiversity over the long term, in collaboration with the Québec Ministry of Environment and the municipality.

The Association is autonomous and non-profit.
Our success depends on member participation.

Spring & Summer 2016

activities:

- Saturday May 14, 9 a.m.: Spring Ephemerals Stroll, introducing the "Easy Trail" and Mary Haydon Trail.
- Saturday, May 21, 7a.m. -12: Birding with COO. (You may catch up with us after 7 tho.)
- **Sunday, May 22, 2-3 p.m.: Mont O'Brien AGM , in Danford Library, 10 Jondée.**
- Sunday July 3, 9 a.m-1 p.m.: Plants & Trees ID day, stroll to Lake O'Brien.
- Thurs. August 11: Kids' "Learn to Camp Day", 11-5, Christine Schnupp, interns. Pre-register dg@alleyn-cawood.ca / (819) 467-2941.
- **Labour Day Saturday Sept. 5: "Open House" Hike.**
- Mushroom Foray w. MAO expert Yolande Dalpé. You must be a member of Mont O'Brien Association, or of MAO: www.mao-qc.ca.
- Saturday, October 8: Thanksgiving Family Hike to Mont O'Brien summit for Association members and their guests. 10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Thanksgiving Dinner at Bethany Hall in Danford starts at 4 p.m.



PHOTO ON SUMMIT: SPRING SAXIFRAGE WITH LICHENS:
(A Reindeer lichen, probably *Cladonia mitis*.)

Notre But:

L'Association du mont O'Brien fonctionne pour faciliter l'**accès** aux résidents et visiteurs à ce lieu spécial de 30 km² du territoire public dans la municipalité de Alleyn-et-Cawood—les collines et vallées boisées, les lacs relativement petits, les ruisseaux et marais, la faune, plantes rares—pour la récréation et l'observation de la nature, et (2) pour **protéger** la biodiversité, intégralement, en permanence, avec la collaboration du Ministre de l'environnement et de la municipalité. L'Association est autonome et sans but lucratif. Notre succès dépend de la participation des membres.

Les activités du printemps/ été 2016:

- Samedi 14 mai, 9h: 'Randonnée Éphémères du printemps'. Introduction aux pistes "Easy Trail" et "Mary Haydon".
- Samedi 21 mai 7h–midi: Observation des oiseaux avec C.O.O. (venez nous rejoindre après 7h, si besoin).
- **Dimanche 22 mai, 14h: AGA de l'Association du Mont O'Brien—Bibliothèque municipale à Danford Lake.**
- Dimanche 3 juillet 9h à 13h: Identification des plantes et arbres, marche jusqu'au lac O'Brien.
- Jeudi, 11 août, 2016, 11-17h: Une expérience pour des enfants d'apprendre le "camping" au lac O'Brien en compagnie des stagiaires municipales et de madame Christine Schnupp. Pré-enregistrement requis: dg@alleyn-cawood.ca, ou (819) 467-2941. Recommandé pour les jeunes de 6 à 10 ans.
- Lundi, 5 septembre: Randonnée automnale **gratuite à tous pour la Fête du Travail**, sentier "Mary Haydon".
- Récolte de champignons sur les pistes du Mont O'Brien, avec l'experte en mycologie Yolande Dalpé. Vous devez être membre de l'Ass'n du Mont O'Brien, ou de Mycologues amateurs de l'Outaouais, pour y participer: www.mao-qc.ca.
- Le samedi, 8 oct., 10 -15:30 h: Randonnée familiale et invités, au sommet du Mont O'Brien pour célébrer l'Action de Grâce. 16h - Souper de dinde à Salle Bethany, Danford Lake.



2016 AGM AT 2 P.M. MAY 22
MUNICIPAL LIBRARY, 10 JONDEE, IN
DANFORD LAKE VILLAGE.
KAZ LAKES PRES. STEPHEN MARKEY
WILL CHAIR THIS AGM!

The Mont O'Brien Association is not a government agency or a business. We have been here for 16 years as non-profit organisation, managed by volunteers. Our access road was built by volunteers in 2002. Care of roads & trails is by volunteers. An elected Board arranges activities. Funding comes from family memberships and from the municipality of Allevyn-et-Cawood. Our mandate is to support biodiversity protection in this region, and to help members and the public appreciate nature with activities and publications.

YOUR SPRING UPDATE

- ❖ A new padlock is on the gate at Highway 301. The key that comes with your 2016 membership fits the new padlock. After opening the padlock under the hood, you must turn the padlock to unhook it. Please close & lock the gate behind you if you drive in alone. We will try to check the road & remove the "Dégel-Thaw" sign; but you might have to wait until May 7-8 to go in.
- ❖ You have probably received printed membership forms with this Spring 2016 Bulletin/Newsletter. Please sign and take to the Allevyn-and-Cawood Municipal Office, or mail to Mme Kazeef, with a cheque, to receive your key and your 2016 family membership card.
- ❖ This year, the Association Board is reaching out to members by asking every member or family to mark one of the "stewardship teams" on the membership form (on the French side, "Équipes d'intendance"). The team leader will inform you about what that small team does during the spring, summer & fall, and will ask you or your family to help on one occasion. We are doing this as an experiment to give you a better way to understand what & when help is needed.
- ❖ For those helping in a "Team" with an asterisk, basic training in using hand-held GPS units will be available.
- ❖ For this summer, the Board has received a small grant through the MRC Pontiac & Québec's "Fonds de développement des territoires" to employ a talented university student half-time, to help with biodiversity studies and with future nature tourism education. You may see him or her on the Reserve, or at one of the activities on page 1.
- ❖ Boat and trailer-washing stations will be installed along major highways in the Outaouais this summer. Please use them to reduce the spread of invasive plants and animals. Even if you bring just a canoe, please wash it to protect Lake O'Brien, which seems pristine so far.

- ❖ The Association is starting to develop an "Easy" trail, starting near the North Trailhead of the Mary Haydon Summit Trail, and another trail from part-way up the east part of the Summit Trail. They will need to be registered with the Québec Environment Ministry.
- ❖ We will also work at making the Summit Trail safer and better-marked, using mostly natural materials.
- ❖ As well, this summer we are producing a self-guided nature-interpretive brochure for the Summit Trail.
- ❖ Road-side brushing by volunteers will start in late June.

THE VISION: PROTECT & ENJOY NATURE

- ❖ Our children are increasingly cut off from the natural world. Don't let it happen. Bring your kids, nephews & nieces, your grandkids, your friends' kids....
- ❖ On the other hand, teach the kids respect for nature, and do not let young children run far ahead of you on a trail—the users of Mont O'Brien trails include black bears, porcupines, & the occasional moose!

IS NATURE REALLY IN DANGER?



- ❖ This is the Blue-spotted salamander, the most common salamander species in the Mont O'Brien forests. Usually it is hunting insects or resting under decaying logs. Salamanders mate and lay eggs during April, in temporary woodland ponds.
- ❖ Many frog and salamander species are now in danger of extinction from chytrid mycosis, which has been spread by incautious humans in the exotic pet trade.
- ❖ Many North American bat species are in danger of extinction due to the "white nose syndrome".
- ❖ Some songbird species are in decline, particularly those that catch insects on the wing, such as tree swallows.
- ❖ Turtles are particularly susceptible to be crushed under the wheels of trucks or ATVs. The turtles seem safe at Mont O'Brien. Have you seen the "Turtle crossing" sign in Danford, where Kaz Creek is close to the highway?
- ❖ Canada's native mussels can be threatened by invasive zebra mussels. A sign will be installed at the highway requesting anyone bringing a boat & trailer from another waterbody to wash them before putting them in Lake O'Brien.

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(819) 467-2378

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MHWalker@ca.inter.net (819) 467-2219

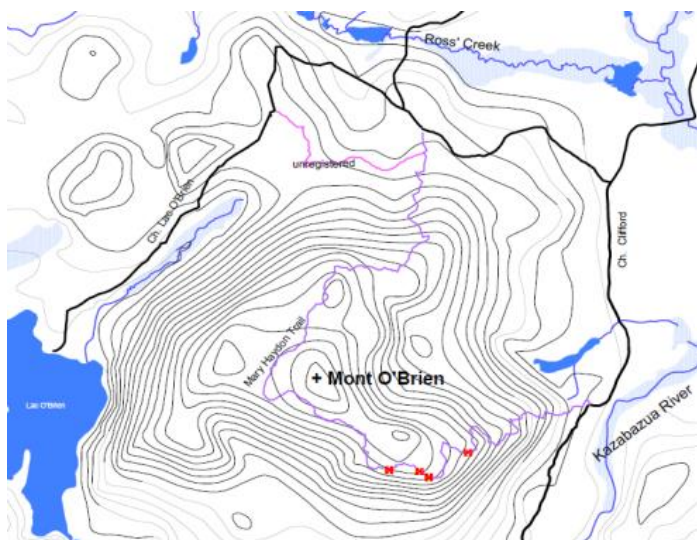
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This map shows the Mary Haydon Summit Trail to look-outs on the south side of the Mont; trail distance from North Trailhead to East Trailhead is about 3 km, elevation change 240 m. Please note that the road to Lake O'Brien (on the left) presently requires 4-wheel drive.



Le Lynx du Canada

--par Anne-Marie Sisk

Le lynx est un chat (félin) sauvage qu'on retrouve dans la forêt boréale et la forêt mixte du Canada. Il est parfois connu sous le nom de lynx gris, vu son pelage gris et un peu moucheté en hiver. L'été son poil est plus court et se distingue par sa couleur brun/roux. Il est de la même famille que le lynx roux et le cougar, les deux autres félins retrouvés en Amérique du Nord.

C'est un animal nocturne qui est rarement observé, même par les chasseurs d'expérience. Il est carnivore et se nourrit de souris, écureuils, renards et surtout des lièvres. Il se nourrit en moyenne de un lièvre par jour. Sa population est directement influencée par la population des lièvres. La population de lynx peut réduire de 40% si la population de lièvres s'effondre. Il prendra 3 à 4 ans pour que la population se rétablisse par la suite. La population de lièvres a tendance à augmenter dans les forêts en voie de repeuplement (suite à un incendie ou déboisement), ce qui peut attirer plus de lynx. Un lynx a été repéré au bord du lac Wilson (McCarthy) cet automne. Peut-être le reboisement au bout du chemin Copeland-Evans l'aurait-il attiré?

Le lynx aime les espaces naturels boisés et se sert du feuillage pour se cacher et bondir sur sa proie insouciante. Il peut bondir jusqu'à 6,5 mètres de distance pour saisir et immobiliser sa proie.

Le domaine vital (territoire de chasse) du lynx est plus grand en été qu'en hiver. Le lynx marque son territoire, tout comme plusieurs autres animaux, pour indiquer son territoire de chasse et sa disponibilité pour l'accouplement.

Le Lynx s'accouple en février/mars et la femelle à sa portée d'environ 4 petits en avril/mai. Les mâles sont indépendants et restent seuls sauf lors de la période d'accouplement. Les femelles vont rester avec leurs petits jusqu'à ce qu'ils ont environ un an. Après ce temps, les petits iront établir leurs propres territoires.

The Welcoming forest

--by Christine Schnupp

From a simple Saturday afternoon walk through old growth forests, to in-depth geological studies, Mont O'Brien welcomes us all. This forest matters because of its irreplaceable beauty and significant biodiversity. It is a prized place, found in Danford Lake, Québec on Highway 301.

We should safeguard this forest, this lake and these hiking trails. In Canada about seven percent of the country's forests are protected for the long term. That sits far behind the U.S. (11 percent), China (13 percent) Australia (17 percent) and Brazil (42 percent).

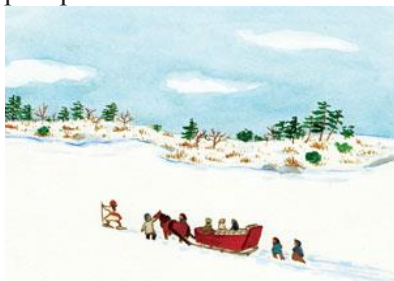
Let's all help Mont O'Brien become part of the 17 percent of global forests that should have official protection in Canada.

You can help fund Mont O'Brien in our upcoming promotional items for sale campaign! We'll talk in the spring or come to AGM May 22, 2 p.m.. Mont O'Brien is a non-profit organisation.

"L'autre Outaouais" par Manon Leroux

---Critique par Anne-Marie Sisk

"Qui se souvient des cageux? Qui se rappelle le bruit des petites scieries de village? L'odeur d'une terre fraîchement défrichée? Le son de l'allemand et du gaélique dans la bouche des immigrants? Le chant des portageurs sous leur canot algonquin? La poussière des mines de mica, de phosphate? Les détonations de la dynamite, brisant l'embâcle de la drave?"



Manon Leroux
**L'AUTRE
OUTAOUAIS**
Guide de découverte du patrimoine

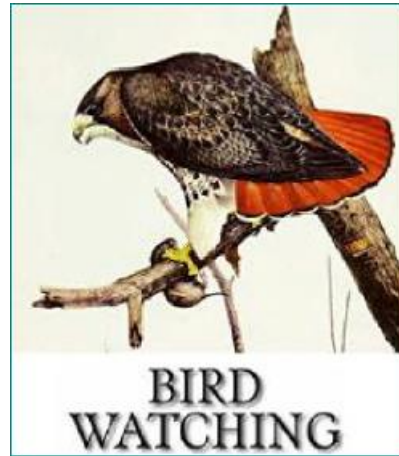


Aspiré par la capitale fédérale, l'Outaouais, au nord de la Grande Rivière, voit son passé s'estomper. Des traces en subsistent toutefois, plus nombreuses qu'on ne le croit, dans une contrée diverse et magnifique." ---Pour ceux qui s'intéressent à l'histoire, l'autre Outaouais offre un apprentissage, montant jusqu'à la région de

Otter Lake, sur les familles qui sont venus s'y installées.

—Anne-Marie Sisk.

Remember: Bird-watching with experts from Club des Ornithologues Outaouais (C.O.O.), Jean-Serge Vincent and Claude Martineau, 7 a.m., Saturday, May 21. (If you can't make it at 7 a.m., some signs will be



on the access roads until noon, so that you will be able to find us during all of Saturday morning.)

Memberships/Adhésions:

1) M-T. Kazeef: marie-theresek@sympatico.ca
c.p. 143, Kazabazua, QC J0X 1X0

2) Or go to the Allevyn-et-Cawood Municipality Office, 10 Jondee, Danford Lake, during regular office hours.

3) Download membership forms at:

Website: www.montobrienassociation.org.

The Mont O'Brien Provisional Biodiversity Reserve
Conservation Plan may be seen at:

[www.mddelcc.gouv.qc.ca/biodiversité/aires protégées](http://www.mddelcc.gouv.qc.ca/biodiversité/aires_protégées).

