

**BRIEF PREPARED FOR HEARINGS
OF THE
BUREAU D'AUDIENCES PUBLIQUE
ON THE PROPOSAL FOR AN ENGINEERED LANDFILL
IN
THE MUNICIPALITY OF ALLEYN-AND-CAWOOD**

JUNE 8, 2007

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Mont O'Brien Association
Danford Lake BAPE, Engineered Landfill project, June 2007

The Mont O'Brien Association is a non-profit community group in Alleyn-and-Cawood municipality, with a low family fee (\$15 per year) for members. We have a direct interest in the question of the engineered landfill project presently before the BAPE Commission. Some of this is explained in the history of our organisation.

A Grass-roots History

In December of 1999, a number of residents from the Danford Lake community began to lay the foundations of a project to make a park of the Mont O'Brien area of Public land.

Residents in the community, both permanent and seasonal, were frustrated because this landmark for the whole area, a broad "mountain", elevation 394 metres above sea level, had become cut off from them, yet every day they could see it from their front doors, or driving on highway 301.

Mont O'Brien and the 25 square miles of public forest and lakes had become cut off from them during the past twenty years because of changes in the ownership of several private properties. New owners of farms where in the past local people had been able to pass to the public land for fishing, hunting, summer berry-picking and picnicking, would no longer permit the traditional right to access.

Finally, during an exciting time in 1999 when the Alleyn-and-Cawood municipality was organising several community clubs, some of those who were most enthusiastic about restoring access to the Mont O'Brien area came together to form an organisation that could arrange to have access in an organised fashion. Tina Michaud of CEDEC, and MRC Pontiac forester Philip-Dan Vlasiu provided advice and encouragement. The Mont O'Brien Board of Directors has met every two to four weeks since that time.

Early on, the people of the community defined the mandate of the Mont O'Brien Association. This is:

To maintain the wilderness environment of the Mont O'Brien
area by protecting the numbers
and varieties of flora and fauna
while providing educational opportunities and recreational
access to the forests, lakes,
rivers and mountains

The Association thus has a mandate to both protect the ecological integrity and biodiversity of the area, and to give members access to the area in a responsible way for recreation, aiding members and the community in enjoying and learning more about nature.

We obtained a charter from the Québec government (see materials in Annex), and we paid annual fees as a non-profit organisation to the Québec IGAF (L'Inspecteur général des institutions financières).

To carry out its mandate for access, the Association signed an agreement with a property owner on Highway 301, Mr. Renato Livenal, to protect his property, install a gate on the highway, and a

two-kilometre road passable by automobiles from the highway to the border of public land at the north side of Mont O'Brien. This was accomplished between 2001 and 2003, with the help of road equipment from the municipality and local private donors, along with many hours of manual labour on the part of Mont O'Brien Association members.

In 2002, we applied for funding to hire a biologist to study the Mont O'Brien region and prepare a list and map of all plants and animals and their habitats. An application was submitted to FAPAQ's Forest and Fauna program requesting financial assistance to hire two wildlife technicians and a biologist to conduct this flora and fauna inventory in the region and to write an integrated resources management plan to govern the development of a future park. However, in 2003, this program was transferred to the CLD of the Pontiac MRC, which chose to not fund conservation projects such as ours.

The Association gained a niche on the community website, www.danfordlakevillage.qc.ca when it was established. Our newsletters (published twice a year in French & English) are posted on the site. We also became a member of the PCDC (Pontiac Community Development Corporation).

In 2003, the last section of road on Public land was completed, leading to the north base of Mont O'Brien, with another road leading west to O'Brien Lake. A trail to several lookouts along the rocky summit of Mont O'Brien was cleared and flagged in 2003, and the first Family Hike was held that Fall.



This photo is from the Fall 2003 Thanksgiving Family Hike, from our third newsletter.

"The fog lifted just in time to have a spectacular view of the hills to the south and the beautiful fall leaves."



Georgia West designed our beautiful embroidered shoulder emblem that year.

During this period, our first president, Michèle Sura, met with foresters of the mill that held a contract with the ministry of natural resources (MRNF) to clear-cut sections of forest at the base of Mont O'Brien. Michèle signed an agreement with them to leave many red maples standing. She also represented us at a consultation meeting with CLC-Camint in 2003 re our concerns about a General Forest Management Plan for forest harvesting from 2005-2030. She maintained frequent correspondence with the mills, and the MRNF office in Fort-Coulonge.

That year we saw that the MRNF had listed Mont O'Brien as an "Affectation" on its land use maps, and the MRC Pontiac had listed it as a Site of Aesthetic Interest ("Protuberant mountain located in the plain of Kazabazua") in its Land Use Management Plan (p.116). We also saw that Highway 301, which curves gracefully over high rolling hills, was designated a Corridor of Aesthetic Interest.

In 2003, we received a grant from Natural Resources Canada's Sustainable Communities program to purchase a computer, software for GIS mapping, GPS units, a wide printer, and a camera to help us map the territory and our hiking trails. We then created a GIS map of the municipality, and of Mont O'Brien for members, with topography, waterways, roads, etc. This crucial task was led by Chris Kirby. Along with his wife Bertha, Chris also kept records of our growing family memberships and handled distribution of keys to our gate.

October 5, 2003, we held a planning workshop with CPAWS-OV (Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society-Ottawa Valley), and 25 of us discussed options for a permanent legal status for the Mont O'Brien region under the new Québec Act Concerning Conservation of Natural Heritage. The group agreed unanimously that the approximately 25 square miles of Mont O'Brien Public land surrounded by private land should be protected as a Biodiversity Reserve under the law. In the spring of 2004, we attended a community information session and mapping exercise in Campbell's Bay, held by CPAWS preparatory to their submission to the Ministry of the Environment.

In 2004, we started to take part in 5-year forest management plan consultations, so as to be informed about scheduled clear-cutting by Louisiana-Pacific and Bowater, and to see if any

aspects could be improved under the law. We allowed Louisiana-Pacific to use our road and gate for several months that winter, in exchange for installation of culverts. We wrote a résumé of cultural concerns involved in preservation of old roads, built well by local men in the 1950s and still intact, now narrow, forest-shaded lanes. This had been requested by the ministry to use in negotiations with the mills (appended).

We participated in community activities such as a Mother's Day supper in May 2004 at Bethany Hall, with a raffle for a hand-made cedar chest to raise funds. An ATV rally to raise funds for the municipal fire hall used our access road. In May of 2004, at our Spring Hike, the summit trail was named after an enthusiastic member who had died unexpectedly during the winter, Mary Haydon.



In August of 2004, we held a plant and tree hike, to familiarise ourselves with a future trail up Rocky Face Hill and to learn to identify more plants. Local residents pointed to the tracks of wolves, deer, and black bear.

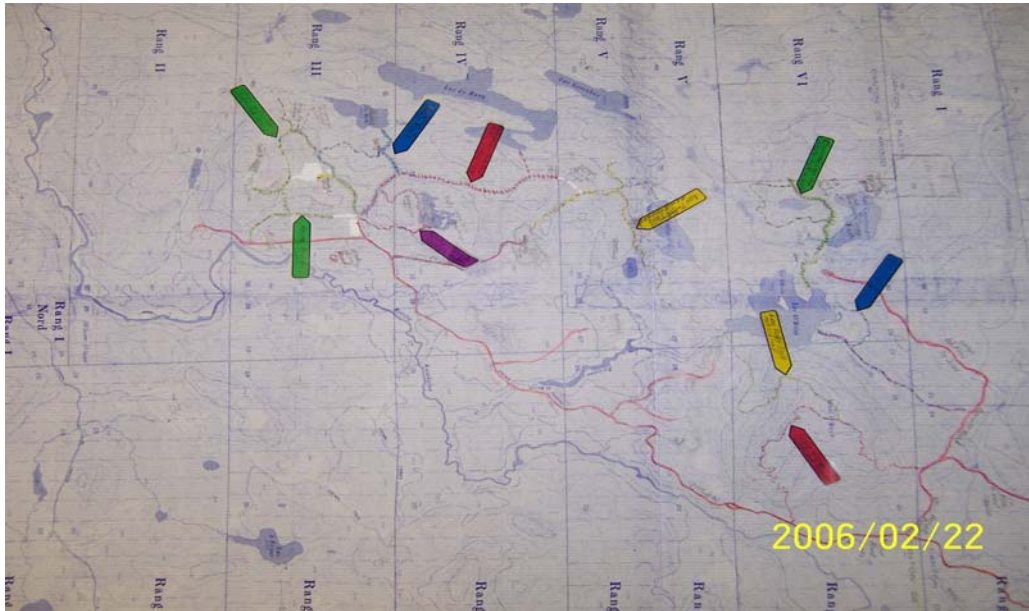


We began to attend monthly meetings of the Table de Concertation GIR on Public Forest Management. These meetings keep us informed about forest harvesting and other activities on Public land in the Pontiac MRC.

In 2003, the Board had inquired about Development Plan funding at the MRC Pontiac and was advised that if they considered a project of setting up a small night-sky observatory at the summit of Mont O'Brien, a feasibility study on it should be performed before a development plan. This feasibility study, carried out by the CLD after they obtained funding, came back in 2005 saying that such a project did not seem feasible at this time.

In the Spring of 2005, we began to GPS our future trails. The Forest RNI standards specify that mills cannot clearcut forest within 30 m on either side of registered trails, which would help to protect the trails and the forest in the event that we did not obtain Biodiversity Reserve status. In the Fall of 2005 we opened a file with the MRNF to have our Mary Haydon Summit Trail and seven future hiking trails permanently registered.

Mont O'Brien representatives attended a large meeting in Gatineau held by the regional office of the Ministry of the Environment in May of 2005. This meeting was held to explain application of the Protected Area Act in l'Outaouais to increase protected area to 8%. During June of 2005, under the direction of our new president, Pamela Miles, we wrote an application to the Ministry of the Environment (MDDEP), asking to have the Mont O'Brien Region declared a Biodiversity Reserve under Québec's new Protected Area policy. A 11" x 17" map (annexed) shows our area of Public land that we hoped could be designated. This would allow light recreation to continue, as well as licensed hunting and fishing. We stayed in touch with the regional director and followed development of the Protected Area policy. Sadly, we learned at the end of 2006 that we would not be granted Biodiversity Reserve status.



GPS'd for future trails and filed with the MRNF using their old-style map (our own maps use GIS)..

In February of 2006, we drew our future trails on a 1:20,000 scale map at the MRNF in Fort-Coulonge, according to the instructions of the ministry, and a ministry géodésie forester took this digital photograph of the map submitted there, so that we would have a record. The map was brought to the ministry office in Gatineau, along with a resolution of support for registration of our present and future hiking trails from the council of the municipality of Allevyn-and-Cawood.

In March of 2006, we applied for funding for development of the Mary Haydon and two other hiking trails through the program "Volet II" of the Québec government (the application is annexed). Volet II is for projects of silviculture and forest conservation, including hiking trails and forest education. This was handled through the Pontiac MRC's CLD. In May, we were informed verbally that funding was refused, because the CLD was not supporting development of hiking trails or nature education.

In August of 2006, our treasurer and our vice-president led FloraQuébeca on a hike up our Mary Haydon Trail, where they discovered many colonies of *Conopholis americana* ("squaw-root"). This plant is on the threatened or endangered list of the Ministry of the Environment. Most of the actual Mont O'Brien will be declared a "site floristique" because of this discovery.

In 2006, and again in 2007, we demonstrated our implication in environmental conservation in this region by participating in MRNF "PQAF" consultations on forest harvesting in our forest management unit. We asked to have the MRNF ministry's new policy on "old-growth refuges" implemented on Public land in Allevyn-and-Cawood municipality. We asked for a conciliator when a major road was built through a "refuge" in 2006 (see the Fall 2006 Newsletter). We now have a map from the MRNF showing that about 100 ha of forest within the 25-square-mile Mont O'Brien territory is to be designated an "old-growth refuge". Harvesting is to be delayed 20 years on another 200 ha. We are participating in General Forest Management Planning by meeting with the mills' mandataire in Shawville.

We are committed to responsible, respectful development in this region, of the sort that can raise the standard of living of residents while at the same time protecting its ecological integrity. We believe that following our mandate and encouraging light recreation and ecotourism will benefit this community.

The Board polls the members on the landfill issue

During 2005 and 2006, the Board of Mont O'Brien took a neutral stance on the issue of the engineered landfill which has so divided this community. The Association began as a municipal "club" in 2000, and had enjoyed the support of the municipal council. Municipal council had voted in favour of the landfill. The Mont O'Brien board did not want to be divided; it hoped that the community and councillors could decide on its own, in a democratic manner, whether or not they wanted such a project.

Dissension in the community caused us to lose members (family memberships dropped from 180 in 2004 to about 140 in 2006), because some members believed that the board was in favour of the landfill, while others dropped out because they thought it was against it. Others did not want to join because of our proximity of the planned landfill. This is illustrated on the map on page 9, which is from a standard 1:50,000 topographical map with the proposal of the promoter drawn in. Mont O'Brien is only about five km from the proposed engineered landfill. Our gate on Highway 301 is only about 2 km east of the landfill gate.

Finally, several members and potential members attended a board meeting of the Association in April 2007, to insist that the Board send ballots to all members along with its Spring 2007 Newsletter (annexed), asking if members wanted the Association to be for the landfill project, neutral, or against it. The result of this secret polling was that 102 of the members were against the project, and 4 were neutral, with none being in favour. Therefore we are presenting this brief to BAPE.

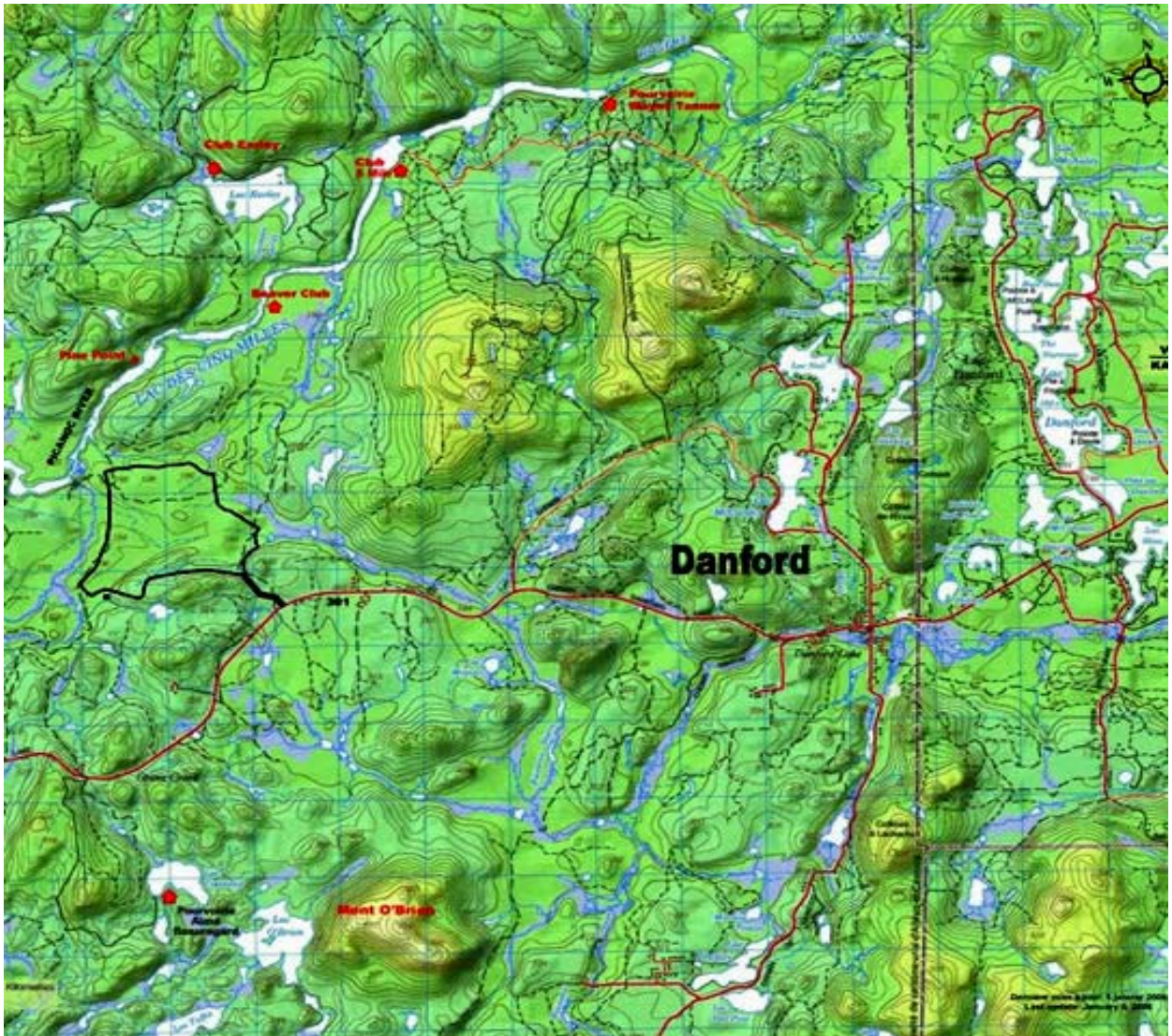
The engineered landfill is against the best interests of Mont O'Brien and the Territory

Mont O'Brien is 194 m above the surrounding plain, while the landfill pile can be up to 70 m above the plain according to law, with trucks driving on top of the 70 m height. It is obvious that this landfill project will be very visible from the top of Mont O'Brien, despite a 60-m high hill partly blocking the view, because Mont O'Brien looks down on the landfill. The 60-m hill would obscure the view from Highway 301, but not at all from Mont O'Brien. As well, hikers would have an open view of garbage trucks turning in at the entrance to the landfill from the highway.

The greatest attraction of Mont O'Brien is its long and lovely views of the surrounding hills, lakes and forests. Having the hill of a landfill that holds all the refuse of l'Outaouais in clear view would detract enormously from the potential of Mont O'Brien for local recreation and community outings, and as a tourist destination, for the next century.



The summit of Mont O'Brien has long views in all directions.



Of course, we are also concerned about garbage trucks on Highway 301. According to the promoter, there would be 61 trucks delivering residual materials between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. This means that there would be a full truck passing our gate every eleven minutes. The entrance to the proposed landfill is just two km west of the Mont O'Brien gate, on this two-lane highway. At present and for the foreseeable future, visitors and members turn off the highway at our gate, and get out to unlock it. This means pulling on and off the highway, on a slope, at the same time as garbage trucks, driving fast, are passing on their way to the landfill. This would pose a clear danger to our members.

Besides the harm to views and danger from passing loaded trucks, we can also see from the map that one stream comes from the east side of the landfill area, passes under the highway, into Mont O'Brien's territory and thence into the Kaz River. The promoter at one point said that 2/3 of the drainage could come this way.

The Mont O'Brien region is home to many animal species, including large herbivores and predators: grey wolves, black bear, moose, and white-tailed deer are resident, along with otter on the western lakes, indicating a viable, complete ecosystem. Trappers report the presence of lynx, marten, and fisher. The biologist Raymond Saumure studied a turtle species that is now listed as vulnerable in Québec, in this region.

Numerous bird species breed in a great variety of marshes, clear-cuts, successional and deep old forest in our region. A bald eagle was sighted foraging over Paddy's Lake. The complexity and diversity of environments in the Mont O'Brien region supports many small animals—frogs and salamanders, insects, and many plants, including mosses and many lichens. Half of our mandate is "to protect the flora and fauna" of this lovely region.

This means preventing harm to plants and animals, not only on the exact 25 square miles of Mont O'Brien, but also on the surrounding territory. The map of our proposed Protected Area, sent to the Ministry of the Environment in 2006 (attached or annexed) showed a yellow buffer zone that included the area where the landfill is planned. It also suggested the Picanoc River for protection, and Public forest north of the river.

Our region is at the northern limit for many Québec species of plants and animals. With impending climate change, we now know that many species of plants and animals will be forced to migrate to new territory and habitats, moving up to 200 km in less than 100 years. Some plant and animal species must come this way from the south. This means that there must be many unobstructed corridors available for them to move in, and of course it also makes it urgent for us to immediately do our best to protect biodiversity. We see our mandate for sensible protection and education at the local scale as an effort that must grow. The attractions and community of Mont O'Brien will be one means of accomplishing that. A large engineered landfill, with its attendant environmental risks and its certainty of traffic, is incompatible with our mandate.

In order to protect the Mont O'Brien region, we not only need to have a very healthy and natural environment for wildlife and forests, we need to be seen to have such an environment, in order to have political support, and to have a large enough membership to exert some political influence. Being located next to an engineered landfill will make this almost impossible.

The surrounding area of recreational properties in western Pontiac, Gracefield, and Kazabazua will also experience a negative reaction to the presence of an environmentally risky project. The area will not be able to take advantage of a surge of growth in outdoor recreation and ecotourism that otherwise would benefit the local economies.

The Mont O'Brien Association is also very disappointed that it was never consulted in any way, neither by the municipality nor by the MRC, on this issue, especially considering the planned proximity and the mandate of the Association.

We are appending to our brief an analysis by PEP of the public consultation process that should have taken place before a BAPE hearing, according to the Québec 1998-2008 Policy on Residual

Materials. We believe that a lack of proper public consultation has greatly contributed to discord in the community.

Lastly, we also believe that planning for handling of residual materials should take place on the scale of the Region of l'Outaouais, not on the scale of municipalities. Besides the enormous travail and sorrow caused to this small community, the project on the whole is too risky to the environment and damaging to the economy of this area.

We feel that waste should be handled with a much more technologically advanced process than landfilling, and that it should be handled close to the major source, which in this case is the city of Gatineau. Trucking it 100 km on a dangerous highway, increasing greenhouse gasses, only to deposit it by an outdated method, known to leak, and very close to the nearly-pristine Picanoc River, is nonsensical.

Directly attached to this document:

- 1) From 2004: Social value of Mont O'Brien and cultural value of conserving tree-shaded old roads there as trails.
- 2) Pontiac Environmental Protection's assessment as part of their brief to BAPE, showing that public consultation has not been properly carried out,

1) PGAF Outaouais--Description des Secteurs d'Intérêts Majeurs Proposés

Identification de l'Organisme : L'Association Mont O'Brien

Nom du Secteur d'intérêt et Territoire : Zone Mont O'Brien, et l'aire de terrain publique (une partie de l'Aire Commune 71-04) en paroisses Alleyn et Cawood.

Localisation : Dans l'Aire Commune 71-04, au sud de l'autoroute 301 de Otter Lake à Kazabazua. Voir carte jointe. C'est à noter que cette aire est entouré complètement de terrain privé.

Valeur Sociale :

Depuis longtemps le site a été connu au niveau local et régional. Le coin nord-est du site de l'aire commune (ou Zone) du Mont O'Brien n'est situé qu'à 1 ½ mille de la ville de Danford Lake.

Depuis les années de colonisation, cette aire commune a toujours été une terrain commun à l'arrière des fermes des alentours. Elle était utilisé pour la chasse, la pêche, les pique-nique, la cueillette des bleuets et autres produits des bois, par les habitants des fermes et de la ville, et ensuite par les estivants de longue date du Lac Danford. Déjà à cette époque le Lac O'Brien et la montagne été connus pour leur beauté naturelle. Avant 1950, cette aire en commune approvisionnait en billes de sapin et épinette deux usines à Danford Lake. Ces billes avaient été récoltés par des bûcherons locaux et acheminées par ses chevaux et ensuite par la drave de la ville sur la rivière Kazabazua. Commencent en 1950, afin de récolter des bois durs, un réseau des chemins était construit par des travailleurs locaux. Plusieurs de ces chemins reste intact à ce jour. Vous trouverez une commentaire à la page 2 regardent leur valeur sociale à l'avenir.

Ce lieu a donc une signification culturelle et historique.

Dès environ l'année 1984, l'accès traditionnel à cette aire a été coupé suite à la mort de certains propriétaires des alentours. En 2000, quelques habitants de la communauté ont fondé l'Association du Mont O'Brien. Cette association est à but non-lucratif, avec une cotisation de seulement \$15/an. Elle se

consacre (1) à protéger la faune et la flore, la beauté du paysage, et l'intégrité écologique du terrain et de l'eau autour du Mont O'Brien; (2) d'aménager de beaux sentiers de randonnée, et, de plus, d'organiser chaque année des excursions sur le Mont O'Brien (cf. article de journal ci-attaché); et (3) de fournir une route d'accès légal et sécuritaire à ses membres. Ces activités servent à promouvoir l'esprit communautaire et de l'éducation sur la nature, au même fois que de récréation pour les habitants et visiteurs de la région.

Attentes des Utilisateurs :

Les membres s'attendent à ce que ils peuvent continuer à faire des randonnées sur les sentiers qu'ils ont développés ou qui sont en train d'être développés cette année. Ils gardent l'espoir que le terrain conservera son intégrité écologique autant que possible, et de plus que l'aire puisse devenir un «refuge biologique» ou une « aire protégée ».

Mais si l'aire doit faire l'objet d'un PGAF (plan général d'aménagement forestier), l'Association entend défendre autant que possible la beauté de quelques sentiers et quelques vues du sommet contre les méfaits des activités de récoltes forestières. Elle défend que pas plus d'un tiers des arbres longeant les sentiers soient abattu (tel qu'indiqué par les tiges martelés) et que stipulé dans les RNI (Règlements des Normes d'Intervention) du Québec. (On indiquerait ici une Zone de perception « environnement immédiate ».)

L'Association protégerait en particulier le sommet des collines (afin qu'ils ne deviennent pas laissés avec peu des arbres et ceux en désordre sur la ligne d'horizon) (Zone de perception moyen-plan, 500m à 3 km), et que ses pentes ne s'érodent pas. L'Association demande aussi que quelques très grandes pins/arbres nobles puissent rester sur les collines, et n'être pas abattus lorsque ils sont dans une coupe ou une éclaircie, contrairement à un règlement d'aménagement de l'MRNFP (Zones de perception environnement immédiate, avant-plan, et moyen-plan).

Le nombre des utilisateurs de l'aire (les membres de l'Association, leur famille et leurs invités, ca. 525 en 2004) augment chaque année. Ils la fréquentent sur une base annuelle, en toutes saisons. Le paysage est souvent la plus grande partie de leur motivation de s'engager à faire les randonnées sur les sentiers et à s'arrêter sur les sommets.

Mais nous devons ajouter un fait essentiel au même fois à une valeur sociale qu'aux attentes des utilisateurs : Au moins un de nos sentiers suivent une route créé il y a 40-50 ans passés, qui reste en condition relativement bonne, et ça, car elle était fait plus soigneusement que normale par les bûcherons locaux. Ce fait est une cause de fierté de la population. Lorsque un sentier suit une de ces routes étroit, il appuiera sur la habileté professionnelle de ces vieux ouvriers, et au même fois il pourra la préserver pour plusieurs années, donc c'est en effet un site historique. Dans la zone de perception immédiate, sa sensibilité est très élevée.

L'Association demande à ce que dans les années à venir, ses sentiers ne soient pas bloqués, et que les panneaux indicateurs ne soient pas endommagés par les activités de récolte. L'Association promet d'informer les compagnies forestières de la localisation de leurs points d'observation particuliers et de tout changement pertinent. S'il semble nécessaire, les compagnies forestières peuvent demander à l'Association qu'elle fait martelage très évidente.

Les Aménagements de Voirie :

L'Association fait sa chemin d'accès pour les voitures de l'autoroute 301 presque au bas nord de Mont O'Brien (4 kilomètres) pendent les dernières trois ans par les travaux des membres, et avec quelque assistance de la municipalité. L'Association a payé \$1000 au MRNFP pour quelques arbres nécessairement coupés. Elle a installé une barrière à l'autoroute, remplissant aussi son accord avec une propriétaire privée

En 2004, des aménagements de la voirie sont en train avec l'assistance de Louisiana-Pacific (qui va l'utiliser aussi cette année) au standard municipal de Allyn et Cawood. La route inclura en juillet un pont qui traversera la crique Ross.

Aménagements Récréatifs Réalisés:

En 2004, l'Association fait faire une belle enseigne à ériger à côté de sa barrière à l'autoroute 301; elle a deux enseignes nouvelles pour les sentiers du mont, « Sentier Mary Haydon Trail » et « le Lookout », fait par Expographic, Inc. L'Association utilisait des unités de GPS toujours en faisant sa route et ses sentiers. Elle utilise aussi un ordinateur et des logiciels de cartothèque, grâce à une subvention de Ressources Naturelles du Canada qui est venue il y a deux ans. L'Association a commencé développer plus d'information sur la faune et la flore de l'aire commune, par exemple, une liste des espèces des arbres et plantes et leurs habitats là, qui sera disponible à les membres. Il y a plus d'information sur son site-web, par raccourci à www.danfordlakevillage.qc.ca.

Les sentiers existants, et un réseau actuellement en développement approuvé par le conseil d'administration, sont indiqués sur une carte 1 :20 000 ci-attachée. Lorsque les interventions forestières sont planifié chaque année, nous vous prions de nous informer de leurs localisation, afin que les compagnies puissent savoir bien la localisation des sentiers et protéger leurs environnements immédiates. Certains membres ferrons plus de martelage longeant un sentier qui serait proche d'une intervention, et ça, suivant les RNI pour sentiers comme de portage–canotage, et ne pas plus.

Pendant les prochaines cinq années, l'Association doit faire deux petits lieux de stationnement, chacun pour environ 6 voitures, et chacun ne ressemblant plus qu'un élargissement de la route existante.

Quant à la qualité visuelle de l'avant-plan, et moyen-plan, nous croyons qu'elle sera évident à les compagnies lorsque ils feront une comparaison des sommets de le Zone Mont O'Brien et n'importe quelle intervention qu'ils ont l'intention de faire. Mais nous les rappelons à nous donner l'opportunité à garder un peu d'arbres vieux/grands/nobles comme un ou deux pins ou bouleaux jaune par hectare s'ils sont présent, avec un grande quantité de martelage, fluorescent si c'est nécessaire. Donc, nous devons voir les PAIF chaque février.

Nous croyons que ces demandes représentent une compromise bien considérée, et nous espérons de continuer en bonne accorde avec l'industrie forestière et le MRNFP.

L'Association Mont O'Brien
(préparé par P.D.Armstrong)

2) Summary: *PEP has serious concerns regarding the adequacy of the public consultation process, required by law, at the municipality and MRC level, which must take place before a working RMMP is adopted, and certainly before a BAPE consultation. Some sort of forum on planning occurred in 2002, concerning mostly recycling and composting, and sharing trench landfills on a temporary basis, but this was not the consultation an RMMP called for by the Québec Policy, and no report on it is included. The RMMP was adopted by the MRC council in March of 2003. A public consultation, arranged by an MRC commission, was held in May of 2003, after the RMMP had been officially adopted.*

As well, when it was proposed to put a particular type of project (this engineered landfill), of a particular size, in a particular place (beside the Picanoc River in Alleyn-and-Cawood Municipality), the rate-payers of that municipality and the MRC were not properly consulted, and in fact in October of 2004, they were informed that a new landfill would be built just for that municipality. After the residents realised that a landfill for l'Outaouais was planned, they were told that a referendum on the landfill would be held, a promise which the municipality had no intention of honouring. When the MRC then in 2006 took over responsibility for the landfill from the municipality, it again refused to consult the residents, again ignoring the requirement of the Policy.

In October of 2005, an addendum to the RMMP was made by resolution of MRC Pontiac council, revising management scenarios for recyclable waste, for organic materials, for recycling textiles, and for inventorying sludge and assessing whether it could be reclaimed. At the end of the addendum is a half-page amendment to the RMMP, declaring that the City of Gatineau and all of l'Outaouais could dump or incinerate residual materials in Pontiac MRC. There was no public consultation on this amendment.

In January, 2001, the MRC Pontiac was given the responsibility of writing an acceptable residual materials management plan (RMMP) by the end of 2002. PEP understood this to mean that preparation and approval of the RMMP was to be done before any particular major project would undergo a BAPE hearing.

The RMMP plan is supposed to involve the public and be subject to a public consultation before it is approved by the MRC. The Québec 1998-2008 Residual Material Management Policy says:

2-Principles

.....

Citizen participation

Citizen participation in the development and monitoring of measures targeting ecologically sound waste management is essential to achieving our goals. The general public must have access to relevant information and to the appropriate forums during the decision-making process.

.....

5.2 Citizen participation

Regional municipalities are required to establish adequate mechanisms to foster public participation early in the development and monitoring stages.

A public consultation on the proposed plan must be held via a commission set up by the regional municipal council and consisting of no more than ten members appointed by the council, with at least one business representative, one union representative, one community representative and one environmental protection group representative.

The commission must hold a public meeting in at least two local municipalities located in the territory of the regional municipality concerned. It is responsible for defining its modes of operation and consultation and must report to the public and the Minister.

PEP ordered a printed copy of the RMMP from the MRC in August of 2005, for \$35.00, since it was not available in electronic form, and we received this in October, 2005, along with an addendum to the RMMP that had been adopted September 26, 2005. The RMMP and the amendment were prepared by Groupe-conseil Roche Ltée of Sainte-Foy, which is a company Québec civil engineering consulting company. The original RMMP was adopted by the MRC March 24, 2003, as resolution 2003-087. The RMMP states:

"(p. 2) The RMMP will be fully and exclusively applicable to the territory of the MRC of Pontiac. It will not be shared by any municipality located beyond its limits."

But this RMMP adopted March 24, 2003 also stated,

"... (p. 78) In the midterm, the MRC will need to study the feasibility to convey its residual materials to a technical landfill site located in a nearby MRC (100 km to the maximum). The MRC will also need to study the feasibility to establish and operate a technical landfill site on its territory. This could be used exclusively by the residents of the MRC or be shared with one or several neighbouring MRCs or neighbouring municipalities."

So the RMMP contradicted itself.

In May of 2003, two months after they had adopted the RMMP, the MRC held a public consultation of the sort required by the Québec Policy. A commission was appointed by the MRC to supervise a public consultation. The commission was composed of eight gentlemen (three mayors, from Campbell's Bay, Litchfield, and l'Isle des Allumettes, two businessmen, two socioeconomic representatives) and Nicole Desroches of CREDDO (Conseil pour l'environnement et développement durable de l'Outaouais), in Gatineau. PEP was not invited to sit on the commission. These persons presumably met and appointed two representatives of the MRC (Pierre Duchesne, planner, and Suzanne Dupuis, MRC forester 2003 - 2004), as well as two representatives of Roche, to present the plan to the public at two meetings, in Shawville and in Waltham, on May 28 and May 29 at 7 p.m. A report of these two meetings is supposed to be in Appendix 3 of the RMMP prepared by Roche, but the copy we received in October, 2005 had nothing in Appendix 3. The RMMP report also states (p. 15) that a public hearing session was held in January, 2002, at an undisclosed location, but there was also no copy of a report on this in Appendix 3 of the RMMP. (The RMMP report was written and presented by Roche in September of 2003.)

However, on p. 23 of the RMMP report, it states that several MRC inhabitants mentioned at a consultation session that illegal disposal sites are present in certain areas. On page 56 of the report, is a statement that seven orientations were determined by the population (presumably at a session facilitated by Roche in 2002):

- 1. Promote source reduction and reuse of household residual materials;**
- 2. Promote the recovery and recycling of recyclable materials;**
- 3. Encourage and ease composting of organic materials;**
- 4. Promote the recovery of hazardous household waste;**
- 5. Promote and ease the collection of municipal bulky waste, used tires and construction and demolition waste;**
- 6. "Strengthen the current practices of waste disposal";**
- 7. Conduct an inventory of municipal sludge and verify the conformity of the current septic installations.**

Although PEP was not specifically consulted, these points reflect the concerns of several PEP members. Point 6 was extremely vague, however.

On September 26, 2005, the Pontiac MRC passed an amendment to its RMMP (resolution 2005-284), which they said replaced section 5.2.6.3 of the original RMMP. The numbering of sections is out of order in the RMMP, and it is hard to find section 5.2.6.3. Section 5.3.6.2 says:

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"Potential Management Options. One of the possible short-term solutions for these municipalities [whose trench landfills will be full in less than 5 years] would be to establish inter-municipal agreements, which would allow the re-routing of waste from these municipalities to the in-trench disposal sites of nearby municipalities. Such agreements, however, must respect all governmental requirements or be specially authorized by the Québec Ministry of the Environment.

In the midterm, in the eventuality that the draft Regulation respecting the elimination of residual materials is adopted, the establishment of a technical landfill site near the MRC of Pontiac (e.g. in the MRC of Collines-de-l'Outaouais) will oblige all municipalities located less than 100 km from this site to stop using their in-trench disposal site and forward their waste to the technical landfill site."

Then the numbering jumps to 5.2.6.3, *Recommended option*, and suggests that municipalities whose trench landfills will be full in less than 5 years could use the trench landfill of a neighbouring municipality.... it then says,

"In the midterm, the MRC will need to study the feasibility to convey its residual materials to a technical landfill site located in a nearby MRC (100 km to the maximum). The MRC will also need to study the feasibility to establish and operate a technical landfill site on its territory. This could be used exclusively by the residents of the MRC or be shared with one or several neighbouring MRCs or neighbouring municipalities."

The amendment of Sept. 26, 2005 quotes the above two sentences from the original RMMP, and says that they will be replaced with:

"The Regional county Municipality of Pontiac will not prohibit the dumping or incineration in its territory of residual materials from outside the territory, which can be disposed of at a future technical landfill site that could eventually be planned in the MRC's territory. These residual materials would have to come from the four (4) regional county municipalities (MRC) in the Outaouais region and, possibly, from the City of Gatineau. The other regional county municipalities adjacent to the MRC of Pontiac could also dispose of their residual materials at the technical landfill site, within the limits of the capacity authorized in the decree of the Québec Government."

There was no public consultation on this 2005 change to the RMMP, clearly violating the directives in the Québec 1998-2008 Residual Material Management Policy. There was also no public consultation on the original RMMP, since it was held after the MRC had approved it.

Another serious problem appeared on the municipal level, in Allevyn-and-Cawood. In a letter to rate-payers of in October of 2004, the administration proposed to construct a new engineered landfill to replace the trench landfill. The residents of Allevyn-and-Cawood were misled by that letter to believe a new landfill would be built just for that municipality, when in fact it was to be a landfill for all of l'Outaouais, for 7 ½ million tons, to be located beside the Picanoc River. The rate-payers were then further misled by promises from the mayor and the promoter that the project would not go ahead without a referendum in the municipality. This referendum never materialised.

At the same time, the promoter of the landfill has purposely misled Allevyn-and-Cawood residents by leading them to believe that they make up the membership of a legitimate landfill "watchdog" committee, when he knows perfectly well that a legitimate oversight committee is composed mostly of residents coming from the whole region, who possess a

variety of skills necessary to monitor its proper operation. Furthermore, such a committee is not set up before a project is approved. To manipulate local long-time residents in such a way is callous and cruel.

Anther document of interest is the Land Development Plan (Chemin d'aménagement) of the Pontiac MRC, adopted n 1999. It states (p. 104)

"The Council of the MRC of Pontiac is conscious of the challenges related to residual materials management. However, it considers premature to adopt any orientation without knowing what will happen to the recommendations obtained in the BAPE's report as regards this subject.

However, taking into account the problems and considering that it is up to the municipal world to plan the organization and the use of the territory, the MRC Council has recently mandated its Planning Department to work to locate those parts of the territory susceptible to support waste disposal operations such as sanitary landfill."

This statement in its land use plan demonstrates that in 1999 the MRC and the planner it had hired believed (1) that they did not have to adopt an orientation (i.e. create a plan for waste management) until after a report was obtained from BAPE, and (2) that the MRC council already believed that an engineered landfill should be located on a part if its territory. Between 1999 and 2006, the MRC council and administration were only concerned with where it would be located.