

English version

Journal



2011 - 2012

PARC NATIONAL DE LA GASPÉSIE



From the infinitely small to the enormously big

In November 2010, the Société des établissements de plein air du Québec (Sépaq) won one of the prestigious National Awards for Tourism Excellence. This award, bestowed by peers of the tourism industry, was a much appreciated token of recognition for the Société which recently celebrated its 25th anniversary. The national parks have been part of this major network since 1999.

Over the last twelve years, Parcs Québec has succeeded in raising the quality standards in parks so that they can compare advantageously with the world's other major national parks networks. Parcs Québec has also developed a feeling of belonging to and pride in these exceptional protected territories. Every year, the 23 national parks of the Parcs Québec network play host to more than 4 million visits, reflecting the strong attraction that they exert among the public.

The management of these parks represents a major challenge, namely both protecting these natural resources and welcoming so many visitors. Among the development efforts, mention may be made of the Discovery and Visitors Centres which are found in the large majority of parks. Showcasing the specific features and main attractions of the territories and offering multiple services to our clientele, these buildings are at the heart of our

visitor reception services. However, not all parks possess such centres on their territory. But the parks in question won't have to wait long. Indeed, 2011 and 2012 will be marked by the construction of seven new Discovery and Visitors Centres.

For the last two years, park teams have been planning this second development phase. At the heart of their reflection: the need to take into account the spirit of the surroundings both in the building construction site and in the architecture and materials chosen. The latest achievements of Parcs Québec have blended in harmoniously with the landscape — examples include the Discovery and Visitors Centres of Parc national des Hautes-Gorges-de-la-Rivière-Malbaie and Parc national de Plaisance — and future centres will respect this philosophy even more. Indeed, we have reviewed the way in which we plan the internal layout of these buildings, including the design of the traditional exhibit area.

But let's wait for the first inauguration at the end of the summer of 2011 before unveiling the main elements of the visitor experience that we are planning for you. In the meantime, be sure to take advantage of the next summer season. From the infinitely small to the enormously big, you will discover all the marvels that make up the very essence of the nature that we invite you to discover.

Welcome to your national parks!


Martin Soucy
Vice-president of Operations
Parcs Québec


Raymond Desjardins
President and CEO
Sépaq



Message from the Minister



The United Nations has proclaimed 2011 International Year of Forests. It is important to realize that there is a close link between our forestry heritage and the recent history of Québec's national parks. It was 30 years ago this year that the Québec Government created two new parks, originating from wildlife reserves. Today, these parks are known under the names of Parc national des Grands-Jardins and Parc national de la Jacques-Cartier. At the present time, Québec is busy protecting more than 5,000 km² of diversified forests in the national park network. These include representative elements of the mixed forest, the boreal forest, the taiga and a number of islands of forest found in Québec's Far North, to name but a few.

Beyond this collective heritage which the forest represents, the teams of the national parks are also hard at work ensuring the global ecological integrity of the 23 protected areas of the Parcs Québec network. This vast natural domain is dotted with hundreds of lakes and rivers. This same domain serves as a framework for and accompanies the St. Lawrence River to the ocean. It also boasts one of the world's most beautiful fjords. The parks network is home to rich and diversified wildlife and plant life, and promotes the integrity of several historical sites. Allow yourself to be surprised and amazed by the biodiversity of all these territories, enhanced for both current and future generations.

When you choose national parks as a destination, you have the privilege of discovering nature, but also of participating in the conservation and respect of nature. In addition, you are at leisure to practice a variety of outdoor activities whether on your own, with your family or in a group. Take advantage of our parks and opt for a new look at this awesome nature which often reveals unexpected treasures.

Have a great vacation!


Pierre Arcand
Minister of Sustainable Development,
Environment and Parks

A Message from the Management Committee

We are very happy to welcome you to the *Parc national de la Gaspésie*.

The United Nations declared 2011 the International Year of Forests. You'll have a great opportunity to learn about forests while visiting the *Parc national de la Gaspésie*. At first glance they may seem to be simply the environment in which trails, lakes and lookouts are found. But as you pay closer attention, you will notice how varied forests can be.

As you walk along the Sainte-Anne River, you'll be delighted by the enchanting fragrant atmosphere of the cedar woods. On excursions to Mont Ernest-Laforce, you'll see how the forest recovers after a forest fire. You may be surprised to see various tree species competing to colonize the open spaces left by the fire, and — if you're lucky — you might see moose grazing on young shrubs.

The trail to Pic de l'Aube passes through an old-growth forest with trees of all ages and forest glades filled with moss and ferns.

On the way to Lac aux Américains, you'll see dead fir trees being replaced by new young seedlings that completely cover the ground. Finally, as you approach the mountain peaks, the trees will be noticeably smaller, having been stunted and deformed by strong winds and the weight of the snow.

The condition of the forest is a reflection of the soil, the climate and all the events that have disturbed its growth. It is the habitat for the park's wildlife. And it deserves this special year dedicated to celebrating its value and variety.

Feel free to ask the employees for information or help, or to tell them what you think of the place. We are here to serve you.

The management committee of the *Parc national de la Gaspésie*

Contents

The Mission of Parcs Québec	4
Regulations	4
Entry Fees.....	5
Under the Stars or at a 4-Star Inn!	6
Discretion — the Secret of Wildlife Observation ...	7
A Park With Many Facets	8
Discovery and Visitors Centre.....	9
2011: International Year of Forests	11
A Noble Ambassador with an Uncertain Future....	12
Permanent Exhibits	13
2011 Calendar of Activities	14
Discovery Activities	15
General Map (Summer).....	16
Campgrounds	18
Mont Jacques-Cartier: An Outing to a Protected Area.....	19
Mont Albert Sector	20
Hiking	21
Cross-country Skiing or Snowshoeing Map	22
Ski or Snowshoe Expeditions?.....	23
Avalanche Risk Management	24
Winter Safety.....	25



Regulations

The Mission of Parcs Québec

With a view to achieving harmonious development at the cultural, social, economic and regional levels, Parcs Québec is responsible for the conservation and development of territories that are representative of Québec's 43 natural regions and exceptional sites, due notably to their biological diversity, while ensuring that they are accessible for educational and outdoor use.

All of Québec's national parks were created in accordance with World Conservation Union standards. A national park is a relatively vast area:

- that represents one or more ecosystems that are moderately or not at all transformed by exploitation;
- where animal and plant species, geomorphological sites and habitats are of particular interest from a scientific, educational or recreational viewpoint, and that offers scenery of great beauty;
- in which the highest competent authority of the country has taken measures to eliminate exploitation and to instill respect for the ecological, geomorphological or aesthetic aspects on the whole;
- where a visit is authorized, under certain conditions, for educational, cultural or recreational purposes.

Anyone who uses the park must:

- Have an access pass;
- Have a permit to stay in the park between 10 p.m. and 8 a.m.;
- Have a park fishing permit to practice this activity;
- Show these documents to park staff who ask for them;
- Use only marked roads and trails;
- Engage only in activities offered at the specified places and times;
- Dispose of waste in containers designated for this purpose.

Furthermore, it is prohibited to:

- Damage, introduce or remove any natural element (wood, plants, bark, rocks);
- Kill, catch, wound, molest, harass, feed or tame an animal;
- Bring animals into the park (except guide dogs);
- Camp outside designated sites.

You can do your part to protect the natural environment by respecting the regulations!

CONTACT INFORMATION

For information or reservations, call **1-800-665-6527** or **1-866-727-2427**
Or go directly to the Discovery and Visitors Services Centre located in the Mont Albert sector.

In case of an emergency, call 911.
Via satellite phone: 1-418-724-0171

Don't hesitate to consult our new Web site at **www.parcquebec.com** for more information about the Quebec park network.

The Park journal is published by *Parc national de la Gaspésie (Parcs Québec)*, a park managed by the *Société des établissements de plein air du Québec (SÉPAQ)*.

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Photos: Denis Desjardins, Claude Isabel, Pascal Lévesque, Marc l'Italien, François Boulanger, Patrick Arseneault, Christian Lamontagne, Jean-Pierre Huard, Mathieu Dupuis, André Desrosiers, Alain Gagnon, Frédérick DeRoy, Archives nationales du Québec.

Photo on cover: Mathieu Dupuis, Cuve du Diable

Printing: Norecob

Entry Fees

All income from entry fees is reinvested in the parks in order to allow them to pursue their conservation mission and improve Québec's park network. Therefore, this measure is important not only for people who come here today but also for future visitors.

Entry fees valid until March 31, 2012

CATEGORY OR GROUP	DAY PASS 1 PARK	ANNUAL PASS 1 PARK	ANNUAL PASS ALL PARKS
Adult (18 or over)	\$5.50	\$27.50	\$49.50
Child (6 to 17)	\$2.50	\$12.50	\$22.50
Child (under 5)	Free	Free	Free
1 adult with children 6 to 17	\$8.00	\$40.00	\$72.00
2 adults with children 6 to 17	\$11.00	\$55.00	\$99.00
Organized adults group	\$4.75	N/A	N/A
Organized youth group (aged 6 to 17)	\$2.00	N/A	N/A
School or student group*	Free	N/A	N/A

Taxes included. Park or Network card is valid for 12 months.

* Quebec institution



MONT ALBERT

The prices, terms and services mentioned in this newsletter are subject to change without notice.



www.facebook.com/ParcNationaldeLaGaspésie



Your Safety : Your Responsibility

Outdoor activities can involve certain risks. Make sure that you have the skills and abilities required for the activity you choose. It is important to know the risks inherent to this activity, to respect your limits and to use appropriate equipment. For more information, we invite you to consult our Web site at www.sepaq.com.



MONT JOSEPH-FORTIN



Under the Stars or at a 4-Star Inn!

Peak Service!

The Gîte du Mont-Albert is open to all park visitors — sip an espresso in front of the fireplace, treat yourself a massage in our spa pavilion or spend a gourmet evening enjoying our renowned table d'hôte. Don't hesitate to ask one of our representatives about the inn's services. Come on in! We're expecting you!

Auberge le Gîte du Mont-Albert

This inn has been renowned for gourmet regional cuisine since 1950. Whether for just one night or for a whole week, there's a package deal that's right for you. The inn's perfect blend of the great outdoors and fine dining will delight you!

The Gîte du Mont-Albert Cabins

Accommodating parties of two to eight people, our twenty-four cottages are sure to please. Nestled in the woods surrounding the inn, their unique style inspires relaxation and adventure. In addition to nineteen fully-equipped cottages, most with kitchens and a spectacular view of Mont-Albert, there are five smaller, tastefully decorated cabins along the banks the Sainte-Anne River. Visit the Lodging section of the park's website for rates, terms and reservations.

Information and Reservations at the Gîte du Mont-Albert



CHALET DU GÎTE



PAVILLON CARIBOU



GÎTE DU MONT-ALBERT

Discretion — the Secret of Wildlife Observation

By **Claude Isabel**,

head of the department of conservation and education, *Parc national de la Gaspésie*

The *Parc national de la Gaspésie* has a well-earned reputation as a mecca for wildlife observation. Countless visitors have come specifically to see the moose or caribou in the Lac Paul and Mont Jacques-Cartier sectors.

Moose are well adapted to the habitat and environmental conditions of the boreal forest. In Quebec, the main factor that limits their numbers is hunting. The park's mosaic of habitats with varied plant types at different ages provides excellent feed and shelter for moose. In addition, hunting is prohibited here, which helps maintain a high population density, so observing moose in their natural habitat is a fairly common occurrence.

The Gaspésie caribou herd is the last representative of this species south of the St. Lawrence River. There are currently between 133 and 181 individuals in this endangered population. They stay mostly in the barren areas of the alpine and subalpine reaches of the mountains. Despite their small numbers, they are commonly seen by hikers. However, several studies have shown that disturbance by humans has a negative impact on caribou and other wildlife.

To reduce these impacts, Parcs Québec has developed a code of ethics for wildlife viewing in the national parks of Quebec. The code highlights the importance of not interfering with animal activities and of showing respect for wildlife and its wild nature, for wilderness habitats and for other wildlife watchers. The visitors who come after you should also be able to make fascinating and memorable wildlife sightings. The code of ethics thus **prohibits any form of feeding or calling of animals and encourages wildlife watchers to show respect for the animals and their life cycles by limit the timing, frequency, distance and duration of observation.**

For example, organized moose watching activities should be limited to three times a week for any given location, avoiding visits on consecutive days. Groups should be limited to fifteen people and should stay at least fifty yards from the animals. Clearly, recommendations vary depending on the type of activity, the time of year or day, and the species of animal, but wildlife viewing is always more rewarding and exciting when you follow the guiding principle of respect for animals, their habitats and other watchers.



Give and nature will return the favour!

In order to **conserve, protect** and help people **discover** our national parks, it is first important to know them well. This requires the investment of both time and resources. Sépaq has created a special fund, the Parcs Québec Fund, dedicated to supporting priority conservation projects in each national park.

Make a donation and participate in the conservation and protection of national parks:

- By depositing money in one of the boxes of the Parcs Québec Fund which you will find in each national park.
- At the time of an on-line reservation at www.sepaq.com.



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Urgence : 763-2158
Télec. : (418) 763-2010



A Park With Many Facets



My Cabin... on the Gaspé Peninsula!

Set apart by themselves four kilometres into the forest, the Petit-Saut log cabins offer tranquility and a way to get back to basics. Used for vacationers in winter, these cabins are reserved in summer for salmon anglers. You can follow the trail there on skis or snowshoes, and you can often see moose. Baggage transport is available, so why not?

The four log cabins on the banks of lac Cascapédia offer a dream vacation for families or for a fishing trip in June. It's an ideal home base for discovering the trails of the pic du Brûlé or the pic de l'Aube. And if you are lucky, you might just come across the legendary Prospère Pelletier, who will tell tales by the fireside.

Backpacking, Passenger Transport and Baggage Transport

The *Parc national de la Gaspésie* is well known for its trail network. One need only think of the Great Trek (hiking or backcountry skiing) to start dreaming of escapes and the great outdoors. This trail that crosses the park is more than 100 km from east to west and is part of the International Appalachian Trail, an extension of the celebrated American Appalachian Trail.

The Great Chic-Chocs Crossing is an excursion that must be planned in advance. One can make the trip during the summer or winter months, with nights spent in huts, or in primitive campgrounds (summer only). These expeditions, ranging between two and ten days, provide an unparalleled opportunity to make contact with the countryside, mountains and wildlife. Some sections of the park are accessible only by long hikes. During the summer, a shuttle service is available to transport people to the beginning of the trail in the western sector (*Mont Logan*), and a bus travels daily from the Discovery and Visitors Centre to the starting point in the eastern sector (*Mont Jacques-Cartier*). A baggage transport service is available between each stage of the journey during the winter months. It is important to make reservations for shuttle and bus services, baggage transport, and for huts and/or campsites. For more information or reservations, contact us!

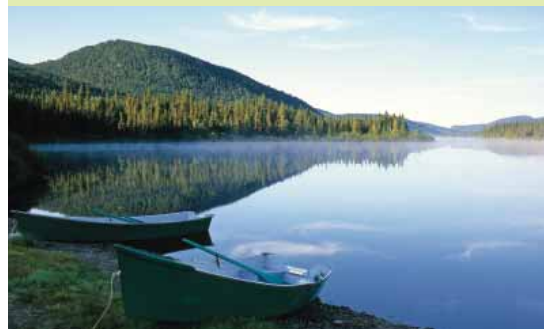
Salmon Fishing

Anglers will be happy tickling salmon in the Sainte-Anne river. This salmon river was one of the reasons why the *Parc national de la Gaspésie* was created in 1937. Fishing is taken care of by **Destination Chic-Chocs**, which has for many years given excellent service. For more information and reservations: www.rivieresainteanne.com or 1-888-STE-ANNE.

Trout Fishing

Nine lakes and three rivers (wading) are available for day fishing. Boats are provided on most of the lakes. For the others, you must bring your own boat. Species fished are brook trout, Arctic char and lake trout. For the details on fishing, go to the Activities tab on the Web site.

www.sepaq.com/pq/gas
or 1-800-665-6527



Discovery and Visitors Centre



You'll find everything you need here! Whether you want to book a campsite or hut, plan and prepare for your excursions, or use our outdoor equipment rental services, you can count on us.

The Centre is also where you can begin to discover the park by:

- Visiting the thematic exhibit "A sea of mountains in the heart of the Gaspé Peninsula";
- Participating in discovery activities and talks;
- Consulting field guides and specialised documents available to visitors.

At the centre, you will also find:

- *Boutique Nature* gift shop with regional handicrafts and a convenience store;
- An outdoor equipment rental service where you can rent appropriate footwear and equipment;
- Shower facilities and laundry facilities, so convenient when you're on the road;
- Storage facilities where you can safely leave behind small or large objects you can't take up the mountain.

You will need several days to take full advantage of the variety of activities and the natural environment of *Parc national de la Gaspésie*. For more information or to book on-line, consult our web site at www.parcsquebec.com

Primitive camp sites

Accessible on foot for long-distance hikers (or by canoe for canoe-camping), these secluded sites guarantee intimacy in a remarkable unspoiled wilderness setting. Self-supporting tents can be set up on wooden platforms. There is a pit toilet near each site. Campfires are prohibited.

Serviced campgrounds

Located in wooded areas, all sites can be reached by car. Campers have access to a building with sanitation services. The park's four campgrounds include 212 sites. The *La Rivière* campground now has 13 sites with electricity.

Huts

Visitors can book accommodation for one or more people. Huts are shared by different groups. Each hut is equipped with a wood stove, table, chairs, beds with mattresses, and a kitchen counter. There are huts at the campgrounds and several are also available along the long-distance hiking trails.

Lac-Casapédia Cabins

Located on the lakeside, these cabins promise a comfortable and peaceful stay. The lighting, stove and refrigerator run on propane. Dishes are provided, but not bedding.

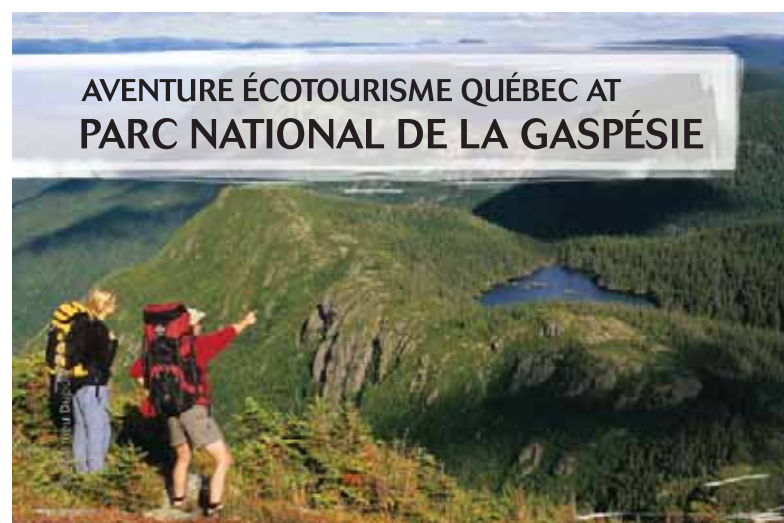


BOUTIQUE NATURE

Bistro Le Piedmont

Come admire imposing *Mont Albert* while enjoying the pleasures of the table in a relaxed atmosphere. Choose from the daily menu, ask to have a box lunch prepared, or simply have a drink with friends on the terrace.

Information and Reservations at the Discovery and Visitors Centre



AVENTURE ÉCOTOURISME QUÉBEC AT PARC NATIONAL DE LA GASPÉSIE

The outfitters, members of Aventure Écotourisme Québec, in collaboration with the Sépaq, offer you several stays and guided activities especially conceived to have you discover exceptional natural spaces. AEQ groups together more than one hundred producers in adventure tourism and in ecotourism that join forces to offer you high-quality products.

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2011: International Year of Forests

By **Claude Isabel**,
head of the department of conservation and education, *Parc national de la Gaspésie*



After the International Year of Biodiversity in 2010, the General Assembly of the United Nations declared 2011 the International Year of Forests.

Forests are a vital part of the planet's life-support system. They provide clean air, clean water, food for animals and humans and critical medicinal ingredients. They store billions of tons of carbon in their vegetation, and in the peat and other organic materials in the soil. Less than 20% of the Earth's original old-growth forests remain intact, yet forests are home to 80% of terrestrial biodiversity. They are also home to some 300 million people worldwide, and another 1.6 billion people depend on forests for their livelihoods. Over the last five years, the Canadian lumber industry has more than tripled its exports to China. Forests are a major buffer protecting the planet from climate change. For all these reasons, the challenge of ensuring the conservation of forests is global and urgent.

The goal of the Year of Forests is to raise awareness about the invaluable role forests play in the planet's health and the need to conserve and sustainably manage all types of forests. Like the conservation mission of Parcs Québec and the *Parc national de la Gaspésie*, achieving this goal is only possible with everyone's cooperation, so it is encouraging to see the efforts undertaken by individuals and organizations.

Last year, some thirty forestry and environmental organizations made a commitment to the protection and sustainable management of Canada's boreal forest. The Gaspésie is a major stakeholder in this process. The logging companies in the Gaspésie are in the process of obtaining certification from the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). The mission of the FSC is to promote environmentally responsible, socially beneficial and economically viable forest management. This goal will be accomplished by applying the nine principles of forest management that are accepted around the world. One of the principles, for instance, holds that forest management must maintain biodiversity, water resources, soils, landscapes and unique and fragile ecosystems so that the ecological functions and the integrity of the forest is maintained.

These changes in how the forestry industry operates are the result of increasing public awareness of the importance of our forests and of our consumer choices. The road to sustainable forest management is still long and hard, so progress should be highlighted and ongoing efforts encouraged. Every little effort — such as implementing a local forest management plan for the territory of the Gaspé caribou — contributes to achieving the UN's overall goal of sustainably maintaining and managing our forests.



References and useful links:
<http://www.un.org/en/events/iyof2011/>
<http://whc.unesco.org/en/activities/43/>
<http://www.fsccanada.org/>
<http://www.fao.org/>



Photos: Sophie Jean

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A Noble Ambassador with an Uncertain Future

By **Claude Isabel**,
head of the department of conservation and education, *Parc national de la Gaspésie*

Encouraging Actions in the Face of Precarious Situation for Gaspé Caribou.

The precarious situation of the woodland caribou in the Gaspésie and the importance of protecting it has been clearly established: both the federal and provincial governments have designated this genetically distinct population as endangered.

Since 2006, the number of calves in the population observed during aerial surveys has decreased significantly. The results of the 2010 survey reached the alarmingly low historical levels of the late 1980s, with only four calves seen in the entire surveyed area. For the second consecutive year, no calves were seen at Mont Albert. The total population is now estimated to be between 133 and 181 individuals. The percentage of calves was 3.6%, well below the 17% needed to maintain the herd. Although the herd has previously shown a great ability to recover, it is currently in big trouble.

In particular, logging activities on the outskirts of *Parc national de la Gaspésie* have significantly altered the caribou's habitat. The difficulties experienced in recent years by the forest industry are also tied to the current forest development plan. Fortunately for all, a comprehensive reform of industrial harvesting of the forest is now underway.

The Sustainable Forest Management Strategy (SFMS) and the Sustainable Forest Development Act (Bill 57) are two cornerstones of the new forest management plan. The SFMS presents a modern vision of forest management to ensure the sustainability of both forests and regional environments. It is based on meeting five major challenges, including the sustainability of ecosystems. Bill 57, which replaces the current Forestry Act, is centred on eight issues, including wildlife habitat preservation. Both of these new tools clearly identify the need to ensure re-establishment of the woodland caribou population through habitat protection. In addition, the Gaspé caribou's status

as an endangered population provides additional protection and added weight in the development of integrated forest management plans (IFMP).

The SFMS also provides for a participatory approach in which the regional assemblies of elected officials (CRE) have been given responsibility for the integrated management of regional lands and resources. In the regional integrated land and resource development plan (PRDIRT) prepared for the Gaspésie, one of the established goals is maintaining and increasing the Gaspé caribou population. This consultative process has also led to the creation of integrated land and resource management (GIRT) panels charged with developing the new integrated forest management plans. This approach enables all forest users to express their concerns about any planned forestry projects. The needs of the Gaspé caribou in their territory outside the park have thus been discussed and taken into account.

This new plan based on the involvement of users of public land has identified the re-establishment of the caribou as a priority at both the provincial (SFMS and Bill 57) and regional (PRDIRT and IFMP) levels. Time will tell whether future forest management plans based on this new vision will actually have a positive impact on the survival of the Gaspé caribou. One thing is certain, the needs of the caribou will be taken more fully into consideration.

Reference and useful link:

<http://www.cre-gim.net/CRNT/CRNT/Bienvenue.html>
(French only)

MONT JACQUES-CARTIER

MONT ALBERT

MONT JACQUES-CARTIER

Permanent Exhibits



CENTRE DE DÉCOUVERTE DU MONT JACQUES-CARTIER

PERMANENT EXHIBITS					
ACTIVITY	DATES	DURATION	FEE	MEETING PLACE	
A sea of mountains in the heart of the Gaspé Peninsula	May 20 to October 10, 2011	30 min.	Free	Discovery and Visitors Centre	
	December 26, 2011 to April 9, 2012				
The Caribou... of the Gaspé!	June 24 to September 30, 2011	30 min.	Free	From the reception area of Mont Jacques-Cartier to the summit	

NETWORK SCHOOL PROGRAM					
CLIENTELE	ACTIVITY	DATES	DURATION	FEE	MEETING PLACE
1st cycle, secondary school	Québec's national parks: Protected areas	During the school year	60-75 min.	\$90.30 / class	At school

PARK SCHOOL PROGRAM					
CLIENTELE	ACTIVITY	DATES	DURATION	FEE	MEETING PLACE
All levels	Adapted according to level and needs	May 30 to June 23 and August 29 to October 14, 2011	Variable	According to the length of the activity	Meet at Discovery and Visitors Centre



Discovery and Visitors Centre

A sea of mountains in the heart of the Gaspé Peninsula

The varied landscape of this glacier-carved sea of mountains includes stone fields, high plateaus, ridges and deep valleys. The wind blows year-round here, sometimes with great force, and snow is more abundant in the Chic-Chocs than anywhere else in Quebec, lingering until late summer. The wildlife and plants resemble those of arctic regions. And wherever you look, majestic panoramas beckon.



Mont Jacques-Cartier Discovery Centre

Caribou... in the Gaspésie!

On the surrounding mountains lives the last herd of caribou south of the St. Lawrence River. Following just a few simple guidelines will help protect the immense value of this endangered woodland caribou population: explore their habitat without disturbing it; keep your distance when observing caribou; and learn about their habitat and their needs. The Parc national de la Gaspésie relies on everyone's goodwill, at all times, to help protect these rare animals. Thanks for your cooperation!

Boutique Aventure Plein Air

38, boul. Sainte-Anne Est
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ABRI LES RABOUGRIS, MONT ALBERT

2011 Calendar of Activities

Discovery Activities (available in French only)



ACTIVITÉ AU FIL DE L'EAU

JUNE 25 TO AUGUST 21, 2011						
DAY	TIME	ACTIVITY	TYPE OF ACTIVITY	DURATION	FEE	MEETING PLACE
Daily	12 p.m. & 1:30 p.m.	A land of contrasts*	Talk	45 min.	Free	Les Rabougris shelter, Mont Albert
Daily	12 p.m. & 1:30 p.m.	Experience the Far North*	Talk	45 min.	Free	Éole shelter, Mont Jacques-Cartier
Monday	8 p.m.	Changing times, changing values	Theatrical presentation	60 min.	Free	Discovery and Visitors Centre
Tuesday	8 p.m.	Summit meetings	A playful multi-media presentation	75 min.	Free	Discovery and Visitors Centre
Wednesday	8 p.m.	Treasures to cherish	A playful multi-media presentation	75 min.	Free	Discovery and Visitors Centre
Thursday	8 p.m.	Tiny titans	Theatrical presentation	40 min.	Free	Discovery and Visitors Centre
Friday	8 p.m.	Summit meetings	A playful multi-media presentation	75 min.	Free	Discovery and Visitors Centre
Saturday	8 p.m.	Mountain revelations	Multimedia presentation	75 min.	Free	Discovery and Visitors Centre
Sunday	8 p.m.	Chic-Chocs Expedition	Multimedia presentation	60 min.	Free	Discovery and Visitors Centre
Sunday, Monday, Tuesday & Thursday	Between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m.	Through the ages	Talk	15 min.	Free	Summit of Mont Ernest-Laforce
Sunday, Monday, Tuesday & Thursday	Between 2:30 p.m. and 4 p.m.	From rocks and ice!	Talk	15 min.	Free	Lac aux Américains

JULY 9 TO AUGUST 21, 2011 LAC CASCAPÉDIA SECTOR						
Monday & Thursday	8 p.m.	In the land of the Chic-Chocs	Stories and legends	60 min.	Free	Lac Cascapédia
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday	3 p.m.	Go with the flow**	Boating excursion Rabaska canoe	90 min.	\$15.00 adults \$7.50 children	Lac Cascapédia
Tuesday & Saturday	7:30 p.m.	As the wind drops**	Boating excursion Rabaska canoe	90 min.	\$15.00 adults \$7.50 children	Lac Cascapédia

AUGUST 27 TO SEPTEMBER 25, 2011						
Saturday & Sunday	12 p.m. & 1:30 p.m.	A land of contrasts*	Discovery hike	45 min.	Free	Les Rabougris shelter, on Mont Albert
Saturday & Sunday	12 p.m. & 1:30 p.m.	Experience the Far North*	Discovery hike	45 min.	Free	Éole shelter, on Mont Jacques-Cartier

AUGUST 24 TO OCTOBER 15, 2011						
Monday	Between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m.	Through the ages	Talk	15 min.	Free	Summit of Mont Ernest-Laforce
	Between 2:30 p.m. and 4 p.m.	From rocks and ice!	Talk	15 min.	Free	Lac aux Américains
Wednesday & Saturday	3 hours before sunset	The Valley of the Kings**	Discovery activity about the moose and its habitat	3 hours	\$25 adults \$12.50 children 12 and under	Meet at Discovery and Visitors Centre
Friday	5 p.m.	In the land of the Chic-Chocs	Stories and legends	60 min.	Free	Gîte du Mont-Albert

*There is a park warden-naturalist available at the summit to talk to you from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. | **Number of places limited



VUE DES ÈRES

On the mountain

Experience the Far North

Why go 1,000 km further when the far North is right at hand? Alpine tundra awaits you on the 2nd highest mountain in Québec. With a park-warden naturalist at your side, you will truly get the most out of an unforgettable day.

Through the Ages

It's not obligatory, but if you spend a short time with a park warden-naturalist at the top of Mont Ernest-Laforce, the landscape will be revealed and you will go away feeling delighted by this unassuming exchange.

From Rocks and Ice

Take advantage of the presence of a park warden-naturalist and learn in just a few moments all about the rich history of one of the most spectacular glacial cirques in Québec, the *Lac aux Américains*.

The Valley of the Kings

The boreal forest is a dynamic and diversified ecosystem, which is the typical habitat of the world's largest cervidae: his Majesty, the Moose. Accompanied by a park warden-naturalist, you will find out why *Parc national de la Gaspésie* has one of the highest moose densities in Québec. While discovering this part of the moose's kingdom, you might even be lucky enough to encounter one.

A Land of Contrasts

The Mont Albert plateau is an exceptional and much appreciated oasis in the heart of the immense boreal forest of the Gaspesian massif. Accompanied by a park warden-naturalist, you will discover an unusual environment that exists nowhere else in the world and learn to understand the origin, beauty and uniqueness of these extraordinary surroundings.

At the Discovery and Visitors Centre

Treasures to Cherish

In 1937, no-one imagined that *Parc national de la Gaspésie* harboured so many phenomena and species, as rare and precious as... the apple of your eye. During this activity, a park warden-naturalist will show you many of the park's rare and unique elements. So this is an ideal opportunity to learn while having a good time.

Summit Meetings

This is one of the reasons why *Parc national de la Gaspésie* exists. It is one of the finest examples of the region's unique nature. It is endangered. You will learn about the caribou population of the Gaspé and its secrets. Come and discover this ambassador, this friend facing a precarious future.

Tiny Titans

This theatrical activity will introduce you to the main inhabitants of the alpine tundra of the Gaspesian massif. They will reveal their secrets and help you understand why they thrive where almost nothing can survive.

Mountain Revelations

From the creation of the Appalachians to our time, witness in person the formation of the monts Chic-Chocs and McGerrigle. This activity will show you the geology of the Gaspé Peninsula massif in an original way. Sketches, lay-outs and samples will let you discover yet another part of the wealth of the *Parc national de la Gaspésie*.

Changing Times, Changing Values

From the first occupants to today's visitors, a number of people have left their mark on *Parc national de la Gaspésie*, and during this activity they take turns telling their stories.

Chic-Chocs Expedition

Embark on an adventure covering over 100 km, the Great Trek across the *Parc national de la Gaspésie*. On the trail, look, listen and discover your natural surroundings. This expedition lasting several days will give you a few ideas that you can use on your future hiking trips.



AU PAYS DES CHIC-CHOCES



LA VALLÉE DES ROIS

At Lac Cascapédia

Go with the Flow

Let me show you the largest lake in the park. Young, healthy, and with its own personality: lac Cascapédia. Let's take the rabaska canoe and go discover this fascinating ecosystem.

As the Wind Drops

At dusk, as the wind drops and night falls, why not take to the water in a rabaska canoe in the company of an experienced park warden-naturalist? Enjoy this time of the day and the wildlife that make the most of it.

In the Land of the Chic-Chocs

This evening, ride on the wings of tales and legends right to the heart of the Chic-Chocs. Listen to tales of legendary adventure, as the voice of Alphonsine or Prospère Pelletier leads you into the wilderness. A voice in your ear and many pictures in your mind. A real vacation!



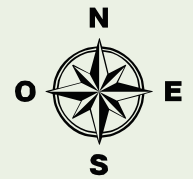
General Map (Summer)



REFUGE MONT ALBERT

Parc national de la Gaspésie

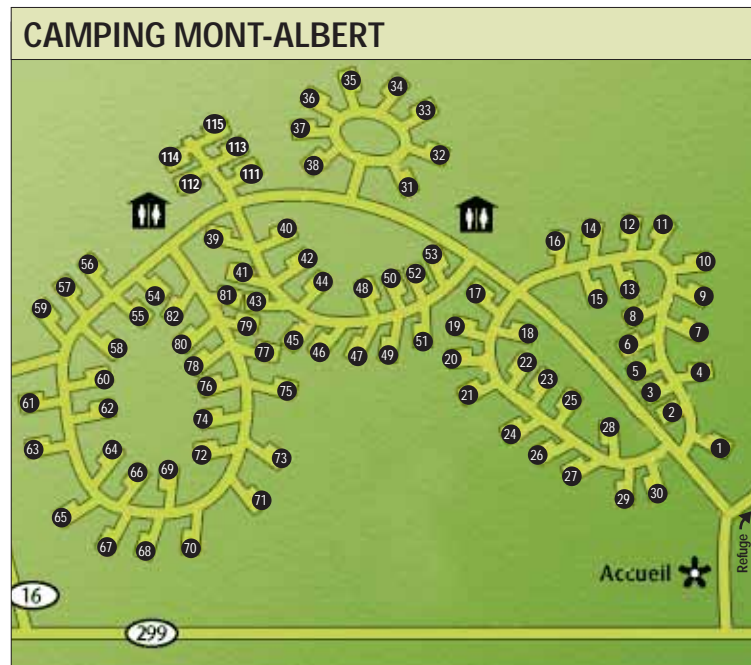
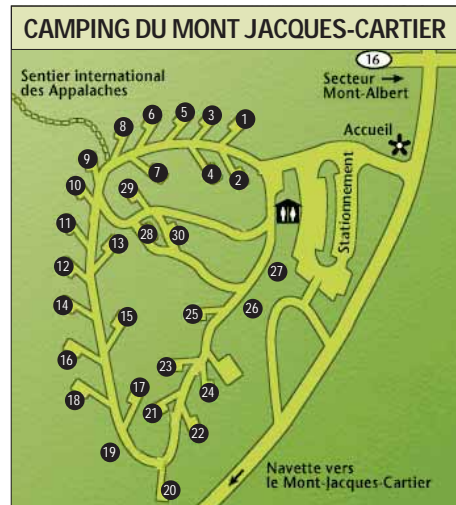
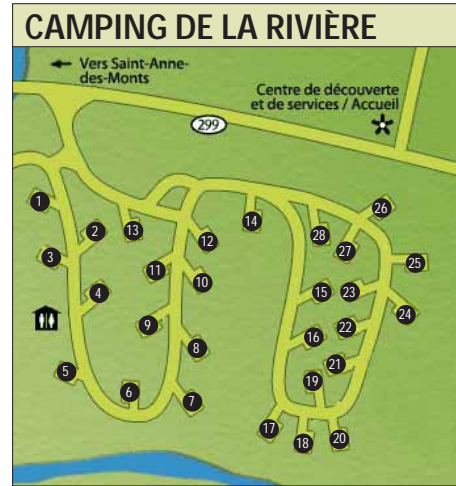
- Legend**
- Discovery and Visitors Centre
 - Payment Area
 - Parking Area
 - Serviced Campgrounds
 - Primitive Campgrounds
 - Cabin
 - Hut
 - Canoe-camping
 - Shelter
 - Shuttle
 - Look-out Point
 - Observation Site
 - Observation Tower
 - Regional Road
 - Secondary Road
 - Tertiary Road
 - Long Hike
 - Short Hike





Campgrounds

Mont Jacques-Cartier: An Outing to a Protected Area



Park regulations for campers While you are camping in the park, you must:

- Be aware of and comply with park regulations;
- Put the tear-off portion of your visitor's permit on the numbered post of your campsite;
- Finish setting up camp before 10 p.m.;
- Respect the curfew in effect from 11 p.m. to 8 a.m.;
- Use only the campsite assigned to you;
- Set up your camp only in the designated portion of your campsite as indicated on your camping permit. Two tents are permitted at a single campsite;
- Leave the wood (dead or alive) in the underbrush;
- Make campfires only in the designated place;
- Keep your food in your car, out of the reach of wild animals;
- Leave your campsite in the condition in which you found it;
- Dispose of your garbage and recyclable material in the appropriate bins. They are located at the campground entrance;
- Always use the campground washrooms;
- Avoid feeding the animals; they can become dependent on humans and maybe even aggressive;
- Vacate your campsite no later than 3 p.m. on the day of your departure.

Anyone who fails to comply with these regulations can be expelled without a refund.

Additional information

- At the Mont-Albert, Rivière and Lac-Cascapédia campgrounds, you need quarters (25¢) to run the showers in the comfort stations;
- If you have problems, contact the Discovery and Visitors Centre (after business hours, contact the Gîte du Mont-Albert, which is open around the clock);
- **In the event of an emergency, call 911.**



CAMPING RUSTIQUE

Mont Jacques-Cartier is the second highest summit in Québec after *Mont d'Iberville*, in the Torngats. It is an essential habitat in the main living area of the Gaspésie caribou and the best place to observe this mammal.

It has now been acknowledged that the presence of hikers in the caribou's habitat definitely has an impact. The extent of this impact is hard to assess, but everyone agrees that wildlife observation must not disturb the species involved.

To know more about caribou, turn to page 12.



The following rules govern access to Mont Jacques-Cartier:

- Going off marked trails is prohibited.
- Hiking on the *Mont Jacques-Cartier* trail is authorised only from June 24 to September 30 inclusively.
- Hiking on the *Mont Jacques-Cartier* trail is authorised only between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.
- It is forbidden to begin your hike before the authorized time.
- Departures are not permitted after noon.
- The return trip must be completed during the above-mentioned times.

A park warden makes sure these rules are respected; ask him or her to find out when you should head back down the mountain.

June 24 to September 30					
	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	DEPARTURE TIMES	RETURN TIMES	FEE
Bus	Discovery and Visitors Centre	Trailhead	9 a.m.	4 p.m.	Adults: \$14.75 Children: \$11.25 Families: \$40.75
Shuttle	Mont Jacques-Cartier campground	Trailhead	10 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 11 a.m. 11:30 a.m. 12 p.m.	2:15 p.m. 3 p.m. 3:30 p.m. 4 p.m.	Adults: \$6.00 Children: \$4.75 Families: \$16.75
Public transit	Tourist bureau in Sainte-Anne-des-Monts	Discovery and Visitors Centre	8 a.m.	5 p.m.	Adults: \$6.00 Children: \$4.75 Families: \$16.75

The Trail

The trail is composed exclusively of rocks. We strongly recommend you wear hiking boots. One third of the route crosses bare land: there are no trees, nothing to protect you from the often adverse weather conditions. Ask park staff for advice when planning your excursion.

Turn to page 21 for a description of the trail.

Public Transit to the Trailhead

Every day, a bus leaves the Discovery and Visitors Centre for the Mont Jacques-Cartier campground and then provides shuttle service between the campground and the trailhead. The service is offered on a round-trip basis.

You cannot use your own vehicle to reach the trailhead.





Hiking



The *Parc national de la Gaspésie* has a wide array of trails for you to choose from: anything from a 30-minute walk to a 10-day expedition. The many opportunities for day hikes are described in the following table.

Get a copy of the topographical map of the park or visit our web site to find out about the itineraries for backpacking trips with overnight stays in a hut or your own tent.

DESTINATION	DIFFICULTY	LENGTH (KM)	VERTICAL DROP (M)	DURATION	TYPE	DATES FOR 2011 SEASON
DEPARTURE FROM DISCOVERY AND VISITORS CENTRE						
La chute Sainte-Anne	▲	1.7	low	30 min.	round trip	All year
La Lucarne	▲	2.5	80	1 hour	circuit	All year
La Saillie	▲▲	3.4	190	1 hour 30 min.	round trip	All year
La chute du Diable	▲▲	7	120	3 hours	round trip	May 21 to Nov. 30
La Serpentine	▲▲▲	12.6	360	4 hours	round trip	May 21 to Nov. 30
Le mont Albert (La Montée)	▲▲▲+	11.4	850	5 hours	round trip	June 11 to Sept. 30
Le tour du mont Albert	▲▲▲+	17.4	870	6 - 8 hours	circuit	June 11 to Sept. 30
DEPARTURE FROM THE MCGERRIGLES SECTOR (ROUTE 16)						
Le lac aux Américains	▲	2.6	80	1 hour 30 min	round trip	May 14 to Nov. 30
Le mont Ernest-Laforce	▲▲	4.5	155	2 hours	circuit	May 14 to Nov. 30
Le mont Jacques-Cartier (p.11)	▲▲▲	8.3	465	4 - 5 hours	round trip	June 24 to Sept. 30
Le mont Xalibu	▲▲▲	10.7	540	5 - 6 hours	round trip	June 11 to Sept. 30
Le mont Joseph-Fortin	▲▲▲	9.8	490	4 hours	round trip	May 14 to Nov. 30
Le mont Richardson	▲▲▲+	11.5	705	6 hours	round trip	May 14 to Nov. 30
DEPARTURE FROM LAC CASCAPÉDIA						
Le pic du Brûlé	▲▲▲	13.2	430	5 hours	circuit	June 11 to Oct. 10
DEPARTURE FROM COUPE-FEU PARKING LOT						
Le pic de l'Aube	▲▲▲	11,8	370	4 hours	round trip	June 11 to Oct. 10
DEPARTURE FROM RUISSEAU ISABELLE PARKING LOT						
La Serpentine	▲▲	9.8	260	3 hours 30 min.	round trip	May 21 to Nov. 30
Le mont Olivine	▲▲	8.6	365	4 hours	round trip	May 21 to Nov. 30

- ▲ **Easy:** Low vertical drop, short distance, no particular equipment required
- ▲▲ **Intermediate:** Moderate vertical drop or long distance, no special equipment required
- ▲▲▲ **Difficult:** Significant vertical drop, route through mountainous terrain, preparation and good physical condition required

Trail opening and closing dates are established by regulation. However, certain trails may open later than planned or be temporarily closed. We recommend you contact park staff to get an update on trail conditions at the beginning and near the end of the season.

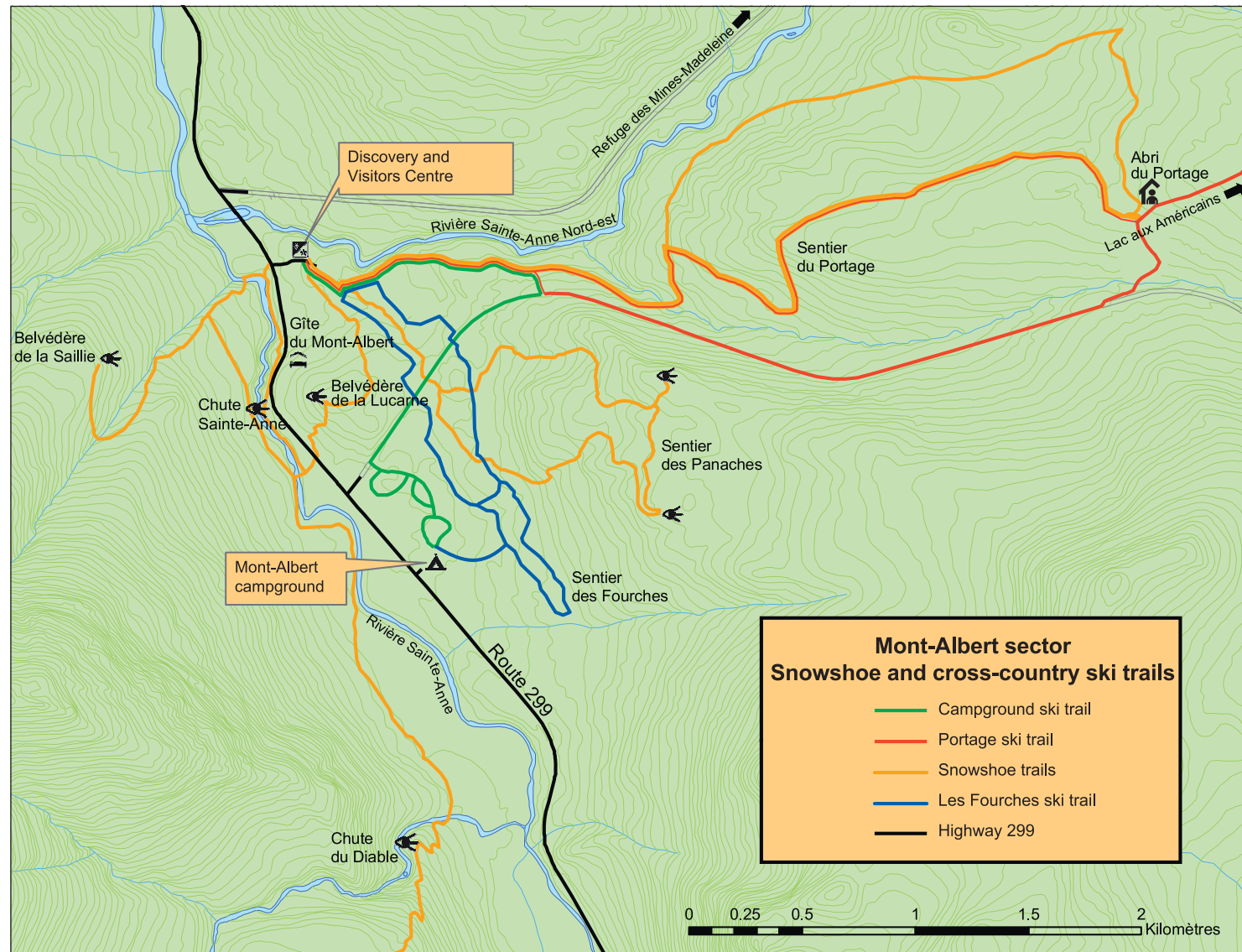
To protect the natural environment and for your own safety, it is prohibited to use a trail that is closed.





Cross-country Skiing and Snowshoeing Map

Ski or Snowshoe Expeditions?



Try an outing during the winter season in *Parc national de la Gaspésie!*

A visit... of a quite different nature!

Discover the new snowshoe trail: *le sentier des Panaches*. Who wouldn't be thrilled by a snowshoe hike up *Mont Olivine* or a ski excursion to *Lac aux Américains*? Our trail network extends to *Mont Hog's Back*, *Mont Blanche-Lamontagne* and the *Champs de Mars* trails in the Chic-Chocs wildlife reserve.

You can do skiing and telemarking in the snowfields. However, inside the park you must stay on the authorised snowfields, such as the *Mur des Patrouilleurs* and the *Grande Cuve*. Going outside these zones or off the trails is prohibited to protect the area.

Winter activities are authorised from December 1 to April 30

DESTINATION	DEPARTURE POINT	DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY	LENGTH (KM)	VERTICAL DROP (M)	DURATION	TYPE
SNOWSHOEING						
La chute Sainte-Anne	DVC	▲	1.7	low	45 min.	round trip
La Lucarne	DVC	▲	2.5	80	1 hours	circuit
La Saillie	DVC	▲▲	3.4	190	2 hours	round trip
La chute du Diable	DVC	▲▲	7	120	2 h - 3 h	round trip
Les Panaches	DVC	▲▲	6.5	220	2 h - 3 h	circuit
La Serpentine	DVC	▲▲▲	12.6	360	5 hours	round trip
Le mont Olivine	DVC	▲▲▲	12	445	5 h - 5 h	round trip
Le lac aux Américains	DVC	▲▲▲	18	460	7 h - 8 h	round trip
Le ruisseau du Portage	DVC (red trail)	▲▲▲	10.4	260	5 hours	circuit
La Serpentine	Ruisseau Isabelle	▲▲	9.8	260	4 hours	round trip
Le mont Olivine	Ruisseau Isabelle	▲▲	8.6	365	4 hours	round trip
Le champs de Mars	Réserve Chic-Chocs	▲▲	5.2	395	3 hours	round trip
Le mont Hog's Back	Réserve Chic-Chocs	▲▲	6.4	450	4 hours	round trip
CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING (GROOMED TRAILS)						
Le camping	DVC (green trail)	▲	4.3	low	1 h 30	round trip
Les Fourches	DVC (blue trail)	▲▲	5.3	low	1 h 30	circuit
Le ruisseau du Portage	DVC (red trail)	▲▲▲	9.4	260	3 hours	circuit
Le lac aux Américains	DVC	▲▲▲	17.3	460	5 hours	circuit
NORDIC SKIING						
Le Petit-Saut	Intersection of Highways 11 & 299	▲	7.6	low	2 h 30	circuit
La Grande Fosse	Intersection of Highways 11 & 299	▲▲	19.6	low	6 h - 7 h	round trip
La Serpentine	Ruisseau Isabelle	▲▲	9.8	260	3 hours	round trip
La Grande Cuve	Ruisseau Isabelle	▲▲▲	17	695	5 h - 6 h	round trip
Le mont Blanche-Lamontagne	Réserve Chic-Chocs	▲▲▲	15.7	625	6 hours	circuit
GLIDE SPORTS						
Le champs de Mars	Réserve Chic-Chocs	▲▲	5.2	395	2 h 30	round trip
Le mont Hog's Back	Réserve Chic-Chocs	▲▲	6.4	450	3 h 30	round trip
Le mur des Patrouilleurs	Ruisseau Isabelle	▲▲	10.7	725	4 hours	round trip
La Grande Cuve	Ruisseau Isabelle	▲▲	17	695	5 h - 6 h	round trip

DVC: Discovery and Visitors Centre
▲ Easy: Short distance and low vertical drop.
▲▲ Intermediate: Moderate vertical drop or long distance.
▲▲▲ Difficult: Significant vertical drop, technical trail through mountainous terrain, good physical condition, preparation and special equipment required, inappropriate areas for inexperienced skiers.



Avalanche Risk Management

AVALANCHE RISK MANAGEMENT FOR BACKCOUNTRY ENTHUSIASTS
From the *Centre d'avalanche de la Haute-Gaspésie*



In terms of risk, alpine excursions in the backcountry of the Chic-Choc Mountains are more like road rallies than Sunday drives. In other words, wilderness mountain areas are much less hospitable places than ski resorts, so backcountry expeditions require much more preparation. Keep in mind: the higher the risk, the more preparation is needed. Experts around the world agree that calm and unhurried planning of a backcountry ski trip is a critical step in managing avalanche risk.

Fortunately, for the last ten years techniques have been available to help backcountry enthusiasts and professionals make plans and guide decision-making in the mountains. As a result of efforts made by the international avalanche community, planning and decision-making tools were developed to make these techniques — which are based on complex factors — more user-friendly for backcountry visitors with varied levels of experience.

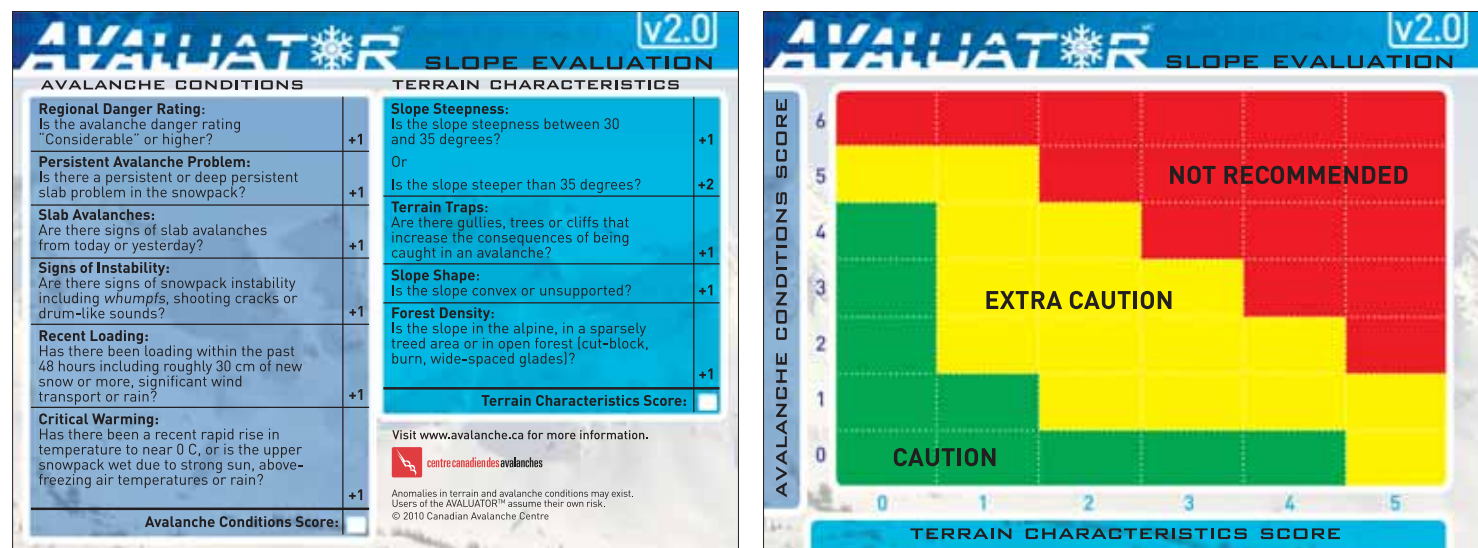
The Avaluator is a made-in-Canada tool to help people plan trips in the backcountry and make better decisions in the field. The first version of

the Avaluator was introduced during the winter of 2006-2007. It was generally very well received in the backcountry community, with the exception of the section on decision-making in the field. This step, called slope evaluation, is used to assess whether or not it is safe to cross or descend a slope. In response to shortcomings in the first version, the Avaluator 2.0 was released in 2010 to provide a better approach.

For the trip planning step, Avaluator 2.0 uses the same fast and efficient method found in the first version of Avaluator, based on the notion that the route chosen for a trip in the backcountry should be adjusted depending on the current avalanche conditions. Using the current Danger Rating and the Terrain Rating for the planned route, the Avaluator Trip Planner indicates the level of experience and caution needed to undertake the trip. You should then decide whether the prevailing conditions on the selected route match the abilities of all the members of your party or whether another route should be worked out that suits them better in terms of exposure to avalanche risk. You should also make sure that your party and each individual in it has the appropriate equipment for the trip. The final step in trip planning is to give a detailed trip plan to a responsible person who can alert emergency services if needed.

If you decide to venture into avalanche terrain, the slope evaluation method is the next step which will help you decide if crossing or descending a particular slope poses an acceptable level of risk. Just as you did with the Trip Planner, you can use the Slope Evaluation Card (Figure 1) to assess the combined effects of avalanche conditions and terrain characteristics; this scale is much more local in scope and geared to decisions in the field. The card lists six avalanche condition factors and four terrain characteristics that increase the avalanche risk, each with a corresponding score. After assessing the local conditions, you add up the total score in each category and flip the card over for the Slope Evaluation. Depending on whether the slope in question requires 'caution', 'extra caution' or is 'not recommended', you can decide how to proceed based on your party's skill level. For example, you might choose just one or all of the following possible options: turn around and retrace your path; try to find another route or a safer descent; take the original route as planned, but with only one person on the slope at a time; plan the descent, identifying safe 'emergency exits' and assembly points; and/or make a trial run on a representative but safer slope, to help decide whether or not to continue on the more hazardous slope.

Figure 1 - The slope evaluation tool from the Avaluator 2.0



Winter Safety

Enjoy the Winter... Safely!

Winter's colder temperatures force us to plan our activities more thoroughly. Although the mountains of the Gaspé Peninsula are becoming a popular destination, it is still an isolated land that can be harsh and sometimes hard to reach. This is why, before leaving, you must:

- Be aware of upcoming weather and trail conditions as well as the risk of avalanche;
- Carefully consider your physical condition, ability and experience when planning your excursions;
- Bring warm clothing, food, water, an insulated mat, map and first aid kit;
- Go in groups of no less than three people;
- Stay on trails and within authorised ski areas;
- Avoid snowfields unless you have prepared appropriately;
- Leave with enough time to get back before dusk; and
- Be willing to turn back at the first sign of exhaustion or adverse weather conditions.

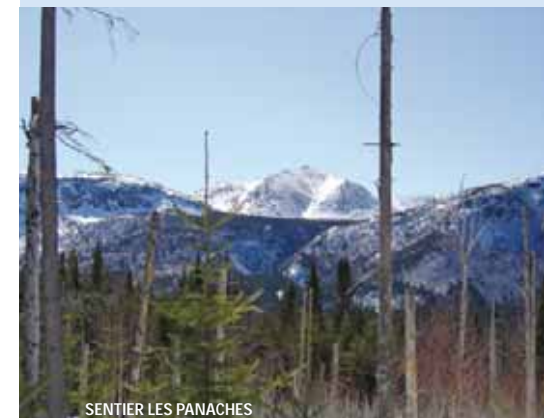
Equipment Rental

At the Discovery and Visitors Centre you can rent outdoor equipment such as off-trail skis, boots, poles, snowshoes, Digital avalanche transceiver, shovels, probe and other accessories.



Equipment Recommended for Long Expeditions

- Nordic skis with metal bindings
- Complete waxing kit and synthetic skins
- Tools to repair equipment
- Backpack with a capacity of 70 litres or more
- Windbreaker (2 pieces, top and bottom)
- Warm clothes and thermal underwear
- Sleeping bag
- Insulated mat (one per group in case of accident)
- First aid kit
- Map and compass
- Headlamp and extra battery
- Matches and a candle
- Food
- Mess kit and utensils
- Canteen
- Bathroom tissue
- Filter or other water treatment method
- Camp stove and fuel
- Identification and health insurance cards
- Sunscreen lotion
- Extra laces





Société Art et Science pour la Nature
**Galerie d'art
 Monique et Gisèle Benoit**

The most important wildlife art exhibition in eastern Canada!
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Telephone: 418 764-2092
Open every day from June 1st to October 15th from 9:00 to 6:00
 (To visit us in the off season, an appointment is necessary.)
www.sasnature.org

Discover Parcs Québec t-shirts

Wear them with pride and re-immense yourself in the atmosphere of your vacation. Available at our Boutique Nature stores, these t-shirts are designed and made in Québec.

All profits will be reinvested in our national parks. What a great way to participate in the protection of Québec's natural heritage!



Sunday, June 12, 2011

Arthur L'aventurier, spokesperson for the event, invites you to visit a national park near you.

From the infinitely small to the enormously big, come celebrate the incredible resources of nature by taking part in activities specially designed for this occasion.

- Free entry
- Special activities

Full program available at www.parcsquebec.com.

2012 Edition: Sunday, June 10

HAVE FUN IN THE HAUTE-GASPÉSIE!

1. Éole Cap-Chat

- Guided tours
- The Nordais wind farm
- Tallest vertical axis wind turbine in the world

CAP-CHAT - 418 786-5719
www.eolecapchat.com

2. Parc du rocher Cap-Chat

- D'Arbre en Arbre
- Cliff rappelling
- Activities for the whole family
- Lodging

CAP-CHAT - 1 866 786-2112
www.parcapchat.com

3. Valmont plein air

- River kayaking
- Moose safari
- Introduction to power kiting
- Cottages

CAP-CHAT - 418 786-1355
www.valmontpleinair.com

4. Exploramer

- Aquarium park and museum
- Sea excursions
- Explore the underwater shoreline
- Day camp

SAINTE-ANNE-DES-MONTS - 418 763-2500
www.exploramer.qc.ca

5. Mine d'agates du mont Lyall

- Open-air geode mine
- Stone cutting
- Gift shop and exhibit

ROUTE DU PARC (route 299)
 MURDOCHVILLE JUNCTION - 418 786-2374
www.mont-lyall.com

6. Eskamer aventure

- Canyoning
- Sea kayaking
- Professional guide

SAINTE-ANNE-DES-MONTS - 1 866 963-2999
www.eskamer.ca

7. Vue du ciel

- Introductory tandem hang gliding flight
- Kite shop

MONT-SAINT-PIERRE - 418 797-2025
www.deltaplanetandem.ca



Photo : Robert Baronet

DISCOVERING THE SEA

- Aquarium park and touch pools ★
- Sea excursions ★
- Museum ★
- Smarter Seafood ★

Sainte-Anne-des-Monts
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