

# Journal



Parc national du  
**MONT-SAINT-BRUNO**

English Version 2012-2013



# Here's to your health!

The beneficial effects of nature on young people's personal development are undisputable. The 23 national parks in the Parks Québec network are public areas, ideal for discovering nature and participating in outdoor activities. This year, Québec *National Parks Day* highlights how important enjoying nature is to our overall well-being by crafting its message around the health theme. Of course, we hope to see other iterations of this day year-round.

## School program offering takes on even greater importance

Statistics indicating that young people have become increasingly sedentary and out of touch with nature have prompted concerns among the staff of our national parks. These concerns have, over the past few years, spurred our parks teams to develop an activity offering specifically intended for this group. Our parks' offering has evolved from virtually no discovery programs in 1999 to an impressive and varied line-up of 480 activities today. In 2011-2012, 377,417 or so visitors to the Parcs Québec network participated in one of the many diverse activities offered: theatrical vignettes, treasure hunts, hiking (on foot, by bike, on the water, etc.), series of talks... all told, a range of activities that brings together visitors of all ages who are curious to learn a little more about their natural and historic heritage.

## Increasingly more appropriate activities for schools

Helping young people get in touch with nature also ties in with a major succession issue in our national parks. Parcs Québec works very closely with schools to ensure that they benefit from the great outdoors, often near urban centres. As they learn to better appreciate these exceptional natural environments, young people also become more aware of the challenges involved in maintaining the necessary balance between conservation and accessibility – the two components of our national parks' mission.

## Our most effective advocates

Young people are our best spokespersons. Following a visit to Parc national du Bic, here's how one sixth-grader put into words the astonishment she felt during her encounter with nature: "I hope I can go back to admire all these wonders again, but on the next visit, I would take my time and bring my family... to this Park of Wonders!"

In light of our objective – to encourage youth to get in touch with nature – we will continue to develop activities and programs designed to reach out to them. We welcome you to our national parks, on behalf of all those who work there and look forward to greeting you upon your arrival!

Discover the region's other parks



*Martin Soucy*  
Martin Soucy  
Vice-president of Operations  
Parcs Québec

*Raymond Desjardins*  
Raymond Desjardins  
President and CEO  
Sépaq



The government attaches prime importance to the development of Québec's natural and historic heritage, as demonstrated by the extensive work done in our national parks over the past few years. This includes the major project underway at Parc national du Lac-Témiscouata. Its completion will take the government closer to the target it has set for itself – raising protected-area coverage in Québec to 12% of the territory by 2015 – and Quebecers will enjoy access to infrastructure and services that meet international standards.

Enhancement work in the Franceville sector of Parc national du Mont-Mégantic, coupled with the renovation or construction work on Discovery and Visitors Centres at three other national parks – Frontenac, Jacques-Cartier and Mont-Saint-Bruno – will also mark the completion of a whole series of essential projects intended to improve accessibility to these protected areas. Additional work will shortly begin in other national parks, including Mont-Tremblant, Yamaska and Grands-Jardins.

Parcs Québec's mandate extends beyond enhancement of our national parks, to encompass biodiversity protection and preservation. Our on-site teams possess expertise that enables them to develop strategies for research and acquisition of knowledge that are recognized in scientific communities. Another innovation was introduced five years ago when the national parks implemented their Ecological Integrity Monitoring Program – a Canadian first.

Through its partnership role, Sépaq ensures that our national parks contribute to regional economic development. The parks work with their partners, taking local realities into consideration while ensuring that development is centered on particular features and attractions specific to their territory. Each park is unique – it's now up to you to come out and discover them.

Welcome to your national parks!

Pierre Arcand  
Minister of Sustainable Development,  
Environment and Parks

## Welcome

In this year 2012, our enthusiastic team at the *Parc national du Mont-Saint-Bruno* is looking forward to meeting you with the passing seasons that bring this fabulous Monteregian Hill to life. This protected area of tremendous importance for the region allows hundreds of thousands of visitors to benefit from this exceptional 8-km<sup>2</sup> conservation-oriented territory.

During the past year, the park's team added new services in order to offer you fresh visiting experiences. First, the recently implemented Park Path Explorer, a smart, nifty application of new information technologies, enables visitors to discover the park's three main flagship themes and all its characteristics. So come over and start your visit at our Interpretation and Services Centre to find out more about our surprising network of lakes and brooks, our biodiversity islet, or the landmark human history of this Monteregian Hill.

Secondly, we inaugurated a tea room at the Old Mill (*Vieux Moulin*) this past January. Thus we invite you to experience a fine coffee, tea, Viennese pastry and chocolate tasting adventure in a historic building dating back to 1761 and filled with an enjoyable quaint ambience. Come fall and winter, we will wait for you in this very special heritage haven located near the *Lac du Moulin*.

Finally, come and warm up your legs on our new 3.7 km-long *l'Hermine* snowshoe trail, implemented just this winter: the dazzling scenery along this course will be sure to astound you. Always committed to offering more, we have other surprises in store for you this year, including a revamped discovery activity schedule. Welcome to the *Parc national du Mont-Saint-Bruno*. May you have an enjoyable visit!

André Despatie, Park Director

## Activities and Services

### Spring, Summer and Autumn

- Hiking
- Guided Discovery Activities
- Arboretum
- Apple Picking
- Tea Room at the Old Mill (*Vieux Moulin*)
- Discovery and Services Centre
  - Reception and Information Desk
  - Nature Boutique
  - Food and Beverage Service
- Business Meetings

### Winter

- Cross-Country Skiing: Marked, Groomed Trails
- Snow Hiking
- Snowshoeing
- Self-Guided Discovery Activities
- Cross-Country Skiing School
- Warming Huts
- Tea Room at the Old Mill (*Vieux Moulin*)
- Discovery and Services Centre
  - Reception and Information Desk
  - Nature Boutique
  - Waxing Room
  - Equipment and Rental Boutique
  - Food and Beverage Service
- Business Meetings

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

## Summary

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| EASTERN CHIPMUNK





PILEATED WOODPECKER

# A Hill on the Plain

## 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.

DONALD RODRIGUE, OPERATIONS CO-ORDINATOR

The *Parc national du Mont-Saint-Bruno* covers a 7.9 km<sup>2</sup> area and attracts over 900,000 visitors every year. Surrounded by the cities of Sainte-Julie, Saint-Mathieu-de-Beloeil, Saint-Bruno-de-Montarville and Saint-Basile-le-Grand, the park provides a veritable forest islet wrapped around by a territory vastly and deeply transformed by urbanization and agriculture. People visit the park to practice various activities such as hiking, cross-country skiing, picnicking, as well as nature observation and interpretation.

Mont Saint-Bruno is a part of the Monteregian Hills (*Collines Montérégiennes*), as are also Mount-Royal, Mont Saint-Hilaire and Mont Mégantic, just to name a few. Besides, the park represents this natural region within the Quebec national parks network. These hills are not volcanoes, but rather igneous (magmatic) rock intrusions formed during the Cretaceous Age (124 million years ago). The summit of Mont Saint-Bruno peaks at an altitude of 208 metres, while the surrounding plain is about 30 meters above sea level. It features an extensive hydrographical network comprising five lakes and numerous brooks. It is interesting to note that the Lac des Atocas has been transforming into a peat bog for thousands of years, a rarity in southern Quebec.

Mont Saint-Bruno made a name for itself not only on grounds of its geology, but also thanks to its rich fauna and flora and its historical heritage. Indeed, the park's flora encompasses 37 tree, 50

shrub and about 500 herbaceous plant species. These plants are distributed according to their requirements and tolerance of environmental conditions such as slope, drainage and soil type. The trees form groupings (stands) amongst them, of which four are exceptional in Quebec: a sugar maple-hickory stand, a red oak-sugar maple-hop hornbeam stand, a hemlock-sugar maple stand, and a sugar maple-red oak stand.

Fauna is also well-represented by 15 fish, 14 amphibian, 6 reptile, 200 bird and close to 36 mammal species. Mont Saint-Bruno's extensive biodiversity is particularly striking when one considers the regional landscape formed by urbanization and industrial agricultural practices around it.

Moreover, the hill's human history begins with industrial tapping into the hydrographical network. Indeed, the lords of Montarville erected four water mills. A bit later, a certain Mr. Pease bought the centre of the hill to establish a private estate for vacation purposes (today, you can still find nine private homes keystoneed in the park). Then, from about 1920 up to the Quebec government's acquisition of the hill in 1975, the Brothers of Saint-Gabriel operated a farm, a vast orchard, and a maple stand on the west hillside. In addition, several new installations sprang up during that period, such as the Gabrielis Arboretum and the stations of the cross. Finally, in 1985, the territory became the *Parc national du Mont-Saint-Bruno*.



### 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](http://www.sepaq.com).

# Discovering the Park



With its trail network (30 km of laid out trails and 4 km of rustic trails), mature forests and five lakes, the *Parc national du Mont-Saint-Bruno* has earned an enviable reputation for hiking.

Several circuits are suggested on the park map, found on pages 8 and 9. Here are the discovery activities not to be missed along these paths!

## The Lake and Brook Network

All along the lakes trail, visitors can consult a series of interpretation signs whose texts and illustrations provide a host of information regarding the park's lakes and brooks. Refer to the map on pages 8 and 9 to find out these signs' locations.

## Lookout Points and Wharfs

Along the shores of *Lac du Moulin*, *Lac Seigneurial* and *Lac des Bouleaux*, several wharfs and lookout points provided allow hikers to take full advantage of these lakes' beautiful sceneries while protecting the lakes' banks. An enticing opportunity to take a break!



## The Forest Revealed

This 28-page brochure throws a different light on the *Montérégien* trail. 12 stops identified by sign posts milestone the 8.8-km course. An average hiker would take around three hours to complete the trek. The French brochure is available at the *Montérégien* trail's starting point, while the English version is given upon request at the Discovery and Services Centre.

Have a pleasant hike and... happy discoveries!



PEREGRINE FALCON

## Birds to Be Observed

If bird watching fascinates you, stop by at the Discovery and Services Centre and pick up our leaflet listing the plethora of bird species to be observed at the park. It provides space to check off your personal observations, so you can keep and update the list from one visit to another.

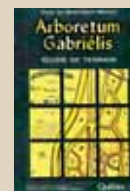


## Where the Brothers of Saint-Gabriel Left Their Mark

During your hike along the Saint-Gabriel trail, you will encounter remnants and installations handed down to us from the Brothers of Saint-Gabriel religious congregation's inhabitation of this territory.

## The Memorial and Cemetery

The Memorial is a shelter that commemorates the legacy left by the Brothers of Saint-Gabriel at the park. It presents a series of interpretation signs showing the community's life on the hill, including photographs and short accounts of the various activities in which the Brothers of Saint-Gabriel and the juvenates took part. A few steps away, you can see the cemetery surrounded by an Eastern white cedar hedge, and containing the tombstones, stations of the cross and a burial vault.



## The Arboretum Gabrielis

Criss-crossed by a network of trails, this arboretum laid out by Brother Gabrielis includes pond, and a collection of indigenous and exotic trees grooved with a network of trails. About 50 trees carry identification plaques, and an interpretation sign is located near the pond. To find out more about these trees, borrow a terrain guide free of charge at the Discovery and Services Centre.

## The Grotto

One of the congregation's installations of which you can get a good glimpse during your hike is the grotto. This stone, metal and cement structure was built by the Brothers and juvenates in the 40s and 50s. An interpretation sign describes the history of this monument.



# Guided Discovery Activities



## Spring : April 13 to May 31 2012

Participating? Great! Reserve your spot ahead of time to make it better!

	Days	Time	Activities	Meeting
April	Friday and Saturday 13 and 14	6:30 P.M. to 8 P.M.	<b>18</b> NEW! The American Woodcock	Ponds' Parking Lot
	Saturdays and Sundays 21, 22, 28 and 29	12 P.M. to 3:30 P.M.	<b>4</b> Discovery Stand "Frogs, Snakes and Company"	Ponds' Sani-Station
		12:30 P.M. to 1:45 P.M. 2 P.M. to 3:15 P.M.	<b>4</b> Discovery Hike "Frogs, Snakes and Company"	Discovery and Services Centre
May	Saturdays and Sundays	1:30 P.M. to 4 P.M.	<b>1</b> Discovery stand – Park warden on hand	Lac Seigneurial Wharf
	Thursday, Friday and Saturday 3, 4, 5, 10 and 11	8 P.M. to 10 P.M.	<b>20</b> Owls, Where Are Yooooooooou ?	Discovery and Services Centre
	Sunday 6 and 13	1:30 P.M. to 2:45 P.M.	<b>6</b> Beauties of the Underbrush	Discovery and Services Centre
	Sunday 20 and 27	9 A.M. to 10:15 A.M.	<b>7</b> Birdfest at Mont Saint-Bruno	Discovery and Services Centre
		1:30 P.M. to 2:45 P.M.		

## Summer : June 1 to August 31 2012

	Days	Time	Activities	Meeting
June	Saturdays and Sundays	1:30 P.M. to 4 P.M.	<b>1</b> Discovery stand – Park warden on hand	Lac Seigneurial Wharf
	Sunday 3	1:30 P.M. to 2:45 P.M.	<b>9</b> Indicators of Wildlife	Discovery and Services Centre
	<b>DAY QUEBEC NATIONAL PARKS</b> Sunday 10	1:30 P.M. to 2:45 P.M.	<b>21</b> NEW! Tales of the Hill	Old Mill ( <i>Vieux-Moulin</i> )
	Sunday 17	1:30 P.M. to 2:45 P.M.	<b>8</b> From the Seigniori to Our Time	Old Mill ( <i>Vieux-Moulin</i> )
	Sunday 24	1:30 P.M. to 2:45 P.M.	<b>10</b> Birth of Mont Saint-Bruno	Discovery and Services Centre
July	Saturday	1:30 P.M. to 4 P.M.	<b>1</b> Discovery stand – Park warden on hand	Lac du Moulin
	Sunday 1 <sup>er</sup>	1:30 P.M. to 4 P.M.	<b>2</b> Stand "Animal Showcase"	Rabastalière Entrance
	Thursday, Friday and Saturday 5, 6, 7, 13 and 14	9 P.M. to 11 P.M.	<b>19</b> Stars for A Night	Discovery and Services Centre
	Sundays 8 and 22	1:30 P.M. to 4 P.M.	<b>3</b> Secrets of the Pond	Ponds' Sani-Station
August	Sundays 15 and 29	1:30 P.M. to 4 P.M.	<b>2</b> Stand "Animal Showcase"	Old Mill ( <i>Vieux-Moulin</i> )
	Sunday 5	1:30 P.M. to 4 P.M.	<b>3</b> Secrets of the Pond	Ponds' Sani-Station
	Sunday 12	1:30 P.M. to 4 P.M.	<b>2</b> Stand "Animal Showcase"	Rabastalière Entrance
	Sunday 19	1:30 P.M. to 2:45 P.M.	<b>12</b> Park Warden: A Mission to Share	Discovery and Services Centre
	Sunday 28	1:30 P.M. to 2:45 P.M.	<b>14</b> Mushrooms	Discovery and Services Centre

## Autumn : September 1 to November 11 2012

	Days	Time	Activities	Meeting
September	Saturdays, Sundays and Legal Holidays 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 15 and 16	10 A.M. to 4 P.M.	<b>5</b> Thematic Weekend "Birds of Prey"	Apple Orchard
	Sunday 23	1:30 P.M. to 2:45 P.M.	<b>14</b> Mushrooms	Discovery and Services Centre
	Saturday and Sunday 22 and 23	1:30 P.M. to 4 P.M.	<b>1</b> Discovery stand – Park warden on hand	Lac Seigneurial Wharf
October	Sunday 30	1:30 P.M. to 2:45 P.M.	<b>8</b> From the Seigniori to Our Time	Discovery and Services Centre
	Saturdays and Sundays 6, 7, 13, 14, 20 et 21	1:30 P.M. to 4 P.M.	<b>1</b> Discovery stand – Park warden on hand	Lac Seigneurial Wharf
	Sunday and Monday 7 and 8	1:30 P.M. to 2:45 P.M.	<b>11</b> A Hill and Its Biodiversity	Discovery and Services Centre
	Saturday 13	9 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.	<b>17</b> NEW! Lakes Hike	Discovery and Services Centre
	Sunday 14	1:30 P.M. to 2:45 P.M.	<b>12</b> Park Warden: A Mission to Share	Discovery and Services Centre
	Saturday 20	9 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.	<b>16</b> NEW! Forest Hike	Discovery and Services Centre
	Sunday 21	1:30 P.M. to 2:45 P.M.	<b>10</b> Birth of Mont Saint-Bruno	Discovery and Services Centre
	Saturday and Sunday 27 and 28	1:30 P.M. to 2:45 P.M.	<b>15</b> Halloween Animals and Creatures	Discovery and Services Centre
Nov.	Sundays 4 and 11	10 A.M. to 11:30 A.M.	<b>18</b> Bird Nests	Discovery and Services Centre



## STAND

### 1 Discovery Stand

Got a shower of questions on the park, its flora, fauna and history? Check out our travelling discovery stand. Mounted animals, artefacts and information signs will reveal this territory's distinctive features. **Rate: Free**

### 2 "Animal Showcase" Stand

Animals have always fascinated human beings. Their lifestyles, adaptations or behaviours have always aroused our interest, admiration and astonishment. This activity caters to all who wish to find out more about animals living on Mont-Saint-Bruno. **Rate: Free**

### 3 Secrets of the Pond

Come and discover the many secrets of this fascinating living environment. Under a seemingly peaceful surface, a pond hides formidable predators as well as preys equipped with ingenious defense mechanisms. **Rate: Free**



## THEMATIC WEEKENDS

### 4 Frogs, Snakes and Company\*

Open up to the fascinating world of amphibians and reptiles via short guided hikes (12:30 P.M. and 2 P.M.) and at discovery stands where you can observe living specimens. A guest from the Zoo will be on hand to present the spiny softshell. **Rate: Free**

### 5 Birds of Prey

With its mature forests and five natural lakes, the park offers high-quality habitats for avifauna. Thus more than 10 raptor species are occasionally observed. Autumn is an ideal time to watch migratory raptors. Among other things, these thematic activities focus on how to distinguish between buzzards, falcons and hawks based on body outline and behaviour in flight. An observation site, two discovery stands and a theatre presentation on the peregrine falcon are on the menu. **Rate: Free**



## DISCOVERY HIKES

### 6 Beauties of the Underbrush\*

Explore a typical Monteregian Hills forest and discover, among others, its spring plants. **Rate: Free**

### 7 Birdfest at Mont Saint-Bruno\*

Find out first hand about the park's avian diversity and the importance of this territory for bird life in the Metropolitan regional context. Spring and autumn are very active periods for avifauna at Mont Saint-Bruno. Take the opportunity to learn about ornithology with a park warden. **Rate: Free**

### 8 From the Seigniori to Our Time\*

This hike allows visitors to find out a bit more about the industrial enterprise that was the Montarville Seigniori. It includes a visit of the old mill, during which the naturalist park warden explains its operation and presents the four types of mills run by and still standing on the Seigniori. S(He) also covers the holidaying era. **Rate: Free**

### 9 Indicators of Wildlife

Ever wondered what animals live on Mont Saint-Bruno? Come and appreciate this territory's fabulous wealth and learn to detect and identify wildlife indicators. **Rate: Free**

### 10 Birth of Mont Saint-Bruno\*

Time travel, anyone? Span some 125 million years of geological history in 75 minutes. Who knows? This discovery hike may just transform your view of the world. **Rate: Free**

### 11 A Hill and Its Biodiversity\*

Mont-Saint-Bruno is a veritable forest islet located in an urban and agricultural region. Despite its entrapment and small surface area, the territory shelters exceptional wealth in faunistic and floristic species. With our park warden for your guide, discover why this protected territory is so important for southern Quebec. **Rate: Free**

### 12 Park Warden: A Mission to Share\*

Life in a provincial park has aroused your interest? Come take part in this hike, which will raise your awareness of the various work, follow-ups and inventories carried out by the conservation and education department. It is also an excellent opportunity to discuss provincial park rules and regulations. **Rate: Free**

### 13 Bird Nests\*

November is often associated with indoor activities. Why not chase the humdrum routine blues away and join our park wardens in a discovery activity they have prepared for you to break off the beaten track! Which animal builds the largest, or the smallest, nest in Quebec? How do we correctly identify a bird nest? Are there birds that do not build any nest? Is it possible to observe any nests built by animals other than birds? As many questions to which you will find answers at last! Do not miss this exciting opportunity! **Rates: \$7.45/adult, \$3.80/child (sales taxes not included), payable upon reservation (mandatory)**

### Exhibit

From October 1 to November 11, visit the Discovery and Services Centre and see an exhibit on bird nests. Nest-building techniques and the variety of materials used are astonishing, to say the least. Do not miss this one!

### 14 Mushrooms\*

Mushrooms play several key roles in nature. Many mushrooms are saprophytes, i.e., feed on decayed organic matter. Other mushrooms are symbiotic: they associate with several plants' roots in an exchange relationship beneficial for both organisms. However, other mushrooms are called parasites, because they feed at the expense of, thus are injurious to, the organisms they colonize. Learn more about this fascinating domain with a park warden. **Rates: \$7.45/adult, \$3.80/child (taxes extra), payable upon reservation (mandatory)**

### 15 Halloween Animals and Creatures\*

This one-of-a-kind showcase activity spotlighting Halloween will lead you to discover repulsive, repugnant, scary animals traditionally associated with this very special day. Bats, snakes, toads, spiders and nocturnal raptors will be starring. Three costumed naturalist park wardens will co-host this event at various locations. **Rate: Free**

### 16 NEW! Forest Hike\*

A three-hour meeting with the forest, to better understand and appreciate it. Recognize the trees by their leaves and fruit; understand their roles, characteristics, and the way they work. Discover the vital interactions that develop between fauna and flora. What is the soil? What secret roles do fungi play in the forest? When does a field become a forest? Such are a few of the themes we will delve into. **Rates: \$14.20/adult, \$7.10/child (10 years old and up) (taxes extra), payable upon reservation (mandatory)**

### 17 NEW! Lakes Hike\*

This long hike caters to all who want to find out more about the park's aquatic and wetland ecosystems. Come over and trek down the lakes trail (Sentier des lacs) together with a park warden, and discover the exceptional biodiversity of these water environments. Reserve now, for the number of participants is limited. **Rates: \$14.20/adult, \$7.10/child (10 years old and up) (taxes extra), payable upon reservation (mandatory)**



## EVENING ACTIVITIES

### 18 NEW! The American Woodcock\*

This bird is outstanding in several respects: a long, flexible beak; 360° vision; spectacular courtship behaviour, including whistling; rapid take-off and short-duration flight; etc. Does all this whet your appetite for finding out more about this avian friend? Take part in this brand new activity, and see and hear the courtship behaviour live, with guidance by a park warden.

**Rates: \$8/adult, \$4/child (10 years old and up) (taxes extra), payable upon reservation (mandatory)**

### 19 Stars for A Night\*

These animated evening hikes introduce you to the fascinating world of fireflies. Discover the park in a new light<sup>o</sup> at night! Sunset is a time when many species, often not very well-known, come to life. With their eyes deprived of light, hikers' other senses become more alert. Do you hear a frog singing? Do you smell a skunk?! Bats, raccoons, flying squirrels – what other surprises does the night hold for us? Follow the guide to find out.

**Rates: \$7.45/adult, \$3.80/child (taxes extra), payable upon reservation (mandatory)**

### 20 Owls, Where Are Yooooooooou?\*

Many species of owls inhabit Mont Saint-Bruno during the year. Some nest inside the park and are the subject of an annual inventory. Would you like to accompany our park wardens as part of a night-time inventory of owls in the park? Discover these fascinating birds' specific adaptations. Register now, since spaces are limited!

**Rates: \$7.45/adult, \$3.80/child (10 years old and up) (taxes extra), payable upon reservation (mandatory)**



## PRESENTATION

### 21 NEW! Tales of the Hill\*

Very few people know that since time immemorial, a discrete, erudite hermit lives on the hill. We convinced him to come and meet you at the Old Mill (Vieux Moulin) to tell you a few tales and legends about the hill. The haunted manor, ghostly creatures, and the Lac du Moulin monster will be featured in his presentation. **Rate: Free**

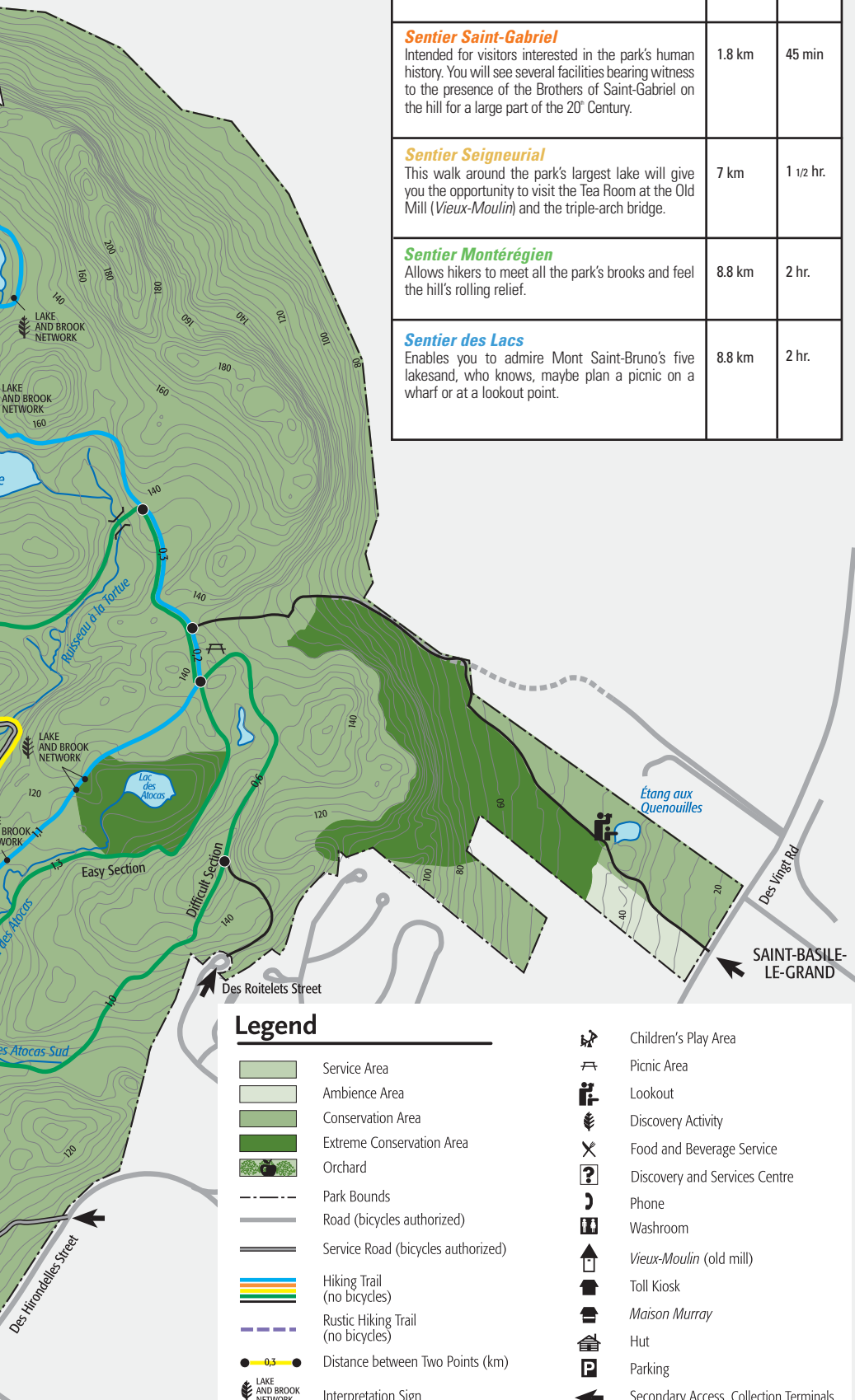
\* To take part in these activities, it is necessary to register in advance, either in person at the Interpretation and Services Centre or by phoning 450-653-7544.

# Parc national du Mont-Saint-Bruno



## Circuits Suggested

Trail Name	Length	Duration
<b>Sentiers du Petit-Duc et du Grand-Duc</b> Rustic trails threading alternately through open and forest areas and promoting especially diversified bird-watching.	1.5 km and 3.5 km	20 min. and 1 hr.
<b>Sentier Saint-Gabriel</b> Intended for visitors interested in the park's human history. You will see several facilities bearing witness to the presence of the Brothers of Saint-Gabriel on the hill for a large part of the 20 <sup>e</sup> Century.	1.8 km	45 min
<b>Sentier Seigneurial</b> This walk around the park's largest lake will give you the opportunity to visit the Tea Room at the Old Mill ( <i>Vieux-Moulin</i> ) and the triple-arch bridge.	7 km	1 1/2 hr.
<b>Sentier Montérégien</b> Allows hikers to meet all the park's brooks and feel the hill's rolling relief.	8.8 km	2 hr.
<b>Sentier des Lacs</b> Enables you to admire Mont Saint-Bruno's five lakes and, who knows, maybe plan a picnic on a wharf or at a lookout point.	8.8 km	2 hr.



## Your Personal Contribution to Conserving the Park

Do you love the park? We work hard so that you and your children can benefit from an extremely rich natural environment. However, as the number of visitors keeps increasing with every passing year, collaboration on your part is essential.

Do you wish to contribute to conserving this natural environment? Here is how you can help, and very simply:



- Leave your dog(s) home. These animals are a source of disturbance and disruption for fauna and other visitors. Dogs can even attack and endanger survival of certain species that we have mission to protect.



- Refrain from picking flowers and plants. One isolated picking of a bouquet may have only a negligible impact. However, the same act imitated by tens or hundreds of visitors could produce major consequences on the natural environment's integrity and aesthetic value.



- Let the animals feed themselves, and avoid disturbing them by trying to approach them. Human food is not always appropriate for their nutritional needs. Moreover, they can become dependent upon humans in their search for food and can even harass you to obtain it. The park is neither a zoo nor a petting farm. For its own good, and your pleasure, let its wildlife remain wild.



- Do not put your foot in... the plants. Hiking off trail means you are stepping right onto underbrush plants, which are trying to evolve into the forest of tomorrow. It also means you are compacting the ground, making its surface difficult to pierce through for any new shoots. Stick solely with authorized trails, and you will contribute to preserving the forest's heritage to be passed on to future generations.

In brief, the line is pure and simple: follow rules and regulations in effect at the park.

This map is available at [www.parksquebec.com](http://www.parksquebec.com)

# Tea Room at the Old Mill (*Vieux Moulin*)



Discover the park's new tea room located in the warm, enchanting setting of the Old Mill (*Vieux Moulin*), a historic building dating back to 1761 whose name recalls its original orientation as a flour mill.

The menu offers an impressive selection of green and black teas out of Japan, China and India, as well as a declension of coffees, including lattés, espressos, cappuccinos and machiatos.

Craving for something to munch on? Let a delicious variety of Viennese pastries, fine chocolates and even macaroons entice you. Come autumn, we add a few Italian ice cream flavours to this list of delicacies to delight in on the outside terrace so you do not miss a single glimpse of the fall colour spectacle.

The Old Mill tea room is situated near *Lac des Moulins*, a pleasant 2-km walk away from the Interpretation and Services Centre through our hiking trail network.

A magical atmosphere awaits you!

## BUSINESS MEETINGS

**NEW!** With the tea room now inaugurated and open, the park offers the capability of holding business meetings and corporate events. This client base can take full, exclusive advantage of the tea room and benefit from their meeting day opportunity to familiarize themselves with the park through one of our conducted discovery activities or just gaze at the wonderful natural setting that brightens this Monteregian Hill. In addition, two other rooms are available for holding meetings at the Interpretation and Services Centre.



## School Programs

A haven of conservation and education, the Parc national du Mont-Saint-Bruno embodies a bona fide natural laboratory. Come over and hold a nature class guided by our passionate park wardens! This territory's sheer beauty and integrity as well as its cultural and historic features have inspired creation of a whole gamut of discovery activities. Intended for elementary and high-school students, they will enable them to open up to their own environment, realize and understand its sensitiveness and fragility, and experience privileged ties with Mother Nature, in life-size fashion...

The park also offers a whole range of discovery activities designed to meet all of teachers' needs and expectations. These activities' themes focus on animals, plants, geology, history, etc.

### In-Class Visit for 1<sup>st</sup> High-School Cycle Students (geography groups)

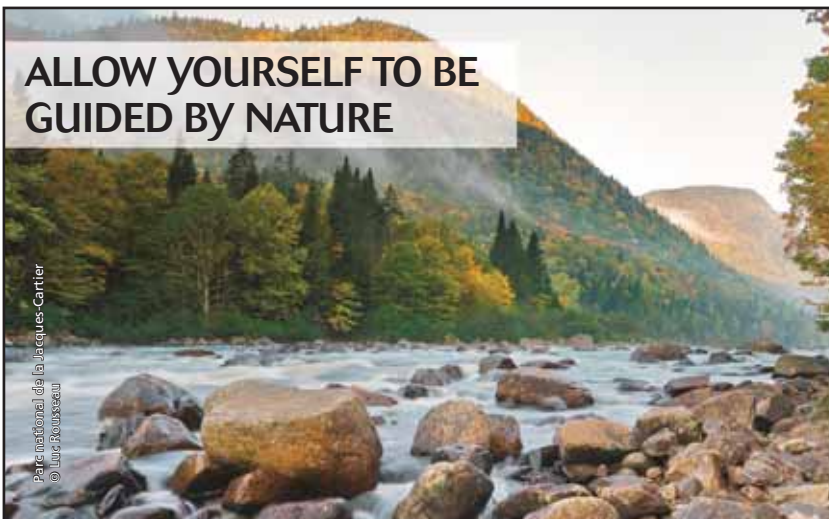
As part of the new activity entitled "Quebec National Parks: Protected Territories," a park warden visits students in class to acquaint them with Quebec's national parks as well as their mission and history, and spawn reflection on the mission's two facets: conservation and accessibility. Following the in-class visit, the students are asked to plan by themselves the creation of a fictitious national park.

This activity fits in perfectly with the 1<sup>st</sup> high school cycle's geography program. The rate is set at \$105 per class (taxes extra).

**Duration:** 60 to 75 minutes

For further details or to make a reservation, please contact us at 450-653-7544 or visit our Web site at address [www.parcisquebec.com](http://www.parcisquebec.com).

## ALLOW YOURSELF TO BE GUIDED BY NATURE



The outfitters, members of Aventure Écotourisme Québec, in collaboration with the Sépaq, offer you several stays and guided activities specially 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.

Consult the Association's website for planning your guided activities in Sépaq's national parks.



[www.quebecadventure.ca](http://www.quebecadventure.ca)

# Hickory: A Stranger Among Trees

BY DENIS HENRI, PARK WARDEN

Mainly covered with a mature forest, the *Parc national du Mont-Saint-Bruno* stands out with its very wide variety of tree species concentrated in an area measuring only about 8 km<sup>2</sup>. No less than 37 different tree species have been surveyed, grouped in a complex mosaic totalling about 20 forest communities. The most well-known trees are the sugar maple, the red oak, the American linden, the American white ash, the yellow birch, the white birch, the Eastern white pine, and the various poplar species. Among the lesser-known trees, let us mention the American beech, the butternut, the striped maple, the Canadian hemlock, the American hornbeam, the hop-hornbeam, as well as two different species of the hickory, a tree virtually unknown to Quebecers and other visitors in general.

There are two hickory species in Quebec, and both grow in rich, humid soils on the lower parts of easy slopes in the *Parc national du Mont-Saint-Bruno*. The bitternut hickory (also called the bitter hickory or just the bitternut) is the most common of the two. The other one, less abundant but distinctive with its bark flaps

detached from the trunk, is named the shagbark hickory (and also the shellbark hickory). Both are broadleaved hardwoods that can reach a height of 25 metres, and were formerly used for woodworking and making tool handles. Both trees' leaves contain 5 to 11 leaflets, laid out in alternating fashion on the branches. The bitternut hickory's buds stick out with their sulphur yellow colour. Both hickories' nuts are rounded in shape and covered in a green inner shell, which is quite thin in the bitternut hickory, but rather thick in the shagbark. The two species produce their nuts in plentiful quantities, and thus profusely feed a large number of small rodents (chipmunks, squirrels and mice).

Maples and hickories in the park form an interesting sample of a forest community exceptional to Quebec called the sugar maple-hickory stand. Completely indigenous to Southern Quebec, sugar maple-hickory stands feature a rich and diversified flora in the park thanks to this ecosystem's abundant representation in its territory.



## Emergencies



Several visitors have wondered how to reach a park employee when an emergency situation arises.

Please call the emergency numbers displayed on all bulletin boards and all signs pointing out "You are here" in the park. In these emergency cases, phoning the reception desk is not the best idea,

since there is a strong possibility that the voice message box will answer. In addition, the reception area's opening hours are different from the park's.

The two emergency phone numbers are **514-820-3726** and **514-863-9167**.



Photo: Mathieu Dupuis

## A Parcs Québec's exclusive!

Discover the **Huttopia tent**, a simple and comfortable way to discover the joys of camping without all the lugging.

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- supplementary heating and lighting
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- everything you need to prepare meals

More than 250 Huttopia tents available in 15 of Québec's national parks.

### NEW

LOW SEASON <sup>(1)</sup>  
**\$97** /night

HIGH SEASON <sup>(2)</sup>  
**\$113** /night

Online reservation: [www.parksquebec.com/huttopia](http://www.parksquebec.com/huttopia)

(1) From Sunday to Thursday until June 21, 2012 and from September 9, 2012

(2) Fridays, Saturdays, holidays and every day from June 22, 2012 to September 8, 2012  
Taxes and entrance fee not included

# A Breeder in the Park

BY DENIS HENRI AND PIERRE WERY, PARK WARDENS

Since 2005, the merlin, a falcon species, makes its nest annually in the *Parc national du Mont-Saint-Bruno*. It can be generally observed in the *Lac du Moulin* area. In the summer, it is nothing to see the young falconets train in flight or beg their parents for food amidst an impressive cacophony!

The merlin's favourite habitat is the evergreen forests north of the Montreal region. However, long ago, only during its migration, in the spring and fall, did we have a better chance to observe this small falcon at the park. But over the past 15 years, some of these birds have been regularly seen close to cities, where they find and harness two conditions favourable to their settlement: food, and interesting nesting sites.

This raptor's diet is composed almost exclusively of small birds, including the American sparrow, cedar waxwing, house finch and black-capped chickadee. As more and more people are feeding

birds from bird feeders, the merlin can easily find a ready-to-eat urban buffet to feast on.

Like the other members of the falcon family (gyrfalcon, peregrine falcon, American kestrel), the merlin does not build its own nest: it prefers to "borrow" an existing nest, frequently set up in a large evergreen. The American crow, abundant in the metropolitan Montreal region, is one of the species whose nest, once used, is often recuperated the following year by the merlin.

The Old Mill (*Vieux Moulin*) area is the most suitable to host a couple of this bird of prey, with its tall white pines abutting *Lac Seigneurial* and *Lac du Moulin*, both choice sites for crows' nests. The merlin's continuous calls quickly reveal its presence.

To find out more about these marvellous predators, do not miss our annual raptor observation event, to be held September 1, 2, 3,



MERLIN

8, 9, 15 and 16 2012. In addition to an observation site hosted and run by park wardens, two interpretation stands will enable you to get familiar with such sky hunters as falcons, hawks, buzzards, black hawks and owls.

The image features the logo for 'FONDS Parcs Québec' in the upper left corner, set against a background of vibrant green moss and small plants. The logo consists of a stylized tree icon followed by the text 'FONDS' in large, bold letters and 'Parcs Québec' in smaller text below it.

## Give and nature will return the favour!

In order to **conserve** and **protect** 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 parks.

To donate:

- Visit [www.fondsparcsquebec.com](http://www.fondsparcsquebec.com)
- Purchase an article identified as belonging to the Parcs Québec collection
- Participate in the **Adopt an animal** program
- Leave your donation in the Parcs Québec Fund box found in all our national parks
- Make a contribution when reserving online at [www.sepaq.com](http://www.sepaq.com)

# WINDS OF CHANGE BLOW OVER PARCS QUÉBEC



The refurbishment of (The construction work done on) the Discovery and Visitors Centre (DVC) at Parc national du Mont-Saint-Bruno prompted a rethink of the role traditional exhibits play in the Parcs Québec educational activity offering. The main finding that emerged from this in-depth reflection: Nature is to parks what works of art are to museums... and thus was born the Park Path – a concept that shifts the discovery experience outdoors, to the actual paths.

## Park Paths – a new way to discover our national parks

Designed to support the excellent work of the teams who staff our national parks, Park Paths also seeks to build visitors' awareness of the rich panoply of natural and historic resources to be found in these vast, protected open-air museums. When you "enter" a national park, you're looking for a unique experience, a chance to connect with nature on a highly personal level – most often, through the doors of the Discovery and Visitors Centre. The DVC is the heartbeat of the park: a venue conducive to meeting other people, engaging in dialogue and acquiring knowledge. This space has been revamped to serve as a more effective guide to what's there for you "To do" and "To see" as you traverse and discover our national parks.

## Park Path Explorer in *Parc national du Mont-Saint-Bruno*

You can choose your discovery route using the **Park Path Explorer**, which is available at the DVC through an interactive terminal as well as on the Parcs Québec website. The Explorer will first show you what there is **To see** and **To do** in the park. You can then customize your visit to suit your needs by selecting from the various hiking, cycling or water touring routes available. Many of them are dotted with discovery spots to draw your attention to natural beauty, landscapes, habitats, wildlife, plant life or the park's history. You can also broaden your knowledge of the park, either before or after your visit, by clicking on **To learn more**, where you can access a series of Knowledge Sheets grouped by specific themes.

## Watch!

- **An Islet of Biodiversity on A Monteregean Hill**

The *Parc national du Mont-Saint-Bruno* provides a veritable forest islet at the heart of a combination urban and farming area. The wealth of its fauna, flora and geological formation make it an exceptional territory.

- **A Surprising Water System**

*Mont-Saint-Bruno* features a high developed network of lakes and brooks. Its lacustrine landscapes and the gentle murmur of its streams never cease to surprise and delight visitors.

- **Landmark Human History**

The *Parc national du Mont-Saint-Bruno* is also rich in human history, over 300 years worth of it! Its territory abounds in traces of the most prominent periods.

## Get into it!

- Hiking

## To find out more (on just a few subjects)

- The Maxwell architects
- Fireflies
- Taking care of the orchard



# Winter Activities



Watch for our special school break week programming by accessing our Web site at address [www.parcquebec.com](http://www.parcquebec.com).



## General information (Discovery and Services Centre)

Telephone: 450 653-7544  
 Fax: 450 653-0509  
[parc.st-bruno@sepaq.com](mailto:parc.st-bruno@sepaq.com)  
[www.parcquebec.com](http://www.parcquebec.com)

Administration  
 55 île Sainte-Marguerite, P. O. Box 130  
 Boucherville, Quebec J4B 5J6  
 Telephone: 450 928-5089  
 Fax: 450 670-2747

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Winter is a very busy season at the park. Snowshoers and cross-country skiers can enjoy trekking on over 30 kilometres of groomed, marked trails for cross-country skiing, and 10 km for hiking. There are also a 3.7-km dedicated snowshoeing circuit, and a 3.5-km one for hiking on foot. Warming huts, ski school, waxing room, nature boutique, equipment and rental boutique, and snack counter are the services offered all season long.

Night activities at the park has been gaining in popularity every year; it allows snowshoers and cross-country skiers to make the most of their winter season, which often flies by too fast. As part of this activity, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing trails stay open until 9 P.M. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays in January and February. We strongly urge you to wear a head lamp for these night sports.

### Plan your ski outings well in advance!

Purchase your ski season pass before December 1, and take advantage of a 10% discount.



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\$5.99  
 Taxes not included

## Discover our bottle, PLIABLE, WASHABLE and REUSABLE

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- Quebecers consume more than 250,000 bottles of water each and every day.
- More than half of these bottles end up in landfill or in Mother Nature's lap.
- It takes 2 to 3 litres of water and 1/3 of a litre of petroleum to produce just 1 litre of bottled water.

Parcs Québec encourages you to change your habits by switching from disposable bottles to a reusable water bottle. Discover our new pliable bottle. Ingenious, environmentally friendly and convenient, it will accompany you wherever you go - and you can even fit it in your pocket!

**BOUTIQUE**  
**NATURE**  
 Parcs Québec

# Ours Services



## Schedule and Opening Hours

Service	Dates Open	Hours	Days
Discovery and Services Centre	April 1 to 30	9 A.M. to 5 P.M. 8 A.M. to 6 P.M.	Weekdays Weekends
	May 1 to August 31	8:30 A.M. to 7 P.M. 8 A.M. to 7 P.M.	Weekdays Weekends + Legal Holidays
	September 1 to October 31	8:30 A.M. to 5 P.M. 8 A.M. to 5:30 P.M.	Weekdays Weekends + Legal Holidays
	November 1 to 30	8 A.M. to 4 P.M. 8 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.	Weekdays Weekends
	December 1 to March 31	8 A.M. to 4 P.M.	7 days/week
Apple Orchard	Late August to mid-October		Check with the Discovery and Services Centre
Cross-country skiing and snowshoeing *	December 1 to March 31 (depending on snow conditions)		Check with the Discovery and Services Centre
Tea Room at the Old Mill (Vieux Moulin)	August 25 au March 31	11 A.M. to 4 P.M.	Friday to Sunday
Food and Beverage Service *	December 1 to March 31 (depending on snow conditions)	9 A.M. to 4 P.M.	Thursday to Sunday
Ski and snowshoe rental **	December 1 to March 31 (depending on snow conditions)	9 A.M. to 4 P.M.	Check with the Discovery and Services Centre

\* Depending on snow conditions and customer traffic. \*\* Equipment must be returned before closing time. The calendar and opening hours are subject to modifications depending on temperatures and customer traffic. You can refer at all times to the park's Web site to find out about changes to the calendar and opening hours. Prices, payment terms and services are subject to change without prior notice.

## Entry fees valid from April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2013

CATEGORY OR GROUP	DAILY RATES	ANNUAL PARK CARD	ANNUAL NETWORK CARD
Adult (18 or over)	\$6	\$30	\$54
Child (6 to 17)	\$2.75	\$13.75	\$24.75
Child (0 to 5)	Free	Free	Free
1 adult with children 6 to 17	\$8.75	\$43.75	\$78.75
2 adults with children 6 to 17	\$12	\$60	\$108
Organized adults group	\$5.25	N/A	N/A
Organized youth group (aged 6 to 17)	\$2.25	N/A	N/A
School or student group	Free	N/A	N/A

Taxes included. Annual Park or Network card is valid for 12 months. The prices, terms and services mentioned in this journal are subject to change without notice.



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