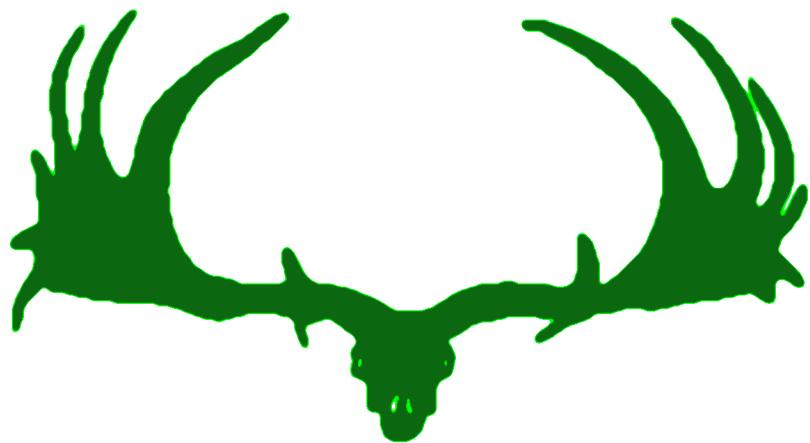


# MOC Newsletter



2011-2012

# President's Report

**W**

hat a year it's been for the MOC! I've had the pleasure of being in the club for four years, and in terms of number of trips going out and general participation, I think this is the best year I've seen. From the classic trips (New Members Weekends, rock and ice climbing schools, cross-country and downhill ski schools, ice-breaker canoe trips, and more) to new events like the Woodsman Trip, the Real Canadian Weekend, the Thanksgiving Classic and the Barn Trip, MOC saw bigger, better trips this year than I've ever seen before.



Outdoors Frosh, the MOC-run orientation program for incoming first-years, is quickly catching on at McGill. 2011 was almost twice the size of the inaugural 2010 event, and we've already started planning for the biggest one yet in 2012. We also got in touch with a couple other university outdoor clubs by hosting the first-ever Outdoors Olympics this year. Most importantly, the time-honoured trips we know and love are still going out.

The MOC House is looking good. Almost every weekend, it's been packed with MOCers finishing up the long bike from Montreal, coming in after a cold day out skiing or just looking for a relaxing place to escape the city for a couple days. We are continuing to do the small repairs we can manage while paying off the mortgage. Hopefully, within a few years, we'll be able to finish paying the mortgage completely, and focus our efforts on the more major repairs that need to happen.

The gear room got tons of amazing new top-of-the-line stuff this year, in practically every category of equipment. Overall the MOC's stock has never been so impressive. I must admit that I'm itching to try out the new telemark skis - pity winter ended so early this year, but on the bright side, it means canoeing season is right around the corner...

**“I think this is the best year I’ve seen.”**

Thanks to everyone in the MOC for such a great year. To everyone who came on a trip, attended a general meeting, relaxed at the House, or used the gear to get outside, thanks for making this such an amazing year for myself, for the entire exec, and for the entire club!

Cheers,

Mark Kojima  
MOC President, 2011-12



# Outdoor Frosh 2011



In September, the MOC ran the second ever McGill Outdoors Club Frosh!

Froshies could do one of our four events (1) a three-day whitewater kayaking trip (2) a three-day backcountry canoeing trip (3) a three-day backcountry hiking trip or (4) a three day trip to the house with one day hiking, one day whitewater rafting, and one day rock climbing. Our 100 participants and 30 volunteers had a fantastic time making new friends, learning new skills, and getting to know the MOC.



If Hall and Oates got into a fight with Robert Smith and Rick Astley, who would win? Our Scavenger hunt solved this.

# New Members Fall



New Members Weekend is an awesome trip where people were able to get acquainted with other members and our awesome house in Prévost, QC.

For the weekend, 40 people biked and another 45 rode a bus up to the house to check it out, go hiking, swimming, and generally have fun. I think a lot of the bikers wouldn't have thought they could bike for 68 kilometers but they were pleasantly surprised.

It was a pretty chill weekend where everyone tried what they liked. The weekend was blessed with some amazing weather, so there was tons of fun to be had outside, not to mention learning the many awesome MOC games indoors afterwards. Perch!



The intermediate Horseback weekend contained a plethora of activities for horse enthusiasts, both novice and professional. Half of the day involved riding on a trail in a rural area, with precious memories of cantering into the leafy abyss. I don't know if you have ever cantered on a trail before, but I would venture to compare it to the first time Luke went into hyperspace aboard the Millenium Falcon or how Han Solo felt when he realized he wouldn't have to compete with the younger, spritelier sibling of his love interest. The rest of the day was spent in an arena working on skills, riding bareback and admiring the dog-sized ponies, which one could only imagine being far superior to horse-sized dogs. Everyone returned to Montreal with a new horse-crush and sore muscles!!



# Intermediate Horseback

# Canadian Woodsman



This November, a hardy group of 40 woodsmen-in-training struck out to Camp Tamarcoua to test their outdoors skills in the heart of the Canadian wilderness. This weekend saw workshops on firelighting, campsite set-up, tarps, knots, canoeing, stove use, wood-chopping, orienteering, and even some minor tips on beard-growing.

A trip targeted to those new to outdoor activities, it harnessed the teaching prowess of veteran MOCers Steve Roy, Mohammad Pasandi, Jacques LeBlond Murphy and David Loach. Since plaid was

mandatory for the weekend - due to serious safety reasons of course - the entire group was successfully covered in various criss-crossed patterns of lumberjack couture from head to toe.

Sea shanties were sung, banana boats were consumed, some marshmallows were roasted and some others were hijacked via-stick wars from the top of the campfire itself! All in all, at the end of the weekend, the new woodsmen retired to Montreal more confident in their camping capacity, and distinctly feeling more 'Canadian.'



# Inter-University Outdoor Olympics

This winter saw the staging of the first ever (in our collective memories) Inter-University Outdoor Olympics, which will hopefully become a yearly tradition like our beloved March Jam and introschools. The MOC hosted outdoors clubs from Université de Sherbrooke and Queen's at the house in Shawbridge for a weekend of snowshoe orienteering, cross country ski racing, and a shinny hockey tournament.

Saturday greeted the orienteers with perfect winter temperatures and a clear blue sky, and after reviewing the rules they were off... except for the Queen's team, who had had some travel issues and showed up at the house just as everyone was running into the woods. No matter, they gave chase and ended up with a respectable result. The MOC came out of this first contest victorious thanks to the time bonus they found on the course, allowing them to collect a crucial extra flag.

The next event of the day was a cross country ski relay race, which in hindsight should have been run as a regular timed race. Despite fielding two teams to Queen's and Sherbrooke's one each, the MOC finished the race in the rear, with Sherbrooke taking first place and tying the MOC in overall point count. The stage was now set for the final showdown on Sunday, which would be contested only by Sherbrooke and the MOC since Queen's didn't have enough willing hockey players.

**"The final game between MOC 2 and Sherbrooke came down to the wire."**

There is nothing more Canadian than having the result of a sporting weekend decided by hockey, and while this was no Vancouver 2012 gold medal match, the tension in the air was palpable. A friendly game on Saturday revealed the strengths of both teams, and it was clear that these Olympics were far from decided. Thanks to the status of host, the MOC was able to put together two hockey teams to Sherbrooke's one, but due to the point system in place both MOC teams had to beat Sherbrooke to secure overall gold. MOC 1 had little trouble dispatching the Sherbrooke squad, and also beat MOC 2 immediately after. However, the final game between MOC 2 and Sherbrooke came down to the wire, with Sherbrooke tying the game 7-7 with only seconds to go. As fear of a Sherbrooke victory gnawed at the spectators, overtime started and then ended just as suddenly as MOC 2 scored and secured the coveted Charging Moose trophy for the home team.

Although these first-ever Olympics were a bit small in attendance, everyone who did show up had a great time, ate good food, met new people, competed hard and walked away with a "thank you" trophy that we engraved at the last second. Except for Queen's, who forgot their trophy on the kitchen counter. But I'm sure it's nothing personal.



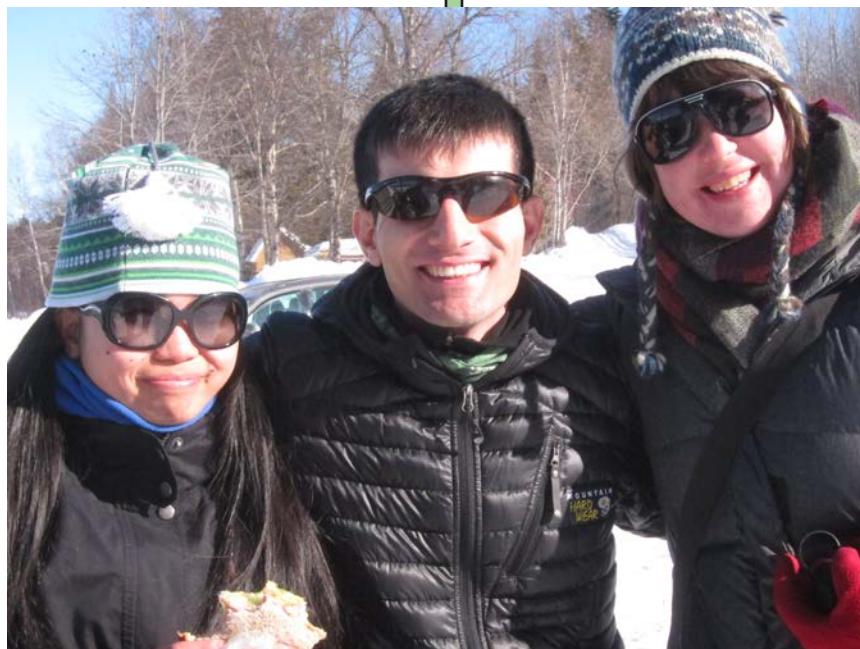
# Great Canadian Winter Camping



Welcome to Baskatong Reservoir, QC the home of the Great Canadian Winter Camping Weekend! We spent two days and one night experiencing all the majesty beauty and rugged nature of Canada through every imaginable winter camping event possible: Snow Shoeing, Ice Fishing, Dog Sledding, and of course Quinzee-building.

A dozen and a half brave souls set out to a six-hour drive from downtown Montreal to the reservoir, where on the first afternoon, under a glorious bright sunny sky, we set about catching our beloved Canadian trout in the deep, icy recesses of the frozen

lake. After much patience, many songs, some delicious pitas and a few corny jokes, we finally caught a fish! But then, to much dismay, the fish questioned our fishing license and told us to put it back. We were nice people, so we did.



Later that night, after working for hours making our snow shelters, we huddled together under the cover of a snow ceiling, and one by one the campers drifted off to slumber in our quinzees. The next day brought us to the races! Dog sledding was amazing, and Husky puppies were a delightfully cute bonus! All in all, a wonderful experience both unbelievable & unforgettable.

# IceBreaker



The Outdoors Club Classic Ice-Breaker trip was held this year at Saranac Lake, in the Adirondacks, New York State. The 'icebreaker' theme itself is getting so popular that we actually held two versions of the trip this year! While the first was a bit short on actual ice, it was still a resounding success of immense, juicy, steak-like proportions.

Leaving early Saturday to make good time on the lake, one group seemed to be hauling a disproportionately larger amount of food into the cars. This is likely because they took along about a dozen sirloin steaks to cook over the fire for the weekend.

With picture-perfect sunset skies, and brisk but not oppressively cold temperatures, this icebreaker provided much-needed escape for many students reeling under mid-term season in the Fall semester

at McGill. It also reportedly featured some adventurous spirits plunging into the frigid waters at night and then running quickly back to the warmth of the campfire. The things that differential calculus can drive people to do knows no bounds.

Stomachs stuffed with outdoor grilled steak and vegetables, the crew then settled in for the night, only to have a quick paddle back and then return to Montreal by Sunday evening. This was one to remember, if not for the ice, then just the fine, sweet delicious cuisine.



# Sarah's Barn!



The Jams were kicked, picked, brewed, beaten and eaten. What a weekend. The MC5 has got nothing on the MOC.



Both Sarahs and Liz organized a trip to go winter camping and skiing in New Hampshire. After a longer-than-anticipated drive, we arrived Friday night to stay in a barn with some horses and some fowl. We sang some campfire songs before going to sleep, Jesus-style, peacefully in the hay- so peacefully that it was very difficult to get everyone awake the next morning. Luckily, french toast and omelets were effective in teasing people from their warm sleeping bags. We then went skiing at Bretton Woods, New Hampshire's largest trail network, on the MOC skis (on their first international trip). We skied up to the Yurt for lunch, intrepidly battling the mushy snow that made us slip and slide, and the sudden violent illness (food poisoning from cheap cheese?) that forced one MOCer made the trip back to the lodge in the pulka. Luckily it was downhill most of the way back. Finally after one more night with the horses and some awesome jamming, we returned to Montreal early on Sunday still in one piece and without major equipment loss. A fun trip all around!



# March Jams!



# Exec Profiles

## VP Internal - Maude Oulette



Salut à tous! I'm Maude the vice-president of the MOC for 2011-2012. What can I say to describe myself? I'm a very passionate person. 'Seize the day' might just resume it all well! Running for miles, climbing mountains, biking along the open roads and philosophizing about life that's my way of doing it.

## Rec + Asst. Gear - Trevor Knight



Since learning to snowboard at Freaks on Planks, I've been hanging around the MOC, helping out with trips and swinging a hammer at our House. When I'm not on a trip, you can usually find Trevor Knight at the House framing, hanging drywall, or painting. Man, that place needs a lot of work! This year I ran for exec positions and had a great time planning trips as the Fall Rec Exec and keeping our gear supply in tip-top shape as Assistant Gear Exec during the Winter Semester. My favorite trip this year has to be the First Annual Inter-University Winter Olympics that we hosted at the House this year. I had a ton of fun getting to know the outdoors clubs from other Universities and snowshoe-sprinting the MOC trails! Can't wait for the next one!

I keep track of the money that goes in and out of the MOC, with some trip running on the side. My fav being kayaking with whales at Tadoussac!!!! It was certainly a learning adventure for everyone involved. We kayaked for two days along the St. Laurent at Tadoussac over Canadian Thanksgiving. It was so late in the season that we didn't even see a single other kayaker the whole time.

I am Vincent Beliveau and I am the ice climbing exec for the MOC - yay!

## Trails - Julian Cooper

Our Trails manager succumbed to powder fever and could not be reached.

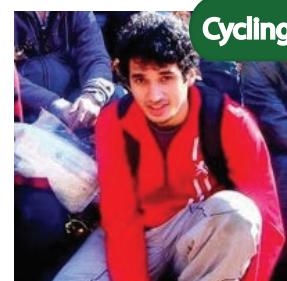
## Ice - Vincent Beliveau



## House - Jacques LeBlond Murphy

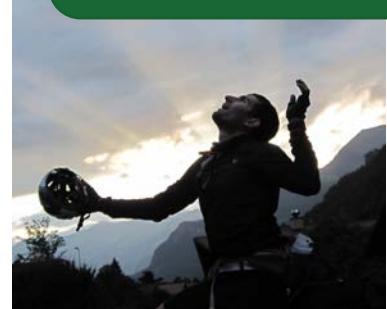


Hey! House Manager Jacques here! I just wanna say that I like turtles - a lot. I also have been keeping the house up and running for a few years! My best to departed house assistant Dave Fox and incoming Maria Bernier!

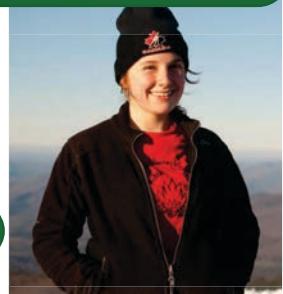


I bike the talk and I.. forgot. First time for Inam-ul Haq on the exec, and it's so cool. Love the exposure I'm getting. The club is huge and the people from all over. I love having new people on my trips: it's fun showing people the ropes. Makes me feel smart. Who am I? I'm the kid with the hair of a bear and the name of Inam.

## Gear - Mohammad Pasandi



## Treasury - Jen Cox



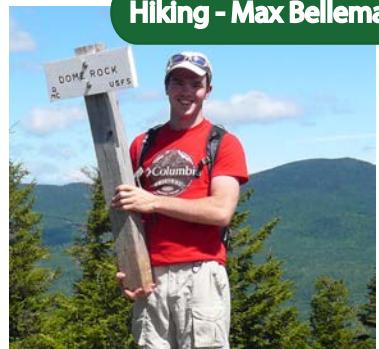
# Exec Profiles

## Paddling - Sara Hunter



Who wants to be up a creek without a paddle? Sara Hunter is here to help you out! Of all the trips this year, intermediate whitewater kayaking was the most fun. It was great to be able to explore the whitewater in our own backyard. We worked on the basics in the St. Lawrence and played some great games of Sharks and Minnows. We then had an awesome surfing session on one of the prettiest waves I've seen, waiting in line behind board-surfers.

## Hiking - Max Bellemare



My name is Max and I hike everywhere I can. I best trip I had this year was the Presidential Traverse in mid September. The weekend forecast was thunderstorm and flood warnings but we went anyway. The only bad weather we had was an overlaying fog in the valleys. The hike was a total 32 km, and 17.5 hours. It was by far the most beautiful and hardest hike I have ever done.

## Publicity - Dave Loach



Dave Loach here - publicity agent for the best club at McGill. This year was a blast - replete with 1st annual woodsman, two mega concerts and a new round of videos adorning our incredible MOC youtube channel.

## Asst. Gear - Rob Black



Want some gear? Haha not so fast, punk. Rob Black is my name and tracking down gear rental delinquents is my game.

Howdy folks! Maria Bernier at your service - house assistant, and guardian of the best destination in Shawbridge, QC. This year rocked and I want to thank all the exec for being so awesomely supportive and helpful.

## Asst. House - Maria Bernier

## Winter Rec - Stephanie Pataracchia



Being on the exec this winter really made my semester a lot more fun! My trips included NMW, March Jams and a sugar shack tour. I also organized a few geocaching excursions, because geocaching is one of my favourite things to do and took up XC-skiing. Now I can't wait until next winter! :)

## Climbing - Henna Shaikh



I've been romping around in the outdoors with the MOC since learning to rock climb with the club at Beginners' Rock School, 3 years ago. This year, I had a blast as the Rock Climbing Exec, running beginners' and intermediate rock school, and a trip to Montagne d'Argent. Intermediate rock school was an amazing weekend with tons of sun and tons of new skills learned! :) Looking forward to more fun on the rocks!

# Exec Profiles

## Safety - Sarah Solnit



Let's ALL not die! It could be a team building thing  
- Sarah Solnit, Safety Grand Master

## Secretary - Tommy Barron



Holla! I'm Pickles Barron! Much as I love my position, I spend most of my time wondering how the hell I ended up with this name.. pretty sure it doesn't have to do with the beet-red color I turn after running up the stairs. And well, I'm also inheriting my family's monarchy, hence my last name.

Hello! Sarah Daw-Girard here. I love to share in skills, in thoughts and in lots of laughter. I love being outside, people and music. MOC brings all these things that I love together and more. Life is just too good when you're waking up to beautiful sunshine after a cold night on the snow. ... Moooop!

## Winter Camping - Sarah DG



Torn between his love of mountains and the robots he gets to play with every day as part of his studies, Adam has ended up back in Montreal after a two year hiatus. Joining the MOC once again, he has found out that aging creeps up on everyone, and continues to ski and hike despite being slower and more scared of hurting himself than ever before.

## VP External - Adam Harmat



My downhill skills are nearly as massive as my handle-bars. Don't mess.  
- Colin LaRoche

Elizabeth Gagné is the current cross-country ski exec. She'll be graduating in May 2012 in International Development studies. She has a lot of experience cross-country skiing, having started when she was six. She was a member of the Viking Ski Club in Morin-Heights, and raced for five years at the national level.



## Downhill - Colin LaRoche

## X-Country Ski - Liz Gagné

Ellen Bolger has been a horse enthusiast ever since she knew what a horse was, and in grade two solemnly swore to "never ever whip a horse". Last summer she got to work with horses and kids in the Rocky Mountains and, admittedly, kicked, chastised and threatened a few horses, but always kept her promise. She will look back upon the MOC and all its awesome trips with great fondness.

I'm on exchange at McGill from Copenhagen, Denmark for two semesters and had the luck to meet the MOC'ers early on. Since joining, I have enforced a strict rule of studying only on weekdays and to get out on trips on weekends. The club has really made my stay here: Trips to the house, fall colors, icy lake canoeing and my first time in a western saddle and white-water kayaking. The MOC is about sharing your passion and making great friends in the great outdoors and I'm happy to be teaching MOC'ers some silly free-heel skiing this semester.

## Horseback - Ellen Bolger



## Telemark - Peter Thrane



# The House

## Work Completed This Year (2011-2012):

This year was full of adjustments, renovations and maintenance on the beloved Shabridge Chalet of the MOC. To start with some major structural fixes, 2x10 beams in the foundation and the ceiling were replaced due to long-term water damage and rot. This work was done by skilled professionals using modern tools such as a car jack. The result is all-new walls and floor between the mud room and kitchen.

Until very recently, knob and tube style wiring that was hypothesized to date back to the 1930s was used throughout the house. Read about it on Wikipedia; it still shocks and amazes the exec that such technology still persisted in use without problems - knock on wood. Most of this wiring was replaced this year, necessitating removal of many wall panels and occasionally their replacement with drywall in places where the panels were rotten.

In terms of the plumbing of the house, some of the major leaks causing rot were fixed earlier over the summer of 2011. We replaced the old copper piping with newer PVC pipes for the upstairs bathroom. The downstairs bathroom got the golden treatment, with patching of drywall, fixing the corners where there used to be duct tape, fresh paint on everything, new moulding around the door and window, as well as new base boards. Finally, back to the upstairs bathroom, the sink itself was replaced because the area around the drain had rusted through and was leaking on the floor.

A nice mop bucket and a Dremel tool were the new toys purchased this year, making house work easier and the floors a lot cleaner!

In outdoor maintenance of the house grounds, a cluster of dead trees were taken down in the backyard as they were leaning a bit precipitously and threatened a neighbour's shed.

## Work For Next Year (2012-2013):

The outside wall around the shed is damaged, causing water leaks, rot damage, and poor insulation near the mud room - this will be changed likely over the summer of 2012.

In addition to the shed, there are grand plans in the works to rejuvenate the outside of the house this summer. Items on the list include but are not limited to: level the lawn with bags of dirt, weed and seed the grass, create a better fire-pit area with more seating and less mud, hack down some of the over grown hedges, and more.

Inside the house, the cold room needs a coat of paint, it also has lots of holes that need to be patched and painted. The cement in front of the fireplace is chipped in areas and needs to be repaired. There is also more electrical work to be done, as well as replacements for lots of dry wall on the ceiling of the kitchen, mudroom, and the hallway.

Key to success this year was the sense of responsibility and ownership in the membership and exec, and we hope to continue this trend in the coming year.