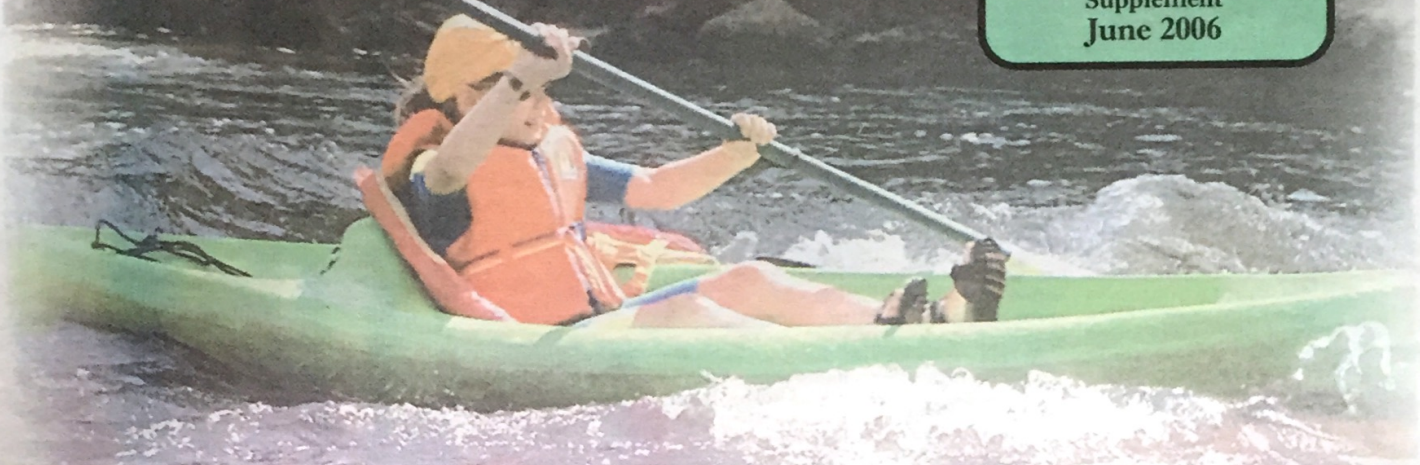


Brome County  
NEWS



THE  
RECORD

Supplement  
June 2006



# Townships' tastes and trails



# The irresistible allure of Au Diable Vert

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Kayaking is one of a handful of activities that combines adventure, breath-taking scenery, and the peacefulness of Au Diable Vert.

By Frank Nixon

If you are looking for a place that offers peace, rest, privacy and adventure, coupled with spectacular scenery and an unspoiled natural habitat, consider spending some time at Au Diable Vert in Glen Sutton, which is about a one and a half hour drive from Montreal and just across the border from Vermont.

Au Diable Vert translates literally into "to the green devil" but it is actually a Quebecois expression that means "in the middle of nowhere."

In a very real sense you are in the middle of nowhere, transported to a time and a place, where nature in all its resplendent wonder reigns supreme.

Au Diable Vert is a large property of 200 acres located on a high slope in the Sutton Mountains, overlooking the Green Mountains in Vermont and the Missisquoi River Valley. Standing high on the crest of a hill, behind the Au Diable Vert Inn, is a large talisman of sorts (a wood-stick rooster sculpture) that was conceived and erected by one of the guests of the inn. The panoramic views from the sculpture's vantage point are stunning.

The new owners, Jeremy Fontana and Julie Zeitlinger, bought the property last fall. Their enthusiasm and love for this place is infectious and deeply felt.

"We have plans to enhance our guests' experience with nature while at the same time pre-



Jeremy Fontana and Julie Zeitlinger bought the property last fall.

servicing its treasures," says Zeitlinger. For example, the couple have recently introduced Scottish Highland cattle in a fenced off area not far from the inn.

"They are perfectly suited to this environment," says Fontana. "With their thick shaggy hair, they can easily withstand the fiercest blizzards that our winters have to offer and they are a real favourite with the kids."

The couple have also dug an area for a deep, large pond so that their guests can go swimming.

"At the end of the summer, the pond will be drained and cleaned and it will be refilled the following year with fresh mountain spring water," says Fontana.

Visitors can also partake in a wide range of eco-tourism activities.

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# AU DIABLE:

CONT'D FROM PAGE 6

For instance, you can go kayaking during the day or take a guided moonlight excursion in the calm and placid waters of the Missisquoi River.

"Kayaking down the river when there is a full-moon is a such a beautiful and unforgettable experience," says Fontana.

Other guided activities include wild mushroom identification and gathering, and cooking classes using those mushrooms; weekend nature photography excursions; horseback riding lessons; river fishing, and trekking expeditions.

"There are numerous trails specifically conceived for hiking, back country skiing, telemark and snowshoeing," says Fontana. "There are also several wooden bridges spanning mountain streams which have been built by the local craftsmen over the years."

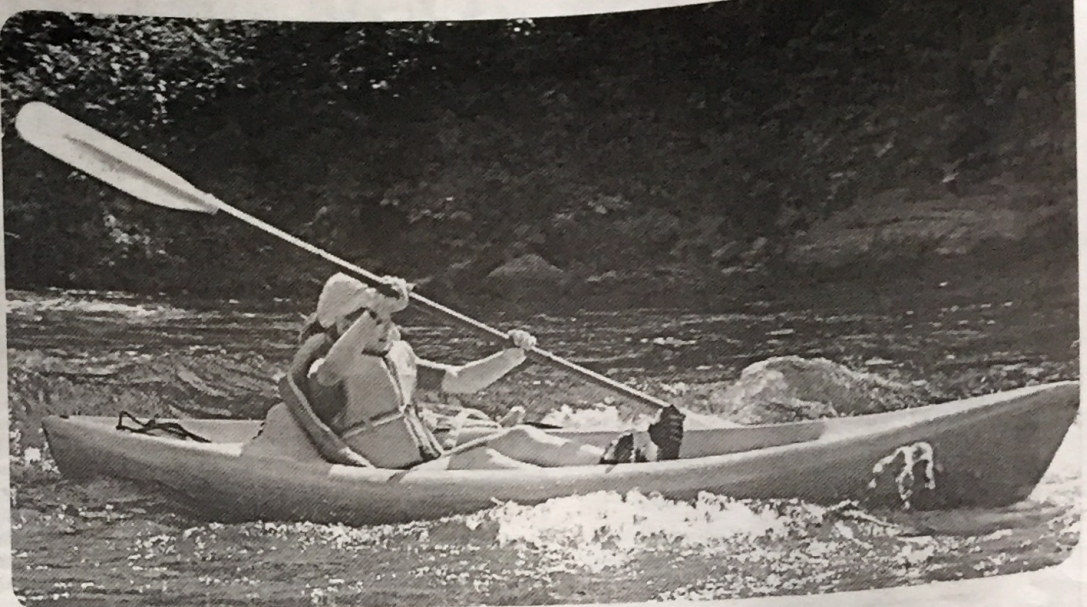
The 12 kilometres of trails connect with the Sutton Natural Environment Park. They provide access to the highest peaks of the Mount Sutton range at a distance of more than 60 kilometres. The large diversity of well-maintained trails allows hikers of all levels to enjoy the beautiful vistas and the pristine wilderness.

If you intend to lodge at Au Diable Vert, there are three options available. You can choose to stay in an apartment suite, a rustic cabin, or you can pitch your tent and camp out.

There are three fully equipped suites adjacent to the inn. Each suite can accommodate 2 to 4 people and has two bedrooms, a sunny living room, with a wood stove, a large bathroom and a kitchen or kitchenette.

If you choose to stay in one of the 2 rustic cabins, you will have the opportunity to be in direct contact with your natural surroundings. Each cabin is fitted with a woodstove, a table and chairs, as well as a double bunk bed with mattresses. Each cabin can accommodate from 2 to 6 people.

For the camping enthusiast, there are 30 campsites that are far away from each other, so that every camper can enjoy the beauty and the serenity of nature in all its tranquility and intimacy. Each site has a sand platform, a fireplace made of rocks and a picnic table. Nearby the campsites are water outlets and sanitary services. One building has showers to



FRANK NIXON

accommodate the campers, and firewood is available at the inn.

"Besides individuals and families, we have had many children in school groups, as well as corporate clients, who have come to discover the natural beauty of this place," says Fontana.

Learn more about Au Diable Vert by visiting [www.audiablevert.qc.ca](http://www.audiablevert.qc.ca) or call (450) 538-5639 for further information or to make a reservation.

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