



The McGill Outdoors Club

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Dear MOCer,

Square dances, ski weekends, and steaming-hot porridge shared with friends are the memories that unite McGill Outdoors (previously Outing) Club members and alumni. At the heart of these memories is the red-roofed house in Shawbridge, which has welcomed MOC members continuously for 54 years. Yet this home in the Laurentians is now in jeopardy, as McGill University decided in late spring that it would not renew the MOC's lease of 54 years.

Over the summer, members and local alumni joined forces to find a solution for the houseless club. Although the property was valued between \$85,000 and \$105,000, we successfully negotiated a purchase price of \$60,000, reflecting the need for extensive repairs to the building. Two alumni generously stepped forward to loan the entire amount for the purchase of the house. A non-profit organization called the Fondation plein air de Montréal (FPAM) was founded with five MOC alumni as its directors: Ashley Wynne, Oliver O'Boyle, Valentin Eidelman, Amos Hercz and Gaspar Csete. The sole purpose of FPAM is to own the house, and to rent it exclusively to the MOC.

We have made a great deal of progress so far, and FPAM will soon be purchasing the house from McGill. However, many challenges lie ahead, as the club now faces the task of financing an estimated \$50,000 repairs and making payments on our mortgage. Some of these repairs must be done before winter in order to prevent further damage, and these cannot be done without donations from our friends and supporters.

The MOC has always prided itself on making outdoor adventure affordable and accessible to our members. In order to buy the house without compromising these values, we are reaching out to our alumni and friends, and asking you to join us in the Save the House Campaign. Saving the MOC house is the most ambitious undertaking in the club's history, but our goal of raising \$110 000 is within reach.

In addition to financial contributions, the Save the House Campaign needs your help to find and contact other alumni. We are also collecting stories and anecdotes from the MOC house, for publication on our website. We also welcome gifts in kind, such as skills or materials that you could contribute towards our repairs. Please contact us at alumni@mcgilloutdoorsclub.ca.

Over the past few months, alumni have come forward and shared many of their favourite memories of the MOC house. If the MOC means as much to you as it does to us, we hope that you'll consider donating. The house on Shaw Street has been an integral part of so many McGill and Montreal experiences. With your help, future generations of MOCers will be able to make their own Shawbridge memories.

Sincerely,



Alyssa Holland
Co-President 2008-09
McGill Outdoors Club



Peter O'Connor
Co-President 2008-09
McGill Outdoors Club

P.S. To find out more about our progress on the house, upcoming trips and fundraising events, or to make a donation online, check out our website at www.mcgilloutdoorsclub.ca.