



FLAINE LATEST NEWS

Winter 2022/23

N°2

FUNIFLAINE : Cable car crash before grand opening!

In the previous issue of this newsletter, we expressed doubts about the economic viability of this gondola project, sometimes severe criticisms, about its conception, its environmental impact and the control of the announced budget.

The FuniFlaine was the least efficient of the Grand Massif lifts: about 55 years of waiting time, 10 years to climb and only a few weeks to slide down in a deep cave. When we think about the millions of euros (mainly public monies) spent on technical studies, on political meetings, we would have thought that

this project would at least have been entitled to a first class burial ceremony. Not at all! It was a very discrete announcement, using arguments just as questionable as those initially used in favor of the project, to confirm that FuniFlaine was abandoned. Just a few lines mentioning the increase in the cost of raw materials to sound the death knell. However, that wasn't the only issue as for months now, clouds have been piling up around the pylons of this project, including a legal action by our association.

Recall that the Association Flainoise was not completely opposed to the project, but wanted a solution consistent with current needs and not a provider of daily skiers on already busy slopes, seeking growth like in the 80's.

Our Chairman, Régis Lardennois, has done a tremendous work to provide more suitable alternatives. We haven't been considered, the politicians had locked their vision even before the organized public meetings.

Today we are relieved to see this dinosaur stopped, but we remain interested in a connection solution between Flaine, Les Carroz and the valley suitable in the XXIst century. A project that brings quality of life to the residents and workers of our resort by making their commute easier, new services for the client base of Flaine and Les Carroz, a minimized environmental and visual impact, without generating too much appeal for daily skiers.

The Association Flainoise keeps you informed, but even more defends our resort, to make it even more enjoyable. Please support our actions by [renewing your membership](#). We need you!

Ski Lifts: a season of power savings.

The French government runs an important campaign about power savings to avoid shortages. What about our lifts? Based on the most recent news, we should be expecting a decrease in operating speed, so it will take more time to reach the summits. A step back in performance, which, we hope, will not bring us back to the waiting queues of the 70's-80's...

In low and mid-season, all lifts that are not essential, may be stand stilled.

For example, if attendance is low, the Diamant Noir chairlift could be at a standstill, since the runs served by that lift can also be reached via the Grandes Platières DMC or the Désert Blanc chairlift.

Rumours of a shortening of the season with an early closure at the end of March have been denied by the operator.

The circumstances are also an opportunity to enjoy the mountains differently during winter. Walking or snowshoeing, Nordic skiing, sliding: the Pierre Carré area will welcome you.

This is even more now, since this magnificent place should now remain preserved from the impact of the FuniFlaine and the real estate programs that would be linked to it.



CULTURE IN FLAINE

Part of the soul of the resort

Many of us do not even pay attention to it anymore, but it isn't common to walk, skis on the shoulder, between art of Jean Dubuffet, Pablo Picasso, among others. But Flaine isn't just an open-air museum. The founders of the resort have always wanted to combine sport, architecture and art. This remains a real dynamic that makes our resort unique. Let's mention the work of the Syndicat Intercommunal de Flaine with the art enthusiast Gilbert Coquard to animate the «Centre d'Art».

In the Flaine Forum Shopping gallery, stop by for a moment to contemplate the latest exhibition or, quite simply, to borrow a book from the library (how many stations can boast about having a library?)

Let us also mention the three music academies that, during summer, make the resort sound, vibrate and enliven the magnificent auditorium during emotional concerts. This auditorium also hosts many events during the winter. Follow the program.

Flaine's culture scene is easy to enjoy. Open wide your eyes and ears!



The Association Flainoise : your representative in front of the resort's decision makers !

WHAT'S UP IN FLAINE

For everyone that hadn't a chance to visit Flaine recently...

- The 2022 summer season was successful for our resort: mild weather, pleasant temperatures compared to the heat wave conditions observed almost everywhere. Once again, the number of clients has increased, thanks to an attractive offer and a smooth operating resort. Obviously this was not a generality in the Alps, Les Carroz was even suffering a setback.
- The construction works of the Belambra Hotel Club have resumed, as has the construction of the hotel and the Alhéna residence on the Forum. These new developments are expected to open at Christmas 2023.
- The power problem does not only affect the ski lifts: Some residence buildings may see their energy costs bill soar by more than 100%. Get ready!
- In Morillon, the Sairon 4-seater chairlift is being replaced by a brand new installation: a 6-seater detachable-grip chairlift.
- The 2020-2021 winter season was a disaster for Flaine due to the stop of the ski lifts. The "all-downhill skiing" mono-activity that we regularly criticize had a strong negative impact.
- The Flaine-Les Carroz golf course continued to improve. Golfers were particularly pleased with the condition of the course this summer. An early opening (mid-June), good condition of the fairways and greens, mild weather compared to the valley, a very popular restaurant (better to book!), all the conditions have been met for a successful golf season. The Association Flainoise organized a golf challenge there which was a great success. Recall that our association is committed to the maintenance of this 18-hole course, which is not acquired by the local authorities.
- We plan to re-host our ski slalom and will keep you updated on the details of this funny and sporty opportunity to get together.
- Obviously the financial situation of the municipality of Arâches-La Frasse remains very, very tense... Nothing surprising for us, we denounce for years now the incautious management by the local authorities.
- The publication of the Development Plan (PADD) and the PLU Local Urban Plan were disrupted by the cancellation of FuniFlaine. We remain very attentive to this issue.

WHAT'S NEXT?

The coming years should see a profound rethinking of the operating model of winter sports resorts, whether it be in terms of energy, transport or business. Flaine, like others, will have to adapt.

Our association is well placed to have an opinion on the projects concerning Flaine, to propose projects and solutions and, if necessary, to oppose, which we have been doing for years.

Don't forget to renew your membership
by clicking [here](#)