



Dear Members,

On behalf of the Association, I would like to give you an update on the news about Flaine and about our Association.

The summer season in Flaine has come to an end and, continuing the trend of recent years, was quieter than ever.

Despite developments like the new *Gérats* chairlift for next Christmas and the opening of the first phase of the Flaine-Montsoleil residence in July, Flaine continues its slow decline. The infrastructure is not improving, and the swimming pool has now had to be closed down for safety reasons. It is likely to remain closed for many seasons. The ten years of inactivity, when the liquidator of the Credit Lyonnais owned Flaine, followed by some political blocking of developments, have taken another victim. Once again, the co-owners and tax payers of Flaine are seeing the quality of their resort sinking, this despite a significant tax bill. But, a few hundred meters lower, Les Carroz has seen a constant improvement of the village centre and infrastructure while our resort is not even able to maintain the existing levels. A lot of questions arise. How long will it last? Your Association has tried to make the politicians react, but without a unified and strong reaction of all economic parties of the resort, this situation could last for a long time. As an example of this lack of willingness to take action, the shopping mall in Flaine-Forum needs urgent refurbishment, but blockages remain. The Association's means of applying pressure to make things change are quite limited, apart from trying to convince the local powers-that-be of the urgent need for action. The next step will have to be to alert the press and the higher political authorities.

Last year we already mentioned the possible dismantling of the Balacha tows and our worries about this. To show clearly our disagreement to Domaine Skiable de Flaine (DSF), we invited those of our members for whom we have an e-mail address to send a letter or e-mail to the management of DSF. Numerous members have already done so and if you like to do the same, the French version of a suitable letter is attached at the end of this document, together with the English version. We have received an answer from DSF, indicating that no final decision has yet been taken and these lifts will stay at least for the coming winter. So it is worthwhile to keep the pressure on and more mails to DSF would be helpful.

Regarding the project "Terminal Neige Palace", after the legal action filed by the *Aldébaran* co-ownership to stop the construction works, the developer and the commune appealed, but were rejected.

The local elections have changed the political landscape; Arâches got a new Mayor, Mrs. Patricia Rosa. Unlike her predecessor, she has declined the presidency of the Syndicat Intercommunal de Flaine (SIF). The SIF is now under the presidency of Sophie Simond who is one of the Commune Councilors representing and living in Flaine. We can only hope that the SIF in the hands of people from Flaine will be more sensitive to the issues that affect our resort.

To have our voice at the Tourist Office, Pierre Tocqueville is joining now its board.

So in a short the not very encouraging situation of our resort. The Association Flainoise will continue its efforts to make things to change. We look forward with pleasure to seeing you again at our Annual General Meeting on December 30 and the beginning of the ski season. We kindly invite all members who haven't settled their 2008 membership fee to do it.

Wishing you an excellent autumn and a good skiing season to come,  
with best regards.

Président

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**Subject:** Retention of effective Ski uplift on the Balacha Sector

Dear Sir,

Having been informed by the Association Flainoise of the possible removal by your company of the Balacha drag-lifts, please permit me to pass on to you my concerns.

Being a loyal long-time visitor to Flaine, I am convinced of the importance of these lifts for the comfortable, efficient and safe access to the skiing area. It seems counterproductive to force the flow of skiers who wish to ski on the upper slopes of Flaine towards those lifts which are situated at Flaine-Forum and Front-de-Neige. This will result in a lowering of the quality of skiing on the pistes linking Flaine-Foret and Front-de-Neige because of overcrowding, but will in particular seriously prejudice safety, in particular for children, because of the crossing flows at the level of the DMC, even if the link is improved and more direct.

To me, it would seem to be vital that the Balacha tows are kept in operation and in due course replaced by a more up-to-date and efficient solution, particularly bearing in mind the major developments of accommodation on the upper reaches of the resort which will augment the number of skiers accessing the ski area from Foret. This would allow the best advantage to be taken of the existence of the two parts of the resort, Form/Front-de-Neige and Foret/ Gerats (Intrawest, Le Hameau, and the Refuge de Golf).

As a customer of your services, I am relying on your management to find a solution which will ensure the safety of skiers and which will continue to allow me to enjoy skiing using your facilities.

Yours faithfully