



**GROS BONNET
CLIMBING**

by
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and
Louis-Pierre Tessier**

A big **THANK YOU** from the whole climbing community to Mr. Gérald Jacques, owner of the big parcel of forestry land located in the ZEC Batiscan Neilson north of St-Raymond, **for granting us access to the beautiful climbing areas on his land!**

Access conditions to be respected

Access to this land depends on climber's **constant and respectful behaviour**. On being discreet and self-reliant. If we can be **clean and responsible** during our visits we will maintain climbing access to this area forever.

- In Quebec province, access agreements are necessary, as they currently offer the best protection to landowners. To climb at Gros Bonnet climbing areas it is necessary to be a member of one of the organisms that has signed an access agreement with Mr. Jacques. See below for details.
- All-terrain vehicles are prohibited.
- Construction of permanent structures is prohibited.
- Cutting or felling trees is prohibited, with the exception of those necessary for approach trails. All trails should be minimalist in nature, this means that a minimum of vegetation should be cleared. For climbing purposes, trees can be cut at the foot and at the top of cliffs, as well as on the cliffs themselves.
- When opening routes, the purging of loose rock is considered an essential element for climbing safety.
- Climbers will be entirely autonomous and entirely responsible for their actions. In case of accident, climbers will be prepared for self-rescue.
- Climbers have been allowed access to the cliffs and the forested land at the foot of the cliffs crossed during the approach. Climbers must stay on these lands and not wander into the backcountry (i.e. the land to the north of the cliffs). These are fishing and hunting grounds that belong to the landowner and his guests.
- Climbers must pay for access to the ZEC Batiscan-Neilson road network (at "Petit-Saguenay" entrance). In respect to climbing, Mr. Jacques provides climbers with free access, at no charge.
- Camping on the Gros Bonnet territory is prohibited. Building fires is also prohibited.
- Sleeping on the cliffs (ex. on a portaledge) will be tolerated as long as it does not cause any problems.
- Mr. Jacques' land is reserved for forestry activities. Selective tree-cutting occurs on a regular basis. Climbers must respect the forestry work when it occurs and keep their distance from the activities and machinery.
- Moose hunting occurs on a seasonal basis near the Sanatorium climbing area. For safety reasons, climbing will be closed in this area during the two weeks of hunting season each Fall. This means the week before and the week after Action de Grâce (Thanksgiving).

The landowner has an access agreement with the Fédération québécoise de la montagne et d'escalade (**FQME**). You must be a member of the **FQME** to climb at the Gros Bonnet.



Fédération québécoise de la montagne et d'escalade (**FQME**)
<https://fqme.qc.ca/>

The rugged and remote nature of this climbing area requires specific preparation from climbers. We cannot stress enough the importance of being prepared and responsible in your decisions. In case of accident, **you must be ready to self-evacuate**. Emergency services are far away and will take a very long time to reach you. When you reach this climbing area, you will have no cell phone reception until you've climbed high up the mountain (somewhere around the third or fourth pitch of the main cliffs.)

Emergencies

911 You are at: **Gros Bonnet** in ZEC Batiscan-Neilson, to the north of St-Raymond, after "vallée du Bras du Nord". About 3.5km after the ZEC entrance.

Hospital: Regional hospital at St-Raymond (418) 337-6711

Air Medic - Insurance for helicopter evacuation - <http://www.airmedic.net> (starting at \$25 for 7 days)

PLEASE NOTE

Climbing is a dangerous activity. The information in this guide is never entirely up to date and are provided as general recommendations only. You must use your judgement, regardless of the information provided here.

In this climbing guide you will find:

Gros Bonnet - mostly trad routes, up to 200 meters long

This mountain has seen occasional climbing since the 1970's but most of its development started after 2009. The rock is gneiss of very high-quality, with long dihedrals, beautiful crack systems etc. Where cracks end, faces offer a lot of natural features. As with most undeveloped rock in Portneuf County, loose rock and vegetation abound. Climbers here have opted for a mixed approach when opening routes. Routes are often climbed ground-up on the first ascent, but afterwards a thorough cleaning is done, so that the route is safer and more enjoyable. The end result is interesting, the routes are clean, technical and offer a good dose of adventure. And the big views are there!



left: Patricia Lauzé on "la Correction"; upper right : Autumn landscape, lower right : Frédéric Desgranges on "l'Examen Final"

Cover page : Yannick Girard on the last pitch of l'Examen Final.

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Gros Bonnet climbing

Introduction

Located right next to a main ZEC road, but surrounded by dense forest that complicates approach, the Gros Bonnet massif repulsed climbers for many years. Many of us braved the forest only to remain perplexed at the foot of the cliff, beaten by the first meters of moss-covered rock or by shallow, hard-to-protect cracks, that are so typical in gneiss.

The central part of the massif, or *section B* as it is named in the old guide by Jean Sylvain, harbors the most attractive lines, those where the rock stays vertical for the longest stretches and the dihedrals connect to create long, logical, attractive lines. Early attempts were moderately successful. In the 1970's and 80's, Gaetan Martineau and friends tried the lines that are today *L'Examen Final* and *Grimpe dans le Piton*. In the mid 1990's, Jean-François Beaulieu and Jean-Pierre Ouellet explored a line in the center of *section B* and left two fixed ropes that stayed for many years.

I did my first attempt on the Gros Bonnet in winter 1977, at a time where "Climbing is a dangerous activity" was not yet written on new climbing gear. After one ropelength in the big dihedral, we backed off and finished our adventure with a freezing cold night spent under a big rock in the boulder field next to the river. At our second attempt, in March or April of that year, we tried the more southerly side of the mountain. That was our thinking at the time, that if we hadn't succeeded on the easy side of the mountain, the harder-looking side should make our hidden talents appear. Unfortunately our talents remained well hidden and we again backed off, after only one ropelength.

Finally, it was in June that I got my "big bonnet". Our first ascent finished more or less elegantly, with a pendulum from a small alcove that let us top out towards the right of the cliff. While trying to reach me, Richard my climbing partner slipped during the traverse and started off on a long, racing pendulum. I swear that I have never seen anyone run faster in my life. What a fright he gave me! He almost damaged my precious rope. A couple of days later, success again, this time on the southern side, another zigzagging, indistinct line, but that had a clear summit ending. It was in this way, with these dangerous but funny adventures, that I learned about climbing and the happiness that one can experience in the mountains. ~ Gaétan Martineau

Starting in 2009, the cliff began seeing regular ascensions. With amazing tenacity, Louis-Pierre Tessier and Frédéric Desgranges forged a path through the cracks and dihedrals of *La Correction* and passed the crux *Bureau du Directeur* pitch to reach the summit slabs. They then spend much time cleaning the line. After this project, they began the ascension of *l'Examen Final*, where they discovered pitons left by Gaétan 25 years earlier. But times had changed and so did the gear. Small cams let the boys protect in places where pitons wouldn't go. What's more, modern gear can be placed quickly and this saves energy for climbing! In spring 2010 *l'Examen Final* was finally free-climbed in its entirety.

After this fresh start, the mysteries of the Gros Bonnet begin to give way. Projects are multiplying and teams are gaining experience on this new ground. The racks are varied, from the smallest to the biggest gear available. And the drill is never too far away, because when the cracks end, the rock's texture keeps providing options for climbing with fixed gear. "Everything goes", as Fred would say. Yes it does - but it took years to figure out how.

Some lines, especially the classics, have been thoroughly cleaned and equipped to encourage repetition. Other lines have been explored but still await cleaning. These are a good challenge, either to climbers who thrill at rough, dirty climbing, or the courageous few looking for a project to clean. On this cliff, commitment and adventure are to be found. The well-informed climber will prepare him or herself and temper their ambition.... or else they might receive a good "Correction"!



Gaétan Martine in an attempt in 1984, in the dihedral which is now L'Examen Final.
To the right, the left and center sections of the Gros Bonnet, as seen from the road.

Access

- From the town of St-Raymond-de-Portneuf, follow the signs for the vallée du Bras du Nord..In other words :turn right after the bridge, follow the Rang du Nord, turn left on Rang Saguenay, and follow the Rang Saguenay to the entrance of ZEC Batiscan-Neilson. The entrance opens at 7:00 in the morning. You'll need to pay an entrance fee (10\$ per auto).
- From the ZEC entrance, go a couple of hundred meters and turn left at the intersection where a sign points directions to several lakes. Go left, cross the bridge and follow the road, which turns right after the bridge.
- Cross a second, smaller bridge and continue climbing for several more minutes. You will soon see the cliff (photo above). The parking area is a slight pullout to the left, at the very top of the ascent. If you start going downhill, turn back, you're going too far..

The approach trail

The trail starts at a white rock next to the road (small inukshuk). After climbing a first steep step, you will cross a flat wooded area. Keep following the trail straight until it enters the forest. Here it bends to the right and passes next to big boulders, finally becoming clearer and easier to follow. After ten minutes of uphill, you will reach an intersection (yellow emergency backboard). Here you can go left for the left section climbing (*Grimpe dans le Piton* etc.) or right to go to *La Correction*. In either case it takes another ten to fifteen minutes to reach the base of the routes.

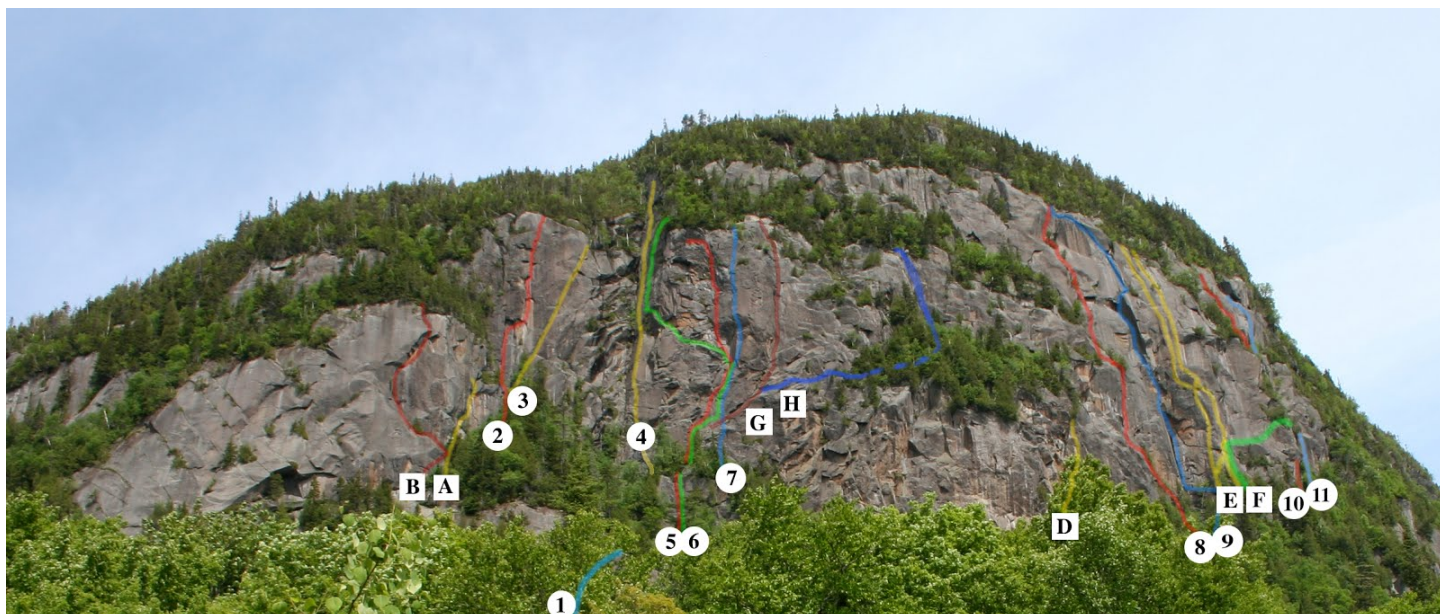
The climbing experience

The approach trail is minimalist and hard to follow after dark. Climbing routes are often complex. Good time management is important. Gros Bonnet rock is dense and compact gneiss of igneous origin. The surface of the rock is rough, rougher than the gneiss at Lac Long for example. If you are climbing here for several days, taping your hands is recommended.

Camping - there are two good options

Around 3 kilometers **before the ZEC entrance**, there is **camping Shannahan**. 18 sites available, \$23.50 \$ a night per tent. Popular so it's best to reserve in advance (800) 321-4992. As it's outside of the ZEC you'll have to pay the ZEC entrance fee each day.

Inside the ZEC, there is the **lac Picard** campsite. Basically a big empty parking lot located 20 minutes north of the Gros Bonnet. Not expensive and you avoid paying the ZEC entrance fee each day.



Routes that have been purged of loose rock, cleaned and equipped

Left section	Right section
1) <i>Transcanadienne</i> 5.10 2) <i>Théorie des cordes</i> 5.11b/c 3) <i>Vol de nuit</i> 5.11c 4) <i>De toute beauté</i> 5.10a 5) <i>Purgatoire</i> 5.10+ 6) <i>Grimpe dans le Piton</i> 5.9+ 7) <i>Contrôle parental</i> 5.11	8) <i>La Correction</i> 5.10 8a) <i>par le Bureau du directeur</i> 5.11+ 9) <i>L'Examen de mi-session</i> 5.10+ 9a) <i>L'Examen Final</i> 5.12a

Routes that have not yet been cleaned

Although these routes have been climbing and maybe partially equipped, the presence of dirt, moss and loose rock is very likely. If there are other cars at the parking space, be careful when passing under these routes. The use of a whistle is recommended. **Be prudent if you climb these lines.**

Left section	partie de droite
A) L-P Tessier and F. Desgranges " <i>Homofun 10a</i> " B) H. Drouin and C. Lacroix " <i>Pèlerin d'acier</i> " G) <i>Yannick Girard and Damien côté / open project*</i> 5.11 H) F. Desgranges and L-P Tessier / open project* 5.8	D) P-A Paquet " <i>Le refus global</i> 5.11+" E) François Turgeon and Anne-Sophie Roberge (2 routes) F) L-P. T. et F. D. " <i>Désobéissance civile</i> 5.9+" 10) F. Desgranges " <i>À en perdre son Latin</i> 5.11+?" 11) L-P Tessier " <i>Crissagus Monumentalum</i> 5.10d"

*open project = the route has been explored and is open to anyone who wishes to clean it

The above photo and routes described are located on the big vertical face noted as "section B" in the old Jean Sylvain guidebook. The Gros Bonnet is a huge massif that can be divided into four sections. A few routes have been opened on the long cliff to the left (section A) and on the slabs far to the right (section D). These routes are not yet included in this guidebook.

Route descriptions

Route descriptions start with the **name** of the route, followed by the **grade** of the route's hardest section, then the **protection** rating, and finally the name of those who made the **first ascent** and the **year** in which it was done.

This may be followed by a comment in italics, which may be an anecdote about the route or anything else the first ascensionists might find interesting to say.

Then comes information about the type of **protection** to bring along. How to **access** the start of the route. The kind of **belays** you can expect to find. And finally the best **descent** route to follow.

40m 5.10	The route's pitches are then described in a table. The length and grade of each pitch are indicated to the left.
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The table separates the route according to places where it seems natural to stop and belay. This is often at distances of 30 meters or less. It's always possible to link pitches, but this often requires advanced knowledge of the route. The morphology of Gros Bonnet rock is complex.

Protection rating

The protection rating of a route is a measure of its risk. It's a system that was inspired by the American system for rating movie content. Climbers adopted the system to better communicate the commitment required for a route, in other words the effect it might have on a lead climber. Where routes expose the climber to lesser risk, the protection rating is considered normal (or "G-rated"). In this case, the protection rating is simply not mentioned in the route description.

For example,

- **Transcanadienne** 5.10 *François Turgeon, Anne-Sophie M-Roberge, (Oct 2012)*

This slab climb is bolt-protected and if the climber falls on the route, there will generally be little or no consequence. The route is considered normal or G-rated. The protection rating is therefore not mentioned after the 5.10 difficulty rating.

- **Grimpe dans le Piton** 5.9+ *PG Louis-Pierre Tessier, Frédéric Desgranges (2010)*

This route has a few sections where it's best not to fall. A **PG** protection rating is therefore mentioned after the 5.9+ difficulty rating.

G	<i>General audience</i> - Falls on this route should have little or no consequence. Bolts or glue-ins protect climbers adequately in the case of controlled falls. A G-rated trad route will have plenty of opportunities for placing good protection. The majority of routes on the Gros Bonnet are G-rated.
PG	<i>Parental guidance</i> - The route has one or more sections where falling is not recommended. A fall at these places might cause injury, generally to the lower body. There may be a risk of severe injury, for example if the climber fall upside-down. There is generally little risk of dying. The climber should climb these sections with much attention. We can apply a PG rating either by the long distances between placements, by the poor or moderate quality of protection, or by the danger posed by falls that direct the climber onto a ledge or into a dihedral for example.
R	<i>Restricted</i> - Same as PG rating, except that falling in certain places will most probably cause injury, perhaps severe injury.
X	<i>X-rated</i> - Falling at certain places will most certainly cause severe injury and/or death.

Site ethics

The nature of this cliff in its original state is less interesting for climbing because of the important quantity of vegetation. However, over the last few years the potential for quality climbing has been revealed as new routes have been opened, several of them classics in the making. The solution has been for climbers to spend much time in cleaning the rock, so as to provide a quality experience for the next visitor. We can conclude that the future of this climbing area lies in the practice of route-cleaning, which we strongly encourage.

Purging loose rock is considered an **essential** element to climbing safety at this site.

Requirements for fixed gear:

- All hardware in stainless steel
- Glue-in bolts encouraged
- All materials should meet CE and UIAA norms for rock climbing use

Which means: anchors placed in sound rock that is well-attached to the cliff, that have a strength of 25 kN in shear strength and 15 kN in tensile or pull-out strength.

The opening of routes with natural protection is to be favored. The placement of a minimum of fixed anchors is encouraged. The placement of fixed anchors in places where traditional gear placements exist will not be tolerated (i.e. placing bolts next to cracks), except at rappel stations. Another exception might be a route which requires fixed pro everywhere, except in one spot. Find the right balance, but place the accent on preserving the rock in its natural state.

For the purposes of route development, the use of equipment inferior to the norms stated above is considered acceptable (for example, pitons and hardware-store bolts.) If your project is mentioned in this guidebook it will be important to mention the presence of these temporary anchors. However, when a route is finished, these temporary anchors must be removed and all permanent anchors must be of the norms mentioned above.

Adding fixed anchors (i.e. bolts or pitons) to an existing route without the permission of the first ascensionist is strictly forbidden.

If you see flags or other signs on the rock, this probably indicates an ongoing project. Avoid climbing other people's projects. It takes a long time to prepare a route and it's demoralizing to learn that someone else has climbed it in your absence.

After two years, the advancement of a project can be considered flexible and it becomes open to anyone who might be interested in finishing the project. However, before jumping on someone else's project, make an effort to communicate with them beforehand.

"With tight abdomen muscles and biceps stronger than gneiss, the iron pilgrim gazes at the Gros Bonnet, his gaze searching for the supernatural and the sacred." ~ Hugo Drouin, in admiration of his friend Chuck and his crowbar



LEFT SECTION see illustration p.13

Transcanadienne 5.10 François Turgeon, Anne-Sophie M-Roberge (Oct 2012)

"During the summer of 2012, Anso and I were apart. I was here in Quebec and she was out West. This immense slab was my solitary summer project. I named it Transcanadienne mostly because my thoughts kept going to the other side of our big country."

Protection : About a dozen quickdraws and a very light rack of 3 to 4 cams, from Camalot .4 to 2. A couple of long slings are helpful.

Access : Walk the main trail until reaching the intersection (yellow backboard attached to a tree). Here, go left on the trail that goes up to the big gully. At a spot where the trail widens just before reaching the big gully, take a small trail to the left. This side trail follows the foot of the apron. The start of the route will be obvious.

Descent : Instead of descending, keep going up! Towards the start of *De Toute Beauté* or any of the other wonderful routes in this area. Or you can just follow the fixed-rope trail back down.

40m 5.10	Climb straight up the clean rock, following the bolts. The route is obvious but the climbing less so.. (8 bolts)
30m 5.9+	Follow a big flake, then a diagonal crack to reach a wide ledge (easy). Face climb to reach a ramp (less easy). Follow the ramp then face climb diagonally to the right to reach the belay. Long slings are useful on this pitch. (4 bolts, 1-2 cams).
35m 5.10-	Climb the mini dihedral and the face to reach a leftwards ramp. Follow this and keep climbing a series of small dihedrals, grooves and an arete. You'll finally reach the trail, where there are trees to belay from. (7 bolts and 1-2 cams.)

Trésor Caché 5.9+ Charles Lacroix et Hugo Drouin (2014)

"Trésor caché is an airy route, perched on the left flank of the Gros Bonnet. Your initial efforts in a short technical section will be rewarded with a superb moderate crack that is hidden from below. A triangular roof guards the final section."

Protection : Standard rack (doubled if you intend to do this in one pitch) up to no.4 Camalot

Access : Follow the fixed ropes on the left side of the big gully all the way up. (Even better, climb *Transcanadienne* first!) Look for the start of Homofun, slightly downhill from the top of the last fixed rope.

Descent : A single 50m rappel from a two-bolt station in the forest off to the right.

60m 5.9+ or 10a	Start up the easy ramp to the left of <i>Homofun</i> (5.4) to reach the arete. Stay low until reaching an excellent crack off to the right. Good belay spot (on natural pro) after a short offwidth section. Enjoy the fabulous 5.8 crack, take a deep breath, pass the roof and stroll to the belay (two glue-ins).
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Homofun 5.10a Louis-Pierre Tessier, Frédéric Desgranges (2011) **(project)**

Although this route has been climbed twice it has never been purged or cleaned. We had a problem when drilling anchors and the bolts need to be replaced. Be very cautious if you go. Adventure climbing! With all the risks that come with it.

"A very beautiful line, that just needs a good cleaning."

Protection: standard rack up to Camalot #5

Access: Follow the trail up to the big gully, look for the fixed ropes indicating the start of the trail to the left of the gully, follow this all the way up. The route follows a big dihedral well above and to the left of *Transcanadienne*.

Belays: 1st one on natural pro, 2nd one on bolts that need replacing. **Descent** : one 50-meter rappel

20m 5.9	Start in a clean corner (hands and fist) to reach a small ledge. Above the ledge is an overhanging corner (lots of pro for belay).
30m 5.10a	Climb the overhanging corner and top out on a small ledge to find the poor two-bolt belay.

Théorie des cordes (aka **Bicurieux**) 5.11b/c Hugo Drouin, Francis Perreault (2012)

"When climbing Grimpe dans le Piton in autumn 2011, my gaze was drawn to the walls to the left of the big gully. This vertical line distinguished by several small roofs drew my attention. Francis Perreault and I returned there by snowshoe and all of our aid-climbing gear to first climb the route in March 2012."

Protection : Standard rack including micro cams, doubled on small sizes up to Cam.2. (0.75 very useful)

Access : As for Homofun, follow the fixed-rope trail all the way up the left side of the big gully.

Belays : On bolts. **Descent** : Three full 30m rappels

40m 5.10+	Start on broken rock to reach a vegetated ledge. Follow the ramp to an obvious dihedral inside a chimney. Delicate traverse rightward under a roof. Semi-hanging belay on glue-in bolts.
25m 5.11b/c	Traverse right towards the orange arch. Pass the roof (technical crux) and start up a long laybacking finger-crack. Pass a second roof on its right edge to reach a small ledge and belay.
30m 5.10+	Climb the corner to a cavity, reach a hold in the center of the face and push through to three good stances. Complete the dihedral and follow easy slab to a bolted belay.

Vol de Nuit 5.11c Hugo Drouin, Francis Perreault, François Turgeon (2012)

"I found myself sitting solidly in the sky. I ran my finger over a knifeblade piton, and felt life coursing through the steel. The metal I was hammering into the moss did not vibrate - it lived." Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, Vol de Nuit, 1931 (adaptation)

Protection : Standard rack to Camalot #4, doubled cams to Camalot #2

Access : Just before the last fixed rope on the trail left of the gully, cross right on a ledge (that leads to *De Toute Beauté*), but don't cross the big gully. Instead head up the gully (on its left side) to reach a fixed rope that leads to a forested butte. Another way to reach this spot is to head down from the base of *Théorie des cordes*.

Descent : From the top of the route, walk a trail to the left that leads to a fixed line. A 10m rappel on this leads to the final belay of *Théorie des cordes*. From there it's 3 x 30m (flush) rappels.

40m 5.9	A short 5.9 section leads to a dihedral split by a fist crack. Reach a solid flake and traverse left on a big slanting ledge.
50m 5.11c	The start is thin and gymnastic. (bolts, then small to medium cams). After 20 meters, a belay on natural pro is possible. Aim for the roof (Camalot 1 and 2) by either following the main line or by passing through an easier crack to the right.
20m 5.7	A fun dihedral that's just too short. When you reach the bolt, escape left into the forest to reach a short wall with the belay (2 bolts).

De toute beauté 5.10a PG Charles Lacroix, Arian Manchego and others., (2012-2013)

How can a sport route be considered PG? To be honest, this one barely merits the rating. There are two places where you need to be careful. The first is in the approach, when you cross the big gully. A fall there would be catastrophic, so take all precautions. The second place where you need to be careful is on the ramp traverse of the first pitch. Other than that, the route is simply a beautiful day out in the mountains. Several styles of climbing over 140 meters of rock. From the top of the route there's a trail to the summit of the Gros Bonnet. What are you waiting for?

Protection : Bolts. Bring around 15 quickdraws, a few of which of which should be extendable. You can do long pitches as indicated below, or shorter by stopping at intermediate rappel stations. If you do short pitches, 10 quickdraws will suffice.

Access : Follow the fixed-rope trail on the left side of the big gully. Just before the last fixed rope, traverse right on a ledge to reach the edge of the gully. You'll need to cross - watch out, super slippery! There may be a fixed rope for the crossing, but consider belaying (there is a bolt halfway across) as you never can tell the condition of the fixed rope. On the other side, head up and rightwards. There is a two-bolt belay at the start of the route.

Descent: Three rappels with two 60m ropes (best sequence is: one long - one short - one long) or five rappels with a 30-meter rope. Be careful when heading back to the gully - you may wish to consider another short rappel.

30m 5.10a PG	Start up big weird shapes to reach a ledge 15 meters up. Mantle onto the ramp above the ledge and walk the ramp leftward (then do a few moves upwards to reach the next bolt). You'll reach the two-bolt belay at the foot of a long arete.
55m 5.10a	From the belay, there are two options. To the left, the 'direct' is a bit more difficult, or easier by the ramp to the right. The two variations meet at the arete and the following 25 meters go straight up on thin face-climbing, which gets easier before reaching a rappel station below a roof. Pass the roof and go diagonally leftwards until you reach a ledge. A short final section reaches a second ledge and the belay.
50m 5.8	Traverse left to reach the start of a large chimney, which offers a beautiful technical crux that's not hard. The chimney leads to the start of a long final face section, which ends at a summit ledge, just below the forest.
<i>Gros Bonnet summit option</i>	From the ledge, you can walk to the summit of the Gros Bonnet. The trail starts to the right of the finish ledge. Do a short lead rightwards into the trees and fix the rope between a tree and the final belay station, so that the rest of the team can cross over. You can leave your climbing gear here - the trail is a 200m walk. There is a summit register to sign!



Arian Manchego on *De toute beauté*

Grimpe dans le Piton 5.9+ PG Louis-Pierre Tessier, Frédéric Desgranges and many friends (2010)

"When you venture onto new ground on the Gros Bonnet, it's not uncommon to come across old pitons or old bent bolts, left by a previous generation of climbers. What surprised us on this route was the astronomical amount of abandoned pitons, hinting at some kind of epic adventure."

Protection : Standard rack, doubled up to no.2 Camalot. *Notice* : please avoid using the pitons and leave them in place

Access : Walk the main trail until reaching the intersection (yellow backboard attached to a tree). Here, go left on the trail that goes up to the big gully. Stay to the right of the big gully. After a couple of hundred meters, the trail reaches the foot of the cliff, at the start of the first pitch.

Belays: Mainly on bolts.

Descent : **Read carefully, as the rappels are "big-wall" style and mistakes can have serious consequences.**

Follow the summit ledge to the right to reach the first rappel station. Make a first, short rappel - *you barely want to clear the trees here* - to reach a rappel station on a slightly overhanging wall to the left. From here, a 50m rappel with a rightwards swing at the end places you at the station in the smooth dihedral. Next, a 60m-flush rappel places you on the ledge above the first pitch of the route, where a final 20m rappel and you are back at the start of the route.

20m 5.7+	Start with a step right, then follow the cracks up the slabby face to the trees. Then follow the trail left for around 20m to the start of the second pitch.
30m 5.9+ PG	Climb the dihedrals and small ledges to the big ledge with trees, where there is a two-bolt belay. It's actually better to go another step higher, up to the foot of the main wall, where there is an excellent spot to belay from (on natural protection). Are you warmed up? That's good, because now the climbing goes full throttle! ("Dans le piton")
30m 5.9+	Start up the big right-facing dihedral, but only for one step up, onto a small ledge. The bolt above you is the first pitch of <i>Purgatoire</i> (5.10a/b). For the <i>Piton</i> , start traversing rightward here, to reach an easy ramp. Follow the ramp right to stop under a small roof, where you look leftward to spot an amazing bucket that offers passage through to the smooth dihedral and its bolted belay. A fabulous pitch, a real routefinding challenge.
30m 5.9+	This pitch is another classic, a long leftwards traverse. From the belay, a cruxy start (2 bolts) puts you up onto a wide ramp. Follow this all the way left to where a big corner forces you to contour down and around. After the contour, advance past a slabby section without obvious protection to get onto a ramp that keeps going left (small cams) and finishes with heartstopper moves over big air. What an adventure!
30m 5.8	Follow the long crack system all the way to the trees. An awesome reward pitch!

Purgatoire 5.10+ Louis-Pierre Tessier, Frédéric Desgranges (2010)

The last pitch of the Purgatoire gave us the cold sweats. A pile of huge shaky boulders blocked the most obvious path. But we had to pass through this section, where the rock seemed terrible. The pro was not trustworthy, rattling behind the loose boulders. Holds were breaking under L-P's grasp. The sky was dark, it seemed like dusk at 4:00 pm. Finally L-P said "enough" and sat down in his harness... but ended up falling 15 meters head-first as two out of three pieces pulled out. Sometimes there is no shame in cleaning a route before a first ascent!

Protection : standard rack **Belays**: on bolts **Descent**: As for *Grimpe dans le Piton*

	The first pitches of <i>Purgatoire</i> are the same as those of the <i>Piton</i> . Or, you can use the approach for <i>De Toute Beauté</i> to skip the first two pitches of the <i>Piton</i> . At the foot of the main wall, the two routes separate : <i>Piton</i> goes right and <i>Purgatoire</i> heads straight up the right-facing dihedral.
30m 5.10a/b	From the base of the main wall, head straight up the right-facing dihedral. Pass a bolt and reach a big block. Climb diagonally rightwards to reach the belay station in the smooth dihedral.
25m 5.10c/d	Climb up onto the ramp to your left, as for for <i>Piton</i> , but then continue straight up the vertical dihedral (bolts). After the third bolt, a crack to your right leads up to the belay.
20m 5.10a/b	Follow the main dihedral, which is slightly overhanging. It's been thoroughly purged of loose rock.

Contrôle parental 5.11 (2011-2012), Éric Tremblay, Élise Maurice-Kiepora, Jean-Claude Maurice

It's the story of a professor, a student and her father, all hanging on the same belay. To avoid numerous dangers, the professor and the student try to control the parent by any means possible!

Protection : standard rack **Belays**: on bolts **Descent** : rappel the route

	Same approach pitches as the <i>Piton</i> . Or, you can use the approach for <i>De Toute Beauté</i> to skip the first two pitches of the <i>Piton</i> . At the two-bolt station 8 meters below the main wall, walk downwards (to the right) on the ledge for around 15 meters to reach a clearing, where an obvious crack heads up.
40m 5.10	Start up the thin crack (5.9+) which goes more or less straight up to reach the wide ledge at the foot of the main wall. Here, go up and left to join the <i>Piton</i> 's path for a short bit. Under a short roof, where the <i>Piton</i> goes left to a big hold, go right instead and follow the corner systems to reach a two-bolt belay on the prow to the right of the smooth-dihedral belay.
45m 5.10b	Continue straight up following the vertical dihedral (5.10b, 2 bolts), then go slightly left and pass the overhanging section (5.9, 3 bolts). Then pass through a steep wall with small holds, to reach an alcove. Continue up, first slightly right then straight up, passing 2 more bolts to reach a roof, which you pass on its left to finally reach a ledge with a belay.
15m 5.11a	Follow the crack to a small dihedral with a roof to its left (1 bolt). Pass the roof (5.11a crux) and continue to a horizontal crack that you follow left, then go straight up to the final belay.

Open project 5.11? Yannick Girard, Damien Coté (2013) (**needs cleaning**)

Yann and Damien climbed the easy ramp to the right of pitch 3 of the *Piton* and then headed up a magnificent, almost vertical dihedral.

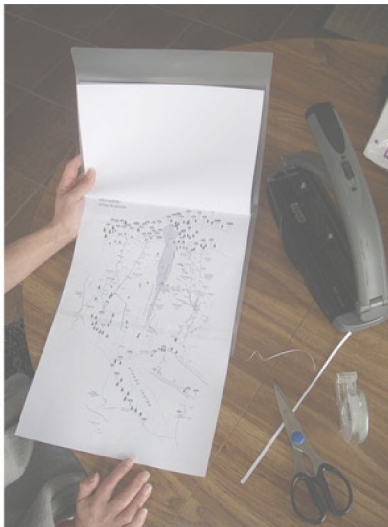
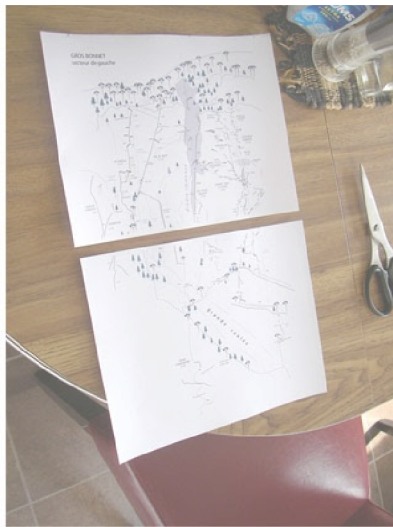
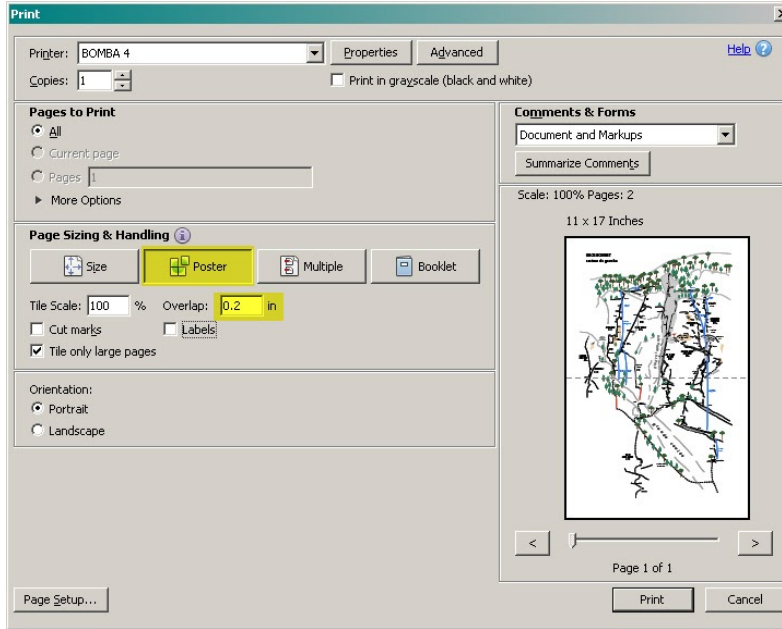
Protection : standard rack **Belays**: on bolts **Descent** : rappel the route?

État du développement : nul (à vos risques)

	Same approach as for previous routes: do the first two pitches of <i>Grimpe dans le Piton</i> or do the approach walk to <i>De Toute Beauté</i> .
40m 5.8	"The traverse ramp is pretty clean already and needs minimum work. I threw down most of the loose rock on my way up."
60m 5.11	"The second pitch is long. Very beautiful 5.10 at the start, then becomes horribly dirty afterwards. In some places there is no rock to be seen under the heavy cover of lichen and the crack is entirely filled with dirt. I tried my hardest but ended up aiding for around 10 meters. Then the difficulty eases off but the rock is still very dirty. Once clean it should be around 5.10d or 11a max for the crux 10-meter section, which is vertical finger crack. Once clean, this route will surely be very beautiful."

- Insert left section illustration here -

Print the "Left section illustration" file on two sheets of paper, using the settings below in Acrobat Reader. When you join the two sheets together you should end up with an 11x17 illustration.



Le Refus Global 5.11+ project Pierre-Alexandre Paquet et cie (2014)

Protection : Accès : Descente :

25m 5.9	Grimper le beau dièdre faisant face à gauche
30m 5.11+	Grimper en ligne droite dans la fissure surplombante se terminant par une cheminée.

La Correction 5.10 and or 5.11+ Frédéric Desgranges & Louis-Pierre Tessier (2009)

"Here it's a return to solid YDS ratings. You climb as if you're back in grade school, and in each class you're getting whacked on the head with a ruler, as if the schoolteacher says to you, 'This is what 5.8 is all about young man.' But you persevere despite the pain. And on the 5th pitch, it's straight to the principal's office and ho boy your fingers are gonna hurt! You'll probably even be expelled. This the Correction."

Protection : standard double rack with a single Camalot #4, #5 and #6

Access : Start from the left edge of the ledge where the trail ends. **Descent :** Rappel the route with a single 30m rope or two 60-meter ropes.

30m 5.8 PG	Start on the broken slab to reach a ledge. Up the short open dihedral on small holds to reach the leftward-leading ramp, which you follow past a big cedar tree to reach a flat spot in front of a crack.
30m 5.10-	Here you change direction, with a long exposed move to the right to under a roof. Traverse right under the roof then move up and past it. Follow the wide crack up to a two-bolt station. (The rappel from here is 60m back to the start of the route.)
25m 5.9+	Change over to a belay station 10m to the left. Start up slab to reach a crack which widens as you go and finally reaches the start of a squeeze chimney. A #6 Camalot plus a #5 offers the best protection here. Be extra careful if you only have a #5, an experienced climber has decked out here after his single #5 pulled.
25m 5.9+	Climb up to the imposing roof and pass through the big corner-chimney (Camalot #6 useful here too) then up a corner to reach a 2-bolt belay to the right of a roof. (Rappel station, 60m to previous rappel station).
20m 5.11+	Le Bureau du Directeur 5.11+ : From the belay, traverse left on the slab following the crack under the small roof. This leads to a wide ledge at the foot of a magnificent overhanging crack. Belay on pro. You are now at the door of the principal's office, and will have to face the cracking of the ruler over your fingers.
30m 5.10	La Correction via 5.10 (5.11?) finish (not cleaned yet): From the belay, climb up to the crack under the roof that arches rightward. Several beautiful moves lead past the roof and into a final dihedral that leads to the summit slab and belay. This variant has been climbed once but needs a purge and cleaning.

L'Examen Final 5.12a Frédéric Desgranges and Louis-Pierre Tessier (2009)

"After the big dihedral came the final pitch, the one of extreme torture. I decided to give it a try. It starts off very fun, 15 meters of finger and hand crack (5.10-) before reaching the big arch. In the arch, a chicken-wing keeps me in place, but it's very hard to progress. I get so exhausted that I am finally ejected headfirst, my foot getting stuck in the crack but popping out at the last second. The infernal combat continues like this for at least 30 minutes... truly a monster offwidth!" (L-P Tessier, september 2009)

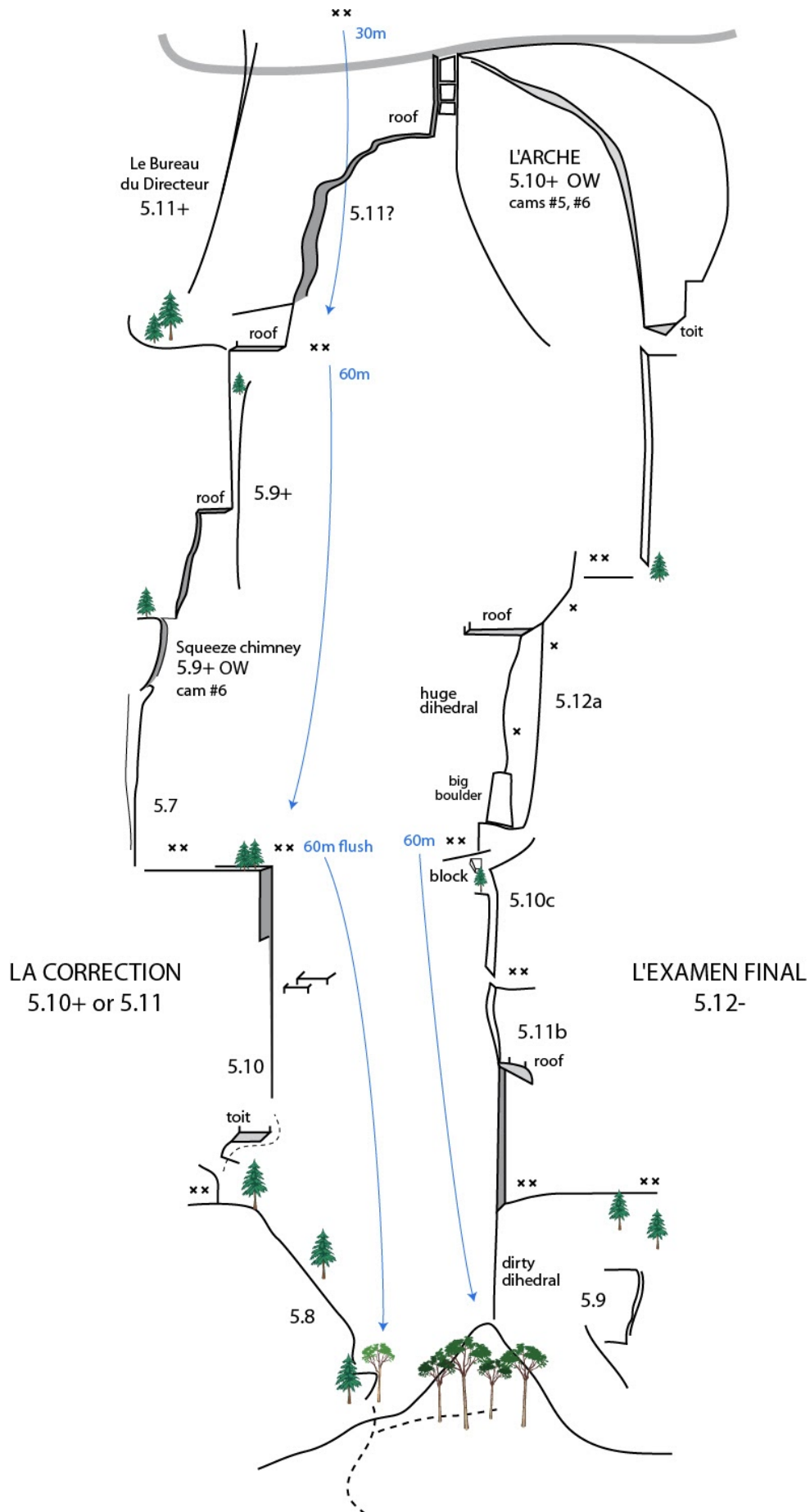
Protection : standard doubled rack, including small nuts (or Metolius 00) and the following Camalots:: 1x #4, 2x #5 and 1 or 2x #6

Access : Start at the right edge of the ledge where the trail ends. **Descent :** Follow the rappel line down La Correction.

An interesting option is to climb the first three pitches of the route, which is known as "The mid-term Exam", 5.11b

20m 5.9	Follow the finger crack up the slab to your right, then do a couple of meters of easy climbing to a 2-bolt belay on a ledge. Walk left to reach the start of the long dihedral.
30m 5.11b	Follow the widening crack, then past the final 15 overhanging meters, to a 2-bolt belay.
15m 5.10c	Follow a finger crack and pass left on a big block immediately after a small cedar tree. Turn the corner to reach the base of the huge dihedral. This marks the end of the "Mid-term Exam" (2 bolts, 60m rappel).
25m 5.12a	Start up the edge of a very big boulder (tested and very solid) that sits at the start of the huge dihedral. Reach the big roof and pass through the dihedral to the right (technical) where you will see bolts, leading you to a 2-bolt belay.
50m 5.10+ offwidth	The final pitch will surely bring you much pleasure, relaxation, with lovely views of the valley below, as you approach the final Arch, which is sure to satisfy all of your wide-crack needs (bring all of your hardware). Towards the end of the Arch, leave the crack to climb on the face below and traverse across to the final dihedral of La Correction. Keep going left on the (somewhat dirty) slab to reach the final two-bolt belay.

RIGHT SECTION - La Correction & L'Examen Final



Voie à Frank project "L'examen de rattrapage"

Protection : Accès : Descente :

20m 5.10a	Grimper la fissure à doigts scindant la face à droite, puis quelques mètres de grimpe facile jusqu'au relais sur une vire (2 bolts). Marcher vers la droite pour rejoindre le départ de la voie près d'un petit arbre.
45m.	Grimper en ligne droite dans une face, passer une fissure hors largeur et vous diriger vers le dièdre et quelque plaquette jusqu'au relais. (2 bolts)
5m	Traverser à gauche sur une petite vire pour rejoindre un autre relais (2 bolts)
30m.	grimper la face délicate pour rejoindre une fissure parfaite allant de main à doigts. (relais 2 bolts)
30m	continuer dans une fissure à gauche, puis transférer à droite et rejoindre le relais somitale (2 bolts)

Désobéissance Civile 5.10 - Louis-Pierre Tessier and Frédéric Desgranges (2012)

(route under development) Warning: this route currently passes through an exposed section that will need two or three bolts, so be very careful.

"It's spring 2012, the 'Printemps Érable'. Students are in the streets and are calling for civil disobedience. We listened and we climbed in the same spirit."

Protection: Standard rack Access: Start at the foot of l'Examen Final Descent: See "À en perdre son latin"

20m. 5.9	Follow the finger crack up the slab to your right, then a couple of meters of easy climbing to a 2-bolt belay on a ledge.
20m 5.10	Traverse right on the ledge, to a small tree. Start straight up from the tree, pass a bolt and look leftward for a good belay location (natural pro).
35m. 5.9+R	An unprotected traverse rightward on small holds to reach a small vertical crack (2-3 bolts will be necessary here). Keep going diagonally up and right to reach a small tree ledge and a belay point (on natural pro). The 2-bolt belay of <i>À en perdre son Latin</i> is farther off to the right.

À en perdre son Latin 5.10 A1 ~ 5.11? - Frédéric Desgranges, Ariane M-Roberge and Jacques Charbonneau (2011)

(route under development)

In the 16th century, this expression meant "to waste your time doing something" - for example, spending a summer scrubbing rock in the woods. It's only in the twentieth century that the expression took the meaning of "to lose all means of comprehension".

Protection: Double rack, with 3x Camalot #2 et 1x Camalots #4-#5-#6

State of development: The first 20 meters still need to be cleaned. In some places the crack is still entirely filled with dirt.

Access: From the ledge at the start of La Correction, continue rightward on the trail at the foot of the cliff. On your left you will see an opening in the trees, where you will find the start of the route.

Descent: 3 rappels

40m. 5.10A1~ 5.11c/d?	An awesome pitch. Climb the amazing parallel crack then transfer onto the face behind you to reach a ledge under an overhanging dihedral. Take a deep breath and head into the dihedral to battle with the squeeze chimney (#6 Camalot key here) to finally reach the two-bolt belay on a great ledge, via a crack on the right. Avoid jamming your rope in the crack when you rappel. (pitch only half cleaned so far.)
25m. 5.9	Do you see the beautiful parallel crack up above you? That's where you're headed. Start the pitch (V1, shared with <i>Crissagus</i>), then traverse left to reach the crack. Head up and stay to the left to reach an easier left-facing dihedral that leads to the next ledge and a 2-bolt belay.
30m. 5.10a	Another classic pitch, just candy! A couple of steps left and you will find a magnificent parallel crack in a left-facing dihedral. Keep one or two #2 Camalots handy for the final crack. 2-bolt belay (and maybe a single 60-meter rappel, needs to be verified)

Crissagus monumentalum 5.10d - Louis-Pierre Tessier and Patricia Lauzé (2011)

(route under development)

At the end of a big day of adventure and no rest, a brush-wielding warrior who reaches the ground doesn't take the time to neatly pack his equipment, but instead develops the art of "Crissagus monumentalum", that is to say, to hastily jam all his gear into his backpack and leave as quickly as possible, so as to arrive sooner at the supermarket and savor a store-bought sandwich on the ride back home.

Protections: Standard doubled rack (with a single #4 and 2 #5)

State of development: The first 20 meters of this route are still dirty and laden with loose blocs, be extremely careful!

Access: From the start of "À en perdre son latin", keep going right and follow a fixed rope to reach a clear ledge. The start of the route is behind a yellow birch tree, in a beautiful crack that becomes an overhanging offwidth.

Descente: Same rappels as for À en perdre son latin

40m. 5.10d	Climb the overhanging dihedral, following the crack on the right face, to reach a wide overhanging crack. Escape right as soon as possible to reach a ledge (belay on natural pro if you wish to avoid rope drag). Next, follow a fist crack to reach a wide ledge, where you'll find a two-bolt belay way off to the left. (pitch only half cleaned so far.)
25m. 5.10b	From the belay, cross back right, climb a small crack and traverse right to a slab and right-facing dihedral. Follow the dihedral for around 10m until you see a hand crack that splits the wall to your left. This leads to a great ledge where you can build a belay on natural pro behind a huge block.
25m. 5.10b PG	Climb the slightly overhanging crack that starts in a small right-facing corner. Mantle up onto a small ledge, then climb, traversing left to reach a second ledge. A delicate move onto slab (PG), then pass to the left of a huge block (which can be seen from the road) to reach the final belay. A big adventurous route.



Louis-Pierre Tessier working on "Crissagus monumentalum"

RIGHT SECTION - the "Latin" routes

