



## **Friends Of The Trail Inc.**

### **LOWER TRENT TRAIL – QUINTE WEST ONTARIO TRAILS STRATEGY**

In November 2004 Friends of the Trail Inc. (FOTT) was formed by local citizens wishing to develop the trail for non-motorized activities. Friends of the Trail Inc. is a registered charitable organization with over 100 registered members.

#### **ACCESS AGREEMENT**

Friends of the Trail Inc. (FOTT) has entered into a 5-year lease with the Ontario Realty Corporation, giving us the mandate to develop and maintain the Lower Trent Trail, the former CN Rail bed that runs from Trenton north to Glen Ross.

This signing culminates several years of discussions between the Friends of the Trail Inc., and the Ministries of Natural Resources, Health Promotion and Public Infrastructure Renewal.

#### **SUCCESSFUL FUNDRAISING**

In 2006, FOTT received a Local Initiatives Grant of \$2000.00 from Trenval Business Development Corporation to develop a Business Plan and Management Report and issue it to the community.

Also, in 2006, we received a \$1000.00 grant from the Ministry of Natural Resources Community Fisheries and Wildlife Involvement Program for a habitat restoration project. In 2007, a grant of \$2000.00 was received from Trenval Business Development Corporation for initial construction work on the trail.

A grant of \$6537.00 was received the same year from Mountain Equipment Cooperative for 2007/2008 trail work.

In 2008, a grant of \$1650.00 from the Retired Teachers of Ontario (Prince Edward Hastings) was received for the purchase and installation of vehicle barriers and safety signage that have been installed on the trail section proximal to the Frankford Public School.

FOTT has organized three annual fund-raising flea markets, and our second annual golf tournament took place in June. The 3rd Annual Golf Tournament will be held at Oak Hills Golf Club on June 14, 2009. We have received donations from local businesses of equipment time and truckloads of screening and gravel.

As well, at FOTT's first Annual Meeting, a Founder's Club was established, where each member contributes an annual donation of \$25.00.

Through grants and fund-raising activities, we have raised \$20,000 for trail development.

#### **PARTNERSHIP WITH BATAWA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

Part of the Lower Trent Trail passes on land owned by Batawa Development Corporation. FOTT has partnered with BDC in applying for a grant from Trenval Development Corporation to study the feasibility of building a river boardwalk component to the Lower Trent Trail. Plans also include eventually connecting with the Quinte West Waterfront Trail system at Bleasdel Boulder Conservation Area.

## **TRAIL EVENTS**

Our trail events serve to increase community awareness of the trail, and have brought new members and support for the concept of community participation and developing the trail. The Candlelight Walk on for the 2008 Earth Hour, brought in 44 walkers and 8 dogs! Our yearly Hike Ontario Walk in September is attracting growing participation.

There is increased everyday use of the trail by the local community, such as students walking to and from the Frankford Public School, Ewing for their Surf 'n' Turf, and local citizens using the Trail for daily walks. Area hiking clubs have included the Lower Trent Trail on their itinerary. We are encouraging the organizing of events on the trail by community groups other than FOTT, and in June a local group will be the first to use the Trail for a mini-triathlon.

Our members participate yearly in the Quinte Trash Bash by cleaning up the trail of winter debris.

## **TRAIL BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE**

The Lower Trent Revitalization Project began in the fall of 2006, with planting of trees and shrubs by members and volunteers.

In the fall of 2007, intermittent trail areas were brushed, trimmed and graded then screening was layered and spread. This involved approximately 130 hours of volunteer labour.

During the spring of 2008, volunteers have donated more than 100 hours performing similar work.

## **TRENVAL GRANT RECEIVED FOR TRAIL SIGNAGE PROJECT**

Friends of the Trail Inc. has received a \$3000 Local Initiatives Program Grant from the Trenval Development Corporation. The grant will be used toward the development of a signage program to direct users to a primary staging area; to illustrate the rules and regulations for trail use, to indicate safety, directional and distance information, and to highlight historical and other interpretive features. Plans include installing signs in the Batawa to Glen Ross section of the trail that will

- Identify a midway staging area at Station Park (Frankford former rail station site) for trail access and egress to provide users of the trail with site location, historical perspectives, donor information, trail directions and a Code of Conduct;
- Provide direction and orientation for users of the trail through the installation of rustic wooden Lower Trent Trail signs at access points and through rural stretches of the trail; promote safe and enjoyable use of the trail through the installation of safety and regulatory signs at key access points and road crossings. Selected signage would prohibit motorized traffic, encourage animal waste pick-up and discourage illegal littering or dumping on the trail.

- Promote safe and enjoyable use of the trail through the installation of safety and regulatory signs at key access points and road crossings. Selected signage would prohibit motorized traffic, encourage animal waste pick-up and discourage illegal littering or dumping on the trail bed.

### **Our Volunteers**

There are over 100 volunteers registered with Friends of the Trail Inc. and over the past few years they have successfully raised more than \$20,000 through grants and other fund raising activities. They have also invested countless hours of labour with brushing, planting, and resurfacing along the Lower Trent Trail.

As funds become available Friends of the Trail plan to develop the Frankford station property into an ecological native plant park and staging area for the Lower Trent Trail. It is hoped that other community organizations will become partners to help make Station Park a truly community friendly Green Space.

### **What does it take to improve one kilometre of trail?**

It can take anywhere from 80 to 150 hours of volunteer time to improve one kilometre of trail, depending on the condition of the trail. In addition, it takes approximately 25 hours of grading and about 10 hours packing the gravel and/or screening. For each kilometre of trail it can take three days of trucking in materials that also requires a volunteer to oversee and trim anything that will hinder the trucker. In addition volunteer time is required to pick up rented equipment, pole chainsaw, brush cutter, chainsaws, clippers, and tractor. We have been fortunate to receive preferred rates on rental items and have some material donated by generous companies.

### **The Present**

Even though the trail is under development it is open for walking, hiking, cycling, jogging during Spring, Summer & Fall, and other trail enjoyment such as snowshoeing and cross country skiing in winter.

### **The Future**

Future plans include working with Bata Development Corporation to design and develop the trail south of Frankford and to eventually connect with the Quinte West Waterfront Trail system at the Bleasdell Boulder Conservation Area.

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